Concordia News
December 2019

CONCORDIA U.C.C

7600 State Route 163
Belleville, IL 62223
618-476-3377
concordiaucc.weebly.com

OUR STAFF

Pastor: (email: pastor.concordiaucc@gmail.com)	Joan Mier
Secretary: (email: secretary.concordia@gmail.com)	Natalie Huck
Director of Christian Ed:	Becky Avara
Custodian:	Rayonda Montgomery
Organist:	Jennifer Hampsten

CHURCH COUNCIL OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

President		
Michael Avara	618-401-8819	mavara2007@gmail.com
Vice-President		
Kevin Juhas	618-719-1611	kjuhas@charter.net
Secretary		
Cheryl Mueth	618-975-6768	cheryl8634@aol.com
Treasurer		
Doris Steiger	618-476-1366 618-444-1133-cell	willdoris61@gmail.com
Financial Secretary		
Len Sedlak	618-558-7731	sedlakl@onemain.com
Congregational Care		
Marie Gemmingen	618-277-8045	mariegem44@gmail.com
Member-at-Large		
John Klaus	618-791-2488	jdklaus@att.net

If you require Pastoral Care, please call the church or email Pastor Joan. If it is an emergency call her cell: 219.805.6022.

December
Lectionary Scripture Readings

December 1 – First Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 2:1-5, Psalm 122, Romans 13:11-14, Matthew 24:36-44
December 8 – Second Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7.18-10, Romans 15:3-13, Matthew 3:1-12
December 15 – Third Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146:4-9, James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11
December 22 – Fourth Sunday of Advent
Isaiah 7:10-16, Psalm 80:1-7,16-18, Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25
December 29, - First Sunday after Christmas
Isaiah 61:10-62.3, Psalm 147, Galatians 3:23-25,4:4-7, John 1:1-18

SCHEDULE

Worship Every Sunday at 9 A.M.
Sunday school at 10 A.M.
Quilting Circle – Monday Evenings at 6:00 P.M
and Tuesday Mornings at 9 A.M.
Bible Study – Wednesday Afternoons at 1:00 P.M.
Choir Practice – Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 P.M.
Food Pantry - First Sunday
Council Meeting - Second Sunday
Book Club -Third Sunday
Women's Guild - Fourth Sunday

December 1 – Family Night Potluck & Peanut Stab @ 5:00 P.M.
December 7 – Breakfast with Santa, 9-11 A.M., Zion Church, Millstadt
December 8 – Millstadt Sister Cities Weihnachsfest, 10am-5pm, Parade @ Noon, St. James, Millstadt
December 15 – Women's Guild Brunch, 4204 @ 11:00 A.M.
December 15 – Metro East Chorale Christmas Concert @ 3:00 P.M., St. Paul's UCC, Belleville
December 15 – Millstadt Community Chorale Christmas Concert @ 7:00 P.M. Zion Church, Millstadt
December 22 – Christmas Program during Church Service, with Caroling following Coffee Hour.
December 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @ 7:00 P.M.

The bulletin board has fliers for other events happening in the area so check it out on Sunday's.

Family Night Potluck & Peanut Stab
December 1

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. The meat, tea and lemonade will be provided. The Sweet Adeline's singing group will be performing during the dinner portion. Please bring an inexpensive gift ($1-$3) if you'd like to join in the Famous Concordia UCC Peanut Stab fun. Santa will make an appearance for the children (and adults) for photos. All the fun starts at 5:00 P.M. Hope to see everyone there!

Kindercottage Adopt-A Child Christmas Program

This year we have adopted Ayanna Brown. as our lucky little girl. She is 2 months old. Now wears 3-6 months clothes and shoes, she wears a 4 Pamper. Gifts not limited to clothing; gifts of any kind for an infant. If you would like to donate something to help make Ayanna's Christmas a little brighter please bring the item(s) unwrapped by **Sunday, December 8th**. They are also suggesting a gift card for Wal-Mart, Target, etc. or a food store to be used by Mom for her home, herself, another child, etc. (the amount doesn't have to be large) this is only an idea but if you do decide to do this write the child's name and MOM on the envelope.

Also, we will be collecting mittens & hats to be donated to the children at Kindercottage. Collection will begin November 24th.

Pastor's Message December Newsletter:

As I look outside today, it seems that Fall has passed us by, and Winter has already come upon us—snow and ice are still lingering on some pathways and grassy areas—the wind continues to be brisk enough for us to wear our Winter coats. Experiencing all of this for the first time in Southern Illinois, I was thinking to days ahead at Concordia when we shall be lighting the Advent candles and the Christ candle on Christmas Eve. My favorite part of the service is when people light their individual candles, sharing the Christ Light with one another, and then everyone together sings verses of "Silent Night." From the Pastor's viewpoint, it is a most beautiful sight. In the darkened sanctuary, I have the blessing of looking upon every precious face that is being illuminated by the light of Christ. It is on Christmas Eve that I also see the love-light that God has put within each person. The question is how do we keep that love-light shining all year long? Part of the answer is that when we are weary and feeling far from God, we must take a moment to close our eyes and remember Christmas Eve—the feeling of it—the scent of it—the touch of it—remembering who extended words of kindness, cheer, and love on such a moving night. We must remember the words to the hymns that we sing***, "Were you there, were you there on that Christmas night, when the world was filled with a holy light? Were you there to behold when the wonder foretold came to earth?" ("Were You There on that Christmas Night,"*** Natalie Sleeth)

Christmas Eve is about celebrating that "wonder" that came to Earth—the Christ Child Jesus-- the One who came to be the Prince of Divine Peace. My deepest prayer is that you will feel the wonder of the Season but, also, that you will receive the wonderful light of the Prince of Peace and be willing to share it with others all throughout the year.

"For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders and he is named: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually and there shall be endless peace . . . " (Isaiah 9:6-7a)

May the peace of this most holy season fill your hearts and souls with wonder and delight,

Pastor Joan

Pastor Joan is presently scheduling visits with ill and homebound individuals, but soon would like to do general visits to the homes of the members of the church, taking personal time to get to know more about you and your families. These visits can be with Pastor Joan and Marie or Pastor Joan by herself. She will have a calendar of available times out soon, please sign your name if you are open to a pastoral visit.

175th celebration for 2020

Concordia United church of Christ celebrates 175 years in the year 2020!

Look at some of the fun things for the year:

On January 19th our conference minister Rev. Shana Johnson will preach, and we will have a full breakfast after service

So, starting the year we are collecting some of your favorite recipes, for to put together a cookbook... Bring to church or, email secretary.concordia@gmail.com

In February we have our usual annual meeting and on February 29th the annual pancake breakfast sponsored by the Sunday School. For this event we have Concordia Church Mugs for sale

Here are some high lights

March – Women's Guild fund raiser and hope to have cookbook finished

April 12 is Easter and on April 19th a group picture in front of church

April & May – Wall of money

May – show off your baby pictures

June 7 – chicken dinner and strawberry festival with a quilt raffle

July – VBS and outside church service or maybe September

August – Ice Cream social and games

September – Homecoming parade float – outside church service – Apple butter?

October – Wurstmarkt and quilt raffle

November - COFIRMATION REUNION - Lighted Christmas parade after Thanksgiving

December - Family night peanut stab and Christmas ornaments for sale

USHERS/GREETERS NEEDED

There is a sign-up list on the welcome table outside the sanctuary. We are asking that those who volunteer to serve as ushers to please try and get here about 45 minutes early to place the alter flowers in the vases and to serve as greeters handing out bulletins and assisting people in finding a seat as the sanctuary fills up. Also, when collecting the offering we would appreciate it if you could get a head count of our attendance. Please sign-up as you are able.

COFFEE HOUR HOST/HOSTESS NEEDED

We need volunteers to serve as host/hostess during our Sunday morning Coffee Hour. The donuts and coffee are provided by the church, but we need you to help serve. If you are interested, please sign the list on the welcome table outside the sanctuary.

COUNCIL NEWS

- Thank you to everyone for their support and contributions to the Wurstmarkt. A total of $2,715 was raised in profits and allocated to the Building Fund.
- Thank you to Cheryl Mueth and Marie Gemmingen for attending the Illinois South Conference Annual Meeting as delegates for our church.

QUILTING GROUP

We are working hard on some beautiful quilts. If anyone is interested in quilting, please join us on Monday evenings from 6-8pm and Tuesday mornings from 9-11:30am at the church. **All are welcome!**

CHOIR

Practices are still held Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm. We are working on the Christmas Program and other great Christmas music!

BOOK CLUB

No Book Club in December, it will resume in the 3rd Sunday in January.
All are welcome to join

WOMEN'S GUILD HAPPENINGS

Our annual Christmas brunch will be held at 4204 Brewing Co in Belleville on December 15 at 11:00. It is served brunch style so if you're a few minutes late, no worries. If you wish to participate in the gift exchange, please bring a wrapped $15.00 gift. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the Sunday School Hall.

Women's Retreat - Renew, Restore, Refresh!! That's the theme of our retreat and what a way to wind down from all the hustle and bustle of the holidays! Join us Friday January 31 and Saturday, February 1 for some girlfriend time in the middle of winter! Pricing is as follows:

Two friends in a room - $60 each (breakfast and lunch included)
Three friends in a room - $60 each (breakfast and lunch included)
Not staying overnight - $17 for breakfast and lunch

We are working on some special things for this time together. If you would like to help in the planning, contact Becky - let's make this the best one yet!

YOUTH NEWS

Sunday School - The Christmas Program this year will be an interactive program involving the congregation. the program is scheduled for Sunday, December 22 during worship. Any youth wishing to participate, should contact Becky.

Family Night - We will have activities for the kids to keep them busy during the Peanut Stab and until Santa arrives.

Youth Yak - We are working on a new activity to be held during Christmas break that will reinvent the sleepover. To implement this idea, we will need parental help in signing up for shifts to transport youth to and from the different activities that will be held all night. We are working on the details and information will be forthcoming very soon! All youth 6th - 12th grade are invited to attend!

December Birthdays

2nd	Mick Kirksey	**18th**	Emily Allen
5th	Dale Hoepfinger	**28th**	Lorelei Gomric
9th	Jan Peak		Olivia Hanson
13th	Mandy Wuebbels		Jacquelyn Quirk-Nance
14th	Cari Klaus		
	Darlene Schwab		

December Anniversaries

12th Matthew & Jacquelyn Nance

If you do not see your birthday or anniversary listed, please notify the church by emailing secretary.concordia@gmail.com **or call the church and leave a message.**

PRAYER CONCERNS

All who are on the Prayer List gives thanks for the support-prayers of Concordia UCC

Al & Emma Lee Wunderlich: Are at Morningside Assisted Living, 1201 Hartman Ln, Belleville, IL 62221

Dale Hoepfinger, Terry Bailey, Brenda Waelti, Sharon Stallmann, Don Sliment, Mel & Betty Mueller, Mike Gomric, Debbie Gain, Gloria Ellermeyer, Bill Mueller, Douglas Anders, Bob Miller, David Blue, Corey Teamen, Roger Schanz , Tina Kennedy, Randee Rittmeyer, Lee Strickland, Mike Toth, Beth Humes, Cheryl Partee, Madi Stone

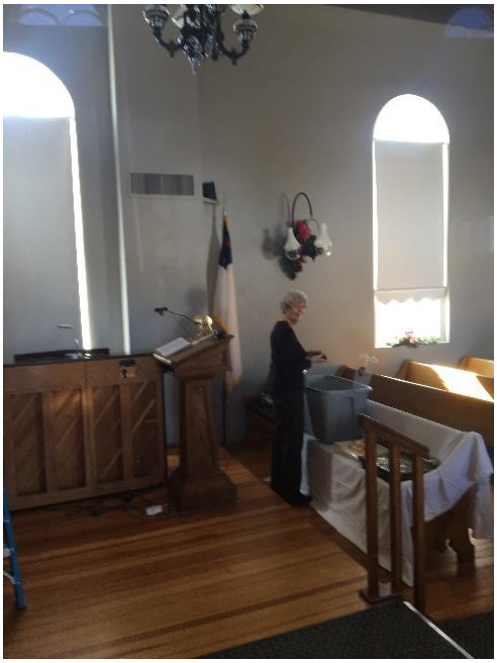
Sympathies to Pastor Joan & family on the loss of her Aunt, Ida Trajkovich who passed away on Nov. 11th.

Additional Prayer List

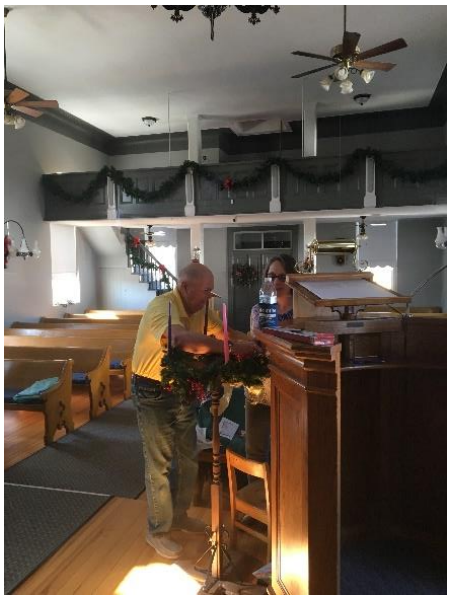
Kathy Burgard	LeeAnn Heaton	Angela Pearson	Debbie Waller
Wally Davis	Ronnie & Geri Keim	Kelie Reis	Bob & Wanda Wheat
Charlie Dayton	Joe Knepper	Lorene Rice	Kevin Wicks
Mary Douglas	Jane Koehler	Teri Robertson	Art Wynn
Gerry Freiderich	Bill & Doris Koeln	Patti Rottler	Debbie Waller
Joshua Gamm	Bill Launius	Marion Scharf	
Susie Gregg	Brody Mense	Kathryn Sick	
Pat Schmeder-Habers	Mindy Newsum	Marilou Steele	

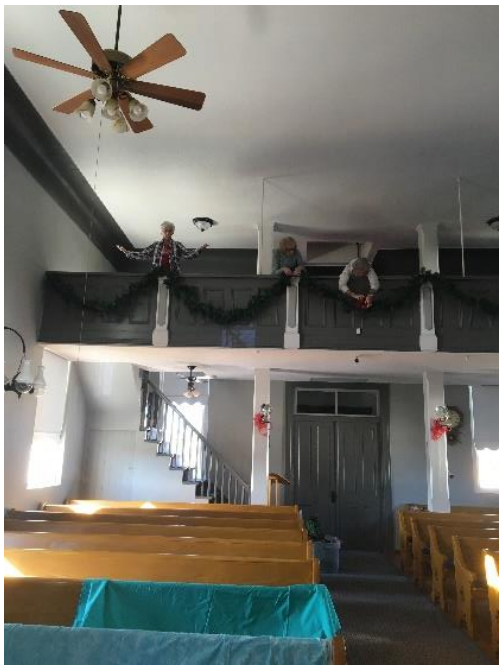
If you would like someone added or deleted from the Prayer List, please notify the church by emailing secretary.concordia@gmail.com **or call the church and leave a message.**

THE LORD IS MY LIGHT
WHOM SHALL I FEAR?



THE LORD IS MY LIGHT





FROM YOUR EDITOR:

Please send any articles for the next newsletter by Wednesday December 18th to secretary.concordia@gmail.com

Please call the church office or email secretary.concordia@gmail.com …

- If you move, change your telephone number or email address. Our records need to be current
- If you or a member of your family is admitted to the hospital. The pastor needs to know so hospital visits can be scheduled.
- A Death in the Family.
- When you have a new addition to your family.
- When a member of your family leaves home for college.
- When your committee or group plans a meeting or an activity, so the church calendar can be updated.
- When you feel the church can assist you.

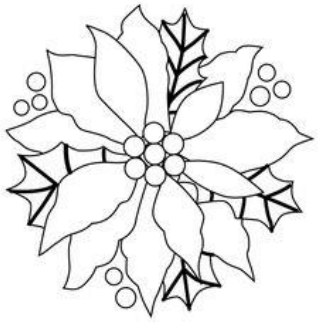
The 2020 Calendar will be up mid-December.

CHILDRENS ACTIVITY BASKET

Recognizing that families sit at different areas of the church, an activity basket containing items for children will be placed at the Welcome Table in the Sunday School Hall and another basket will be placed at the front of the church. Please feel free to pick out whatever your child might enjoy using during Worship Service.

Current Shortages at the Millstadt Food Pantry:

- Thanksgiving/Christmas type Foods
- Boxed dinners
- Canned meats
- Shampoo, Deodorant, Kleenex, Dryer Sheets, laundry detergent



POINSETTIA ORDER FORMS

A CHANCE TO HONOR OR REMEMBER A LOVED ONE DURING THE UPCOMING CHRISTMAS SEASON.

In Memory of:

_____

In Honor of:

_____

Given by:

_____

ORDERS DUE BY DECEMBER 15TH

The Cost is $15.00, make checks out to Concordia UCC.

You may pick them up after the Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve.

CHRISTMAS

T W I S E M E N H V L P U G L D R A R P A I C E A
T N E X Y O D A X Z E E I D T C M F N O E L V E H
U V K F I E V C X O M T P A H Z Y A A M X W L V T
E I S I G C O H M K F I A T V O L P R K J D B R F
E R D U N N J R X F W G L T V Y L V Q Y M Y S B A
G R A N I D T I D B M E C N I R P I F E B R P Y W
G L O H S X L S C E G B E E V O L L D A W P W A V
S H F P O V T T G C E C D R G D F N B A O M H D B
W O F E R U V M P D E C E F Y X P E M I Y O Y G Z
A L C S V U W A A N M L E P I K E C A M R F S J L
D I X O V O L S F P W O E N D L E A N X N N D A L
D D A J W T U A B Z I T R B N L M E G A M A D H F
L A H Z W Y D E J T O P E T R A I P E B K J E H E
I Y G A R I N F E O V X N S K A A H R V A Z L D L
N B P N Y S X D W X Y W X I D W T A C S Z F L R X
G P N T J G N I K D M U B R U R W E E O T I I E L
N N L B G X M G N V N V N H Z N F Y B Y W G V A C
W P F B J L E X C W N R L C D T G I V I N G T T Y
Q S H E P H E R D S S U S E J G L R W N S D R A C
U A L S L E G N A L W J M O C P H Y H Y K B L G T

Christ
Jesus
shepherds
king
manger
wise men
prince
hay
angels
baby
sing
peace
swaddling
Mary
Joseph
love
joy
child
holiday
cards
celebrate
Christmas
giving
Noel