Using the website:

The various parts of the concordia-memories.org website are accessed from the underlined links in the navigation bar at the top of the main page (or most subpages) just below the page title. I've organized the site into seven sections; Videos, Church Records, Genealogy, MessageBoard, Photos, Maps, and Sources. Much of the information is stored on this website and available either on the subpages themselves or various links (either in blue or at least underlined) found on these pages. However, the videos and photos which take a lot of space are stored on other websites, like flickr.com or blip.tv. When you click on many of the embedded links, another tab in your browser or separate window will be opened, depending on how your browser is configured. (Note that the Message Board opens in the same window. I haven't figured out how to make it open a separate window or provide a link back to the other pages. So in this case, you will need to use the browser back arrow or a bookmark back to the main page to get to any other section of the website.)

The 'Videos' page provides access to Ed Pape's old home movies of Concordia and St. Paul's. These movies clips are stored on several different websites. Since they have been archived on the archive.org website, this site provides the best access to them. One can download the videos from there in one of several different file formats.

The 'Church Records' page has records for St. Paul's and St. John Churches. From the lower part of the page, you can either view these records online or download them to you own computer.

From the 'Genealogy' page, you can view the Pape family tree, download the Frerking Family History file (there are so many people in Concordia that have ties to the Frerkings), access more family trees posted on RootsWeb WorldConnect, or access websites that other people have created containing their family trees.

Most of the new information is being added on the 'MessageBoard' page. This is a commonly used message board system that actually resides on my website. It contains a number of different forums grouped together by various subjects. In the 'General' section, you will find user guides to provide details on how to use the message board; but, in general, it should be intuitive. For example, if you click on the 'Low German' forum in the Reminiscences section, you will see a number of topics that have been posted. Clicking on the 'Low German bedtime prayer', you will see the information for that particular posting. At the bottom of that posting is an image of the German wording. To get back to any other forum/posting, click on the big 'phpbb' button on the upper left of the page.

If you are registered on the board and logged in, you can post a new topic or post a reply to an existing topic. You simply type in (or paste) the text of the posting and possibly a few photos. It's intended to develop a dialog with other members of the message board. If you have a lot of material, you can send it to me and I can upload large files or a number of photos

The 'Photos' page contains links that take you to the flickr.com website. Navigating flickr may not be that intuitive, so I also included the link to a "quick guide" to explain how to move around in that site or download the photos.

The 'Maps' page is a special display that I developed to show old plat maps overlaid on Google Maps so people can see where the old family farms were. One should have a broadband connection to use this page effectively. If the displays jumps to a worldwide view or you lose the overlay when moving around in the map, simply click on the 'Home' Button in the upper right corner of the display to get back to the original scale. It is also possible to enter Google's 'Street View' which allows you to see Concordia as it exists now. With a little practice, you can move around in that display as if you are driving down the streets.

Finally, the 'Sources' page provides links to a lot of assorted information. Click on one of the various links to access the data.

Hope this helps in getting around in the website. If you have any other specific questions, send me an email.