

Concordia Lutheran Church
Voters' Meeting Agenda
December 2020

- I. Call to Order
- II. Opening Prayer
- III. Review and Approve Voters' Meeting Minutes
 - a. Meeting was conducted virtually; minutes were not issued
- IV. Finances
 - a. Treasurer's Report
- V. Parish Planning Council Board Reports and Business:
 - a. Board of Elders
 - b. Board of Trustees
 - c. Board of Education/Preschool
 - d. Board of Social Ministry
 - e. Board of Family Ministry
 - f. Board of Stewardship
 - g. Board of Missions
 - h. Youth Ministry
 - i. Pastor Gregg
- VI. Old Business:
 - a. Security Report
- VII. New Business:
 - a. Election of Officers and Board Chairs
- VIII. Open Discussion – All
- IX. Adjournment
- X. Closing Prayer

Concordia Lutheran Church
Voters' Meeting, November 2020
Elders' Report

| New Members March 31, 2020 – November 1, 2020 | | |
|---|--|--|
| NO ADDITIONS | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

| Members released March 31, 2020 – November 1, 2020 | | |
|--|----------|-----------|
| Larue Rains | Transfer | 9/24/2020 |
| Craig Robbins | Transfer | 9/24/2020 |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

- 574 Members in **2015**
- 566 Members in **2016**
- 565 Members in **2017**
- 601 Members in **2018**
- 619 Members in **2019**
- 618 Members in **2020**

Motion to Voters Assembly that we accept the Adds and Released as listed

Looking back 6 months

- Be available and Involved with Pastor Gregg and Patrick Moore – The Minister of Youth and Discipleship
- Review Holiday schedule for Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
- Review Coronavirus Guidelines for Congregation and Church
- Acolyte Training – August & September – POSTPONED - TBD
- Continued involvement of music, worship, confirmation & nursery - TBD
- Review, Update and create Emergency procedures document for anything that happens in the Church
- Review Elder needs:
 - After Coronavirus
 - Communion help with kits each Saturday and Sunday
 - Assistance with Common Cup Sunday's – POSTPONED - TBD
 - Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Communion - TBD
 - Summer months - Vacation and coverage

Looking Forward

- Be available and Involved with Pastor Gregg and Patrick Moore – The Minister of Youth and Discipleship staff member
- Review Holiday schedule for Lent and Easter
- Work on Seven Job Descriptions and Annual Evaluations for Staff under Elder's review – Done
- Review Coronavirus Guidelines for Congregation and Church
- Acolyte Training – ongoing as needed - TBD
- Continued involvement of music, worship, confirmation and nursery – TBD
- Review, Update and or create Emergency procedures document for anything that happens in the Church
- Review Elder needs:
 - During and After Coronavirus
 - Communion help each Sunday
 - Assistance with Common Cup Sunday's - TBD
 - Ash Wednesday, Easter Communion
 - Holidays and Vacation and coverage

The numbers assigned to each elder are as follows:

- #1 John Vorwerk
- #2 Brett Wright
- #3 Bob Schmidt
- #4 Neil Secosky
- #5 Phil Greenhalgh
- #7 Matt Enger
- #9 Jim Jennings

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

DECEMBER 2020

- CLEANING CREW IS DOING A GREAT JOB AT KEEPING OUR CHURCH CLEAN
- WORKING WITH THE PRESCHOOL TO GET BETTER AIRFLOW IN THE CLASSROOMS
- PUTTING AIR PURIFIERS THROUGHOUT THE PRESCHOOL
- SWAMP COOLERS ARE DRAINED AND SHUT DOWN FOR THE WINTER
- SPRINKLER SYSTEM IS BLOWN OUT

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
DECEMBER 2020 VOTERS' MEETING**

PRESCHOOL

Preschool opened September 8. We have a staff of 8 with every classroom full. Our teachers and director are doing a great job keeping everyone safe while also maintaining the preschool's friendly and caring environment. Safety procedures are being followed carefully. As of today, we have not had any cases of COVID19.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Options for Sunday School in 2021 are being discussed.

VBS

Options for VBS summer of 2021 will be discussed early next year.

Social Ministry Voters' Meeting December 2020

A "drive-by" collection for school supplies was held July 19 through August 2, 2020. Money donations for school supplies were done directly through The Action Center, but we still collected an SUV full of school supplies at the church for children of unemployed or underemployed people needing a little help with supplies to start school. The supplies were all delivered to The Action Center for sorting and distribution.

Due to the pandemic requiring the limited amount of people allowed to be present in the church at one time and no food allowed for social gatherings, social ministry has not been active since August 2020.

Patricia Vorwerk

November 13, 2020

Family Ministry Report to December Voters' Meeting

The ROCK continues to meet but with the current change in Covid, it does not seem wis to bring meetings for the younger student backs.

Not much else is going on at present,

Respectfully,

Melani Hensley and Kathie Harvey

Concordia Lutheran Church Semi-Annual Meeting
Missions Report
December , 2020

The big news this year was Concordia receiving a \$15,000 **Lakewood Grant** to distribute food and hygiene items to our community in June, July, and August. A huge THANK YOU to Patrick for applying for the grant. Distribution occurred thru Foothills Foodies and Green Mountain Elementary School; and to kick-off the new school year, Foothills Elementary received 108 Kleenex boxes, 120 paper towel rolls, and 315 hand sanitizer bottles. Recipients were VERY APPRECIATIVE for these items.

Bernadette became a Concordia missionary to continue directing **Foothills Foodies** for summer, Thanksgiving, and Christmas breaks. This is a huge help to struggling families in our community.

Concordia has partnered with the **Denver Dream Center**, where Patrick picks up frozen meat and fresh produce every Friday, which helps keep Foothills Foodies well stocked.

A Thrivent Action Team was used for a **Teacher Appreciation Lunch** at Green Mountain Elementary School on Friday, August 28. 50 burritos from Las Fuentes and chips were delivered with the messages **Concordia Appreciates All Your Hard Work!** and **Foothills Staff ROCKS!**, both with Concordia's logo. The teachers were thrilled with this acknowledgement of their hard work.

Two Thrivent Action Teams were used for **school supplies** for Green Mountain Elementary School, including 350 handheld pencil sharpeners, 144 pencil boxes, and 108 three-ring binders.

Missions awarded Cai McCaslin a \$1,125 **scholarship** for his coursework at Denver Seminary.

Oktoberfest and **Adopt-a-Blocks** were cancelled this year due to COVID-19.

Missions distributed candy and Concordia information to 94 tricker-treaters on **Halloween**. The other participating churches were Calvary Foothills (in the former Faith Mountain building) and Lakewood Church of Christ.

With the help of Thrivent Action Teams, **hygiene kits** were delivered to **The Action Center** in November (170 individual and 12 family hygiene kits) and July.

Operation Christmas Child boxes were collected thru November 15.

Concordia received two Thrivent Action Teams to purchase and distribute **Thanksgiving turkeys** to our community.

The annual **Scarf Drive** collected much needed scarves, hats, and gloves.

Concordia hosted a **Diaper and Formula Drive** for **The Action Center** from November 15 to December 6. Diapers, formula, wipes and ointment are highly requested items by young families.

Missions continues to financially support **Mission Experience Haiti**.

Family Ministry & Student Impact Report

- theRock HS Youth, FX MS Youth, went on many outdoor adventures over the summer. Activities included rafting, hiking, climbing a 14er, and sledding at St. Mary's Glacier.
- theRock HS Youth has been meeting weekly since the opening on July 4, 2020.
- theRock HS Youth and FX MS Youth participated in a Confirmation Retreat at Lutheran Valley Retreat on September 11-13, 2020.
- theRock HS Youth has created a youth band. They perform weekly at theRock.
- theRock has served many non-churched students over the summer. theRock continues to grow and create leaders who desire to serve and build kingdom movements.
- The confirmation class has 6 students. Class meets weekly on Sundays at 9:00 am. Teachers are Megan Diercks, Paul Miller, and Patrick Moore.

Pastors' Report December 2020 Voter's Meeting

There's no doubt that this Christmas will be different than any we've had in recent memory. And it's with this in mind that I want to draw your attention to a part of the Christmas story that we tend to overlook. It's a darker, grittier, less appealing part of the story. It doesn't have cute sheep, or a quiet starry night. There's not a manger scene with a nice young couple, their newborn child, and shepherds worshipping in adoration. There is no angelic choir.

Instead, there is bloodshed. The night is anything but silent as babies are being torn from their families and murdered. Mothers and fathers are wailing and mourning over the senseless killing of their children. There is no joy. There is no peace. There is only a madman – a king – looking to destroy the hope of mankind. Looking to destroy the promise of God. Looking to destroy the true King (**Matthew 2:1-18**). As I said, not the part of the Christmas story we tend to focus on and cuddle up with, yet it has powerful meaning, hope, and promise for us today.

You see, while Herod sought to kill Jesus and snuff out all hope, God had other plans. God warned the wisemen to go home by way of a different route so as to avoid Herod. Then, in another dream, God warned Joseph to take Mary and Jesus and go down to Egypt to escape Herod's murderous scheme. Although the sin and darkness of this world sought to rule the day, they were no match for the sovereign rule of God Himself. God's plan of redemption for this world would not – could not – be thwarted. Salvation had come to the world. Jesus, the Word of God made flesh, had come to fulfill God's promise of salvation, bring peace, restore joy, and renew hope.

With all that we've been through in 2020, perhaps this Christmas is taking on a darker, grittier, less appealing tone for you. The joy and peace we may normally feel is being overwhelmed by the darkness of this world: sin, riots, isolation, illness, disease, shutdowns, unrest, uncivility, and so forth. But take heart! As the angel said that first Christmas morning,

"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today...a Savior has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord." (**Luke 2:10-11**)

While the sin and darkness of this world seek to rule the day; seek to steal your joy and peace; seek to destroy the hope you have, hold on! Because they are no match for the sovereign rule of God, and the promise of life and victory found in Jesus, who is the Savior who has been "born to you." Don't give up! Don't give in! As the Psalmist says, "weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning" (**Psalms 30:5**), and as Jesus Himself promises, "Take heart! I have overcome the world" (**John 16:33**).

Therefore, rejoice! Our Savior has come! And He has overcome! Which means we too – regardless of what we are going through or will go through – have also overcome. This is the good news we have to share with this dark world, so let's continue to shine His light. Let's be His voice of hope in a world dying for hope. Let's share the joy and the peace we have because of Him with a world severely lacking in both, and because of God's grace and your continued faithfulness Concordia has been and will continue to do just that.

I have much more to say, but let me end with this,

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (**John 1:5**)

Let each of us individually, and all of us as His Church, shine His light through our giving, our service, and our voices into the darkness this Christmas and on into the new year so that others may see His marvelous light!

With God's great love,
Gregg McCaslin
Pastor

Concordia Lutheran Church
Safety and Security Team Report (S&ST) – December 2020 Voters' Meeting

Accomplishments (since May 2019)

The Safety and Security Team, working in concert with the Board of Elders and the Parrish Planning Council (PPC) has spearheaded our congregation's response to the COVID-19 pandemic and our reopening efforts to date. Most importantly, we developed a Reopening Plan that fully complied with all Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) regulations to guide our efforts throughout the pandemic. Specifically, we:

- Attended periodic "Clergy Calls" with Colorado Governor's Office personnel facilitated by the Safety in Faith Coalition to remain informed on progress of the COVID-19 pandemic and on the latest regulations and guidance to ensure Concordia's full compliance.
- Drafted a Reopening Plan to guide congregational actions during the pandemic; coordinated plan development with the Board of Elders and obtained PPC approval of the plan; oversaw successful implementation of the plan.
- Provided periodic communications to keep the congregation apprised of Concordia's response to the pandemic and to provide guidance during the reopening process.
- Managed resumption and continued conduct of worship services in a safe environment
 - Configured the facility and implemented physical hygiene protocols to significantly reduce the risk of COVID transmission
 - Identified and trained ~20 volunteers to facilitate reopening efforts; volunteers and volunteer leaders continue to provide excellent service enabling a safe worship environment
 - Developed a plan for Board of Elders to offer "Walk-Up" communion as an option during worship services; many attendees are taking advantage of this option.
 - Engaged a volunteer "cleaning team" to enable worship services to return to a normal Sunday schedule by implementing appropriate cleaning and disinfecting protocols between services.
- Managed the building Security Access System to limit access during the pandemic; reprogrammed the System to support Preschool operation in accordance with their COVID-19 operating plan.
- Physically and electronically monitored the facility during the closure period.
- Provided consultation and guidance, as needed regarding use of the church building during the pandemic.

Next Steps

- Working with Pastor Gregg and the Board of Elders to develop plans for Thanksgiving and Christmas worship services.
- Continued monitoring of information on the COVID pandemic and CDPHE regulation changes that impact church operations.

Acknowledgement: I'd personally like to acknowledge and thank Concordia's leaders and volunteers for their tremendous (and tireless!) efforts in helping Concordia safely and successfully navigate these difficult times. We have been blessed!

Submitted by: Paul Miller, Safety and Security Team Lead