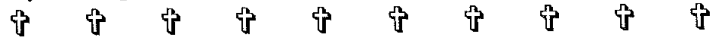


The Christogram is the monthly newsletter of Concordia Lutheran Church, Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Deadline for news items is the Fourth Sunday of each month. We welcome contributions of news items, art work, and other appropriate articles.

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



Concordia Lutheran Church †

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Concordia Lutheran Church

CHRISTOGRAM

August

1992



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Tim Cartwright - Pastor

Church Phone: 879-0175

TEACHING GENTLENESS

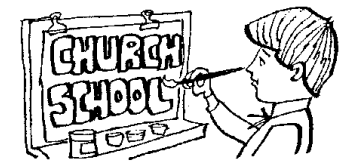
We live in a society where the reality of violence and cruelty often dominate our day to day lives. The number of times a young person sees a brutal and violent act on TV by the time they enter high school; is into the five figure category.

A local publication in our Steamboat community published an article that dealt with the need to actively "teach" gentleness to children. What follows are the four main points of the article.

1. Let youngsters know how important it is to you as a parent or guardian that they behave with kindness. If you observe cruelty, immediately challenge it as a behavior that is not acceptable.
2. If you as a parent, seek to express caring and compassion, that "modeled" priority will carry over to your children. Actions speak louder than words.
3. Treat your children with kindness and love. Let them know that they are children of dignity.
4. Give children books that promote compassionate behavior. Read to them! Let them read these books. Limit their viewing of violence on TV.

Christians have the resources to instruct children in this area of kindness. Romans chapter two reminds us that it is God's "kindness" that leads us toward repentance. The saving work of our Lord Jesus Christ on the cross of Calvary gives worth and dignity to a needy creation. Jesus' resurrection is the final act of a kind God. Let's teach kindness.

-Pastor



Sunday School Staff Meeting

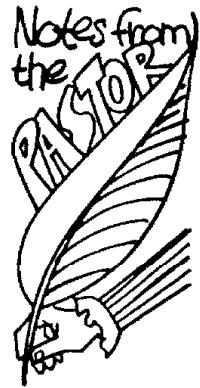
There will be a Sunday School Staff meeting and orientation on Wednesday, August 19th from 7:00 to 8:30pm. Please come if you are involved in the Sunday School program. There are lots of new ideas for the upcoming year, so please be there to give us your input.

Thank you,
Lori Beverlin

To the Members and Friends of Concordia:

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

"For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified." (1 Corinthians 2:2)



"They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of Jesus." (Luke 24:2-3)

There is a certain caterpillar (created by God) that will change into a form which is similar to the food source

it eats. If the caterpillar eats an oak leaf then it will change into a likeness of a twig or structure which supports the leaf. If it eats another substance or plant then it will take on the characteristics of that plant. The process is called "**polymorphism**." Apparently, this process of "cocooning" insures the survival of this particular species. The caterpillar needs to adapt to its environment during its cocoon stage. As a result, from many different looking cocoons emerge the same moth.

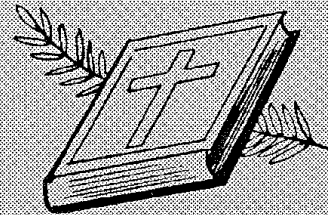
You have called me to serve you as your Pastor. I thank God for the opportunity to serve with you in this Steamboat community. As long as I serve you I desire to mirror the words of St. Paul... "I resolve to know nothing while I am with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified." I will strive to serve you with the Good News that the resurrection of our Lord Jesus has occurred.

Contemporary religion is **polymorphic**. The message is that there are many ways to God. "It doesn't really matter what you believe, we are all going to the source of energy in the universe...!" is often the cry of contemporary culture.

The Word of God and the Sacraments (Baptism and the Lord's Supper) direct us to the marvelous truth that God has interrupted a sin-plagued creation. God has graciously effected a merciful rescue. He did so exclusively through the life, death and resurrection of his only begotten Son. all that I do in your midst will be directed to this end. It is my sincere prayer that we will grow together as congregation and pastor. May we do so around the singular hope of Christ Jesus.

In Christ

Pastor Cartwright



Adult Instruction & Membership Class

Sunday morning Bible Class will begin the first Sunday in August. Pastor Cartwright will be teaching a class for those interested in membership in this congregation. This class will serve as a great review for our present members. This class is designed to help you "Build a Foundation" for the Christian faith. If you know someone interested please invite them. Come with them.

August 2... "FORGIVENESS ... who needs it?"

August 9... "COMMANDMENTS ... Do they apply to me?"

August 16... "APOSTLES' CREED ... Why do I need it?"

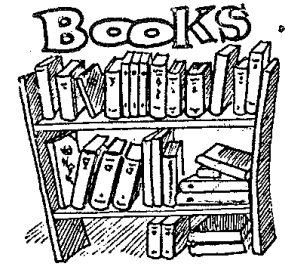
August 23... "BAPTISM... Is it really needed?"

August 30... "COMMUNION... How can God be present?"

September 6... "PRAYER... What do I pray for?"

September 13... "YOUR WORSHIP HOME... Is this place for me?"

Classes will be held after worship (10:30am to 11:20am) in the sanctuary. It should be a great opportunity.



Do you like books?

Do you like books? Does the church ever have a job for you! The church library needs a new caretaker. Alma Baldwin is resigning, after serving a **long** term. She has left the library in great shape. Thank you, Alma. If you're interested please see or call Tami Havener at 879-5973 during the day.



Stewardship

As Stewardship Chairman I recently addressed the congregation about the "treasure" aspect of stewardship and I have been asked to put my thoughts into written form for the newsletter.

I would like you to ask yourself two questions. First, do you agree with the statement "Money cannot buy happiness". When I asked our congregation for a show of hands in response to this question, the result was virtually unanimous; we agree that money cannot buy happiness. My next question is: "Would you like to win the lottery?". Again, when put to our congregation, the response was universal; we would all love to win the lottery. Unless I missed my guess, you have probably also responded to these two questions in the affirmative.

We all have a certain degree of schizophrenia or confusion about money; we agree that it cannot buy happiness yet we all prefer to have more of it - a lot more if we could get it honestly. Given this, wouldn't it be surprising if God had left us without guidance on the subject of money?

I'm sure that every Christian has heard the term "Give till it hurts". Is this the standard that God has set before us? The phrase "give till it hurts" is not in Bible. It is also a meaningless admonition; any amount of giving hurts in that we would all rather have more money than less. Even a very rich man prefers to have still more money than less so for him to put five dollars in the collection plate "hurts".

I believe that there is a Biblical standard of giving. The people of Israel were commanded to "tithe" the increase of the fields and cattle. The word "tithe" means a tenth or 10%; the people were commanded to give 10% of the increase of

the fields and cattle to the Levites for the work of the Lord. Translated into modern terms it would mean 10% of our income. The tithe is found in numerous places in the Bible, including Leviticus 27:30-33, Numbers 18:21-26, Deuteronomy 12:6-7, 14:22-27, 26:12,15. The prophet Malachi accused the people of Israel of robbing God by failing to tithe (Malachi 3:8-12). The tithe pre-dates the law of Moses. Abraham gave the priest Melchizedek a tithe in Genesis 14:20 and Jacob refers to the tithe in Genesis 28:22¹.

The tithe is tied to the offering of the first fruits and the first born (Lev. 23:10,17 Deut. 26:1-11 Numbers 15:17-21 and Exodus 22:29; 23:19)². As a matter of practical experience we find that if our giving is done from the "last fruits" of our paycheck there is nothing left to give. It is both Biblical and important that our giving be of the first fruits of our income.

I suggest that the tithe of Scripture is more than a suggestion; as sinners, who by our own admission are more enamoured with money than we should be, we need the discipline of working with a

percentage in our offerings.

Not all of our tithe has to go to our church; there are many Christian ministries that need and deserve our support. Certainly, though, a significant portion should go to our church.

Why do we give? Is it to merit God's favor or earn our salvation? **NO!** You don't have that much money, even Ross Perot doesn't have that much money. Salvation is God's free gift through Jesus Christ. Our giving is from what God has given us. He owes us nothing for it. We cannot buy God's mercy nor His favor, we receive it as a free gift through faith in Jesus Christ.



If we don't give to earn God's favor, is it to earn His blessing? Many of the television evangelists tell us that if we give enough (especially to their ministry) God will make us rich or at least richer. Although there are some general promises of blessings for faithfulness (Mal. 3:10-12), they are not absolute and they do not promise to make us rich. If we give to earn God's blessing, He will likely bless us by teaching us that there are things more important in life than money.

Is our giving to support the Church? Yes, but I don't believe it is the primary reason. This is the usual reason that the stewardship chairman is urged to make an appeal to the congregation, especially when giving is falling below the church budget. Surely God could have chosen a more reliable method to finance His kingdom than asking a bunch of sinners to support it by their gifts. God, who caused manna to rain down from Heaven on the people of Israel could have caused money to appear in the church bank account as needed. He could have sent rich angels to support the needed ministries. Almost anything would have been more reliable than having us do it. I believe God gave us the task because it is a privilege and a blessing for us to participate in the building of our Lord's kingdom.

I think that the primary reason that God asks us to give is that our giving acknowledges that all we have, our treasure, our families our lives and our salvation is from God and He is our Lord and King. Therefore, we affirm or tend to deny this belief by what we do with each paycheck.

Let us affirm in both word and deed that all we have is from God and He is our King, our Lord and Saviour.

Thank you,
Don Patterson

1. R.J. Rushdoony, *The Institutes of Biblical Law* (The Craig Press 1973) page 52.

2. *Ibid.*, p. 51.

Thank
you

Thank you to Alma Baldwin for her many years of dedicated service as church librarian. Under Alma's direction the library added many new materials, and she did a great job of encouraging the congregation to make use of the library's resources. You did a great job, Alma!

SHARING THE FAITH

The story is told of a young person who was on the beach at dawn tossing starfish back into the ocean surf. An older person, seeing this behavior, questioned the activity. As a matter of fact the comment was made that the behavior was fruitless and hopeless.

The concern of the young person was that the morning sun would destroy the starfish if left on the sand. The older person commented that the beach went on for miles and that.... "How can your effort make any difference?"

The young man looked at the starfish in his hand and then threw it to safety in the waves. "It makes a difference to this one," he said.

Each person will spend an eternity with the God of the universe, or apart from that God. The merciful Word of God shares with us the singular way in which we receive eternal life. That is through the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. God gives the gift of faith to those who hear and receive this Good News. That is where you and I come into the picture. God has placed The sharing of this Good News into the hands and mouths of His Church. Believers must "toss starfish back into the sea." WE have been invited to share what we know to be the way, truth and life.

Kindly **QUESTION** your friends and family. Do not fear spiritual conversation. Ask them how they are doing. Seek to be genuinely interested in their lives.

Actively **LISTEN** to their story. Use the heart with the ear. Make sure you grasp what they say.

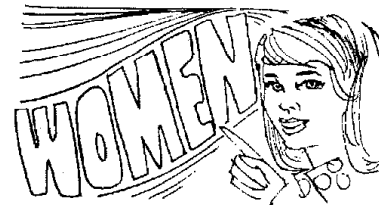
Courageously **TELL** your story. Tell them about your experience. Tell them about **His** story. Tell them simply the Good news of God's love in Christ Jesus.

Have fun tossing starfish back into the sea.



Welcome New Members

Chris and Rebecca Duryea and family transferred from Zion Lutheran Church in Snohomish, WA. Mike and Debbie Marten and family transferred from Redeemer Lutheran Church in Desoto, MO. A warm welcome to these new members.



Women's Guild

We pray that everyone is having a wonderful summer, getting all rested for the Fall LWML meetings.

Alma Baldwin is the new President with Laverne Lausten continuing as Vice-president, Elaine Stoncek as Secretary and Sandy Fornes, Treasurer. A newly appointed Christian Growth Committee should provide the women with some great meetings. Those appointed to the committee are Jan McKay, Marlys Cartwright, Billee Haris and Cindy Svendsen. We look forward to seeing everyone in September.

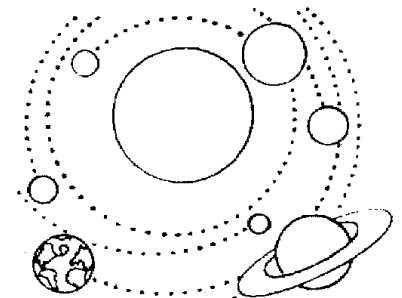
Elaine Stoncek
Secretary



BAPTISM

Baptisms

Baptized in the month of July were sisters, Michele Nace, Lisa Ziebis. The congregation rejoices celebrates with them in this sacrament.



He has done
Wonderful Things

August 1992

Concordia Lutheran Church

	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2	9:00am COMMUNION 10:30am Adult Information Class ELDERS: Beverlin Ushers - Albert Deepe & Greg Fritz		4 6:30am B STUDY 7:30pm Committees Meet				1 CLEAN: Taylor/Haines/Tweede/ Kelleway-Fraze Pastor's Family Day
9	9:00am WORSHIP 10:30am Adult Information Class Greeters - Warner & Svendsen Ushers - Albert Deepe & Greg Fritz	10	11 6:30am B STUDY	12	13	14	15 CLEAN: Weber/Lain/Martin/ Bernison/McKay Pastor's Family Day
16	9:00am COMMUNION 10:30am Adult Information Class ELDERS: Scheve Greeters - Baldwin & Halman Ushers - Dan Schlie & Dan Schuelke	17	18 6:30am B STUDY	19 7:00pm Sunday School Staff Meeting	20	21	22 CLEAN: Boongarden/Barnett/ Schlie Pastor's Family Day
23	9:00am WORSHIP 10:30am Adult Information Class 12:45pm NURSING HOME Greeters - Meade & Yipil NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Ushers - Dan Schlie & Dan Schuelke	24	25 6:30am B STUDY	26	27	28	29 CLEAN: Dalton/Baldwin H & C/ Upham Pastor's Family Day
30	9:00am COMMUNION 10:30am Adult Information Class ELDERS: Thornton Greeters - H. Baldwins Ushers - Jean & Fritz Upham	31					