



Concordia Lutheran Church

10172 Highway C

Frohna, MO

573.824.5435

concordiafrohna@att.net

Website: concordiafrohna.org

Rev. Paul Hoemann, Pastor

Email – pastorclfrohna@gmail.com

Phone — 979.777.1138

Welcome to Concordia

A Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod Congregation

If you are our guest, please fill out a visitor card (in the pew rack behind the Communion cards) and either place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher after the service. If you worship regularly with us and have a new address, a prayer request or a message for the pastor or the church office, you are welcome to use the visitor card to share that with us. Thank you!

The back pews are reserved for families with small children.

A nursery is available in our multi-purpose room on the side of the Narthex.

Large-print bulletins are available from the usher.

The Third Sunday in Advent

Sunday, December 15, 2019

Hymn: "Once He Came in Blessing"

LSB 333

Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Confession & Absolution

Pastor: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the LORD his God. *Psalm 146:5*

People: The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.
Psalm 146:7b-8a

(Silence for self-examination)

Pastor: Holy and gracious God,

ALL: I confess that I am a sinner and am guilty before You, O Lord, of all my sins. I confess that I have lived as if I mattered most. I have not hallowed Your name as I should; my worship and prayers have faltered. I have not let Your love have its way with me, and so my love for others has failed. I am mindful of those whom I have hurt by my words and actions and those whom I have failed to help. All my thoughts and desires are soiled with sin. I am truly sorry for all of this and ask for grace to forgive my sins and the aid of the Holy Spirit to amend my sinful life.

Pastor: By the mercy of God, we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: May He who began this good work within you bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you. Amen!

Hymn: "Hark the Glad Sound"

LSB 349

Advent Litany

Pastor: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

People: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Pastor: O Wisdom from on high, in and through all creation, Orderer of all things, come and grant us a discerning heart.

People: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Pastor: O Lord and Ruler of Israel, of burning bush and Sinai's Law, come and redeem us with Your mighty arm.

People: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Pastor: O Branch of Jesse's stem, before whom people gather and kings bow down, come and save us from our enemies.

People: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Pastor: O King and Scepter of Israel, You close what none can open; You open what none can close, come and rescue those in darkness and the shadow of death.

People: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Pastor: O Splendor of eternal light, come and enlighten the captive, bound in unbelief, sin, and death.

People: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Pastor: O King of the nations, Ruler of peace, Giver of unity, come and save all You formed from dust.

People: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Pastor: O come, O come, Emmanuel, King and Lord, Savior of the nations, come and save us, Lord our God.

People: O come, O come, Emmanuel.

Text: Based on the "O Antiphons," adapted by Larry Peters. (c) 2010 Larry Peters. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Salutation & Prayer

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray...Almighty God, you called John the Baptist to give witness to the first coming of Your Son. Give us wisdom to do your will today. Help us to be bold witnesses of the fact that Jesus will come again and to prepare His way. We pray this through the same Jesus Christ, your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen!

Old Testament

Isaiah 35:1-10

(The ransomed of the LORD shall return to Zion with singing and joy.)

Pastor: ¹ The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, ² it will burst into bloom; it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. The glory of Lebanon will be given to it, the splendor of Carmel and Sharon; they will see the glory of the LORD, the splendor of our God. ³ Strengthen the feeble hands, steady the knees that give way; ⁴ say to those with fearful hearts, "Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you." ⁵ Then will the eyes of the blind be opened and the ears of the deaf unstopped. ⁶ Then will the lame leap like a deer, and the mute tongue shout for joy. Water will gush forth in the wilderness and streams in the desert. ⁷ The burning sand will become a pool, the thirsty ground bubbling springs. In the haunts where jackals once lay, grass and reeds and papyrus will grow. ⁸ And a highway will be there; it will be called the Way of Holiness; it will be for those who walk on that Way. The unclean will not journey on it; wicked fools will not go about on it. ⁹ No lion will be there, nor any ravenous beast; they will not be found there. But only the redeemed will walk there, ¹⁰ and those the LORD has rescued will return. They will enter Zion with singing; everlasting joy will crown their

heads. Gladness and joy will overtake them, and sorrow and sighing will flee away. This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Children's Choir: "And He Lay There Sleeping"

Epistle

James 5:7-11

(Be patient until the coming of the Lord.)

Pastor: ⁷ Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. ⁸ You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. ⁹ Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door! ¹⁰ Brothers and sisters, as an example of patience in the face of suffering, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. ¹¹ As you know, we count as blessed those who have persevered. You have heard of Job's perseverance and have seen what the Lord finally brought about. The Lord is full of compassion and mercy. This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Pastor: Alleluia! Behold, I send My messenger before your face,

People: who will prepare your way before you. Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-15

(Go and tell John what you see and hear.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the eleventh chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Pastor: ² When John, who was in prison, heard about the deeds of the Messiah, he sent his disciples ³ to ask him, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?" ⁴ Jesus replied, "Go back and report to John what you hear and see: ⁵ The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. ⁶ Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me." ⁷ As John's disciples were leaving, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? ⁸ If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear fine clothes are in kings' palaces. ⁹ Then what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰ This is the one about whom it is written: 'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' ¹¹ Truly I tell you, among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet whoever is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. ¹² From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been subjected to violence, and violent people have been raiding it. ¹³ For all the Prophets and the Law prophesied until John. ¹⁴ And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. ¹⁵ Whoever has ears, let them hear." This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

The Apostles' Creed

Children’s Message

Hymn: "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

LSB 849

Sermon: "Less Is More" Matthew 11:2-15

Offering/Children’s Choir: "Still, Still, Still"

Prayers of the Church

The Lord’s Prayer

Benediction

Hymn: "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

LSB 357

Announcements

Postlude

Participants in this Morning’s Service

Greeters:	Tom and Sue Roth
Organist:	Barb Burroughs
Children’s Choir Director:	Tammy Petzoldt
Acolyte:	Ethan Best
Elder:	Doug Hemman
Ushers:	Rodney Katt, Devin Ponder, Brandon Thurm, Bob Birk
Audio/Visual Team:	Amy Birk, Jenny France

This Week’s Schedule

Today, Dec. 15	11 a.m.-2 p.m.	Concordia LYF Gift Wrapping Service Final Day for Donations to Regional Crisis Center
Mon., Dec. 16	5:45 p.m.	<i>EPC Wildcats Boys Basketball vs. Immanuel, Perryville (C, B, A Teams) (Away)</i>
Tues., Dec. 17	7:30 p.m.	Dartball-Uniontown at Frohna
Wed., Dec. 18	9 a.m.	Bible Study-"Courageous Heroes of the Faith- King Hezekiah"
		January 2020 Calendar Items Due
	4 p.m.	Advent Worship at Trinity
	7 p.m.	Advent Worship at Concordia
Thurs., Dec. 19	6 p.m.	<i>EPC Wildcats Boys Basketball vs. Guardian Angel, Oran (C, A Teams) (Away)</i>
	7 p.m.	<i>UCLS Board of Education</i>
Fri., Dec. 20	8 a.m.	<i>Christmas Eve Service Practice</i>
	1:30 p.m.	<i>Classroom Christmas Parties</i>
Sat., Dec. 21	5:30 p.m.	Worship/Holy Communion at Concordia
Sun., Dec. 22	8 a.m.	Bible Class-Gospel of John
	9 a.m.	Worship/Holy Communion

Weekly Devotions (Christmas)

Hymn of the Week

LSB 624

“The Infant Priest Was Holy Born”

The infant Priest was holy born
For us unholy and forlorn;
From fleshly temple forth came He,
Anointed from eternity.

Bible Stories

12/16 -- M: Luke 1:39-56

12/17 -- Tu: Luke 1:57-80

12/18 -- W: Luke 2:1-7

12/19 -- Th: Luke 2:8-14

12/20 -- F: Luke 2:15-20

Bible Verse

(Christmas Program Work)

Catechism

(Christmas Program Work)

Announcements

Church Attendance: Worship – 164, one year ago – 129; Adult Bible Class – 20, one year ago – 19; Advent Midweek – 34, one year ago – 51

Today is the Third Sunday in Advent, and we are still waiting. As we prepare to remember and celebrate our Lord's first coming, we are made ready, through His Word and the sacraments, to meet Him when He comes again in glory, at the end of the age. Christians must be careful not to judge by what we see, for the promise of the Father is a new heaven and a new earth. What we see around us may seem bleak and dead, but God is at work to bring to fulfillment all His promises. It is his favor that sustains us today, and prepares us for an eternal tomorrow.

Order in the Order: Featured today is the **NEW TESTAMENT** reading, also known as the **EPISTLE**. These readings from the NT apostolic letters help us to understand how the first Christians interpreted and applied to themselves the life, death, and resurrection message of Jesus Christ, under the Spirit's inspiration. From them, we receive instruction in applying the Gospel to our Christian life.

Stewardship thought for the week: Isaiah 35:4 – *“Say to those who have an anxious heart, ‘Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you.’”* The return of our Lord Jesus on the Last Day is a cause of joy and anticipation for us believers. We know our Lord and His love, and we look forward to His Second Advent. Indeed, how we live our lives here and now flows from our certain hope of resurrection and eternal life.

Flowers on the altar are given to the glory of God, in thanksgiving for His many blessings, and in celebration of the 56th wedding anniversary of Harry and Jean Mueller.

If you would like to receive a copy of *The Lutheran Witness* in 2020, please sign the sheet on the south buffet. The order will be placed based on the number of sign-ups on the sheet.

“The Voice of Missouri” (November issue) is available on-line at <http://mo.lcms.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/The-Voice-Nov-2019.pdf>. You may also subscribe to *“The Voice of Missouri”* at <https://mo.lcms.org/resources/>. (A printed copy of the most recent issue is available on the south buffet in Concordia's narthex for those who do not have internet access.)

The 2020 offering envelopes are available to pick up in the multi-purpose room.

Greeting Cards and Kitchen Gadgets – Religious greeting cards of all kinds and kitchen gadgets are always on sale by our LWML. They are located in the LWML

closet in the multipurpose room. Payment is on the honor system by placing your money in the can located in the closet. The items will be on display in the multipurpose room after worship today, December 15. The small kitchen gadgets are all under \$10. They include various knives, pie servers, wire whips, knife sharpeners, dish cloths, scouring pads, and more. They would make great Christmas stocking stuffers and exchange gifts.

A new Greeter's Schedule is available today on the south buffet.

A newsletter from Erin Mackenzie, serving in the Dominican Republic, is posted on the bulletin board in the church narthex.

Please help fill the Christmas decorated box in the multipurpose room with items for the Regional Crisis Center today, December 15. The following items are needed: brushes, scrunchies, white socks, pajamas, body wash, hair spray, mousse, house shoes, adult coloring books, colored pencils, any kind of craft kits, journals, nail care kits, hair accessories, body pillows, wallets, copy paper, gas cards, and Walmart gift cards. (Missionary League members will transport items.) If you have any questions, please call Denise Morrison (824-5605).

Pastor Hoemann's Mid-Week Bible Study meets from 9-10 a.m. every Wednesday in the multipurpose room. This week, Wednesday, December 18, the study will focus on King Hezekiah as a Courageous Hero of the Faith.

Midweek Advent Services conclude this week on Wednesday, December 18, at 7 p.m. (Advent Worship at 4 p.m. will be held at Trinity, Altenburg.) Our theme this year is "Stories of Advent".

Calling all Concordia children ages 3 through 3rd grade – Please practice "*Away in a Manger*" with us next Sunday, December 22, immediately following the service.

Stamps For Missions: Please save your cancelled postage stamps. All stamps. Tear off the upper right-hand corner of your envelope around the stamp, leaving 1/4", or more, of the envelope on the stamp. You don't have to trim them. Place the stamps in a zip-lock bag, and place them in the labeled box in the LWML closet in the multipurpose room. Over \$16,000 has been raised for Missouri LWML mission projects by selling canceled postage stamps to stamp collectors.

Have you ever been asked questions about your Christian faith, but you weren't sure how to respond? Or you weren't confident that you were prepared to respond correctly? **On Saturday, January 25, 2020**, Lutheran Hour Ministries will be hosting a **FREE workshop** from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Des Peres. Based on award-winning research conducted in partnership with The Barna Group, the workshop consists of presentations from LHM staff, and interactive breakout sessions for participants to brainstorm how they might implement the ideas and tools from the workshop in every-day conversations. When you walk out of the workshop, you will have a sense of confidence knowing that you are prepared to respond in spiritual conversations, and **YOU** can even start spiritual conversations with others who might be receptive to talking about faith. Amy and I are registered for this date, and we'd love to have some others from Concordia join us. Again, registration is free, and lunch is included. If you are not able to go on January 25, there is another one scheduled for Saturday, February 8, 2020, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Lutheran High School North in St. Louis. You can register online at www.lhm.org/workshops.

Did you know...if you are 70 ½ years old, or older, and have an IRA, you can instruct your IRA trustee to make a distribution directly from your IRA to Concordia Lutheran Church. This distribution is called Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). It counts

toward satisfying any required minimum distributions (RMDs), and is excluded from your income for tax purposes. If you have questions, or want to know more, please contact Carol Grebing Duggan at 824-6060.

2019 Church Budget – Concordia’s average contributions per week need to be \$8,530 to fund the congregation and the school. We have been averaging below that amount during the summer and fall months, and thus, we are now behind. At the end of the 3rd quarter, we were about \$63,000 in the red. Please prayerfully consider the amount of your weekly or monthly offering to the church, in light of what God, in Christ, has given you. "Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver!" II Corinthians 9:7

Online Giving – Concordia offers online giving through our website (click on the "Give" tab) or there is a mobile app to download ("GivePlus Church"). You can choose to donate as a guest, or set up an account which can be used for recurring donations. Contact the church treasurer or financial secretary for more information.

November Contributions: 3rd – \$7,463.25, 10th – \$11,677.00, 17th – \$5,113.75, 24th – 4,927.00, 28th (Thanksgiving) – \$6,642.00; Online Contributions-General Fund – \$1,750.13; Door Offering for American Bible Society – \$170.00; Door Offering for LCMS Disaster Relief – \$292.00; and Saxony Lutheran High School Scholastic Fund – \$50.00.

Concordia Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF) Notes

Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF) will be offering their time and talents to wrap your Christmas gifts today, December 15, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., in the Concordia Church office building. You may drop off your gifts, and return to pick them up later; or you can stay, relax, enjoy some conversation and refreshments, if you would like to wait while your gifts are being wrapped. This service is free; feel free to invite others in the community to come and be served too.

United in Christ Lutheran School (UCLS) Notes

Minutes from the UCLS Board of Education Meeting on November 21 are still available today on the south buffet.

Saxony Lutheran High School Notes

Saxony Lutheran High School will present their Christmas Concert tomorrow, December 16, at 7 p.m. Come hear the band and choirs celebrate our Savior's birth with a variety of music. Admission is free. A free-will offering will be collected.

Mark Your Calendars – The Saxony Lutheran High School Boys Basketball Homecoming Game and Chili Dinner will be Friday, January 10, 2020. The dinner will begin at 4:30 p.m. The cost of the meal will be \$6 for adults and \$3 for children, ages 4-12. The basketball games will begin at 6 p.m. against Liberty, Wentzville.

Neighboring Church & Community Notes

A Benefit Breakfast is today, December 15, with serving until 11:30 a.m. at Zion Lutheran Church, Crosstown. The menu will include pancakes, sausage, eggs, biscuits, gravy, fried potatoes, juice, milk, and coffee. A free-will donation will be taken for the meal with proceeds to benefit Michael and Brooke (Valleroy) Bachmann to assist with medical expenses.

The "Something Wonderful" Annual Christmas Concert will be today, December 15, at 2 p.m. at St. Andrew Lutheran Church, 804 N Cape Rock, Cape Girardeau. Rest in His presence, sing along, and enjoy Christmas carols old and new presented by the choirs and praise bands. A cookie reception will follow the concert.

The Trinity Choral Society of Altenburg invites you to come and join them in their **Annual Christmas Concert** today, December 15, at 7 p.m. in the historic Trinity Lutheran Church. Join us as we “Prepare for the Coming of our Savior and King”. Refreshments will be served after the concert in the Lutheran Heritage Center that is now decorated with over 50 themed Christmas trees.

The Annual “After Christmas” Christmas Concert, by the Perry County Lutheran Chorale, will be Sunday, January 5, 2020, at 4 p.m. at Immanuel Lutheran Church, New Wells. The chorale, with full orchestra, will present many familiar favorites with both traditional and new arrangements – “Joy to the World”, “Gloria”, “I Wonder As I Wander”, “Infant Holy”, “Love Came Down at Christmas”, “Ding Dong! Merrily on High”, and “Lux Aurumque” by Eric Whitacre. Refreshments will be served following the concert. Admission is free. A free-will offering will be collected in support of the chorale.

Help Needed! – The senior centers have received a large cut in Senior Sales Tax Funding for 2020. Help is needed in providing services to the seniors in the East End next year. A hall or facility (able to hold 50 people) is needed. (The rent at the fairgrounds for the building and dishwasher will be beyond the budget next year with the cut in funding.) Please help locate a facility that could be used to serve meals and offer activities and socialization for the seniors in the area.

Attention: Active Military Families -- The City of Perryville and Chamber of Commerce would like to celebrate all Perry County active military with 2020’s Mayfest Theme: “A Salute to our Hometown Heroes”. This will be done by placing banners recognizing active-duty members of the military on light poles around the Downtown Square. To be sure your family member is included, please see the following criteria: they are on active duty in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, or Coast Guard; Perryville/Perry County is their home town; submit a picture in military uniform with name, date of enlistment, branch, and rank; email information to mayfestheroes2020@yahoo.com or bring it to the Perryville Chamber office; and submit information by December 31, 2019. More details can be found on the Perryville Chamber and the Mayfest Facebook pages or by calling the Chamber office at 547-6262.

KFUO Notes

This week on KFUE.org, tune in to Advent Midweek Service this Wednesday, December 18, at 12 p.m. Hear sacred music for the seasons of Advent and Christmas from now until Epiphany, and study 1 & 2 Thessalonians on *Sharper Iron’s* “Christ is Surely Coming” series (weekdays at 8 a.m.). Find your favorite programs on demand at kfuo.org.

“Life Quote” from Lutherans For Life

“I would suggest that when we begin our Christmas preparations next year each of us spend a bit of time remembering those whose festival is not tinsel and toys, presents and packages. Let us ask the Lord to preserve the Savior’s followers who are hated and persecuted because our Lord of life is hated.” *Pastor Ken Klaus, speaker emeritus of “The Lutheran Hour” – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life*
• www.lutheransforlife.org.