



## Concordia Lutheran Church

*"Learning, Living, Sharing the Gospel"*

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[www.facebook.com/steamboatlutheran](https://www.facebook.com/steamboatlutheran)

"Am I my brother's keeper?" Cain had just been asked about the whereabouts of his brother Abel. The LORD, of course, did not need to learn from Cain where Abel was; Cain needed to confess his failed love, his aborted love for his human community. He dodges his need by asking this question back to the LORD (a common response when confronted with uncomfortable or undesirable issues): "Am I supposed to always care about my brother?" We could put the question this way: "Am I responsible for the way my brother lives his life?" or "Am I supposed to protect my brother at all times?"

I got to thinking about this after pondering last Sunday's Epistle Reading. How I wish that we had time each Sunday to consider more fully the Word of God! This is so good! Here is what was read: "so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places" (Ephesians 3). This is wrapped into a larger section of Paul's letter that declares the need for wisdom in the world, especially among those in so-called "leadership positions."

Here we have one of the Scripture's most powerful statements of the reason for the existence of the Christian Church: the rulers and authorities must be confronted with God's wisdom, in all its rich variety, and this is to happen through the church! This happens, for sure, through what the church SAYS. Our witness and testimony to Wisdom – the Wisdom that is and points to Christ – is much needed in our Valley.

More importantly, I believe, this happens through what the Church IS. For sure, the church has a message; and the church is a message. What are we? One way to affirm our identity is that "we are a community of men, women and children of every social and cultural background come together in glad worship of the one true God." We are a family "under new management," under the influence and guidance of the Christ in the Spirit through the Word. As Fyodor Dostoyevsky put it: "we are all responsible to all for all, apart from our own sins."

This took me back to the story of Cain and Abel. "Am I my brother's keeper?" is an important question that longs to be answered. "Are you your sister's keeper?" is equally as important. The answer in the church, seems to me, must be a resounding "yes!" I express my love for and service to my family of believers through my "keeping."

At the same time, I'm convinced the answer is more than just being a "keeper," as important as that is. "I am my brother's brother" and "I am my sister's brother" and "I am my brother's sister" and "I am my sister's sister" are all to be affirmed through life and living. Yes, in a sin-broken world, family members fail one another – just ask Abel. But, the "Christ-for-you" is the larger, louder YES of the Lord God to us and among us!

Throughout the Epiphany Season, we'll be considering our one, true Brother and His invitation to us to join Him on His mission in the Yampa Valley and beyond. Join with us, Family of Jesus, as we learn from Him together, becoming a community of men, women and children of every social and cultural background come together in glad worship of the one true God.

Luv ya'!

Pastor Craig

### Happy January Birthdays

01-2 Bart Kounovsky    01-16 Todd Elenz  
01-2 Carter Kounovsky    01-16 Ron Wentzel  
01-3 Lisa Schumacher    01-24 Bradley Craig  
01-6 Greg Holm    01-25 Clair Erickson  
01-11 Mike Illenberger    01-29 Billee Harris  
01-13 Bert Svendsen

### Happy January Anniversary

01-17 Michael & Jennifer Berdine

## Sanctity of Human Life Sunday

I knew you before  
I formed you in your  
mother's womb.  
Before you were  
born, I set you apart.  
Jeremiah 1:6

January 20, 2019



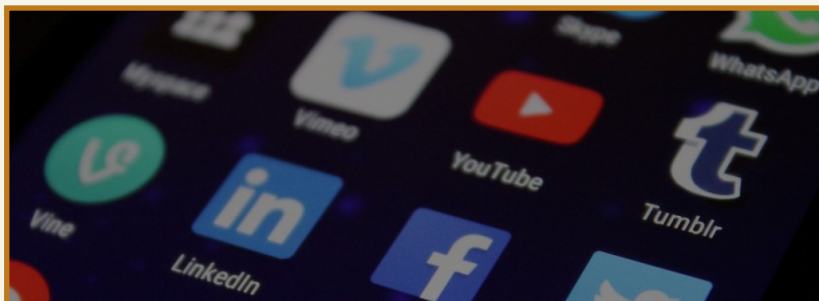
Help support Selah by donating new and gently used items for their supply closet. A Collection Box will be in the Narthex this Sunday for two weeks.

## ISRAEL FALL 2019!

If you would be interested in going on a tour of Israel in the Fall with Concordia, please reply to this email.

**DECEMBER 3RD - 12TH**  
**\$3,700 (double occupancy)**

Click here to watch a video from the Israel Ministry of Tourism.



**CHECK OUT CONCORDIA'S  
YOUTUBE CHANNEL!**

CONCORDIA  
DONATED  
**492 POUNDS  
OF FOOD!!!**

Lift-Up is currently in need of Rocket Packs (snacks they give to kids) for 2 weeks. If you would like to help fill this need, please contact Lift-Up's Sue Fegelein ( [director@liftuprc.org](mailto:director@liftuprc.org) ) for more details.

## CONCORDIA LUTHERAN SCHOLARSHIP AWARDEES

Raya Duryea - Concordia University Oregon  
Ruth Moon - Concordia University Nebraska

*You can read their Update letters on our bulletin board.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Men's Bible Study Breakfast:** This Saturday, January 12th at 7am @ the Egg & I

**Women's Community Bible Study (CBS):** Thursdays at 9am and 6pm

**Yampa Valley Men's Bible Study:** Thursdays at 6pm

**Men's Night Out:** Monday, January 28th at 5pm @ Dude & Dans

**Women's Night Out:** Monday, January 28th at 5pm @ Aurum