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"Learning, Living, Sharing the Gospel"

September, 2017

Throughout the summer of 2016, I asked Concordia to read John Kleinig's *Grace Upon Grace*. Many of you did. Of the many that wrestled with this great book on Christian spirituality and life, many expressed their wonderment, confusion, conviction and gratitude.

In selecting this book, I knew it was a "dense book." For me, the first time through, it was not an easy read. Still, this is one of those books that I put on my "read-it-every-year" list. Now that I have read it several times, I find it gets lighter and heavier at the same time. It gets lighter because I am more familiar with the topics; it gets heavier because the topics are so significant.

As we approach the 500th anniversary of the posting of the 95 Theses, I thought it would be time to read *Grace Upon Grace* again. It will take me several months to do so, but I'm okay with that. Won't you join me? Here is a portion of the first chapter to get you started:

The Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) contains the teaching of Jesus on the life of a disciple. That sermon begins with an astonishing summary of His teaching: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3). The Greek word for "poor" is also the term for a beggar. Those who are poor in spirit have no spiritual assets or credentials. They have nothing to offer to God the Father; they receive everything from Him. The poor in spirit are not spiritually rich and powerful; they receive the Holy Spirit as beggars who ask for what they do not have.

This countercultural beatitude sums up the whole of Christian spirituality. It contradicts popular religion and common piety. Popular piety presupposes our unrealized spiritual potential; it seeks spiritual enlightenment and empowering through the practice of appropriate spiritual exercises.

In contrast to the desire for spiritual self-improvement and self-development, Jesus teaches that we begin, continue, and end our spiritual journey with Him as beggars before God the Father, the Heavenly King. We do not, as we follow Jesus, become increasingly self-sufficient. Rather, we learn, bit by bit, the art of begging from God the Father, until at our death we can do nothing but say, "Lord Jesus, have mercy on me!"

Because our spiritual life depends on our receiving from God, Christ teaches us to become beggars together with Him. Like Him, we receive everything from God the Father (John 3:35; 5:19; 8:28). This makes it hard, yet at the same time easy, for us to live as His disciples.

It is hard because we take such great pride in our own achievements and self-sufficiency. We do not like to ask God, or anyone, for anything. Far better to do without than to become dependent on others!

Yet it is also easy because our spirituality does not depend on our performance but on our receiving from God. No one is more or less spiritually advantaged. To change the picture, we must all become as little children, helpless infants that are totally dependent on their mothers (Matthew 18:3; Mark 10:14-15; 1 Peter 2:2).

So, from one beggar to another, luv ya'!

Pastor Craig



Happy September Birthdays

9-03 Cole Moon
9-05 Addison Sandvik
9-07 Brian Thornton
9-09 Jim Winter
9-12 Steve Gunberg
9-14 Albert Deepe
9-21 Raylene Olinger
9-29 Cindy Svendsen
9-30 Wendy Ward
9-30 Madison Truong

Happy September Anniversaries

9-06 Jake & Dianne Weber
9-07 Kris & Dave Tratiak
9-08 Doug & Mary Beth Bradfield
9-11 Michael & Dawn Moon
9-20 Wendy & Tim McConnell
9-25 Leon & Bette Rinck/Vandahl
9-27 Pastor Craig & Sheryl
9-28 Mark & Stacy Sandvik
9-28 Rod & Raylene Olinger
9-29 Bert & Cindy Svendsen

S.I.S. Kick-Off 2017

Concordia Women: Please join us on Monday, September 25th at 6pm for our first gathering. We will have dinner, fellowship and fun!
Come and be a part of this important Women's Ministry!

Location: Sue Krohn's House (*directions will be on the entryway table*)

Visit our website: www.steamboatlutheran.org

Visit us on Facebook: Concordia Lutheran Church-Steamboat Springs

Concordia Members' Corner.....

Yampa Valley Men's Bible Study of Daniel begins September 7th downstairs from 6-7:30pm. Invite a neighbor or friend!

Men's Bible Breakfast is September 9th at 7am at the Egg & I. Join us for fellowship, study & food.

10th Annual Thrivent Pig Roast to benefit adult and youth missions- 9/24! See information below.

S.I.S. Fall Kick-off Dinner— all ladies are welcome! Save the date: 9/25 at 6pm at Sue Krohn's house.

Dr. Matthew Philips from Concordia Seminary Seward will be here to give a special presentation.

S.I.S. Rummage Sale dates are October 27th from 9am until 5pm and October 28th from 9am until noon. We will start accepting rummage on October 23rd. Helpers are needed! Please speak with the Church Office for information or to sign up to help.

Concordia's Reformation Service & luncheon— Sunday October 29th (one service at 10am)

Pig Roast/Mission Fundraiser

Come Join The Fun!!!



Menu

Roast Pig or Turkey
Cowboy Baked Beans
Coleslaw
Roll
Drink
&
Dessert

SUNDAY
September 24th
12pm - 1:30pm
Concordia's Fellowship Hall
Cost:
Free-will
Offering

All are Welcome!!! Invite friends and neighbors
Support our Adult/Youth Mission Teams

Congregation Elections

To Concordia's Members: It is that time of year where our congregation has the opportunity to nominate and elect its officers for the upcoming year, 2018. The constitution requires that the election take place during the October, 2017 Voters' Assembly.

A nominating committee chaired by Bart Kounovsky will present a written slate of candidates to the congregation at least 30 days prior to the Voters' Assembly. Please contact the chair of the nominating committee if you have a suggestion or nomination for consideration. Nominations can also be made by petition, signed by five congregation members, and submitted one week prior to the last Sunday in September, the 23rd. **The Voters' Assembly is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, October 22.**

**CONCORDIA'S FINANCIAL SUMMARY
YTD Through July 2017**

P&L SUMMARY	YTD ACT	YTD BUD	Budget
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$142,568	\$158,425	(\$15,857)
EXPENSES	\$159,003	\$165,403	(\$6,400)
NET SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) (Contrib. over Expenses)	(\$16,435)	(\$ 6,978)	(\$9,457)

CASH AVAILABLE at July 31, 2017:

YVB CHECKING		\$ 17,253
LCEF MMF TOTAL	\$154,611	
LESS SPECIFIED	<u>(\$106,886)</u>	
LCEF AVAILABLE		<u>\$ 47,725</u>
TOTAL CASH AVAILABLE		\$ 64,978

MORTGAGE BALANCE (3.875%) - **\$198,585**

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