

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: Pastor Cartwright and Marlys Cartwright

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

Sunday Worship: 9:00am and 7:00pm.

Sunday School and Adult Education: 10:30am



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Concordia Lutheran Church

CHRISTOGRAM

DECEMBER

1993



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Tim Cartwright - Pastor

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GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF OUR ADVENT KING!

"Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star in the East and have come to worship him." (Matt.2:2)

I heard an advertisement on the radio the other day offering a very unique Christmas present costing only \$35.00. Just send a check or money-order to the "official" star naming company. They will then pick a star for you and name it after you. They then send you an astronomical sky map which details out for you where your star is located. \$35.00 dollars for your own star. What a deal!

During the Christmas/Advent season I occasionally gaze heavenward during the dark night hours. I look for bright stars during Advent. I try to imagine what it would be like to locate "the star in the East" which must have totally captivated the Wise men.

But then I became a bit somber. Only a few (traditionally three) wise persons recognized the sign in the sky of the coming Savior. So few recognized that the Messiah had indeed come. The Holy Word of God was (and still is) a huge floodlight pointing the way...but so few recognized!

A brilliant star named Jesus, Christ, Messiah, Almighty God, Savior, Wonderful Counselor sparkled above the sleepy Bethlehem hamlet. That light focused on a stable....on a manger...on a child. A pinpoint of light made its way through the layers of swaddling clothes. There, having come into a dark world, was the light of the world.

Suddenly, one realizes that things are reversed. It wasn't that the light of the star in the East was shining down on some poor Jewish baby in a manger. But, that from the heart of this God-child there arose a mighty beam of light. It illumined the star...the sky. The light of the world claimed a star and directed the wise men to Bethlehem.

That light is still shining. It is a ray of hope, love and forgiveness. It is a beacon of salvation in a sin-dark world. That light still shines from our Lord. It was a risen Lord that brilliantly burst forth from the grave! The darkness of sin (our sin), death (our death), and the devil has been dispelled! That is the "son-shine" of Advent.

Hymn 59: "O Little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie! Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by; Yet in thy darkness shineth the everlasting light; The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight."

God Bless your Advent/Christmas



Pastor

**Joy
to the
World**

BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST

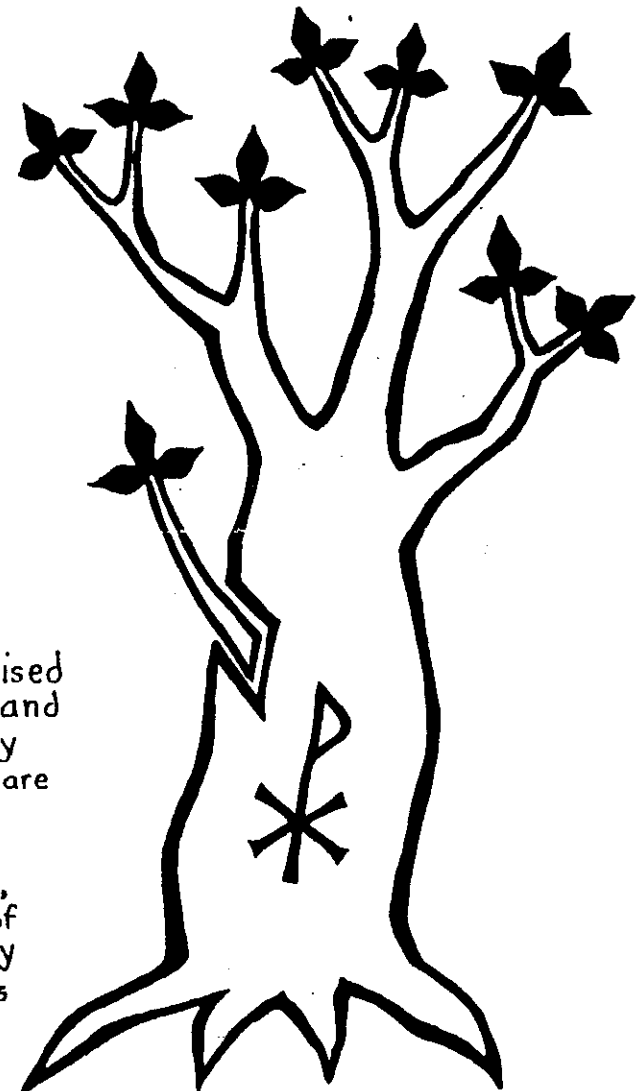
- ✦ You are incorporated into Christ and into his body, the church.
- ✦ You are initiated, adopted into my covenant people.
- ✦ You are called! Chosen! Saved! Born again!
- ✦ You are forgiven - free to live without excuses.
- ✦ You are ordained, set aside to be a minister.
- ✦ You are marked with the cross of Christ forever.
- ✦ You are given the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In the baptismal water we died with Christ. We were crucified and buried in order that we might be raised with Christ to live the new life, to dwell in a new reality, a new order of existence.

Because of Baptism we are Christians. Never does our status before God depend on...

- how we feel.
- having the right experience.
- being free of doubts.
- what we accomplish.
- our success or our position.

We are Christians because God surprised us. Coming in water, God washed us and grafted us into Christ. Our identity for all the days of our life is set! We are children of God, priests of the King, disciples of Christ, a servant people, a holy nation, the communion of saints, the followers of *the Way*, proclaimers of the wonderful deeds of God. Jesus' story becomes our story. Baptized into his death, we are raised to live as the Body of Christ in the world today.



WHEN YOUR
HOPE IS
SO STRONG THAT
IT'S CATCHING,
YOUR LIGHT
ATTRACTS OTHERS
TO THE WAY



SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM

Concordia's Sunday School children will be leading us in worship on the 12th of December during the morning service. It should be marvelous.



I wanted to live my life completely to the end. Do you understand? Completely!

I couldn't die until I knew that this world would be saved.

That's why I searched for the Savior, and God led me to a child.

Do you understand? A child.

Such a small thing was missing to make my life complete.

SIMEON

CONGREGATIONAL EPIPHANY PARTY:

January 8th at 6:30pm at the Ore house Restaurant Concordia will host its annual Epiphany party. A special menu is being prepared which includes Prime rib and Teryiake Chicken.

A special program of Song, Comedy, live entertainment, and devotion will take place that night.

Make arrangements in your schedule for this event. The cost is \$15.00 per person. It should be a grand congregational event.



While she listened quietly,
God chose Mary.
In her stillness, the depths
of God unfolded in her.
As she softly prepared,
God became human.

FRESH CUT CHRISTMAS TREES!!!!

Concordia's Youth Group will be cutting 10 Christmas trees this year. Two of those trees will be used to enhance our sanctuary this Advent season. Eight fresh cut trees will be available to interested individuals and families on December 12th. A silent auction will take place during the special Christmas meal that the youth group will be preparing for the congregation. The trees will be cut on December 5th. Be sure to take a look at the tree that you would like to purchase.



SENIOR HIGH WORSHIP SERVICE

Concordia's Senior High Group will lead worship services on December 12th during the evening service. Come and worship. A meal will proceed the service.

Christmas Schedule

A LETTER FOR US

Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ,...to the only wise God, through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever! Amen. *Romans 16:25,27*



JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH SERVICE

Concordia's Confirmation class will be sponsoring the first Advent service this year. They will be handling the service on December 1st. They have been making preparations for this service in the Confirmation class. Following that service, the Confirmation Class will be viewing a special Christian Video dealing with Sexuality and the Christian.



LWML NEWS CONCORDIA WOMEN'S GUILD

The November Meeting of Concordia Women's Guild met at the home of Thelma Haines with 17 in attendance. Pastor Cartwright presented the topic "Shedding His Light on Making a Difference"

The next meeting will be a special "Christmas Brunch" at the home of Elaine Stronecek on Saturday December 11 at 10AM. All women of the church are invited. Also secret sisters are reminded to bring a gift and at this time will reveal their identity.

Many thanks to everyone who helped at the Bazaar, Cookie Caper and Brunch. Over \$5,000 was raised to help fund mission projects here and abroad.

GOOD SHEPHERD

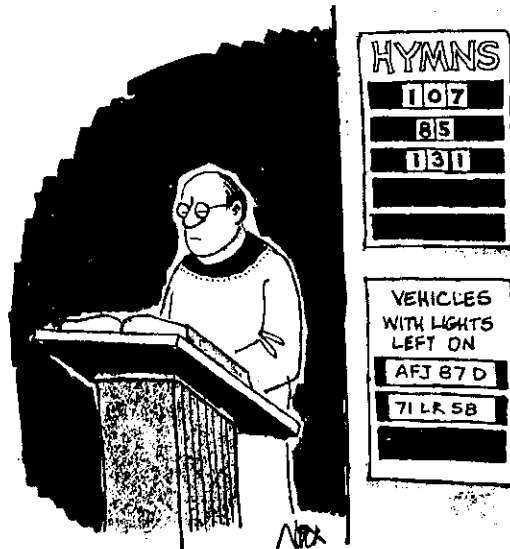
Any product made by Campbells, (just check the label to be sure), including Franco American products and Prego spaghetti sauce. Also, all Swanson's products (cut out the diamond logo from frozen foods), Flav-R-Pak Frozen food labels, trading stamps and cigarette coupons. Place these in the Red and White box in the narthex.

THANKS IN ADVANCE!



**Witnesses
of a Miraculous Night**

We should be witnesses of joy.
Not because joy comes from us,
for our hearts are often heavy.
We should be witnesses of joy,
because God gives it to us.



DECEMBER WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

- Dec. 1...Advent #1-Junior High
leads worship.....7:00pm
(Soup Supper).....5:30pm
- Dec. 5...Sunday Morning.....9:00am
Sunday Evening.....7:00pm
- Dec. 8...Advent #2.....7:00pm
(Soup Supper).....5:30pm
- Dec.12...Sunday School Program..9:00am
High School Program....7:00pm
(Dinner).....5:00pm
- Dec.15...Advent #3.....7:00pm
(Soup Supper).....5:30pm
- Dec.19...Sunday Morning.....9:00am
Sunday Evening.....7:00pm
- Dec.24...Christmas Communion...6:00pm
Christmas Service.....7:30pm
Candlelight Communion..10:30pm
- Dec.26...Sunday Morning.....9:00am
Sunday Evening.....7:00pm
- Dec.31...New Years Communion...7:00pm

We are thankful that our Gracious God has given us the opportunity to worship the "Newborn" King during this Advent/Christmas season.

Our congregation is thankful for our Young People who will lead several of the above services.



MANY
SMALL LIGHTS
SHINING TOGETHER
GIVE US A
HINT OF
THE GREAT
LIGHT OF GOD

May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:23



CONCORDIA STATISTIC: (November)

- Week #1...(M) 137 (E) 41....178
- Week #2...(M) 182 (E) 19....201
- Week #3...(M) 183 (E) 24....207
- Week #4...N/A at printing


NOVEMBER: (Ave. Weekly Attendance)

- 1991.....115
- 1992.....165
- 1993.....195

What a joy it is to be with God's people in worship and study here at Concordia. Let us continue to reach out and reach in.

D E C E M B E R



Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	SAT
1st Sunday of Advent			 Soup Supper 5:30 Advent Worship 7PM 1 Confirmation 7:45PM	Women's Bible Study 10 AM 2 Recovery Room 7:15PM	(Fort Collins Youth Group) 3	(Fort Collins Youth Group) 4
2nd Sunday of Advent Worship 9 AM Bible Class 10:30AM Youth Christmas Tree Cutting CONFIRMATION 4:30PM Worship 7 PM 5	6	Bible Study 6:30AM Brownies 3:30PM Choir 6:30 PM 7 Com-mittees 7:30PM	Immaculate Conception Soup Supper 5:30 Advent Worship 7PM 8	Women's Bible Study 10AM Recovery Room 7:15PM 9	10	Men's Breakfast Fellowship 7-9AM LWML CHRISTMAS BRUNCH 10AM (Elaine Stroneck's) 11
3rd Sunday of Advent Worship 9AM (Children's Christmas Program) Bible Class 10:30AM CONFIRMATION 4:30PM Youth Supper 5:30PM Youth Christmas Worship 7:00PM 12	13	Bible Study 6:30AM Brownies 3:30PM Voters 7:30 PM 14 Choir 6:30PM	Soup Supper 5:30PM Advent Worship 7:00PM 15	Women's Study 10AM Recovery Room 7:15PM 16	17	18
4th Sunday of Advent Worship 9AM SUNDAY SCHOOL & Bible Class 10:30AM 19 Worship 7PM	20	Tuesday Bible Study 6:30AM Choir 6:30 PM 21	22	Recovery Room 7:15PM 23	Christmas Eve 6:00PM Worship (Lord's Supper) 7:30PM Worship 10PM Candlelight Worship 24	Christmas Day 25
Holy Family Worship 9AM NO BIBLE CLASS OR SUNDAY SCHOOL 26 ECC WORSHIP 12:45 PM	27	Tuesday Bible Study 6:30 AM Choir 6:30 PM 28	29	Recovery Room 7:15PM 30	New Year's Eve 31	Mary, Mother of God New Year's Day
