

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



Concordia Lutheran Church

CHRISTOGRAM

JANUARY

1994



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Tim Cartwright - Pastor

Church Phone: 879-0175

TO THE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF CONCORDIA!

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord!

"Do you not say, 'Four months more and then the harvest?'I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest!" (John 4:35)

The end of the summer was a very moving time for Earl Carter of Ypsilanti, Michigan. A half-ton pair of tires flew off a truck and slammed into his home. They smashed through a bedroom window and pulled his waterbed across the room. They tore through a bedroom wall and ripped a bathroom door out of his son's hands and skidded to a halt in the next room. Carter's single story frame house was rocked and knocked from its foundations. Every ceiling was destroyed.

People put things off. We drag our feet and procrastinate. Our lives are adversely effected by "putting things off." Tomorrow instead of today. Earl Carter had no way to predict that his house would be jolted off its foundations...But it happened!

The disciples in the above Scripture passage were telling Jesus that it would be four months before the harvest would be ready. Jesus' response was to the point. "Open your eyes! Look at the fields! They are ready now!"

New Years' resolutions plague much of our American society. They are a plague because the resolutions usually turn into something that will get done LATER in the year. Weight loss, eating habits, exercise, reading, hobbies, time with the kids, etc., all have a way of making the list of resolutions.

Concordia Lutheran Church †
P.O. Box 770428; 755 Concordia Lane
Steamboat Springs, CO 80477

As 1994 rushes into place, may we be aware that changes can take place in our personal spiritual lives, TODAY! Prayer, study, devotion, regular worship, regular attendance at the Lord's Table, and regular support of our congregation here at Concordia can truly enhance your total life. These resolutions can indeed be frustrating to complete. However, this ministry here at Concordia is in place to help you.

God made a firm resolution. He resolved to deal with the brokenness of the world and its sinful bent. He sent Jesus. He didn't wait until tomorrow. He's completed that resolution. "Today, is the day of Salvation!" Let us resolve to know that resolution each day of 1994...and on to eternity. Peace!

Our foundations can be, and are, regularly rocked. However, THE ROCK of our salvation is firmly in place. Christ is our cornerstone. 1994 is securely in God's hands. Resolve to know this foundation in the coming year.

Pastor Cartwright

Tim

On Riches

Christ never said money or material things were **problems**. He said that they were symptoms of the real problems. He constantly warned us to guard our "hearts" against greed, covetousness, ego, and pride, because these are the tools that Satan uses to control and manipulate this world. Christ warned us a great deal more about materialism than He did any other sin. "And He said to them, "Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions" (Luke 12:15). In fact, in the parable about salvation in Matthew 13:18-23, "the deceitfulness of riches" is given as a cause for unfruitfulness. Satan has taken the very riches provided by God to enhance our lives and bring others to salvation and has diverted them for his use. Today, even Christians evaluate (or value) others on the basis of how much they have and how successful they are in worldly terms. The



And Samuel said,
"Speak for your
servant is listening."
1 Samuel 3:10

poor are thought to be losers—less spiritual than the winners. If an affluent Christian family has a child who chooses mission work as a life's vocation, family members try to talk him or her out of it, because it pays so poorly. We say we want the best for our children, and yet too often the best is measured by temporal values, rather than eternal values.

Youth

Concordia's youth Group will meet on January 16th for a special skating outing. The time has yet to be set. A brief Bible Study and Devotional time will precede the event at the church.

Our High School Bible class meets every Sunday morning at 10:30am. Please set this as a priority for your spiritual life. Some special events have been planned for the month of January for the High School class.

It is great to have the gift of High School young people in our congregation. You are an important part of our Ministry here at concordia.



ANNOUNCING

EPIPHANY PARTY

Concordia will be hosting their annual Epiphany Part this year on January 8th at the Ore House here in Steamboat. The cost for the evening will be \$15.00 dollars per person. The evening is set to begin at 6:30pm.

A special meal...A special time of devotion...A special time of fun...A special time of humor...A special time of fellowship and friendship making.

Epiphany is the season of the church calendar that focuses our attention on the wise men's visit to the young Jesus. It is a time when we celebrate the truth that God came in the flesh for all people..... even those far away. Let us draw near to one another at the Epiphany party.

Try inviting a new member to this event. What a great way to build new friendships here at Concordia.

Pam Patterson
Chairperson.

p.s. Pam will be taking registrations party at church.

Ten assimilation steps

St. Peter, Macomb, Mich., located in a rapidly growing area, averages 60 visitors every week. Some of these are repeat visitors who wish to become members of our adult confirmation class.



The assimilation committee conducts the following program:

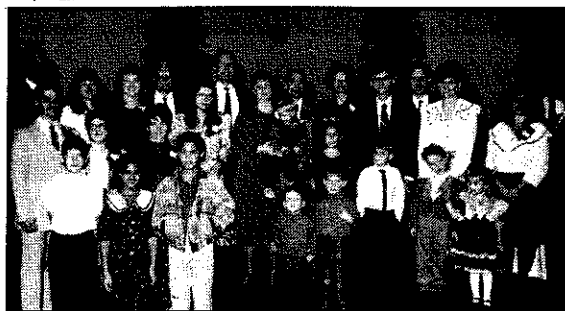
1. An orientation class for all who wish to become members.
2. Orientation includes getting acquainted; a spiritual gifts analysis; an opportunities for involvement survey; expectations and procedures for new members in the area of worship, communion attendance, Bible study, fellowship, giving and service; and a tour of the church and school.
3. At a welcome service, new members receive a flower to wear, are welcomed during the service and receive a certificate of membership. Individual and group pictures are taken.
4. A potluck meal is served immediately after the welcome service. The new members are welcomed by board and organization leaders and receive a new member packet. The packet contains a pictorial directory, church telephone directory, list of organizations and leaders, Portals of Prayer, Michigan Lutheran, the church newsletter, a cross from AAL, the church constitution and similar materials.
5. The new members are introduced to the congregation through bulletin inserts that feature the new member's picture and some interesting information about that person.
6. New members are provided with sponsors by the sponsor subcommittee.

7. The records subcommittee keeps all the data regarding spiritual gifts and areas of interest in service.

8. Other subcommittees attempt to help boards, organizations and staff get the new member involved in an area where he or she expressed interest in serving.

9. The new members are asked to complete a questionnaire about their assimilation into our church.

10. At this point, the orientation of new members is working smoothly. Much more work needs to be done in the follow-up area of getting them involved in serving, Bible class and discipleship. We also are working on more intentional evangelism efforts through canvassing and follow-up calls.



At St. Peter, Macomb, Mich., 18 adults were confirmed and seven received by professions of faith.



Who is my neighbor?

Trinity, Lake George, Fla., encourages all its members to think of neighbors "as those around us who have not been given forth in Christ or are living without a church home." It's an "all-in-the-neighborhood" outreach theme, inviting neighbors to one's home and then to church.

The congregation credits its 10 percent a year growth to being neighbors to all neighbors in the area. Pastor Gary Rehborg tells us that the excitement builds as new members especially bring their neighbors.

Four factors are critical for growth

Pastor Stephen Mueller of St. Paul, Junction City, Wis., lists four critical factors for growth in the congregation:

1. Visit all guests at worship within 48 hours.
2. Friendship evangelism.
3. People are invited to become involved in activities before they join.
4. Pastor with a vision (always asking for names of possible contacts, present at local public school and on its field trips, chaplain for the fire department, etc.) of caring about people.



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

Rejoice

FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

From Kennon Callahans' book entitled, "Twelve Ways To Keep An Effective Church":

"God's promise draws us toward our future with compassion and certainty. Do you believe that your best years are behind you? Or do you believe that your best years are yet before you?"

He answers that question: "God goes before you to make all things new...inviting us to that future that God has promised and prepared for us. Hope is stronger than memory. Salvation is stronger than sin. Forgiveness is stronger than bitterness. Reconciliation is stronger than hatred. Resurrection is stronger than crucifixion. Light is stronger than darkness...Hope is stronger than memory."

The Board of Education is busy structuring Educational opportunities for our congregation. Plans are taking shape for many areas of our shared congregational life.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

MEN'S BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP

Men of the congregation be sure to mark your calendars for our next Saturday morning breakfast-fellowship opportunity. On Saturday the 8th of January we will once again gather to graze on marvelous breakfast goodies. Thanks for the support of this new area of our ministry here at Concordia. 7:00am to 9:00am...In the church basement.

"The Family: a resource for and a responsibility in a changing world." Transcending all national and cultural boundaries, the family remains significant. It is the nucleus out of which society forms.

CHRISTMAS BASKETS

A special word of thanks goes out to Rebecca Wattles and Alma Baldwin for the many hours of care put into the preparation and delivery of our Christmas Baskets.

Several families in our Steamboat Community enjoyed Christmas in a special way because of these efforts.

There were many individuals and families in our congregation who either donated food, goods or dollars to this effort. Thanks you for sharing of yourselves this Christmas in this way. May God bless your unconditional giving. Let us thank God for the gift of giving!

THANK YOU

The Other Prophet

Jesus doesn't fit in easily to the long line of prophets who, before and after him, proclaimed God's Word. None of them possessed the unique authority, which he as the Son of God exhibited.

A LETTER FOR US

Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

1 Corinthians 8:6



CONCORDIA CLEANING

The church has been sparkling over this very busy Advent and Christmas season. This is due to the great efforts put out through our volunteer cleaning program.

Please check your mailboxes for the latest annual cleaning schedule. This list should take our congregation through May of 1994.

Board of Trustees

CONCORDIA WORSHIP STATS:

DECEMBER 1993:

Week #1....(M)169 (E)41.....	210
Week #2....(M)204 (E)85.....	289
Week #3....(M)151 (E)46.....	197
Week #4....(M)..78 (E)13.....	91

DEC. AVE. WEEKLY ATTENDANCE:

1991.....	105
1992.....	139
1993.....	197

ADVENT 1993:

#1.....	105
#2.....	107
#3.....	81

THANKSGIVING:

1991.....	85
1992.....	105
1993.....	102

CHRISTMAS EVE:

1991.....	278
1992.....	338
1993.....	443

YEARLY AVERAGE WEEKLY ATT:

1991.....	123
1992.....	138
1993.....	184

We thank God for the many opportunities that we have had to worship this Advent/Christmas season. There has been a strong participation here at Concordia by our members, our guests and visitors.

Our young people here at Concordia have served well during this festive time of year. The worship services that they conducted were great. The special meals prepared were great.

Thanks to all those individuals who helped prepare the Advent Soup suppers.

Special thanks to the Choir and musicians who have added greatly to our services and season.

Ushers, Altar Guild, Acolytes and Greeters make the season smooth. Many other unnamed individuals chased the details that make this season special. Thanks to each one of you.

God be with you as we worship together in 1994. God's peace.

I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. Isaiah 42:1



JANUARY 1994

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 WORSHIP...9:00am ED. HOUR...10:30am EVENING WORSHIP...7:00pm AAL MTG. 10:15am	3	4 BIBLE ST....6:30am BROWNIES....3:30pm CHOIR.....6:30pm COMMITTEES..7:15pm	5 ADULT INFORMATION MEMBERSHIP CLASS 7:15pm	6 Epiphany WOMENS ST...9:30am RECOVERY ROOM 7:15pm	7	1 The Name of Jesus The Circumcision of Our Lord New Year's Day 8 MENS BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP...7:00am EPIPHANY PARTY 6:30pm Ore House
9 1st Sunday after the Epiphany WORSHIP.....9:00am ED. HOUR.....10:30am CONFIRMATION...4:30pm EVENING WORSHIP.7:00pm	10	11 BIBLE ST....6:30am BROWNIES....3:30pm CHOIR.....6:30pm VOTERS.....7:30pm	12 ADULT INFORMATION MEMBERSHIP CLASS 7:15pm	13 WOMENS ST...9:30am RECOVERY ROOM 7:15pm	14	15
16 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany WORSHIP.....9:00am ED. HOUR.....10:30am YOUTH GROUP.....4:00pm EVENING WORSHIP...7:00pm	17 Martin Luther King Day	18 The Confession of St. Peter BIBLE ST....6:30am BROWNIES....3:30pm CHOIR.....6:30pm	19 WOMENS BIBLE ST. SKI/LUNCH AT THE HOME RANCH LWML...7:30pm	20 RECOVERY ROOM 7:15pm	21	22
23 3rd Sunday after the Epiphany WORSHIP.....9:00am ED. HOUR.....10:30am E.C.C.....12:45pm CONFIRMATION.....4:30pm EVENING WORSHIP...7:00pm	24	25 The Conversion of St. Paul BIBLE ST...6:30am BROWNIES...3:30pm CHOIR.....6:30pm	26 ADULT INFORMATION MEMBERSHIP CLASS 7:15pm	27 WOMENS ST...9:30am RECOVERY ROOM 7:15pm	28	29
30 4th Sunday after the Epiphany WORSHIP.....9:00am ED. HOUR.....10:30am EVENING WORSHIP..7:00pm " FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY "	31					