

IN PRAISE OF COLD, LONG WINTERS

Nope, you didn't misread that title; this is a missive in praise of cold and long winters. Since moving here to Minnesota, I've heard a lot of stories about long winters. I've heard stories of the difficulties of long winters, too. And I've experienced a few Minnesota winters now. Last year's was a bit intense. And we've been snowed in with at least one church family. So, after much reflection, I've come to embrace these long cold days of winter, even if it does come with extra work, because these long cold days give us a unique opportunity to slow down.

Of course, there will always be work to do even in the cold, but when winter's stormy blast comes, there is a moment of time when nothing can be done but to embrace the here and now. It's a moment in time that reminds us how little we control in this world and how much of our life is spent racing around without getting much done. When we are forced to hunker down and be still, there is a lot we can learn if we allow ourselves to embrace the moment. And the Scripture approves of this silent and still gained wisdom. In Psalm 46:10, God tells us, "Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth." Interestingly enough, it is often not in the busyness of day-to-day life that we seem to learn that lesson, but in the small, quiet moments of life.

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I am convinced that the reason we learn these lessons best in the still moments of life is because it is in those moments that we are not trying to win or earn or get ahead with God and man. It is in the moments that we break from our work that we realize God is the provider of all good gifts. And in a very unique way, winter has a way of forcing us to sit still and know God. Of course, winter also allows us to have a bit of fun. There is ice fishing, snowmobiling, skiing, snowboarding, and times for reading and learning, and growing too.

So, this winter, when we are tempted to complain about the winter weather, let us also look for opportunities to be still. God has made these days for you, too. Take time to enjoy the stillness, pray, and search out God in those moments; I think you may even be tempted to praise the long, cold days of winter as well.

Have a blessed New Year's!

Pastor Jacobsen



JANUARY

Birthdays

Kevin Siemers	Jan. 1st	Stacey Wacker	Jan. 18th
Doug Pohlman	Jan. 2nd	Dylan Lende	Jan. 20th
Richard Voss	Jan. 2nd	Beckham Reese	Jan. 22nd
Kaelianna Jones	Jan 3rd	Kevin Zinn	Jan. 23rd
Jonathan Gillespie	Jan. 4th	Melanie Van Gelder	Jan. 24th
Todd Thoms	Jan. 6th	Matthew Mayou	Jan. 26th
Spec. Ryan Boetel	Jan. 7th	Robert Palmer	Jan. 28th
Julie Reimers	Jan. 7th	Arlo Puck	Jan. 28th
Courtney Pfleeger	Jan. 8th	Kevin Place	Jan. 29th
Anita Mayou	Jan. 10th	Mary Finnern	Jan. 31st
Curtis Kazemba	Jan. 10th		
Darren Voss	Jan. 10th		
Joel Gaudian	Jan 11th		
Tyler Ellingson	Jan. 13th		
Jordan Harlow	Jan. 13th		
Jerilyn Gillespie	Jan. 15th		
Tanner Odegaard	Jan. 15th		



JANUARY

Anniversaries

Charles & Wanda Untiedt Jan. 22nd

Trinity Officers/Boards

Chairman: Doug Pohlman
Vice Chairman: Adam Wolff
Secretary: Janet Majerus
Treasurer: Wanda Untiedt
Trustee: Bruce Ihnen
Elders: Don Majerus
Finance: Dennis Voehl
Dan Reimers
Richard Voss
Dale Knips
Ushers: Chad Ihnen
Adam Wolff
Rod Voss
Wade Wacker
Stewardship: Don Majerus
Doug Pohlman

LWML President: Vicki Place
Vice President: Karlyne Ackerman
Secretary: Jeanne Ponto
Treasurer: Wanda Untiedt
Delegates: Janet Majerus
LeAnn Pohlman
Nominating Comm.: Lisa Dean
Shirley Finnern

Education Super: *(help wanted)*
Youth Group: Brian Gilmore
Cradle Roll: Janet Majerus
Organist: Shirley Finnern
Custodian: Katherin Ihnen

Concordia Officers/Boards

President: Robert Brons
Vice President: Dave Stahly
Secretary: Denny Stahly
Treasurer: Russell & Dolly Meier
Trustee: Joel Gaudian
Todd Thoms
Carol Rowe
Elders: Robert Brons
Russell Meier
Dennis Stahly
Finance Secretary: Carol Rowe
Dennis Stahly
Head Ushers: Gerald Weerts
Stewardship: Russell Meier
Dolly Meier
Carol Rowe

LWML President: Dolly Meier
Vice President: *(help wanted)*
Secretary: Jean Gillespie
Treasurer: Sherry Thoms

SS Staff: Brian Gilmore
(help wanted)
Connie Brons, Music
Cradle Roll: Dolly Meier

Church Secretary: Amanda Money
Organist: Shirley Finnern
Custodians: Kelly Morgan



Upcoming Events and Announcements

Trinity LWML January Meetings: will be in the Welcome Room, Monday January 15th at 6:30pm and Monday January 22nd at 1:00pm

Concordia LWML Meeting: Thursday January 11th at 2pm.

January Women's Event: Saturday, January 13th at The Well Coffeehouse at 1303 18th Street in Spirit Lake. Join us at 9:30am for tea or coffee and wonderful conversation! See you there!

Men's Lunch with Pastor: Saturday January 13th at 12pm at Gunderson's.

General Announcements

Calendar deadline: The deadline for the February calendar will be Tuesday, January 22nd Thank you!

Concordia & Trinity group messages: to receive messages via text, text @c83311 to 81010. The Remind tool is a free, safe, and simple messaging tool that helps us share important updates, reminders, and information with everyone at one time. All personal information is kept private. No one else can see your phone number nor will you see theirs.

LWML Mites: We will now have the LWML Mite box sitting in the back in the narthex and we welcome all members including Sunday school students to bring your loose change on any Sunday and place in the can. We thank you for all your help.

Storm Cancellations: If Church needs to be cancelled during the winter months, text notifications will be sent to you if you have signed up to receive them. You can also check the following sources.

KICD 1240 AM 107.7 FM Spencer – Live reports and Website

KKOJ 1190 AM KRAQ 105.7 FM Jackson – Live reports & Website

“Weather Related Announcements” at exploreokoboji.com

“Weather Announcements” at myradioworks.net

Call an Elder or Church President

Snow Birds: For those of you who get to travel to the warmer states and other locations during the winter months. Now is the time to let the office know if you want materials and what items you would want mailed to you while you are away. Update the office of your departure date, address, and when you expect to return. This will be greatly appreciated. Thank you!

LifeDate: Each quarter a new edition will be placed in your bulletin boxes. This is coming to our congregation with only the shipping costs. So if you would no longer like to receive this publication please contact the church office.

Updates Needed: Please help us keep our records updated by contact the church office with changes. If you have moved, gotten married, had a child, changed your phone number, cell phone, and/or e-mail address we would like to know so that our records can be accurate. Please let the church office know. Thank you!

One Year Bible Study: Are you interested in reading the Bible through from Genesis to Revelation? Join us online for study of the Bible in a Year. You read a little from the Old Testament, New Testament, Psalms, and Proverbs for each day of the year while receiving daily reflections from Pastor Jacobsen designed to get you to think through your readings. Simply send Pastor an email if you wish to sign up.

Portal of Prayer: Audio Listen to recordings of each day’s Bible readings, devotion, and prayer. Devotions + Prayers Applicable, easy-to-read meditations and prayers. Over 2500 Devotions Read seven years of *Portals of Prayer* devotions. Search, Save, and Share Search past devotions by keyword, save your favorites, and share prayers. Download on the app store or get it on google play.

What is this in the pew? They are folders that help to explain the Divine Service and how to apply it in your daily life. This will serve to guide any guests that might attend, but also the growth of God's people in how we greet Him as He comes to us. Feel free to take them for personal use or to share and others will be ordered as needed.

Families Needed: Lutheran Family Service is looking for additional families to be a part of our adoption program as we are serving a higher number of birth mothers looking to place for adoption. Newborn Infant Adoption Program Details: • Lutheran Family Service will travel anywhere in the state of Iowa, North and Central Illinois (2.5 hr radius of East Moline), and Eastern Nebraska (3 hr radius of Omaha) to provide adoption services. • Couples must be male/female married for at least 3 years • Couples must be active in a Christian congregation • Program is fee-based Lutheran Family Service: • Creating family through adoption for nearly 120 years • Fully licensed child-placing agency • Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the LCMS Church following all LCMS biblical principles • Free pregnancy counseling program. For more information, contact Lutheran Family Service at 515-251-4900 or info@lutheranfamilyservices.org.

Lutheran Ladies: Have you scrolled through your podcasts, searching for one that catches your ear – a place you can escape to with inviting conversations, laughter, and fellowship with your Lutheran sisters? Look no further! Join Sarah, Erin, Rachel, and Bri on the sofa in the Lutheran Ladies Lounge, a podcast oasis for you, dear sisters, to sit, rest your feet, and stay a while. And on the way out, we'll check your lipstick. The Lutheran Ladies Lounge is produced by KFUE Radio and available wherever you get your podcasts. Sign up for the Lutheran Ladies' Lounge monthly e-newsletter on Mailchimp at eepurl.com/gjya5P, and email the Ladies at lutheranladies@kfuo.org.

Newsletters and Bulletins: Both can be found on our web pages: www.trinitysv.com or www.concordialp.com. If you would like to receive your newsletter by e-mail only OR if you would like to view the body of the newsletter on-line but would like a printed calendar please contact the church office. Thank you!

Christian TV Show: Main Street Living is now being broadcast on KCAU Sioux City, KDLT Sioux Falls, WFTC Channel 29 aka “Fox 9 Plus” and MyTV. Air time on both channels is Sunday at 10 am. The first 30 minutes are premastered episodes of the popular “This is the Life” series that was very popular in the 70’s and 80’s. The second half of the program is a modified Lutheran worship service that features a different Pastor each week, from the station’s broadcast area. It features many aspects of church worship; with an Invocation, confession and absolution, The Apostles Creed, the week’s Scripture readings, and a sermon. Hymns are sung by area church choirs. It’s a wonderful evangelistic ministry that shares the saving grace of our Lord Jesus Christ with the unchurched and shut-in. It is also great to utilize on

Sundays you are unable to attend worship online at www.mainstreetliving.com. Watch your bulletins for weekly program info.



Lutheran Hour Ministry Upcoming Events:

January 7 airing This is the Life – “The Other Wiseman” – Another Magi, making his journey to the Christ child, encounters others and shows kindness along the way. Worship Service – Rev. Jonathan Riggert of Trinity Lutheran Church in Cherokee, IA, delivers the message “What Is Your Identity” based on Romans 6:1-11. Additional information is available on the web site: www.mainstreetliving.com.

January 14 airing This is the Life – “The Priceless Book” – Money and health troubles on the farm lead a father to God’s Word for comfort. Worship Service – Rev. Merle Mahnken of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Schleswig, IA, delivers the message “Listen! The Lord Speaks to You!” based on 1 Samuel 3:1-10. Additional information is available on the web site: www.mainstreetliving.com.

January 21 airing This is the Life – “Live Option” – A 15-year-old pregnant daughter and her mother disagree on the future of her child. Worship Service – Life Sunday – Rev. Dr. James Lamb from Lutheran Family Service in Fort Dodge, IA, and Sioux Falls, SD, presents a message titled “The Trinitarian Value of Human Life”, based on Isaiah 43:1. Additional information is available on the web site: www.mainstreetliving.com.

January 28 airing This is the Life – “In Search of Dignity” – Two factory workers struggle to find meaning after they are replaced by machines. Worship Service – Rev. Robert Mayes of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Beemer, NE, and St. John Lutheran Church in Wisner, NE, delivers the message “Be Silent!” based on Mark 1:21-28. Additional information is available on the web site: www.mainstreetliving.com.

Lutheran Hour Ministry can now be found on these applications. A podcast subscription; subscribe at lhm.org/podcasts; A mobile app for Android devices and iPhones; visit lhm.org/apps for more information; Amazon Alexa, a voice-activated assistant to play media programming; Spotify, an on-demand media streaming service; iHeartRadio, a free broadcast & internet radio platform; and SiriusXM Satellite Radio’s Family Talk Channel 131 at 10 a.m. EST every Sunday.

Electronic Ipad Organ Program: Please let the church office or Denny Stahly know if you are interested in learning how to run the ipad for when we do not have an organist.

Birthdays and Anniversaries: If you would like your birthday or anniversary printed in The Lutheran Witness to commemorate a birthday of 90 years or more or an anniversary of 50 years or more please contact the church office two months in advance, so that notification can be sent to the district office.

ConnectPlus: LCEF is now offering an investment option called ConnectPlus. Please www.lcef.org or call (800)843-5233.

Electronic Newsletters: If you are interested in receiving the monthly newsletter electronically please send me an e-mail making the request.

Thrivent Choice: Remember to enroll as Thrivent members your Choice Dollars. Trinity & Concordia Lutheran Church is eligible to receive Choice Dollars. Please consider us a your choice. To learn more about Thrivent Choice, visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice or call 1-800-847-4836 and say “Thrivent choice” when prompted.

On-line Devotions: You may join on-line daily devotions on Facebook – we now have a home-base page on YouTube as well. Now all videos of Worship Services, Devotional studies and other events are now accessible from a common playlist. For fast access, click on “YouTube Home Page” in the “*Links*” Section <https://tinyurl.com/TLCACLC>

Lutheran Public Radio: *Sacred Music For The World* you can listen to the best of the Church's music 24/7 at lutheranpublicradio.org. You'll hear hymns like "Thy Strong Word," "The Church's One Foundation," "Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart," "God's Own Child I Gladly Say It," "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less" and more. You can also listen on mobile devices like an iPhone, iPad and an Android phone. *Issues, Etc.* is a ten-hour weekly syndicated radio talk show and podcast. The program features expert guests, expansive topics, while extolling Christ. The program is hosted by Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod Pastor Todd Wilken and produced by Jeff Schwarz.

Announcements For Concordia

Concordia LWML Meeting: Thursday January 11th at 2pm.

Voters Meeting after Worship 12/05/23:

Meeting was called to order by President Brons at 11:52 am. Voters present were Brian, Crystal, Bob, Carol, Todd, Jerry, Dolly, Russ, Denny, Connie, and also Pastor Jacobsen. We were also blessed with guests John and Kaitlyn O’Neal who expressed their wish to join the Voters Assembly. Pastor opened the meeting with Prayer.

Pastors report- we welcome John and Caitlyn who joined Concordia a few weeks ago. Motion was made and seconded to officially place them into membership, motion carried. With Christmas Eve on Sunday this year we will just have our two evening services, Lessons and Carols at Concordia at 5 pm and Candlelight Worship at Trinity at 7 pm. Christmas Day service will be at Concordia at 9 am. Pastor will be gone after Christmas services until January 4th. Also mentioned were some youth events being planned that will hopefully be done in the New Year. Minutes of the last meeting were given, motion was made by Russ seconded by Jerry to accept the minutes as read, motion carried. Treasurer's report was given, motion was made by Den seconded by Carol to accept the Treasurer's report. Motion carried. Trustee's report- it was mentioned it would be good to have a nicer table to put up front for placement of Urns and or pictures when needed, possibilities will be looked into. It was discussed to raise the amount that the Trustees could authorize spending on needed projects higher than \$100 so Voters meetings would not have to be called to authorize. Amount suggested was maybe \$600. It was noted such a change would require a revising the constitution. Carol will get a copy of the constitution to Denny to review process needed for such an amendment. Todd mentioned the quote for needed changes and repairs to solve the problem of water entering the building was for approx. \$30,000. It was noted we may need to get an updated quote to be sure of amount, and that we need to decide what we want to do and where funds for such could come from. Thanks were extended to Jerry for replacing the closure mechanism on the North entry door. Do to past vandalism of the breaking of some of our basement windows, and the recent vandalism of our custodian's car windows being broken out, Todd reported information he gathered regarding installation of an exterior camera surveillance system. Bid for a seven camera system with monitor and digital recorder was presented from Smart Solutions Inc of Milford for \$4253.97. Motion was made by Dolly seconded by Carol to go with the bid and have the project done, motion carried. Education report- Sunday School has been going well. New business- John and Caitlyn were thanked for their expressed desire to join the Voter's, and all were reminded that to join simply requires attendance of two meetings and stating the desire to join for official approval. Dolly presented a document received for us to set our 2024 commitment for giving to IDW. Motion was made by Brian seconded by Russ to stay at our current level of \$70 per month, with the option to give more if wanted after new budget is set, motion carried. It was mentioned that we also need to look at our commitment to start giving again to other mission projects we had done in the past which were suspended during the Covid

pandemic.

Such will be discussed after the upcoming budget meeting of the dual parish committee to propose the new 2024 budget. Next meeting is scheduled for January 28, 2024 following worship, for dealing with setting the new budget. Motion was made by Den seconded by Dolly to adjourn, motion carried, meeting was adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 12:40 pm. Dennis Stahly – Secretary

Voters Meeting after Worship 12/17/23:

Meeting was called to order by President Brons at 11:42 am. Voters present were Bob, Russ, Dolly, Carol, Crystal, Brian, Jerry, Denny, and Pastor Jacobsen. It was mentioned that we need to address possible revision of the Church Secretary's wages, which is currently at \$16 per hour. Motion was made by Russ seconded by Brian for Concordia to approve a new wage rate of \$18 per hour, motion carried. Carol furnished Voter's Secretary Stahly with a copy of the constitution to review for a future meeting where we could approve an amendment to raise the dollar amount the Trustees could authorize for needed maintenance with requiring Voter approval, as discussed at the previous meeting. Denny mentioned after a first review that there were some other items on the constitution that we may need to think about revising or re-implementing. Pastor Jacobsen also mentioned that constitutional changes also need to be submitted to the Synod for approval. Secretary Stahly will go through the constitution and list items to consider at future meetings. Motion was made by Denny seconded by Dolly to adjourn, motion carried, meeting was adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 11:47 pm. Denny Stahly – Secretary

Cards: We are looking for someone to take over the purchasing, stocking and displaying of the cards for sale in the narthex. If you are interested, please contact Dolly or Amanda.

Coffee Social Hour: Join us for a coffee social hour each Sunday morning at 9:45am at Concordia. Enjoy a morning of fellowship, invite a friend, drop the kids off to Sunday School and stay. Open to all, we look forward to seeing you.

Announcements For Trinity

Trinity LWML January Meetings: will be in the Welcome Room,
Monday January 15th at 6:30pm and Monday January 22nd at 1:00pm

Mailbox Update: new mailbox numbers will be assigned and put into
use as of Sunday December 31st. 2024 offering envelopes will be placed in
the newly assigned mailboxes, please be aware of your new box number
starting
December 31st.

Trinity LWML Mission for January: 2023–2025 Mission Grant No. 4
Fortifying Faith in Those with Vision Impairment Lutheran Braille Workers
\$100,000 Lutheran Braille Workers freely supplies large print and braille
materials for blind and visually impaired people around the world. The
\$100,000 LWML grant, Fortifying Faith in Those with Vision Impairment,
will help in developing, formatting, producing, and distributing fifty to one
hundred new Scripture-based and theologically related materials to people in
need around the world. To learn more,
visit lwml.org/2023-2025-mission-grant-4.

Lakefield Meal Site:... serving in-house meals. Call 662-6714 to reserve.

Bingo (always the first Tuesday) January 2nd. Bring a "J" item to play. menu: Tuna noodle casserole

Lunch & Learn Mon. Jan. 8 Jan Tewes(Sanford Clinic) menu: salisbury steak/gravy/mashed pots

GAME DAY!!! Wed. Jan 10 menu: Amy's beef hotdish Bring your own favorite or join the group for anything from cribbage to shuffleboard.

Minister's Day... Thurs. Jan. 11. Dee Emmerich, our local Buddhist nun menu: lasagna

Lakefield Meal Site will have 1/2 price DAYS for all picked-up, in-house & home delivered meals in 2024

Tues. Jan. 16th ... & Jan. 30th sponsored by Dr. David M. Kruse

Foot care clinic Tuesday Jan. 9 call for appt. 662-6714

Signature Meal---Lasagna Thurs. Jan. 11

Lakefield Birthday Party Thurs. Jan. 18th. Menu: Roast turkey/gravy/mashed pots

Pop-up Meals will be Tuesday Jan. 23rd

Cards...

Second Tuesday Pinochle will be Jan 9th.

Third Wednesday 500 will be Jan. 17th.

Last Wednesday Pinochle will be Jan 31st.

All Bingo, games and cards begin at 12:30PM

Call Marless(662-5254) for card details and to schedule playing.



Dickinson County Hunger Coalition: Has information on all food pantries available to residents in Dickinson County - individuals enter the office and choose their own groceries with assistance from UDMO Staff and volunteers. This includes choices of canned and boxed goods, assorted frozen meats, fresh vegetables, breads, baked goods and more. For more information visit: dickinsoncountyhunger.com/where-s-the-food

Atlas of Lakes Area: Companions and Advocates on the Road of Life. Atlas strives to be an advocate for those in need as they deal with life's relational, physical, emotional, financial, and/or spiritual struggles. We strive to love unconditionally in each mentoring relationship. Offering encouragement, hope, and support for anything you may be facing in life. In addition to support, we offer qualified referrals for addictions, relational, employment challenges, housing challenges, transportation hurdles, health issues, financial difficulties, emotional afflictions, and spiritual barriers. For more information visit: lakesatlas.com/

MN Relay: If you or a family member living in MN needs help hearing when answering the phone there is help available at no cost to you. Please contact the consumer relations office (800)657-3775, email: mn.relay@state.mn.us or visit mn.gov for more information. There is also a brochure in the narthex.

The Lakefield Food Shelf : If you need help providing meals for your family, we invite you to come to the Lakefield Food Shelf on Tuesdays at St. Joseph Catholic School, 410 Broadway in Lakefield. Questions, please call Connie at 507/841-3350. Our Hours are: 1:00pm - 2:00pm, 1st Tuesday of the month 4:30pm - 5:30pm, other Tuesdays of the month

Elderbridge Agency on Aging: We are an Area Agency on Aging in North Central, Northwest, and Central Iowa, currently serving a 29-county region. We provide information, guidance, and assistance in finding services for you, your spouse, parent, relative, or friend. We strive to enable older Iowans to live with dignity, well-being, and independence. For more information visit: elderbridge.org/