We had a successful 55th reunion last fall at Homecoming. It started with two seminars presented by classmates. The very persuasive Gary Zinter urged me to provide one of the sessions on the Iran nuclear deal which was a multi-national deal and the result of eight years of negotiation which started during the Bush years and concluded in the Obama years. It blocked Iran's plutonium pathway (95% of the world's nuclear weapons use plutonium) and strongly limited the enriched uranium pathway. When I was a nuclear safeguards inspector, there were 200 of us to cover the world. With this deal there could be 150 just for Iran and the inspection protocol to verify compliance is very rigorous and would continue into the distant future. Our six partners remain in the deal but Iran has been hedging because of the US withdrawal. Like all nuclear deals going back to Kennedy - Khrushchev in 1963, this is only about nuclear weapon control and non-proliferation and not intended to right other wrongs.

Vern and Vicki Hagen told the fascinating story of their time of teaching at LeMoyne College (a historically black college) in Memphis, Tennessee in 1967-68. They were there during the assassination of Martin Luther King and participated with their colleagues in the march through Memphis that occurred shortly thereafter. The march was fraught with tension and fear as it went through streets lined with angry whites, police and national guard members who had rifles with fired bayonets.

On Saturday our breakfast featured classmate Karan Armstrong of Berlin, Germany, reminiscing on her career in opera having sung lead roles in opera houses throughout the world. She has had quite a journey from Dodson, Montana to Berlin. She even sang a bit of "Misty" for us. There are clips on YouTube of some of her performances.

We need to give a big hand to Don and Carolyn Opgrande, who hosted the special treat of brunch at the Fargo Country Club on Sunday following the All-Campus Worship at Memorial Auditorium. (I had to say it that way because Don is a hand surgeon.)

Finally we need to shout out a large appreciation to Gary for the great work he has done as class agent! I mentioned in my talk that if as many people were as good at promoting Concordia as he is, the college would have double its current population and would have paid for the facilities to accompany that growth!
A NOTE FROM GARY ZINTER

Last fall we celebrated our 55th class reunion. (We are attaching our class breakfast reunion program to this newsletter) There is information in the program that you should know about your classmates and their participation with Concordia. I’m making phone calls to get participation for the current class newsletter.

Some classmates were thankful that they could go to You Tube and view the presentations by John Ahlquist and Vern and Vicki Hagen. If you have not looked at it, the link is https://youtu.be/kvCDx26V_94!

Special thanks to Merv Thompson for being the emcee and others who participated in the breakfast. Cookbooks were a hit! Over 200 cookbooks have sold. I still have some left, call me if you would like one. $20 (includes shipping).

Dr. Joan Buckley’s son, Dr. David Buckley brought Joan to our Sunday Brunch. Our own John Brenden got down on one knee before Joan and serenaded her to the tune of “Hello Dolly”. It was was worth the price of the brunch to see and hear this! David Buckley sent a card saying that Concordia’s Homecoming was his mother’s last big outing.

DON’T MISS THE NEXT CLASS OF ’63 REUNION!

NEWS FROM CLASSMATES 2019

Since the class newsletters are on web, I have been advised to not include phone numbers or email addresses for privacy issues. If you need numbers or addresses, contact Gary, Elaine (Bader) Hanson, Karen Carlson at the Office of Alumni Relations or consider purchasing a cookbook from Gary for names, phone numbers, email addresses of many classmates who submitted recipes. EBH

Lowell Almen - I served as bishop of the Grand Canyon Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America in 2017-2018, during a time of transition in the synod. In October 2018, Sally and I led a tour group to Ireland. We also will lead a tour group to Italy in November of this year, marking my 15th trip to Rome and other Italian cities.

Paul Brunsberg - My book, “Jesus, You, and Bill W” was published by Covenant Books in December 2018. My second book, “How to Raise An All-American Child” is written. When the artist finishes the art work I will submit it for publication.

In July 2019, I was diagnosed with leukemia (CLL). In August 2019, I plan to watch my grandson play in the Babe Ruth World Series in Branson.

John Ahlquist - My wife, Barbara and I are blessed to be in reasonable health for someone our age. However, our ‘ustacould’ list is growing. I used to could (ustacould) run a mile in 6 minutes and a 5K in 22 minutes. I ustacould remember everything I was to get from the basement so that I only had to
make one trip. I ustauold walk easily without something hurting. In spite of that, we’re enjoying the privileges of our age. We don’t have anything left to prove so we can relax and since most of us are retired, we can associate with people and do things we want to rather than have to.

We are active in a local food rescue organization, White Pony Express, that provides about 6M pounds of excess food each year to community organizations that serve those who are food insecure. WPE goes 364 days a year and also provides high quality clothing and other services.

We travel a lot to see family in Houston, San Diego and Montana and were in China and Italy in 2017. We really enjoy watching the Golden State Warriors. I took up golf in retirement for a mind/body coordination exercise. I am better than I used to be.

During the reunion it was fun recalling that in the summer of 1958, I met Carol Rein Brenden, Grace Tollefson Meloeny and Karan Armstrong at a Luther League Leadership training school at the seminary in St. Paul. When I moved to Los Alamos NM in 1965, I was asked if I could sing a solo for our local congregation. Since I‘d gone to Concordia, I must be a singer. That assumption was horribly wrong but it so happened that Karan was appearing at the nearby Santa Fe Opera that summer so she filled in for me and really did a good job! That solo is remembered to this day.

Caroline Burley - I retired in 2002. My husband passed away in 2011 and I moved to Duluth. Currently, I’m taking Community Bible Study Classes and also classes at UMD through the University for Senior’s program.

Janice Swenson Baker - Ken and I still live in Fargo during the spring and summer. In the winter months, we reside in Kissimmee, FL and are only ten miles from Disney World. We enjoy golfing, traveling and of course, our five grandkids, ages 10 - 17.

I continue to play the flute in a senior band in Florida. Having warm weather year round is a plus and we do not miss the cold winters in ND! Greetings to fellow Cobbers. Stay healthy for the next reunion!

Clark Cary - Lois and I missed the 55th Reunion because of our trip to Ireland but heard from a few classmates that it was a great time! I’m marking my calendar for the 60th! That number is locked in my head, having just celebrated my 60th high school reunion this summer.

Our family gathers each summer at Gull Lake. We are a family of 13 with grandkids ranging in ages 7 - 18. It is always the most relaxing week of the summer for all of us.
Lois and I have lived in Northfield for 16 years and find it to be a great location with the colleges and our family living in the area. Our oldest grandson will be starting his senior year and we are eager to find out where he will begin his college years.

I’m serving as Chaplain at Three Links Care Center here in Northfield and Lois works part-time there as well. We enjoy family, travel, church activities, as well as walking, tennis, biking, reading. I hope to get to some Cribber football and basketball games this year and usually go with Jeff Boss wearing some ‘Cobber wear’, of course. Greetings to classmates!
Ken Deboer - I continue to drive motor coaches as a part-time retirement job. I drive two to three times a week.

Diane and I have not done much traveling other than attending music concerts and plays presented in our area.

We keep in touch with our grandchildren by watching some of the activities in which they are involved. Health wise, I am doing well so life is good!

Mary Repass Erickson - I continue to live in Denver, Colorado with my wonderful husband, Mike, where I get to see the majestic beauty of the Rocky Mountains every day. Composing music and playing music with others fills me with life. I can now acknowledge the abundance in my life. And I give thanks that I can live each day with hope in my heart and peace in my soul. I wish this for each of you also.

DiAnne Brosseau Lerud-Chubb - I left Concordia during my sophomore year, married, and moved to Valley City, ND where I earned a BA at Valley City State Teachers College. I began my teaching career in Weston and Wisner, Nebraska, earned an MAE at Wayne State College, then moved to Mediapolis, Iowa where I taught for 30 years. After retiring, I worked as a realtor and as an adjunct professor at Southeastern Community College.

I have two children, Donald and DeAnna, six grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Politics, DAR, church and community activities fill my spare time.

Richard Flom - This past May, my wife, our daughter, and I went on a Norwegian Orthodox Pilgrimage Tour to Norway. The tour was led by an Orthodox priest and his wife from Bergen, Norway. While there, I was able to participate in services in Bergen on the island of Selja, in the Trondheim Cathedral and in Oslo. This was my eleventh trip to Norway and for the first time I was there for Syttende Mai. We celebrated Syttende Mai in Bergen; a truly wonderful experience. We also visited Flam, the 1667 church built on the farm and the home from which my great grandfather immigrated to America in 1851.

My hobbies are reading, especially early church writers from the first 500 years of the Church, and rosemaling. In addition, I am the priest-in-charge of a small Orthodox Chapel in Bemidji, MN, where I serve the Divine Liturgy nearly every other Sunday throughout the year.

Hiram Lund - Sally and I live on a 10 acre farm between Westby and Viroqua, Wisconsin. Since retiring 6 years ago, I have kept busy as a small claims mediator, active Lions member and Lutheran church goer. We have too much lawn to mow, the vineyard gets smaller each year, but we love the area.

Since three of our children have settled in Minnesota, maybe we should live there. All children are married: Kate lives in Golden Valley, Erin in Owatonna, Betsy in Kodiak, Alaska and Jon in Rochester.
Granddaughter, India, just completed her freshman year at the University of Nebraska where she is receiving a free ride in music.

Nancy Nelson Olson - Jerry and I have a Winnebago Via and we like to travel with a FMCA club that travels to various places in California. Last summer we spent 85 days traveling up to the Northwest and then as far east as Nashville with three other couples. This summer in June we were on the Oregon coast and now in July and August we are at the California coast at Morro Bay. We get away from the heat in Visalia.

Two of our sons and their families (six grandchildren) live in Visalia and our youngest son lives in Tacoma, WA. When we are home, I attend the gym and Silver Sneakers classes. Bible study with girlfriends is also part of my week. Teaching grandkids piano has also been enjoyable.

Judith Olson Munson - The chief change in my life is the death of my husband, George Munson, in November 2018. Since then I have been occupied with the multitude of items on the list no one has ever compiled for widows.

I continue to attend concerts, play piano, and sing at every opportunity. A summer highlight was a gathering of Concordia roommates. It's hard to top that! We always wear our rings. Recently at a family reunion, a woman saw mine and told me her daughter is a Cobber! That's what it's all about. I followed Cobber music teachers when I came to St. James in 1963 to teach and a student asked if all music teachers have that ring! Soli Deo Gloria!

Leroy Larson - I taught German my entire career in Brainerd, Superior, WI, and Rochester, MN. During my career I accompanied around 800 high school German students on summer tours of Germany, Austria and Switzerland.

Judy and I will be traveling to Europe on a Vantage Cruise on the Danube in November-December. The cruise starts in Budapest across Austria via Bratislava, Vienna, Salzburg, Passau and Regensburg ending in Munich. We are the proud grandparents of five granddaughters, the youngest of whom at 3 will be attending the German Immersion School in St. Paul next year. Greetings to 1963 classmates!

Grace Tollefson Meloeny - Every day I wake up thankful for another beautiful day, for the blessings of life, good health, my wonderful family, good music, good books, good friends, my Sole Sisters (two friends who have walked 3 - 4 miles with me several days a week for decades, a loving God and a vibrant faith community.

Travel adventures have been on hold for a while because of my husband, Harry's battles with interstitial lung disease and coronary artery disease. He began oxygen therapy 24/7. In late June a crisis with fluid-filled lungs was life threatening. His survival is a miracle! After a 10 day hospitalization he came home. We take one day at a time. I have learned a lot about being a caregiver and we feel each day is a gift!

Our son, daughter-in-law and 3 grandchildren are the light of our lives! During a week together at Whistler, BC in March, I went skiing with 14 year old Noah and 11 year olds Maddy and Josie! Though
they live in South Carolina; we stay close. The whole family was here with us during Harry’s health crisis. Our son, Matt is a Southwest pilot who visits as often as he can. He was here for his Dad’s 80th birthday yesterday.

Greetings to my lovely ’63 classmates.

Dennis Orsen - During August 2018, I went with Linda to her high school reunion at Atlantic College in Wales. We flew to Berlin. Then we rented a car and spent time at a chamber music program in southwest Poland where our son Daniel was performing. Then we went back to Germany. We stopped at Leipzig and Wittenberg before returning to Berlin.

Linda’s father passed away in January. While at his funeral in Albuquerque, NM, we connected with Vern and Vicki Hagen. We plan to visit Minnesota this September.

Joyce Lauderdale Pestal - My husband, Bob, and I still live in Harvey, ND, where we keep busy with church, community groups and events. Bob is a retired ELCA pastor and fills in at various churches in the area about once a month.

We enjoy living only a couple miles from our daughter and her family so we get to see them quite often, since their three boys are now in high school or college. Our other daughter lives in Tucson, AZ and we see them once or twice a year. Her two children are in elementary school, so we have fun with them. In July our whole family spent a week together in Colorado Springs. My main hobby now is scrapbooking.

Derry Peterson - As we get older, things happen! Bodies start breaking and we lose friends from sickness etc. Speaking for myself, the last years have not been good. I broke five ribs, my knees are shot, I broke my hip and my lungs are shot mostly because they were punctured when I broke my ribs...outside of that no problems! I need a wheelchair and I have to walk with a walker. I do have a nice apartment with a lot of room.

My daughter lives in Wheaton and teaches special education at four different schools. In a way she is my guardian angel. When I need help, she is there. My other daughter lives in Syracuse, NY. A few years ago she decided to be an RN. In less than a year I will have a nurse in my family. Both of my daughters have two girls. I guess God did not want me to have a boy in the family. I read a lot and am a big fan of the Twins, Vikings, Concordia and NDSU. Exciting life, right? (It could be worse!)

Elaine Marie Peterson Nelson - The summer provided several highlights including our grandson’s wedding, great granddaughter’s first birthday and my 60th high school class reunion.

Gary and I continue to enjoy spending winters in The Villages, Florida. (Oct - May) There, we are involved in outdoor activities such as golf and pickle ball and indoor activities as Bible Studies, cards and board games, along with volunteer projects. Summer finds us home in Minnesota, close to family. We celebrated our 55th wedding anniversary last year on a Baltic Cruise on Viking Cruise lines followed by three days in Iceland.
Larry Nelson - In late April, my wife Doris and I enjoyed a river cruise on the Danube from Bucharest, Romania to Budapest, Hungary. We have done several river cruises and very much enjoy traveling in that way.

This summer we have two family reunions. In July we were in Black Butte Ranch, Oregon for a family reunion on my mother’s side. In August we will have a family reunion on my father’s side at a relative’s farm in the Rollag area (near Hawley, MN). Actually the reunion goes back to my great-great grandparents, Kristoffer Nilsen Nyhus and Jaran Halgjesdatter Vetterhuseiet. We expect several hundred people.
I am also getting ready for the Western Minnesota Steam Threshers Reunion Labor Day weekend at Rollag. I have an old tractor and truck that I exhibit.
I also organize the Sunday worship.

Cal Rolfson - My wife, Shirley, and I are still ensconced in Mount Dora, Florida where we have lived in retirement for 17+ years.

I have been elected to the 7-member Mount Dora City Council for the past 5 years and last year was elected as the City’s Vice Mayor. We are city of 15,000 residents projected to double that size in ten years. Mount Dora is in Central Florida about 30 miles NW of Orlando. Our Lake County alone has 1400 fresh water lakes, thousands of acres of orange groves, too many alligators to count and half the population of ND.
For the past 10 years, I have been elected to the volunteer governing board of the home owner’s association where we have lived since we arrived in Mount Dora (The Country Club of Mount Dora with 827 homes) and have served as the HOA Board President for the past 7 years. I vow to quit that in December.

Shirley and I have volunteered at our local food pantry for the past 10 years. They distribute annually about 750 thousand pounds of food to hungry Central Lake County folks. It’s as gratifying to us as it is sad that there is that volume of need.

We added one more grandchild to our mix two years ago, with the birth of Cullen to Mikkal & Mary Ellen Rolfson, the only child of our four that stayed in ND and live in West Fargo. They now have three which brings us to 13 grand kiddies. The remaining ten are living in Nashville area with our three other offspring. We enjoy frequent visits from grandkids who spend their waking hours either in our pool, or at Disney World, 45 minutes away.

Age has a way of speaking loudly. I have two artificial hip replacements (2007 & 2015) and recently dislocated one, requiring some reconstructive hip surgery from which I am now recovering. Other than that, the Good Lord has blessed Shirley and me with good health through his uncommon grace these past years in Florida.
Knowing this will be boring to most, I will welcome any classmate with a greater quirky interest beyond this to contact me. I would welcome hearing from “y’ all”, a word I learned since living here.
Warm greetings to all classmates with the tenacity to read this expose’.

Naomi Solyst Raymond - The biggest change for us this year has been the death of my 106 year-old Dad. We moved into a new patio home. Our grandson graduated from Concordia and will be at Luther Seminary this fall. Our granddaughter is a pre-med senior at Concordia and our oldest granddaughter will be married in October. We enjoyed a cruise to the West Indies, spent time in Florida and had a wonderful summer at our cabin.

Marlys Honrud Larsen - I retired from being a realtor but I still am a landlord in Spicer, Minnesota area. My husband, Dean Larsen passed away in 2010. I lost a great companion and also a handyman. He had been director of Green Lake Bible Camp for 22 years. He and I partnered in helping our daughter parent her two children.
I have been lucky as I have traveled to Norway again and have visited again with relatives there. I recently was visited by my foreign exchange son from Belgium.
In the 1990’s I wrote several papers regarding my immigration heritage. One of the papers, presented in Gottborg, Sweden titled, “The Norwegian Immigrants of the late 18th century and the problem of the so-called melting pot in America”, was published in the textbook, Language Contact Across the North Atlantic.

The topic of inclusion and assimilation into the USA has been a vital topic of today. And I am involved with multi ethnicities today. I am active in my interest groups today: AAUW, Lions, Minnesota Peace Project, Sons of Norway, Climate Change, Norwegian Lag, Native Americans, Caregivers.

Carlton Shaw - In late July, I attended the 60th Reunion of our Augustana Academy Class of ’59. Augustana Academy, in Canton, South Dakota was a residential high school with a long and interesting history dating from its origin in Illinois in 1860. When I attended, I was a member of the touring Concert Choir directed by Clifton Madison. This choir provided the music for the Lutheran Vespers radio program, which was listened to by many people years ago. In the 1950’s there were economic challenges and social changes that led to the closing of the school in 1971. The Old Main building still remains in Canton. It has been extensively remodeled and turned into a fine residential facility with many apartments. That last weekend in July, not only our class, but alumni of ALL classes through the years, met for a final Academy Reunion, on the campus of Augustana College in Sioux Falls. About 500 persons, (including spouses) attended a banquet on Saturday. On Sunday we had a rousing and inspiring service in the Chapel of Reconciliation. We alumni are thankful to God for the experiences we had at ‘the Academy’!

Clarence Stennes - On Sunday, September 8, Barb and Clarence Stennes are hosting the “First- Time Ever Concordia Corn Feed in Iowa. Concordia has been organizing Corn Feeds in the Tri-State area for years but they’ve never before ventured down to Iowa with a Corn Feed. Al Christenson, staff member in the Concordia Advancement Office, came up with the suggestion at last year’s Homecoming and now the invitations have been sent. Last minute reservations can be sent to clarence.stennes@gmail.com

Myron Sveum - We are enjoying life in San Diego. The wonderful climate has made us into Goldilocks
weather wimps! Not too hot- not too cold- ahhh - just right!

My wife has written a screenplay, which is being turned into a graphic novel. Graphic novels are on the internet and are downloadable- for a small fee, of course! So we have been thrust into the entertainment/media business. We live in San Diego and go to Los Angeles fairly often and meet with people in the business. Yes, Hollywood! These people have been impressed with her work, and I honestly expect the novel to be successful. Sandra hopes to have it made into a movie. Sandra has been working with the best graphic novel artist in LA (our biased opinions!). It's called 'Dark Cloud' and will be available online before year's end. So download it and help make us rich!

I've got to keep up with her, so I've been working on a screenplay, which hopefully will be made into a movie.

We have yet to meet the stereotypical ego-driven, self-centered person in the entertainment/media business. Everyone has been pleasant to meet, and are hardworking perfectionists, willing to help others. It's always good to see that these negative stereotypes are so wrong.

I've put out a book of stories I heard growing up in rural North Dakota entitled "Dakota Tales". It even has some Concordia stories. One chapter is "Limerick to Lutefisk". People who can't write poetry necessarily resort to limericks, the inept poet's crutch. The lead story is about my maternal grandfather, a dangerous criminal in czarist Russia! He was an educated peasant, dangerous in czarist Russia. Converting to the Baptist faith was a serious criminal offense. Jewish people smugglers enabled the family to escape. My grandparents eventually homesteaded in North Dakota.

Elaine Kanning Vitito - I've been married to Tom Vitito for 53 years. We have two children, two grandchildren, one great grandson and twins on the way!

At age 75, I asked God what He wanted me to do with the rest of my life. In my Mind I heard, "All your life I have given you a curiosity about and love for color. Pass this understanding on to the next generation." This inspired me to go back to college and study "color" as part of the Interior Design Concepts curriculum. I then joined the faculty to teach a specialized course called "Color your World". Currently I am completing a book with the working title, COLOR: From Creation to Eternity. As a researched the science behind color and what quantum physics reveals about the color spectrum of electromagnet waves, it became obvious that God created humans to enjoy his marvelous colors now and into eternity! My book takes a layman's approach to explaining all this. My email is elainevitito@aol.com if you would like to comment.

Rod Thorsell - Dear 63ers! Good to see old acquaintances last year at our 55th. I was at a 60th High School gathering several weeks ago and the numbers suffered at this point in our lives as well. Come with the privilege, I guess.

Had a great gathering in Mesa this year with Mystery guest, Elaine Severson Dummler adding charm to our attendance and the wit and recall of Sandy Monte added the spice. I attended an annual visit of CC President Craft in Scottsdale in March and followed him and a staff member along with my wife, Fay,
and Diane Greenagle to Tucson for their presentation. It was fun to visit with Wes and Carol Mathre at the Scottsdale event. We still focus upon travel with a river run in France last fall and chasing around the Southwest while we can. We stay pretty close to home in summer but have made two runs to North Dakota (made a drive-by at CC). Stopped to see Derry Peterson in Wheaton, Karen Morstad in Little Falls and have seen Lynn Nelson lately.

Our grandsons draw our attention by sport visits from the campuses of the U of M, St. Thomas, ex Augsburg, St Mary’s and Park Junior. Miss those guys in the winter.
Soli Deo Gloria!

Glenn Thoreson - I left CC after my junior year to enroll at UND Medical School for two years. 1962-64. After interning at St. Luke’s in Fargo, I entered USAF School of Aviation, Medicine and graduated as a Flight Surgeon. I served one year at Reese Air Force Base, Lubbock, TX and one year in Viet Nam at Cam Ranh Bay with an F-4C fighter squadron, June ’68 to June ’69. I trained as a copilot in the jet fighter, and flew 23 combat strikes in South Vietnam.

I then practiced medicine in Mayville, ND for 39 years as a Primary Care Physician, retiring in 2008.

My son Mathew attended CC playing football 4 years and holds the record for the longest fumble recovery for a touchdown...69 yards in 1991. My grandson, Reed Hefta graduated in 2013 and captained the CC football team his junior and senior years. We still attend Cobber football games.

My wife, Rose, and I live in Mayville and spend summers at Lake Sallie in Detroit Lakes. We have 8 grandchildren, 4 great grandchildren, including 2 sets of twin boys!!

Greetings to my friends from CC and especially Gross Hall classmates.

Carlton Urdahl - I just got home after spending a week in Honduras on a Habitat International project. What a beautiful country!

This has been an interesting year for me. I went back to Concordia for graduation last spring and was wowed by how the campus has changed. What a joy to come back! I will be starting back to school in only two weeks. I am still teaching mathematics at the Buffalo High School and it just seems to get better by the year! I know retirement is not too far away but when is still an unknown. Soli Deo Gloria!

Mary Evanger Birkeland - What fun it was to join some of our classmates for our 55th Class Reunion at Homecoming last fall! Gary Zinter, along with Elaine Bader Hanson, did a super job of arranging a wonderful reunion which included a number of very special gatherings and topping it off was the great cookbook they compiled filled with treasured recipes...a special ’63 keepsake! Thank you for helping to keep us connected!

 Somehow this past year has moved along much too quickly! I have been busy keeping tabs on my grandchildren with all their numerous activities, doing some traveling and now enjoying these summer
days at Bay Lake.

A highlight for me this past year was attending as many Cobber basketball games as possible because my oldest grandson, David Birkeland, is on the basketball team and is now looking forward to another great year at Concordia as a sophomore! It also was a highlight this spring cheering for my 9th grade grandson, Bjorn Swenson, as he and his Mounds View High School Tennis team won State Individual and also Team Tennis Championships for Class AA. My granddaughter, Brita Birkeland, a Junior at Hermantown High School this past year, qualified to run the 800 in the Minnesota State Track Meet. An exciting spring for this Grandma! My best to all and I hope the paths of the Class of ’63 continue to cross!

Karen Carlson Lundstrom - We are still very happy on Lake Belle Taine by Nevis, MN. We made the decision to buy the cabin many years ago and we continue to think that it was one of the best decisions we made in our lifetime. Lots of wonderful memories for our families and also for friends. One of the problems we have is Fred never thinks we should leave the cabin. We had 3 grandchildren graduate from high school this year. Out of our 10 we only have one grandchild in high school now. As we all say, “Life goes way too fast.”

We are celebrating our 56th wedding anniversary this August. Life has been good to us and we feel very blessed by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Elaine Bader Hanson - I agreed to type the newsletter with the gracious support from Karen Carlson and staff at the Alumni Office. Many thanks to John Ahlquist who agreed to write the introductory and closing paragraphs and to all who sent news! This has been a group effort!

My husband, Harry is experiencing some health issues and is now more dependent on me each day, so most days I stay close to home. I do some volunteering at Mount Olivet, belong to a couple book clubs and enjoy socializing with family & friends. Like all of you, I focus on staying healthy and remember to count my blessings and appreciate each day!

Glenn P. Huntoon - I just finished a Viking River Cruise down the Elbe River in Germany. I have been doing a lot of traveling: Costa Rica, a Hurtigruten Cruise up the fjords from Bergen to the border with Russia, China, Italy, Greece and Turkey, just to name a few places.

I am active in the church here in Wabasha being on the stewardship committee and a cantor for church services.

I had open heart surgery last December at the Mayo Clinic to have two valves repaired. It was a successful operation and I spent a couple of months rehabling.

Our daughter lives in Phoenix so we spent some time with her and her family in the winter. It makes a great getaway from all the snow here.

Ron Struxness - Since retirement, Dawn and I have continued our interest in and commitment to
travel. We did some domestic travel to Hawaii, Arizona and Washington State and we have done an international hiking trip about every 15 months, the most recent of which were to Chile/Patagonia and Sri Lanka. We sneaked in a Viking ocean cruise of two weeks last year. Health permitting, that focus will continue.

I have been privileged to serve one term as a member of the college’s Alumni Board and effective with the graduation weekend meeting, I have been re-elected to complete the term of one member unable to continue serving. From that experience, I have learned our college has produced some astonishingly accomplished graduates. What a privilege it is to read about them and attempt to reward their efforts with the college’s major awards.

We are grateful for a robust pharmaceutical industry to help us maintain our health. Not surprisingly, one or two of those expensive drugs are part of our daily diet.

**Merv Thompson and Jackie Morstad Thompson** - We have some exciting news about our daughter. She will be leading a Lutheran Center for Faith, Values and Community at St. Olaf College. Deanna said that Concordia has a similar Center with an excellent director, Jacqueline Bussie. She hopes to learn from her. We are very proud.

**Dean Knudson** - My wife, Mary Ann and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary last year. I should also note that our son and daughter are both Cobber graduates. After working for several companies around the country over the years, I retired from Microsoft here in Fargo.

Since then I have been having fun working half-time at NDSU teaching their Computer Science Capstone Projects course. The department has grown a lot recently and this spring we have 90 seniors working in teams of 3-4 students for 23 different sponsoring companies. One interesting addition is that several of our projects are for companies in other countries (i.e., Sweden, Germany, Australia). Other universities have expressed an interest in having their students take on international capstone projects. As a result, we set up a website at NDSU where a professor anywhere in the world can login and request to be paired with a professor in a different country for a project exchange. They each then find a local company to sponsor a student team from the paired country. Projects are done independently, on the schedule of the university, doing the work and with no travel required. We currently have about 25 different universities involved in 8 different countries and disciplines including CS, EE, ME, Ag and Bio Eng., International Marketing and Journalism. (By the way, Concordia is paired with a university in Germany in Journalism.)

I just returned from a trip to Brazil sponsored by a university there. It was a great trip especially since I was accompanied by my daughter who teaches Portuguese at Northern Illinois University.

**Don and Carolyn Opgrande** - We are busy like everyone else and enjoying life! The good news is we have a Cobber freshman granddaughter from Bozeman, Montana who will be playing on the women’s soccer team at Concordia. She will a 4th generation Cobber for our family.

**Dale Hedlund** - Greetings Classmates of ’63. Marilyn and I are still living in St. James. We sold our coffee house five years ago so we have really enjoyed more free time together. I still substitute teach...
in Mankato and Butterfield two or three days a week and just can’t seem to find my way out of the classroom. I still enjoy the company of 7th thru 12th graders. We are happy to spend some time with our three granddaughters and are excited to learn that another grandchild is due in September. I hope this message finds all of you happy and in good health.

Signe Olson Rich - I am semi-retired as a city planner, having spent a career in city government, and enjoy still living in Albuquerque. I belong to reading groups, discussion groups, take frequent trips to California to visit my son and grandkids in the Bay area and my sister near L.A. I’m planning a Road Scholar touring trip to Cuba in January.

Gary Zinter - May of 2018, I retired from Thrivent Financial but still do Medicare Supplements with BCBS of MN.

We have stepped up our travel plans since we got a late start.

2018
July: Betty and I did a trip to New York City and attended a total of 9 plays and musicals.
September: Our Class of ’63 had our 55th Cobber Reunion. Around 90 were registered for the Saturday Breakfast and 50 attended Brunch at the Fargo CC on Sunday. The Saturday evening gathering after the concert at the Centrum was informal and very relaxing. We had a private room with tables and chairs to enjoy wonderful appetizers and great conversation. All in all a memorable time!

2019
January 14 days on a Caribbean Princess Circle Cruise with nine island stops.
April Denver and Durango, CO for a week.
June Miami FL: Million Dollar Round Table Meeting for 5 days.
June Vikings Homeland Cruise. 14 days and 8 countries.

I look forward to my 60th Willmar class reunion in September and Concordia’s Homecoming in October.

CLOSING COMMENTS
by John Ahlquist

I am proud to be a member of the distinguished class of 1963. I believe Concordia grounded us on a firm foundation and we lived up to the Concordia Mission Statement.

The purpose of Concordia College is to influence the affairs of the world by sending into society thoughtful and informed men and women dedicated to the Christian life.

Class members served with distinction in the ministry, education, sciences, business, health care, art, music, and athletics, influencing the affairs of the community, state, nation, and in some ways, the
world. We remember and honor those listed on page two of the reunion booklet. (When you open most reunion booklets, those who’ve passed away are listed on page two.) May your health be good and may it be a long time before you are listed on page two.

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine upon you
And be gracious unto you;
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you
And give you peace.

SOLI DEO GLORIA

Campus Update

Concordia Language Villages

-Summer 2018 was a busy one for Concordia Language Villages. We had over 4700 villagers and families from all over the world attend immersion programs at our Turtle River Lake sites just north of Bemidji and at other leased camps in northern Minnesota. This strong enrollment demonstrates the value families are placing on world language and culture education.

-Thanks to a generous gift of $5 million from the Simone Corporation and its CEO Kenny Park, we will soon begin the first phase of construction of *Sup sogū Hosu*, the Korean Language Village, on Turtle River Lake. The first Village to be built was *Skogfjorden*, the Norwegian Language Village, and that happened 50 years ago this summer. A special event to commemorate this milestone will be held on July 13. *Sjölund* the Swedish Language Village, celebrates its 45th summer with a *midsommar* event on August 3. International Days are July 5 and August 9 where we will also celebrate 50 years of offering four-week high school credit sessions.

Music

-Dr. René Clausen announced that he will retire following the 2019-20 academic year, concluding his service as professor of music and conductor of The Concordia Choir. Clausen is a leader in choral music as both a conductor and a composer. He is the artistic director of the Concordia Christmas Concerts. In addition to composing arrangements and original pieces for Concordia ensembles, he has written dozens of commissioned compositions including “MEMORIAL” and “Crying for a Dream” for the American Choral Directors Association. Clausen was also commissioned by Concordia to create a major work in observance of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The work is titled “The Passion of Jesus Christ” and premiered at Orchestra Hall in 2017. President William Craft noted in an announcement to the Concordia community that throughout his work at the college Clausen has lived the mission of The Concordia Choir “to uphold a sacred choral tradition through the uncompromising and unrelenting collaborative pursuit of musical integrity and spiritual expression.”
- The Concordia Choir completed a highly successful tour through the Pacific Northwest in March. The tour featured concerts in Washington, Oregon, Montana, North Dakota, and Minnesota. The Choir also had engagements with ten high school choirs, as well as The Choir of the West at Pacific Lutheran University and a collaboration concert with The Singers – Minnesota Choral Artists at the Ordway in St. Paul. Work is now being done to plan the Choir’s 2020 tour to the Southeast United States. Updates and more information can be found at www.TheConcordiaChoir.org.

- The Concordia Orchestra completed a very successful fall domestic tour with performances in Appleton, Wausau and Chippewa Falls in Wisconsin and Roseville, Sartell and Brainerd in Minnesota. Repertoire included Symphony No. 3 by Florence Price, Scheherazade by Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov and Concerto for Trombone by Jim Pugh, which featured Concordia Professor of Low Brass Dr. Nathaniel Dickey on trombone. Also joining the tour was guest conductor Christoph Rehli-Fankhauser, professor of conducting at the Lucerne University of Music in Switzerland.

- The Concordia Band was invited to perform at both the Minnesota Music Educators Association Mid-Winter Clinic in Minneapolis and the North Dakota Music Educators Association Conference in Bismarck. In addition, the band was also invited to be the featured collegiate band at the Westman Honour Band concert at Brandon University in Brandon, Manitoba. As part of their annual domestic tour, the band performed a joint concert with the Encore Wind Ensemble in St. Paul, MN as well as concerts in St. Anthony Village, Albany and Staples-Motley, all in Minnesota. The band is in the beginning stages of planning their international tour to Spain in May of 2020.

Cobber Athletics

- In the spring of 2018, Concordia had only one team – women’s basketball – with a female head coach. Fast forward one year, and with the hiring of new volleyball head coach Faith Dooley, the Cobbers now have 5 additional female head coaches mentoring student/athletes. Dooley, who was an All-American at the University of North Dakota, joins women’s golf head coach Kari Weidner-Ceniceros, Maureen Greiner of women’s hockey, Rebecca O’Shurak from women’s soccer and NDSU All-American Laura Januszewski who coaches both the men’s and women’s cross country teams. The rise of female head coaches was recognized by University of Minnesota’s Tucker Center for Research on Girls and Women in Sport in their 2018-19 coaching report card that cited Concordia as the top college in the MIAC for the increase in female head coaches over the past year.

- Concordia men’s track and field junior Matt Bye, Moorhead, won the heptathlon at this winter’s MIAC Indoor Championship Meet and went on to finish 11th in the event at the NCAA National Indoor Meet held in Boston, Mass. Bye won the MIAC title with the second highest point total in school history.

- The Cobber men’s hockey team earned its seventh consecutive berth in the MIAC playoffs this season. Concordia finished conference play with nine league wins which was the most since the 2013 season. Sophomore forward Tyler Bossert, Fargo, led the MIAC in scoring and went on to earn All-American Second Team honors to become the ninth All-American in program history.

New Hires
Concordia added two critical new leaders in the Career Center this year. Kris Olson joined the College as the new Director of the Career Center in October 2018. Jill Wenger, a Barnesville native, was hired in the role of Assistant Director of the Career Center in March 2019.

Kris began her career in Higher Education spent several years in Higher Education at NDSU and Concordia before making a career switch. She began working for Cargill, Inc as a Corporate Training Consultant, Training Curriculum Specialist, a Member of a Global Realignment Team, and a Recruiting Manager. Following her time at Cargill, Kris founded her own consulting business. Kris is an experienced professional with over 30 years of progressive experience in Higher Education, Corporate Business and Consulting.

Jill is an experienced professional with progressive experience within the City of Moorhead ranging from City Clerk, Assistant City Manager, and most recently, Human Resource Director. Jill brings great insight into public service, the local Fargo-Moorhead area, the Restorative Justice process, and recruitment best practices.

-Katie Nystuen was hired as our Health Services Coordinator this year. Part of her role is to guide students in making choices regarding their healthcare needs, and connecting them to the many quality providers in our community. Though direct care is not the focus of the Health Services Office, she is First Aid, CPR and AED certified, and can assist with triage and referral to an appropriate medical facility should an urgent situation arise, as can our Public Safety Office. One of her goals is to be more proactive and holistic regarding health and wellness programming on campus.

-Dallas Fossum joined Concordia as the new Director for Facilities Management in March. Dallas is an experienced director of facilities management and has, with his teams, completed more than $50 million in renovations, new constructions, infrastructure, and deferred maintenance.

-Dr. Jill Abbott has been appointed Deputy to the President at Concordia College, effective June 3, 2019. Dr. Abbott holds a bachelor’s degree in literature/language arts education, a master’s in counseling and human resource development, and a doctorate in educational administration. She currently serves as the associate vice president of academics at Minnesota State Community and Technical College. Dr. Abbott will serve as a member of the college cabinet and will continue the good work of her predecessor Tracey Moorhead as liaison to our Board of Regents. As Deputy to the President, she will work with me to ensure the fulfillment of the new college plan following its affirmation by the Board of Regents, to represent the college in building strong local and regional partnerships for mutual success, and to position Concordia as mission driven institution of national significance.

Other News

-Concordia’s outstanding tradition of preparing students for medical school is now available to those who have completed an undergraduate degree. This intensive, 1 year program is designed for highly motivated individuals with excellent academic records, who have earned a bachelor’s degree from an accredited four-year institution, but lack most or all of the prerequisite science courses needed for admission to medical school. Our program is ideal for career changers, and individuals deciding later in their academic journey, to pursue a career in medicine.
Concordia sent 12 members to the American Forensic Association National Individual Events Tournament (AFA-NIET) at the University of Alabama, where 60 colleges and universities from across the United States competed for top honors. Concordia was one of only a few smaller colleges that placed in the top 15, which is dominated by larger research institutions.

The Center for Student Success has a new home in the Normandy. The beautifully renovated space is open and light making for an inviting space for students. The center includes academic support, Orientation and First-Year Transition Programming, the Peer Mentor program, and the Diversity Coordinator for Student Support Services.

More than 300 students presented their posters or spoke at concurrent sessions during Concordia’s 2019 Celebration of Student Scholarship (COSS) on April 10. Some students participated in multiple presentations. New at this year’s COSS was an art display with printmaking pieces and two sessions presented in Spanish. “Our goal is to keep building on the diversity of research,” says Krys Strand, director of Undergraduate Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity and coordinator of the Celebration of Student Scholarship.

A dinner was held April 4 to celebrate the naming of Dr. Dan Biebighauser as holder of The Sigurd and Pauline Prestegaard Mundhjeld Endowed Chair of Mathematics. Biebighauser is a 2002 graduate of Concordia and joined the faculty in 2006. The holder of the Mundhjeld chair is to be a person who has provided exemplary service in teaching and scholarship in the field of mathematics and who is known and respected in the field. All of the past holders of the Mundhjeld Endowed Chair were present. Past holders include Dr. Bill Tomhave, Dr. James L. Forde, Dr. Alexander Sze and Dr. Gerald A. Heuer ’51.

Alumni Awards:

The National Alumni Board voted on the 2019 Alumni Achievement, Sent Forth and Called to Serve Awards. To learn more about each award, visit www.concordiacollege.edu/alumni/awards-and-recognition/.

2019 Alumni Achievement Award Recipients

- **Dr. Paul Brandvik ’59**, professor emeritus of music at Bemidji State University, served as director of choral activities for 31 years. Brandvik received several awards, guest conducted more than 100 festivals and workshops in 16 states and abroad, and composed, edited or arranged more than 50 works.

- **Dr. Kristi Ferguson ’71**, is professor emeritus of General Internal Medicine and served as director, Office of Consultation and Research in Medical Education at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine. She spent her entire career at the University of Iowa Carver College of Medicine where she has greatly influenced the development, implementation, and evaluation of the curriculum.

- **Dr. Thomas Samuelson ’81**, a board-certified ophthalmologist, is a founding partner and attending surgeon at Minnesota Eye Consultants, P.A., Minneapolis. He’s also an adjunct professor at the University of Minnesota and on the faculty of Hennepin County Medical Center. He has received several
awards and has been named to America’s Top Doctors each year since 2002. He has written numerous articles and given more than 600 presentations around the world.

- A **1977** Concordia graduate, **the Rev. Ann Svennungsen** is the bishop of the ELCA Minneapolis Area Synod, the first female bishop to serve in any of the ELCA’s six Minnesota synods. She served as a parish pastor prior to serving as president and CEO of The Fund for Theological Education and then as president of Texas Lutheran University. Svennungsen, a well-respected theologian and speaker, is published in numerous journals, and is invited to lecture, preach, and provide keynote and commencement addresses.

**2019 Sent Forth Recipients**

- **Betsy Grams ’98**, co-founder and executive director of Cycle Health, is a 1998 Concordia graduate. CycleHealth was founded in 2014 to equip kids to power their own wellness. CycleHealth’s programs are based on adventure and self-directed goal attainment, and are prescribed by pediatricians in more than 50 Twin Cities clinics through an innovative platform called Sweat Rx.

- **Matthew Culloton ’98**, Matthew Culloton, founding Artistic Director of The Singers – Minnesota Choral Artists, is a 1998 Concordia graduate and earned a master’s and a doctorate from the University of Minnesota. He is Choirmaster at The House of Hope Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, Minn., an adjunct faculty member at the University of Saint Thomas and composer. Culloton received the VocalEssence/ACDA of Minnesota Creative Programming Award (2003) and MN ACDA Outstanding Young Choral Conductor of the Year Award (2004).
FACULTY GUESTS

Donald & Dorothy Dale
DuWain & Delores Fagerstrom

Gerald & Jeanette Heuer
Carlton & Phyllis Paulson

ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS

Joyce (Monson) Tsongas (1995)
David J. Olson, PhD (1998)

James Westgard, PhD (2011)
A. John Ahlquist (2014)
Karan Armstrong Friedrich (2017)

BOARD OF REGENTS

Gerald Eid (2008-2014)

Lowell Almen (2007-2014)
Joyce (Monson) Tsongas (2010-2014)

NATIONAL ALUMNI BOARD

Larry Torske (1974-1977)
Calvin Rolfsen (1976-1981)
Gary Zinter (2006-2010)

Thomas Christenson (1976-1979)
L. Carol Brenden (1980-1983)
Rod Thorsell (2000-2004)
David Olson (2008-2012)
Ron Struxness (2013-2017)

CLASS AGENTS

Wes Mathre
Rod Thorsell
Gary Zinter

(? – 1993)
(1994-2000)
(2001-2018)

SEMINAR PRESENTERS

A. John Ahlquist
Vern Hagen
Vicki (Strandness) Hagen

COOKBOOK CO-CHAIRS

Elaine (Bader) Hanson
Gary Zinter

CONCORDIA COLLEGE
Moorhead, Minnesota

CLASS OF 1963
55th Anniversary

HOMECOMING BREAKFAST
Saturday, September 29th  8:00 a.m.
Christ the King Lutheran Church

HOMECOMING GATHERING
Saturday, September 29th  8:30 p.m.
Knutson Campus Center

HOMECOMING BRUNCH
Sunday, September 30th  NOON
Fargo Country Club
Our deceased classmates - *Those who have died in the past 5 years
George Algard
Linda Anderson
Richard Anderson
Betty (Knutson) Arvidson
* Royce Aubol
Malcom Bagne
Karen Belinsky
* Ellsworth Bergerson
* Janet (Smedstad) Bjorge
Eileen (Brenden) Buchholz
* R. Juanada (Paulsrud) Camrud
Joseph Cathers
Ellen (Terry) Ching
Thomas Christenson
Marlys (Wilmer) Cordes
Mary Ann (Monson) Daley
Glenn Dill
Beverly (Nordin) Eraker
Terrill Erickson
* George Fevig
Ronald Gilrudy
* Bruce Gronbeck
* Robert Hanson
* Steven Haukenes
David Heacox
* Karen (Amundson) Heppner
Mary (Halverson) Hewett
* Jan (Hume) Hoiter
* Gary Hunt
Marvin Johnson
David Klies
Gerald Kramer
Ronald Laib
Stanton Lyslo

Norman Marks
Ruth (Bjerke) Martenson
Pearl (Rabanus) McCloskey
* Joyce (Monson) Tsonjas
John Nelson
Noel Nelson
Stephen Nelson
Bonnie (Berge) Nicolson
Luke Oas
David Olson
Larry Olson
Darrell Peterson
* David Quarve
Karen (Torgerson) Resset
Merlyn Runestad
C. Thorpe Running
August Schock
John Sether
Phillip Shegegeby
Allen Smaagaard
Robert Smith
* John Sobol
Harold Sorensen
Karen (Winkelman) Spohr
Joann (Wallier) Storer
Lyle Stork
* Paul Styve
Stanley Torgerson
* Julianne (Wuerflein) Vangen
Richard Waldon
Irwin Warfield
Betty Wickre
* Jon Willand
Bonnie (Egeberg) Gunderson
Betty (Johnson) Lund

HOMECOMING BREAKFAST

Welcome
Rev. Merv Thompson

Introduction of guest faculty

Invocation

Breakfast

Greetings from National Alumni Board
Kathy Benson '64
Lee Skavanger '67
Libby Thom '20
Kenzie Grafstrom '20

Students:

Director of Dovre Center for
Faith and Learning, Gift Planner
Larry Papenfuss

Reunion Giving Report
Ron Struxness

Vocal Selections
Karan Armstrong Friedrich

President
Dr. William J. Craft and Mrs. Anne Craft

Recognitions
Alumni Achievement Award Recipients
Board of Regents
National Alumni Board
Class Agents

Reading of memorial list of classmates
Elaine (Bader) Hanson
Naomi (Solyst) Raymond
Kay (Ferguson) Forkner

Violin accompaniment
Carolyn (Letness) Mackes

Hymn to Concordia, accompanied by
Gary Zinter

Class Agent Announcements

Distribution of Cookbooks!

Thank you for coming – Enjoy your weekend!
Soli Deo Gloria