



THE CONCORDIA TRUMPET

December 2018/January 2019

Concordia Lutheran Church, Watertown, NY

+ From Your Pastor +

“Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!” - II Corinthians 9:15

As the year draws to a close, some of us take the time to pause for periods of reflection regarding not only the past year, but also our entire life. Keeping in mind the above verse from II Corinthians, I am focusing right now on the concept “indescribable gifts” – given and received.

Gifts are, after all, at the forefront of the to-do lists of millions of people. That is why, in the span of less than a month, we are offered the shopping opportunities of Black Friday, Small Business Saturday, Cyber Monday, Giving Tuesday, Green Monday, Free Shipping Day and Super Saturday. Current estimates are that \$23 billion was spent on Black Friday and \$7.9 billion on Cyber Monday. We will never know how many recipients will deem their gifts as “indescribable.” We do know that many will forget them in a day or two.

Personally, I have never unwrapped a present that comes close to comparing to the indescribable gift of my wife, our three children and five grandchildren. There is not a store in the world that could provide greater joy than that gift imparted by my parade of doctors and surgeons throughout the years that have rendered me “*healed.*” Wow – indescribable!

Now, I give thanks to you – the members and friends of Concordia – who have been indescribably generous with your gifts to our congregation as well as to those in need locally, nationally and globally. We continue our faithful stewardship to the Watertown Urban Mission through weekly gifts of groceries and toiletries as well as money, clothing and furnishings. Under the committed and loving leadership of Patricia Tarbox-Ryan, we filled 146 Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes – always at least one more than the previous year.

This year, we added the ELCA Global Barnyard/Good Gifts ministry to our stewardship opportunities. Never would I have imagined that \$1592 would be directed to the gifts of goats, chicks, pigs and all the other good gifts listed in this newsletter that *truly* will be indescribable to recipients who are in great need.

I am honored and humbled to be the pastor of a congregation who sees beyond the four walls of a building to care about “the least of these” around the world: not just with “thoughts and prayers” but with action. After all, Christ was born – and died – for ALL: not just Lutherans and not just Americans. Thank you to all who truly helped bring about “*Joy to the WORLD!*” Merry Christmas!

Pastor Luisi

December/January Schedule for Concordia

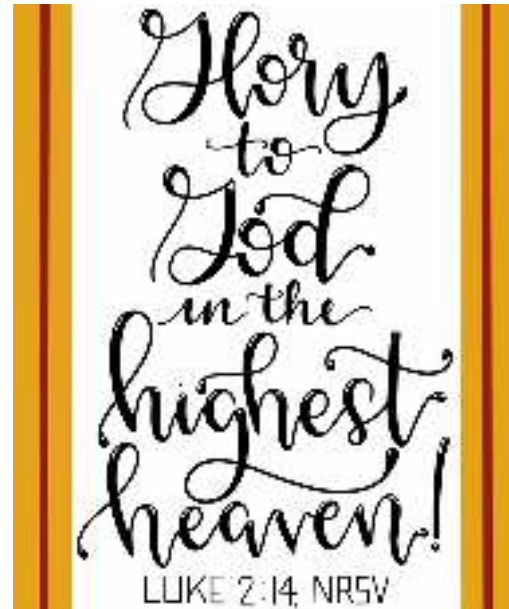
- ~ Saturday Worship Service at 4:00 p.m.
- ~ Sunday Worship Service at 10:00 a.m.
- ~ Sunday School & Youth Group at 11:10 a.m.

December

- 2** First Sunday of Advent
- 9** Second Sunday of Advent
 - Church Council** meeting at 9:15 a.m.
 - Advent Potluck & Pie Silent Auction**
- 16** Third Sunday of Advent
- 23** Fourth Sunday of Advent
- 24** Christmas Eve Service at 5:30 p.m.
- 25** Christmas Day- Jesus is Born!

January

- 1** New Year's Day
- 6** Epiphany
- 13** Church Council meeting at 9:15 a.m.



Jayda Wheeler,

daughter of Kristina & Steven,

and

Nathan Young,

son of Michelle & Matthew,

received their

First Communion on November 4, 2018.

*May God continue to strengthen and guide
these young Christians on their journeys
through life.*

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVE at Concordia

Join us **December 9** for an **Advent potluck meal** after the worship service. The Youth Group is also sponsoring a **Pie Silent Auction** that day. Sign ups for the meal and to bake a pie are by the kitchen door.

On **December 24**
the **Christmas Eve**
worship service will be at
5:30 p.m. We invite you to
bring a treat to share for
fellowship after the service
as we exchange Christmas
greetings and joy with each
other.



ELCA Good Gifts/Global Barnyard 2018

These gifts support work in 83 countries and are welcome throughout the year. Catalogs which feature more options are available in the fellowship hall. You may also check out the website at ELCA.org/goodgifts or call 800-638-3522. Thank you to all who support this mission of the ELCA and Concordia through gifts and prayer. May God bless us all!

Fish Farm (\$250)

- Nicole Scheppard in memory of her pet Peaches



Latrine (\$150)

- Signe Nelson in honor of those who struggle
- Pastor Paul & Mary Luisi in honor of Dr. Pieczonka and AMP Urology, Syracuse

Microloan (\$125)

- Retired Army Nurse



Goat (\$50 each)

- Phil Lueders in memory of Nathan Bell
- Ginny Hasseler
- George & Shirley Weber in honor of Pastor Paul & Mary Luisi and family
- Christopher Jamison in memory of Merwin "Stubby" Stevens
- Barbara Thiebeau and Amy Koehler (2) in memory of Paul Thiebeau
- Ed & Judy Fritz (2) in memory of Sophie Karwa
- Sheila Norton Bell in memory of her father, Elmer Schneider

School Fees and Uniform for a Girl (\$40)

- Patricia Tarbox-Ryan for all girls fighting for and advocating an education

Water Filter (\$30)

- Eric & Sonya Holloway
- Ann Jamison

Pig (\$30)

- Laura Lewis and Evangeline Luisi
- Tom & Mary Jane Fulton in memory of loved ones
- George & Shirley Weber



~ The listing of donors continues on the next page. ~

ELCA Good Gifts/Global Barnyard 2018 (continued)

Honeybees (\$20)

- Rosalyn Lewis
- Dick Foster
- Margarete Hall and Red Snyder
- Ann Jamison
- Sandy Watts
- Carl Zimmer
- Jamie Luedtke

Rooster (\$15)

- Dominic Luisi

Bibles (\$12)

- Barbara and Mark Delosh
- Carl Zimmer

School Supplies (\$10)

- Steve & Brigitte Gruber (3)
- Mark & Barbara Delosh

Chicks (\$10)

- Bryndis Lewis
- George & Shirley Weber (2)
- Rosina Allen
- Joanna Bitter

Backpack with Food (\$10)

- Carl Zimmer (2)



Our tree is now decorated with the Good Gifts ornaments we purchased. Thanks everyone for your generosity!



I want to worship the King
just as the wise men did so long ago.
Lord Jesus, the Magi brought you precious gifts.
Help me also give you my very best – always. Amen.



Volunteers for December

Sign up on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall for these opportunities to serve.



FELLOWSHIP

Dec. 2 Luisi
9 Advent Potluck
& Pie Silent Auction
30 Christmas treats from all

ALTAR FLOWERS

Dec. 2 Pat Ryan
9 Holloways
16 Anonymous
30 Fultons

WORSHIP ASSISTANT

Dec. 2 Mary Jane Fulton
9 Phil Lueders
16 Eric Holloway
24 Eric Holloway
30 Eric Holloway



A Memorial was given in loving memory of **Paul A. Thiebeau, Jr.** (8/8/37-10/28/13) by **Barbara, Lori, Amy, Trey and Barb.**

A Memorial was given by **Debby Whelpley** in memory of husband **Dennis.**

POINSETTIAS

Anyone who would like to provide a poinsettia plant to decorate our sanctuary for the Christmas season is welcome to do so. Purchase a poinsettia at the store of your choice, label the plant with your name and bring the plant to Concordia any Saturday or Sunday when you come to worship.

If you would like to have the plant listed in the Christmas flowers as being “in honor of” or “in memory of” someone, please give that information to Mary Luisi so she can include it in the worship bulletin.

You may take your plant home with you after the Christmas Eve service.



Announcements

** **Thank You** to all who attended the November church budget meeting and approved unanimously the 2019 proposed budget. **Thank You** to our finance team, **Ruth Scheppard**, treasurer; **Carol Stacey**, financial secretary; and **Dave Wallace**, stewardship chair; and to all who generously and faithfully contribute to our ministry!

** On Christ the King Sunday, November 25, we remembered those who died this year by the lighting of candles and ringing of a bell: **Dennis Whelpley** – December 20 and also **Evelyn Jones**, Pastor's **Uncle Nick**, and **all those around the world for whom Christ died**. Blessed be their memory.

** The **Youth Group** wishes to thank all the pumpkin artists and the people who purchased pumpkins at the auction in October. \$275 was raised! **Thank you** for your continued and generous support of our youth.

** A new **copy machine** was purchased for the church office by an anonymous donor.

** **Bradley Luisi-Ellis** will earn his Master's degree in Education from Roberts Wesleyan College, Rochester, on December 15. Congratulations, Brad!

** Newsletter Information for the **February/March** newsletter should be put in the drop-off box on the church office door or sent to Ginny at vhasseler@gmail.com by **January 27**.



146 !!!

That is the number of boxes
that were packed for
Operation Christmas Child
and delivered to be sent
to children all over the globe.

Thanks to all who donated throughout the
year and to those who stayed after church
one Sunday and helped pack the boxes.

Thanks also to **Rosina Allen** for knitting
hats for each box

and a special thank you to

Pat Ryan

for her continued enthusiastic
leadership of this project.



Help decorate the Mitten Tree in the narthex with your gifts of mittens, gloves, hats and scarves, either purchased or handmade, to be given to local children in need through the Watertown Urban Mission or North Country Family Health Center. Thank You for your generosity!



Concordia Evangelical Lutheran Church

Council Members and Other Leaders

The Rev. Paul D. Luisi, Pastor
 Ginny Hasseler, President, Christian Education Chair
 Phil Lueders, Vice President, Social Ministry Chair
 Nicole Scheppard, Secretary
 Ruth Scheppard, Treasurer
 Gary Fritz, Property Co-Chair
 Eric Holloway, Property Co-Chair
 Pat Ryan, Youth Group Chair
 Tony Summerlin
 Dave Wallace, Stewardship Chair
 Carl Zimmer

Pastor Luisi, Worship & Music Chair
 Mary Luisi, Worship Bulletin Carol Stacey, Financial Sec.
 Ginny Hasseler, Newsletter Samantha Scheppard, Fellowship Chair
 Liz & Greg Hasseler, Web Masters

If you are on Facebook, check out and “like” our page.



3 Audina Powell
 8 Mary Luisi
 8 Kelly Stacey
 17 Dave Wallace
 18 Michelle Young
 27 Chris Calendar
 27 Brigitte Gruber
 30 Martin Schneider
 30 Brian Stacey

December 2018						
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23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					



6 Irene Lunderman
 9 Tom Fulton
 12 Burton Lunderman
 15 Judy Fritz
 25 Tammy Rutz
 27 Naomi Nagler
 28 Steve Nagler

January 2019						
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
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27	28	29	30	31		

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH
818 Arsenal Street
Watertown, New York 13601

The Concordia Trumpet

December 2018 /January 2019



Peace

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH
818 Arsenal Street
Watertown, New York 13601
The Rev. Paul D. Luisi, Pastor
(315) 782-1260

Saturday Worship Service: 4:00 p.m.
Sunday Worship Service: 10:00 a.m.
Sunday School: 11:10 a.m. (Sept. to June)
Christmas Eve Worship Service: 5:30 p.m.

Website: <http://www.concordialutheranwatertown.com>

Find us on Facebook.

The Mission Statement for Concordia Lutheran Church:

*See, Grow, and Serve in the Ways
of the Christian Faith.*