

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 and Jane Hallman

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

November

1992

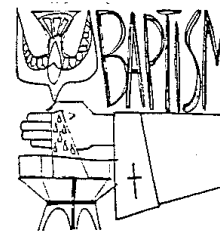
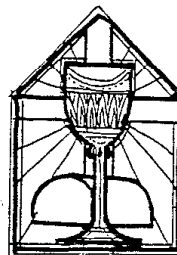


CHRISTOGRAM

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Tim Cartwright - Pastor

Church Phone: 879-0175



A Place Where You Can Serve

The faithful ladies of the Altar Guild make sure the altar area is cared for and ready for communion, baptisms and all the other worship services. Two ladies are scheduled each month to be responsible for altar care.

Would you like to help? Please call me or leave a note in my mailbox so I can get the 1993 schedule put together.

- Elaine Stroncek 879-2442

MISSION STATEMENT FOR CONCORDIA

Concordia Lutheran's Board of Elders, Pastor and our congregational President and Vice-president are presently working on developing a "Mission Statement" to guide our congregation into the heart of the 1990's and beyond. Please pray for this project. A Mission Statement serves the purpose of guiding all aspects of our shared ministry. Your input will be sought in the coming days. As our congregation seeks to develop new ministry points, the Mission Statement will guide that development. All Bible Studies and worship opportunities will stem from this statement. A Mission Statement helps us to define our Christ-centered Word and Sacrament Lutheran ministry.

TO THE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS
OF CONCORDIA

GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF OUR
RISEN LORD!

It is always a privilege writing the
monthly newsletter article "From the Pas-
tor." I hope and pray that this column



strikes an
occasional
cord inside
of you the
reader.

I came
across sev-
eral articles
last week in

my reading. I would like to share just two
of these articles with you today. The first
article deals with the "HOW TO" needs of
having family devotions. The second ar-
ticle dealt with the "HOW TO" needs of
healing our hurts.

Let me begin with some thoughts on
healing hurts. I hope that the thoughts
presented will be of service to you. The
Christian author, Everett Washington, be-
gan his article on how we can heal hurts
with this thought.

"Painful memories scar our souls, but
God has provided a way to wholeness."
The author went on to detail out many
situations that he has encountered in his
private Christian Counseling practice. He
had four main points to consider when one
is busy "healing hurts."

1. AVOID CONSTANTLY REPLAY-
ING THE HURT.

2. RECOGNIZE YOUR PART IN
THE HURT.

3. WORK TOWARD UNDER-
STANDING WHY THEY DID IT. (This
does not mean necessarily agreeing with
the behavior.)

4. INTRODUCE JESUS INTO THE
SITUATION AND MEMORY. Jesus
Christ was "introduced" into the real situ-
ation of human circumstance and situa-
tion. God sent his only begotten Son into
the world so that all the world might
receive everlasting life. God healed the
hurt of sin through the life, death and
resurrection of Jesus. The healing of hurts
is never easy. The salvation of the world
was not easy. However, God introduced
Jesus into real life...So that we might have
life.

Yours In Christ
Pastor Cartwright



FAMILY DEVOTIONS - HOW IS YOUR
FAMILY DEVOTIONAL LIFE? If my "hunch"
is correct you perhaps are struggling in this area.
If you are successful then I rejoice with you.
The Old Testament is replete with families
worshipping together at home. There is regular
opportunities at home for families to "share
their faith" with one another. A good conversa-
tion and discussion at home is one of the most
powerful opportunities that God gives us to
grow in faith and knowledge of His grace. Carl
Laney, who authored the article, "Family Devot-
ions That Work" began the nuts and bolts of his
article by suggesting that a person develop some
family resources to aid their quest for family
devotion time. If this is a concern of yours
please come and speak with me, I can help you
in this area. SIX THINGS TO THINK ABOUT
FOR YOUR DEVOTION TIME:

1. SET UP A REGULAR TIME. (Daily,
weekly, etc)
2. THINK IN TERMS OF SHORT DURA-
TION.
3. MAINTAIN A BIBLICAL FOCUS.
4. SEEK ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF
ALL INVOLVED. 5. REMAIN FLEXIBLE
(Change with the years).
6. SWEET CONCLUSION (End on a good
note). These suggestions can be very helpful for
personal devotional times as well. The Chris-
tian life must be lived out in the home. We must
be willing to risk the sharing of our faith in the
privacy of our personal families. Sharing our
faith in the home is perhaps the best place where
the healing of hurts can take place.

Yours In Christ
Pastor Cartwright



No
other
foundation
Jesus
Christ

Editor's Corner

An Expert in Grace

Jesus was invited to dinner by a certain Pharisee named Simon (Luke 7:36-50). During the dinner, a woman who was a notorious sinner, a prostitute, comes and washes Jesus's feet with her tears and wipes them with her hair and anoints them with an expensive ointment. Simon takes offence at this and doubts that Jesus is really a prophet because He allows her to do this. Jesus responds to Simon's thoughts by telling him a short parable. "A certain creditor had two debtors; one owed him five hundred denarii; and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he forgave them both. Now which of them will love him the more?" As Jesus explains His parable to Simon he makes it clear that the woman knew quite a bit about herself. She knew that she needed a lot of forgiveness for there had been much wrong with her life. She also knew that she had forgiveness in Jesus. Christ tells us that this is evident by her great love for Him. She has become an expert in grace. She probably knows as much or more about Christ's ministry and purpose on earth than anyone else at this time in history. Her faith in Jesus is not shallow; it deep and heartfelt. Her faith is evident by a love so strong that it cannot be restrained. Her love seeks an avenue of expression and finds it in serving Him in a most humble task. She washes His feet with her tears of joy and gratitude and wipes them with her hair. Her earthly treasure has been spent on ointment for the purpose of anointing Him. This humble woman has much to teach us about God's mercy and our response to it.

Surely Simon has as much need of forgiveness and God's mercy as the woman but he doesn't realize it. Unlike the un-named woman, he either underestimates his debt to God or doesn't recognize it at all. Jesus warns Simon that "he who is forgiven little, loves little."

How much have you been forgiven? Maybe the question should be put "how much do you think you have been forgiven, a little or a lot?" The answer is another question, "how much do you love?"

None of us loves as much as we should, but as we grow in God's grace we should learn to love more and more. Our love of God and gratefulness towards our Saviour seeks expression. As we mature in the faith, we desire to serve our Lord. How do you respond when your church asks for volunteers to serve? Do you wave your hand or sink low in your seat?

There are times when we have other obligations or do not have the gifts to serve in a particular way, but what should one do if the very idea of church service is burdensome? The proper response is not to grit your teeth and serve anyway but to seek a deeper understanding of grace. Before the throne of God we are all needy and therefore we all need to become experts in grace. We all need a deeper understanding of how much God has forgiven us and how rich our Lord's mercy is.

-Don Patterson

Women's Guild News

The October Guild meeting was held at the home of Dianne Weber with 22 ladies in attendance.

Marlys Cartwright led the group in a program on "Self Esteem". Refreshments were served by the hostess, Dianne Weber. Good fellowship was enjoyed by all.

Many thanks went out to Joanne Boomgarden, Sandra Hogrefe, Thelma Haines and all who helped make the Fall Rummage and Bake Sale a great success: The total amount made on the sale was \$1268. The proceeds will be donated to various missions.

The Bazaar will be held on November 21st at the church starting at 9:00. A breakfast will be served and the most popular "Cookie Caper" will take place. It is a great time to do your Christmas Shopping!

There are craft workshops being held on Wednesdays at 1:00pm and 7:00pm at the church. Bake Days have been scheduled for November 6, 13, & 20. For more information on how you can help please contact:

Pam Patterson - Bazaar
Jan Fritz - Cookie Caper
Diana Rimel - Breakfast

The November Guild meeting will be held at the home of Jan McKay on Wednesday November 18 at 7:30. Plan to attend.



Strengthen the Bond

A couples evening is being planned for November 1st at 7:00 pm. Dessert and enrichment will be available. Watch for more information.

GIVE
THANKS
UNTO
THE
LORD
FOR HE
IS GOOD

Sunday School Teachers Seminar

There will be a seminar for Lutheran Sunday School teachers on November 7th. The seminar will be held in Grand Junction. Teachers and people interested in teaching are invited. Please talk to Lori Beverlin for more information.

TOGO UPDATE

Pastor Cartwright is quickly approaching the 600+ mark in his "MILES FOR MEALS." His goal is 1,000 miles for 1992...Running and Cross-Country Skiing. A meal is being planned for our congregation. It will be a meal that will serve all African dishes. The money that you would have used to fix a meal at home (or at a restaurant) will be donated to our Togo Project. Keep an eye open for this coming event. Also, our Sunday School is busy collecting their first quarter offerings for this need. Thanks to all you Sunday School kids. If you would like to sponsor Pastor Cartwright for all or part of his miles, just let him know your intentions. One family in our congregation committed to sponsor Pastor for the miles run from October 15th through January 1. Think along these lines. Our final event for Togo will be a Cross-Country ski event that will be set for mid-January. The entrance fee and cost of a "T" shirt will not be needed. It will only be requested of you that you make a donation to this need instead. The Lutheran World Relief "Togo" project for 1992 has a need of \$10,000 dollars. It is a marvelous opportunity to try and meet all or part of that need.



Lost & Found

People have left several dishes from special dinners and potucks at the church. Please check the box in the kitchen if you are missing some dishes or casseroles.



Sunday School Staff

It would please the Sunday School Superintendent and her energetic, enthusiastic assistant to host a staff meeting on Wednesday November 11th. We will meet at the church from 7:15-8:30. No RSVP is necessary, but we would love to have the entire gifted staff present. Refreshments will be provided by whoever volunteers to bring them.

Thanks
-Lori Beverlin

BAPTISM AS A MEANS OF GRACE



by Rev. Kenneth R. Scherer

Editor's note: Beginning this month, "Searching Scripture" will carry a three-part Bible study that sets forth the solid Scriptural basis for the Lutheran understanding and practice of baptism. The three parts will cover the issues dividing Lutherans and fundamentalists: baptism as a means of grace, infant baptism and methods of baptism.

Baptism is one of God's greatest gifts to His people. Unfortunately, the sacrament is often a source of disagreement among various churches. Fundamentalist churches often give the impression that their understanding and practice of baptism is in full accordance with the teachings of the Bible and that we Lutherans have little, if any, Scriptural basis for our understanding and practice. This is simply not true.

For fundamentalist churches, baptism is not so much a means of grace as it is a profession of faith—a physical act that the "born-again" person submits to as an act of obedience, to show that he is indeed born-again. The fundamentalist churches stress the human element in baptism. For them, baptism is not so much what God is doing but what man is doing. Man plays the active role in his baptism. But is this the emphasis of Scripture in regard to baptism? Let's look.

Acts 2:37-38—Notice that Peter tells those whom the Holy Spirit is reaching through his message to be baptized "for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Baptism is not something that they were to do as a testimony to being saved. In baptism, God would do something for them. He would

forgive their sins, and they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 22:16—If anyone ever had a born-again experience and could point to the day and the time, it was the apostle Paul. But was his baptism just a testimony to his conversion and an act of obedience? Hardly! He is told to "be baptized and wash your sins away." Forgiveness of sins flowed to Paul through his baptism.

1 Peter 3:21—Baptism is not "the removal of dirt from the body" but a sacrament "that now saves you." God does far more for us in our baptism than any amount of physical washing could do. He totally cleanses our whole being, and we have the "pledge of a good conscience" toward Him. This pledge is not the means of salvation but the result. We can have a "good conscience toward God" only after we have received His grace. In this verse, baptism is the channel through which that grace flows.

Titus 3:5—God saves us, not by anything that we do, but by what He has done for us. He saves us through "the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit." God's grace flows through baptism for our salvation. He is the subject of this sentence; we are the object. God's role in baptism is active; ours is passive. God gives, and we receive, salvation through baptism.

Eph. 5:25-27—What a picture of God's grace! We stand before Christ tattered and filthy with sin, and He bathes us in baptism—"the washing with water through the Word"—and presents us to Himself "radiant . . . without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless." Again, Christ's role is active; ours is

passive. Christ washes us and makes us presentable to Himself.

Rom. 6:3-4—Notice again the passive role of the person baptized. Baptism is not a testimony that we are in Christ, but rather it is the very means that God uses to put us into union with Christ and to give us the benefits of His death on our behalf. We "were baptized into Christ Jesus." We "were baptized into His death." Our active role is to "live a new life" as a result of our baptism.

The Scriptures are abundantly clear. God is active in baptism. Man is passive. God is giving. Man is receiving. Baptism is a means of grace. God's grace flows through the channel of baptism to forgive our sins, save us and empower us with the Holy Spirit to live a Christian life.

A word of clarification: While it is true that baptism saves us (1 Pet. 3:21), it saves us in the sense that it is a means of grace—a channel through which God's grace flows. Our faith is not in the channel, but in the grace that flows through it. Our faith is not in the ritual of our baptism, but in the reality of God's grace in our baptism. We can lose all the benefits of our baptism if we reject God's grace in it, if we in unbelief refuse to live the Christian life to which God calls us through our baptism.

Editor's note: Next month, the Scriptural basis for infant baptism.



Rev. Kenneth R. Scherer is pastor of Spirit of Life Lutheran Church, serving Inverness and North Hoffmar, Ill.

November 1992

Concordia Lutheran Church

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9-00am COMMUNION 10-30am Adult Class 10-30am SUNDAY SCHOOL 4-30pm CONFIRMATION 7-00pm Strengthen the Bond ELDER: Deepe Greeters - Boongarden Ushers - Doug Warner & Jake Weber	2	3 6-30am B STUDY 6-15pm CHOR 7-30pm Committees Meet	4 9-30am Women's Bible Study	5	6	7 CLEAN- Warner/Warner/Niemann Pastor's Family Day
8 9-00am WORSHIP 10-30am Adult Class 10-30am SUNDAY SCHOOL 4-30pm CONFIRMATION Greeters - Erickson Ushers - Jean & Fritz Upham	9	10 6-30am B STUDY 6-15pm CHOR 7-30pm VOTERS MEETING Circuit Pastor Meeting	11 9-30am Women's Bible Study 7-15pm Sunday School Staff Meeting	12	13	14 CLEAN- Carrell/Bauer/Rodgers/ Jarvis Pastor's Family Day
15 9-00am COMMUNION 10-30am Adult Class 10-30am SUNDAY SCHOOL 4-30pm CONFIRMATION ELDER: Beverlin Greeters - Harris/Volberding Youth Group Scavenger Hunt Ushers - Jean & Fritz Upham	16	17 6-30am B STUDY 6-15pm CHOR 7-00pm Concordia Callers	18 9-30am Women's Bible Study 7-30pm WOMEN'S GUILD	19	20	21 CLEAN- Denton/Sineg/Deepe/Rauh Pastor's Family Day L'VMIL...Burch, Bazaar, & Cookie Caper
22 9-00am WORSHIP 10-30am Adult Class 10-30am SUNDAY SCHOOL 12-45pm NURSING HOME 4-30pm CONFIRMATION Greeters - Patterson NEWSLETTER DEADLINE Ushers - Larry & Lynn Worrell	23	24 6-30am B STUDY 6-15pm CHOR 7-30pm Collage Meeting	25 9-30am Women's Bible Study 7-00pm THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP	26	27	28 4-00pm Wedding CLEAN- Fritzd/Dug Pastor's Family Day
29 9-00am COMMUNION 10-30am Adult Class 10-30am SUNDAY SCHOOL ELDER: Sheawe Greeters - Frantel Ushers - Larry & Lynn Worrell	30					