## MARCH 2021

## **Concordia Lutheran Church**

"Learning, Living, Sharing the Gospel"
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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

What a year this has been! That seems almost an understatement!

This time last year found us wondering what was about to happen. We had planned last March for a Bunko evening of fun, food, and fellowship that was postponed because of the "cloud" that seemed to be rolling in upon us. Last year at this time brought uncertainty, some confusion, many questions about our gatherings, multiple opinions, and meaningful decisions. We were up against something that was new to most of us.

Throughout the past 12 months, Concordia has remained diligent, observant, helpful, courageous, concerned, listening, learning, contributing, and, in some ways, leading the way for congregations in the Valley. I suspect you have your thoughts and opinions as to how we have worked our way through the past year.

At the same time, and more importantly, Jesus has remained diligent, observant, and helpful, leading the way among us. He was n ever contained by the quarantine. Jesus remained then, and remains now, faithful, forgiving, encouraging, and present among us people as we gather and as we live our daily vocations in an uncertain world.

This is the message of the Revelation: Jesus is present among His people in the good times and in the tough times. He is with us, paying attention, noticing the ways we draw upon Him for sustenance and support, observing those moments when we make a good choice or act in a loving way towards others. He is attentive to our errors in judgment, to our false opinions, to our failures. No amount of quarantine on our part can hide our heart from His ever-present gaze.

Today, we can look back over the past year and can see, hopefully, the persistent work of the Spirit through the Word and the Sacrament.

Today, we can look forward to the coming year with the sure and certain conviction that the Lord Jesus, the One who sits upon the heavenly Throne, the One to whom all authority in the heavens and on the earth has been given, is the One who continues to strengthen His people, "salting" us with grace, mercy, forgiveness, and hope.

Every Sunday brings the reminder that we are living in the Last Days. Let us, with all gratitude, thank the LORD our God for His bountiful blessings, His watchful caring, His providential care, and His disciplining embrace. Let us face the future as the "salt of the earth," living before others so that they can see the good that our God brings into the world through us. Let us live in and by the Faith that draws upon our Lord for strength.

Luv' ya!

**Pastor Craig** 

## **Happy March Birthdays**

03/01 Jim Schlaver	03/01 Aidan Moon	03/01 Samuel Schumacher
03/01 Berkley Oamek	03/03 Marty Boomgarden	03/08 Susan Dreska
03/09 Gene Carrell	03/14 Dianne Weber	03/17 Jake Weber
03/17 Paul Bruggeman	03/20 Mason Bruggeman	03/23 Grace Olinger
03/23 Katelyn Olinger	03/26 Nancy Kounovsky	03/27 Bette Rinck/Vandahl
03/28 Bonnie Baggenstoss	03/29 Wendy McConnell	03/30 Donna Wentzel

## DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT? BY POPE FRANCIS

Fast from hurting words and say kind words.

Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.

Fast from anger and be filled with patience.

Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.

Fast from worries and have trust in God.

Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.

Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled.

Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.



Join Pastor Craig and Sheryl, reading the Scriptures each day throughout the month.

March 2: Joshua 1

March 3: Joshua 2

March 4: Joshua 3

March 5: Joshua 4

March 6: Joshua 5

March 7: Joshua 6 March 8: Joshua 7

March 9: Joshua 8

March 10: Joshua 9

March 11: Joshua 10

March 12: Joshua 11

March 13: Joshua 12



During this Lenten Season our series is "Living in the Last Days," based on the Revelation of Jesus Christ

Wednesdays @ 6:30pm and on Zoom (click picture for Zoom link)