

**The Christogram** is the monthly newsletter of Concordia Lutheran Church, Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Deadline for news items is the Fourth Sunday of each month. We welcome contributions of news items, art work, and other appropriate articles.

Editor: Don Patterson  
Printing and distribution: Sherry Kammerer

**The weekly bulletin** is printed on Thursday mornings. News items for the bulletin should be submitted by 9 am on Thursdays.

Sunday Worship is at 9:00 am, Sunday School & Adult Education is at 10:30 am  
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Concordia Lutheran Church †  
P.O. Box 770428; 755 Concordia Lane  
Steamboat Springs, CO 80477



## Concordia Lutheran Church

CHRISTOGRAM

April

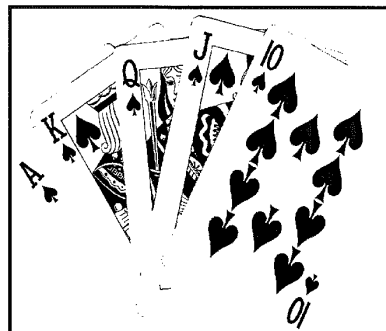
CHRISTOGRAM

1992



CHRISTOGRAM

Church Phone: 879-0175



### Card Games


**Who:** All adults who are willing to have lots of fun.  
**Where:** Concordia Lutheran Church basement.  
**When:** April 5th, 1992 at 7:00 pm  
**Why:** Jake Riggi Benefit  
**By Whom:** Concordia Youth Group  
Admission will be \$5 per person. Refreshments will be served.



### Sunday School News

There will be **no** Sunday School Easter, April 19th. A special service will be presented by the Sunday School on April 26th.

There will be an important Sunday School teachers meeting April 1st (no fooling) at church at 7:00 pm. This is the last meeting for this year. We will be finalizing plans for the end of the year.

Editor's Corner 

### An Easter Story

"...God tested Abraham and said to him, '... Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering upon one of the mountains of which I shall tell you.'" Genesis 22:1-2.

This is in a way one of the hardest and most awful stories of the Bible, and yet in another way it is one of the most wonderful. Judaism and Christianity have never practiced human sacrifice and societies that did so have always been anathema. Although this is before the Mosaic law, God had written the law "Thou shalt not kill" upon the hearts of his people. So why does God, our loving and merciful God, command Abraham to sacrifice (kill) Isaac? This is not an easy passage!

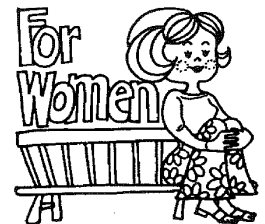
The story continues with Abraham obediently doing as God says. He travels to the mountain that God has shown him, he binds Isaac and places him on the wood. He raises the knife to slay Isaac and at the last instant the angel of the Lord calls out and stops him. I want you to use your imagination and place yourself in Abraham's shoes. Imagine placing your child, whom you love, on the alter and raising a knife up with the full intention of slaying him (or her). If you do not have children, imagine your parents, who love you, placing you on the alter and raising the knife to slay you. These are truly awful thoughts! If you are not cringing and your skin crawling at this suggestion something is wrong. The Hollywood horror stories are no match for this horror story. A father who loves his son, commanded by his Lord to slay him? Why would God do such a thing?

God commanded Abraham to do this to test him, but more than this, to help us understand Good Friday and Easter. Before Abraham had bound Isaac, Isaac asked him "Behold, the fire and the wood; but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham's prophetic reply refers to far more than the ram caught by its horns in the thicket. "God will provide Himself the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." This mountain where Abraham almost sacrificed his son Isaac is now believed to be the site of the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem. Two thousand years later another Father sacrificed His Son, His only Son, the Son Whom He Loved, at this place, but this time no one yelled "stop!"\* Jesus died a horrible death on that Good Friday and Abraham's prophesy "God will provide Himself the lamb for a burnt offering" was fulfilled. This offering was more than symbolic; it was efficacious. This offering paid the penalty for sin and ransomed all of God's people.

The story of Abraham's placing Isaac on the alter is the typological story of Easter. By putting ourselves in Abraham's shoes, we don't really come to understand our Lord's sacrifice, but it helps. Thank God that a Father did sacrifice His Son, His only Son, the Son Whom He Loves, or we would not be saved. Thank the Son that He willing let Himself be sacrificed for us. So although in a way this story of Abraham is a terrible story, it is a wonderful story, a forerunner of the most wonderful story in the world!

- Don Patterson

\* This article was inspired by a cassette tape by Dr. R.C. Sproul and is based upon his message.



### Women's Guild News

The March meeting was held at the home of Sally Marshall with 12 members attending. Alma Baldwin presented an interesting program on India, the theme country for the month.

The Spring Rummage Sale will be held May 8th and 9th. Good, clean clothes & miscellaneous items are now being accepted.

Joanne Boomgarden reported that Mario Vigil had taken a pick-up truck load of left-over rummage to the Good Shepherd Home in Littleton. Many thanks to Mario.

The LWML District Convention will be held June 11th thru the 13th in Albuquerque, New Mexico. It sounds like a fun place to go, so start making plans now.

The next meeting of the Concordia Women's guild will be at the home of Sher Scheiwe on Wednesday, April 15th. The women will be traveling to the Orient; see you there.

- Elaine Stroncek, Secretary



Concordia received Barbara Guest and Cindy Culver into the church on March 15th. Please introduce yourselves to them and personally welcome them.

**Grief**

This may be a strange time to talk about death and grief. However, death and grief are things that continue on, even at this very moment some Christian somewhere is dying and family and friends are beginning to enter the process of grief.

Grief is deep sorrow caused by an unusual loss and is often accompanied by strong emotions. Grieving has been described as being like vomiting that comes in waves. It will be very obvious for a time and then lurk in the background while things seem to be normal, but then it returns again and again and again.

There are some tried and true ways to help your fellow Christians through this very trying time for them.

1. Don't desert them after the funeral. Grief can continue, in various degrees, for as long as two years. Of course it should be lessening in strength over-all during that time. If it isn't then professional help should be found for the one that is grieving. Stick by them until they are through the whole process.

2. Don't tell them they shouldn't feel bad or have any pain. Before there is healing there will be pain. Sure it is difficult to sit by and watch someone you like suffer the pain of grief, but don't interfere with

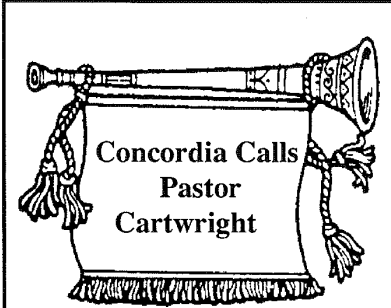
their pain.

3. Listen with your heart not with your mind. Listen when no words are being spoken. Don't worry about what to say, being there is more important than knowing what to say. Let the bereaved talk openly about the one who is now gone. That's part of the healing process. All you need to do is listen.
4. Don't judge the way that grief is expressed. Anger, resentment, guilt, shame and the feeling that they have been cheated by God are often part of the grief expressed. Let them be angry, guilty or whatever. God understands what they are going through.
5. Be there when they need you. If they were expecting their loved one to pass on, then the grieving process may already be underway. Unexpected death takes longer. Regardless of the length of time involved, we must make ourselves available until they have worked themselves through the process.
6. Be sincere in your desire to help them. If you can't be sincere than don't attempt to help. You will hurt not help. Try to think how you would want to be treated and always seek to be kind.

One other thing to remember, don't make the assumption that their mourning shows a lack of faith in God's power and love. They don't have something wrong with their spiritual lives and they don't need "straightened out." It is perfectly normal to miss the presence of a loved one, to wish they were still with us and to be filled with sorrow. Even Jesus felt deep sorrow and wept over the death of his friend. Why should we be any different?

Grief is a natural process and, for Christians everywhere, offering comfort is a natural process too.

-Pastor Dave

**Concordia Calls  
Pastor  
Cartwright**

On February 27, at the special Voter's Meeting, the voters of Concordia Lutheran Church voted to extend a call to Pastor Timothy C. Cartwright. Although a call was extended to him before Christmas and was returned by him, it was declined based on short term objectives.

Pastor Cartwright is currently Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Eden, Idaho. His wife is Marlys Kay Cartwright. They have three children; Katie, Kiandra, and Kelly. Please keep Pastor Cartwright and his family in your prayers as they consider the call from Concordia. Please remember to pray for Trinity Lutheran Church as they face the possibility of a vacancy.



**Ushers  
Needed**

If you would be willing to serve on a rotating ushers schedule, please sign up on the list on the bulletin board above the coffee pot. You may sign up as an individual or as a team of two. Each team of two would serve one or two weeks and then would be off for several months. If you have comments or suggestions about this proposed system please contact Don Patterson.

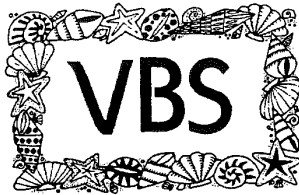




Mark your calendars for the Lenten season:

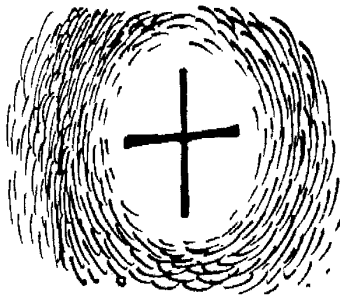
April 8	Wednesday
April 16	Maundy Thursday
April 17	Good Friday

A soup supper will be served at the church at 5:15 pm on April 8th and April 16. On all three of the above dates there will be a worship service at 7:00 pm. Come enjoy fellowship and worship during Lent. Anyone wishing to take charge of making the soup please contact Jan Fritz at 879-8630.



### Vacation Bible School

Just a reminder to save the week of June 14th thru the 18th for "Captive Free" from Lutheran Youth Encounter. Do you remember the great VBS we had two years ago when they were here? Don't sign up for swimming, tennis softball or anything else until after the 18th. Mark your calendars and invite your friends. There will be more details in the May Newsletter.



# NO TOMB COULD HOLD HIM

### "I don't want to go to Church"

The following is reprinted by permission from the Pastor of Town & Country Lutheran Church in Sacramento, California.

Now let's get practical. What do parents do when an adolescent child says "I don't want to go to church anymore. I get nothing out of it — it's boring."?

At this point a parent walks a very fine line. There is no doubt about it; an adolescent is beyond the stage where he/she can adopt Mom's and Dad's belief system simply because they say so. The time for that came much earlier. At this age it is a simplistic formula which makes parents vulnerable to the accusation of "forcing religion down the throats of their children".

We definitely need to respect the feelings of our adolescent children in this area. The boat is moving into troubled waters and we have to be careful not to capsize it. If the spiritual training they were given in early childhood was properly conducted, there's good reason to hope that teens will survive the storm of the adolescent years.

But if we deny the autonomy they deserve in deciding what they believe, we'll only be working against ourselves.

By now you have probably concluded that the Pastor's position is that if kids don't want to go to church, don't force them to. Wrong! My breath is not a permissive breath but a breath of sensitivity and, I hope, wisdom. For I most

emphatically do not believe that Junior is free to stay at home the Lord's Day or to go to the beach while the rest of the family worships. Values imposition is still the legitimate rule of Christian parenting (and all parenting for that matter including non-Christian).

This means that I would require my adolescent child to attend church with the family. But this is one of those points at which effective, sensitive parenting becomes a delicate act. The way your adolescent child perceives your reasons for imposing this value will make all of the difference in the world. Let him/her know that, as far as you are concerned, it has more to do with your own integrity and responsibility before God than with his/her personal faith — or lack of it.

Tell him/her, "As long as you are under this roof, we will worship God together as a family. I can't control what you think. That's your business. But I have promised God that we will Honor Him in this home, and that includes 'Remember the Sabbath to keep it holy.'"

So I have said two things: 1) Don't push too hard, but 2) Do hold to a minimum standard of Christian living.

It's a tough assignment, but God will help you accomplish the task. This is why prayer is so critically important during the teen years. We must depend on divine guidance to keep us on track.

# April 1992

## Concordia Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			<b>1</b> 7:00pm Sunday School Teachers Meeting	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> CLEAN: Baldwin W W & A/ Cooper/Farrell
<b>5</b> 9:00am COMMUNION 10:30am SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30am Adult Class 7:00pm Card Games - Riggi Benefit ELDER: Deepe	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 6:30am B STUDY 6:15pm CHOIR 7:30pm Committees Meet	<b>8</b> 5:15pm Lenten Soup Supper 7:00pm Lenten Worship Service	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> CLEAN: Nelson/Fox/Witte/Joens/ Oberndorfer
<b>12</b> 9:00am WORSHIP 10:30am SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30am Adult Class	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 6:30am B STUDY 6:15pm CHOIR 7:30pm VOTERS MEETING	<b>15</b> 7:30pm WOMEN'S GUILD	<b>16</b> 5:15pm Lenten Soup Supper 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Service	<b>17</b> 7:00pm Good Friday Service	<b>18</b> CLEAN: Riewe/Maze/Schuelke
<b>19</b> 9:00am COMMUNION ELDER: Beverlin Easter: He Is Risen!	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 6:30am B STUDY 6:15pm CHOIR	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> CLEAN: Rostvedt/Hallman/Marsh/ Smith
<b>26</b> 9:00am WORSHIP 10:30am SUNDAY SCHOOL 10:30am Adult Class 12:45pm NURSING HOME NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 6:30am B STUDY 6:15pm CHOIR	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		