



CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH

755 Concordia Lane Steamboat Springs. Colorado 80487

"Learning, Living, Sharing the Gospel"

February, 2017

I was just reading over the past several newsletter articles that I've written since the accident in late October. I missed a month, though it seems like I've missed more than a month. ☺

As I reflected on my comments, two themes stood out to me: present and future. In other words: Where are we now? Where are we going? I guess these two questions should be no surprise, really. These are common questions, asked of and answered by people every single day.

In fact, these two questions are central to the Biblical teaching! Where are we now? We are doing our best to live every day within a broken and fracturing world: broken relationships, broken ideologies, broken fellowship, broken bodies, broken families, broken systems, broken (fill in the blank). And, how I desire that we in the Church would be different, exempt from the brokenness and fracturing, neither experiencing nor causing it. We are not.

Friends of Concordia, this makes Jesus' Gospel so compelling. In Christ, the fullness of the Divine Being, the Father offers a way forward, securing the forgiveness of sin and granting the presence of the Life-Giving Spirit. Think of it! With sin removed "as far as the east is from the west," the Living God can now take up residence in the community of people who are marked and named by the crucified and risen Jesus.

Jesus' Gospel stakes the powerful claim that the heavens and the earth are now under the process of being taken back and taken over by the Creator. He is doing this because He wants to do it! And, Jesus' Gospel makes the powerful claim that, as a real part of His work to reshape His world, we are involved! Yes, the Holy Spirit has been given to us so that He can work through us to take back His creation.

Where are we now? With the results of the Natural Church Development survey revealed – we did that last Sunday at the Voter's Meeting – we are poised to express and experience the work of the Spirit through us. This is what we want! What is the area that we agreed needs most to be worked on to improve our congregational health? Gift-Based Ministry.

What is Gift-Based Ministry? This is the work of the Holy Spirit, generously bestowing unique and personal gifts upon each one of us in Christ. For what purpose? Why would God do such a thing? He wants to build up the Body of Christ. Just as He gifted folks to build the Tabernacle and Temple so that He could dwell among His people, so the Holy Spirit continues to gift Christ's people so that His very Body on Earth can be built up, made whole and healthy.

One of Jesus' closest friends, Peter, puts it this way: *"As each one has received a special gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Whoever speaks, is to do so as one who is speaking the utterances of God; whoever serves is to do so as one who is serving by the strength which God supplies"* (1 Peter 4).

That's where we are! Where are we going? True, only God knows. But, look at how God reveals His "preferred future" through Peter: *"so that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belongs the glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen"* (1 Peter 4). This is the Gospel of Jesus: God putting all things right through Him and for Him, starting now and fully completed at some point in the future. Brokenness healed!

Here's what I wrote last month: the word *concord* is at the heart of Concordia. The word *concord* literally means "harmonious heart." In our language, we use words like "agreement, unity, harmony, covenant, peace." Let us be our name in the coming year! Let us declare 2017 "A Year of Concord at Concordia"!

Love ya'!

Pastor Craig

Happy February Birthdays

2/6 Nina Hanson
2/15 Jeremy Schumacher
2/16 Tom Hillmer
2/17 Bettiann Carrell
2/24 Keith Zuehlke

Happy February Anniversaries

2-26 Tim & Marcia Fortkamp



Kitchen Clean Up

SIS will be cleaning up the kitchen on Monday, March 6th. Please take the time to check downstairs for any pots, pans, dishes, servers etc. that you may have left here.

*****Items not picked up will be donated to the rummage sale.***



Concordia Members' Corner.....

2016 Giving Statements are on the entryway table.

Men's Bible Breakfast is February 11th at 7am at the Egg & I. Join us for food, fellowship and Bible study.

Lent Soup suppers and Worship Services start on 3/1! See below for more information.

Guys Night Out: Monday, February 20th at 5pm at Dude & Dans.

Adult Bible Study: Sundays 9:15-10:15am

Sisters In Spirit Happenings

- **In March we will be cleaning up the kitchen 3/6 and meeting for lunch at the "Egg & I" on 3/8 at 11:30am. We have reserved the back room. Please RSVP to the church office- we hope you can join us!**
- **We will have a fun gathering on a Saturday in April.....more information to come.**
- **The Spring Rummage Sale will be 5/12 & 5/13. Start cleaning out those closets!**
- **The Salad Supper will be in June. More information will be coming!**

Lent 2017

We will be celebrating Lent on Wednesday Evenings starting 3/1- please join us!

Ash Wednesday: Wednesday, March 1st

Soup Suppers will be Wednesdays starting 3/1 from 5:30-6:15

Lent Services will be Wednesdays 3/1-4/5 at 6:30pm

- ***Please sign up on the entryway table to make soup, or bring rolls & desserts***