

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** †  
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Steamboat Springs, CO 80477

Concordia Lutheran Church

**CHRISTOGRAM**

**FEBRUARY**

**1994**



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Tim Cartwright - Pastor

Church Phone: 879-0175

Author Sue Kidd says "Years ago I volunteered at a shelter for abused children. One day I met Billy, a boy with spiky brown hair and pale brows to match his pale face. The only life in him was a thirsty look in the half-moons of his eyes. He'd been horribly wounded and was reluctant to go beyond the security he'd found in his room. The day of the Christmas party he shrank against the pillow on his bed and refused to leave his room. "But aren't you coming to the party?" I asked. He shook his head.

"Sure you are," said the volunteer beside me. "All you need is to put your on your courage skin."

"Okay" he finally said. While I watched, she helped him don an imaginary suit of "courage skin," and off he went to the party, willing to risk going beyond secure places.

When I read this piece, it reminded me of our Thursday night "Recovery Room" support group. At 7:15PM each Thursday here at Concordia a group of 10-15 people come together to dress in courage skin. No matter where we've come from, the losses and troubles we've endured, the failures we've admitted, we come together, nevertheless, to be clothed in Christ and His Courage.

Courage comes from the French word "couer", which means "heart". Many references in the scriptures tell us to "take Heart", have courage. Because of God's HEART, full of love for us, we have generous portions of Hope & Courage. Like Billy, we step out of our rooms (the places in our lives where we were previously stuck) and live new lives.

"May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by His grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word." 2 Thess.

## 1994 Convention Ingathering!!

The Pregnancy Center in Grand Junction, CO will be the recipient of the bountiful gifts that will be brought to the district convention in June 1994. The center is a volunteer/donor supported organization. The volunteers are trained and are given guidelines to help people needing their services. The Pregnancy Center provides: consultation in choices other than abortion; three day classes on LIFE; free pregnancy tests; basic needs for expectant moms and their babies by loan and gift; support groups; seminars in area schools stressing abstinence and discussing the consequences of non-abstinence.

Because their needs are great, the Mission Service Committee is suggesting the following items:

**For baby:** layette items; blankets, gowns; diapers; crib sheets; socks; booties; quilts; toys such as teething toys and those with good learning opportunities; car seats; cribs; play pens; strollers.

**For mom:** maternity clothes as the center operates a maternity clothing exchange.

All items should be new or very near new for mom and baby. The Pregnancy Center will also accept money to be used for the purchase of needed items.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

1) Sunday School Children will sing during the AM worship on 2/27. 2) Thank you to Sandra Hogrefe for volunteering to do our Nursery Roll. 3) Cookies & Juice. A big favorite with our kids. If you'd like to donate, the sign-up list is by the coffeepot.

THANKS, LORI.



### Altar Guild

Pastor will be having an informational meeting on duties of the Altar Guild on Sunday Feb. 6 following the worship for all women involved. It will be repeated after the evening service. Anyone interested is invited. Thanks.

### Women's Guild

The January meeting was held at Susan Rostvedt's home with 17 members in attendance.

Sally Marshall presented the topic "Shedding His Light on Supporting One Another in Tough Times". Discussion followed the viewing of a video.

The Mission Committee presented a list of Mission Projects which we will support through proceeds from our Rummage Sale & Bazaar. It will be voted on in February.

Other items discussed: New Secret Sisters, LWML District Convention, and the need for new Bazaar Chmn.

We invite all Concordia Women to attend the next meeting at The Fornes home on Thursday, Feb. 17 at 7:30PM

### Strengthening the Bond

Romance (Ro'-mans): A way of life, in which love is openly expressed, passion flourishes and intimacy grows. 2) The expression of love 3) Love in action. "Romance is God's way of encouraging fidelity."

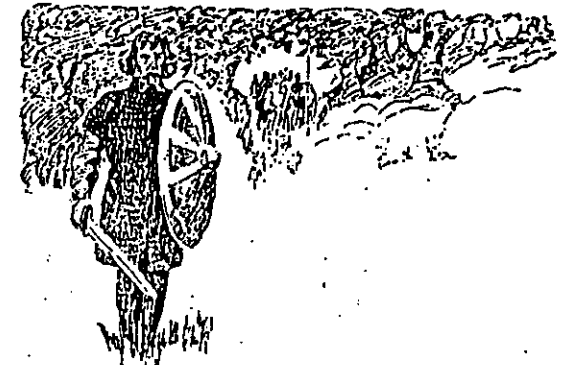
These days, there's a lot of marriage bashing. In fact, today I heard on the radio that 6 out of every 10 men in a survey would trade in their wife for a brand new Cadillac. Maybe it is time to take a break from this kind of thinking....come join us at the Olympian Hall, Howelsen Hill Lodge, on Friday Night February 25th at 7PM to celebrate God's Idea of marriage, something that is alive and thriving and BELIEVE IT OR NOT, a great place for Romance!

We have a wonderful evening planned with a fun program and desserts. Schedule it on your calendars now. (Bd. of Ed.)

"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" (II Corinthians 9:15)

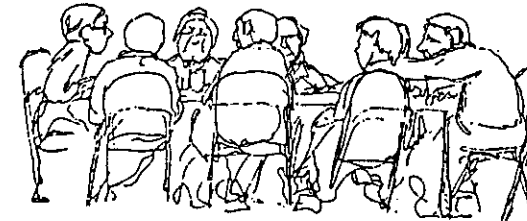
"For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have everlasting life." (John 3:16)

"We love Because He first loved us."  
(I John 4:19)



I think that it is time that we sat down around a table and had a conversation concerning a very touchy and ticklish topic of giving to, and the support of, a local ministry. Financial support of a local congregation must, from time to time, be discussed. A round-table discussion gives the opportunity for some of the facts to be discussed and considered.

Great caution must be exercised when approaching this topic. Yet, at the same time, a certain degree of boldness must also be exhibited. A local ministry can only exist, and thrive, with the consistent support of its members..



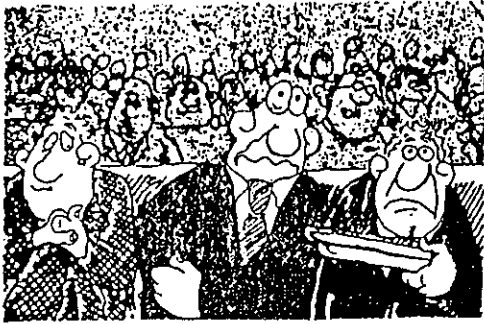
As one looks at the above three passages of Scripture, the only conclusion that can be drawn is that we have been given a very priceless and powerful gift. This gift is free and unconditional. The recently concluded Advent/Christmas season was a brilliant reminder of the very giving nature of our God. Jesus was given to us with no strings attached. The Son of God was given the name Jesus "...because He would save His people

from their sins." (Matt.1:21) Outside of this perfect gift from God there is no hope for life both now and eternally. Death, eternal death and separation from God, where there is "weeping and gnashing of teeth," (Matt.8:12, 13:42, 13:50, 22:13, 24:51, & 25:30) will be the only feeling left for us to experience eternally.

What a vivid mental picture of what life will be like, and is like, outside of the free gift of God's grace found in the forgiveness won for us by the life, death and resurrection of Christ Jesus our Lord. A person may avoid the reality of eternal death for many years of life, possibly even for all the days of life, but physical death brings the reality of "weeping and gnashing" to all those outside of God's grace in Christ. The gift has been given! That gift is the Jesus who saves. What is your response to that, "indescribable gift?" (II Corinthians 9:15)



A local ministry is the place where that gift is proclaimed. A local congregation is the place where children, adults, young people, singles, families, the aged, those in hospitals and those shut-in can all hear of the glorious news that life is now complete in Christ. Now, that's Good News. Now, we have a job to do right here in this place of ministry.



A local ministry can exist only through the support of its members. The primary responsibility of the members of a local congregation is for its members to be receivers of a Word and Sacrament ministry. Secondly, the members must respond and support the work of proclaiming the Gospel through the work of the local ministry. The giving of volunteer time, and the giving of one's special talents to the glory of God in the community must occur in order for that congregation to remain solvent. Financial support needs to be in place so that the spreading of the Good News of God's grace can take place. There is no other reason for giving except to support a ministry, your ministry, which speaks words of hope to a hopeless world. This speaking and giving is done in response to the gift which has been given and received!

God is the giver of all gifts. Everything we have has first been given to us. Health, family, friends, opportunity, clothing, shelter, mind, education, skills, money, time, talent, etc. We have nothing of which we can truly say is ours alone. Everything, in total, has first been given. The purpose of all of God's gifts is that they are to be used to support the work of spreading the Good News. What else is there when this life ends? You cannot take it with you.

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HOW DOES ONE SUPPORT A LOCAL MINISTRY "FINANCIALLY?"

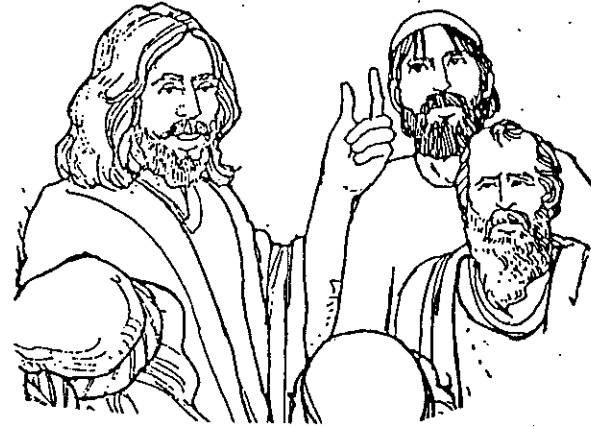
I. We give from our firstfruits. "When you reap a harvest...bring a sheaf of the first grain you harvest." (Leviticus 23:10) "We also assume responsibility for bringing to the house of the Lord each year the firstfruits of our crops and of every fruit tree...the firstfruit of our grain meal." (Nehemiah 10:35-37) Before anything else is given our God gently asks us to bring to Him the first-fruit of all that He has given to us. God gives to us the opportunity to give.

II. Not always, but often, the Scriptures teach that a percentage of one's resources are to be given back to the giver of all gifts. One-tenth of a person's resources is the oft-used percentage. (Genesis 28:22 & Nehemiah 10:38)

III. A person who gives, gives willingly. II Corinthians 9:6-7: "Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." Do not give because it is legislated or under duty, obligation, or guilt. Give because you want to give. Give because God has given you a gift. Give because God has rescued you from the pit of eternal hell. God has rescued you from death...your death! Give because, and in response to, that Good News.



IV. God asks us to give everything! This is the real cruncher. Mark 12:43-44: "...This poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in everything--all she had to live on." (These are the words of our Lord!)



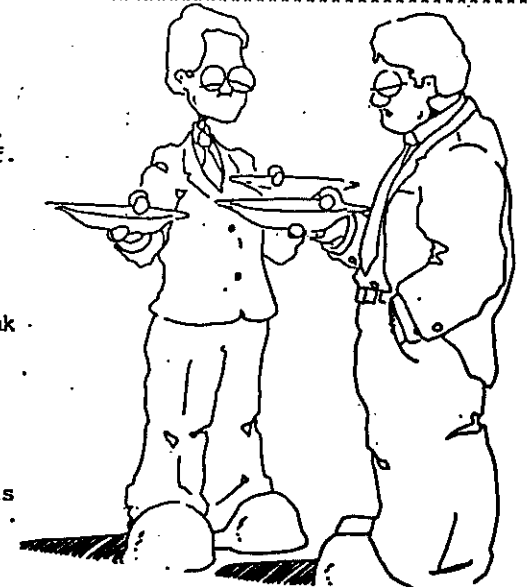
Another place in the Scriptures where the giving of all is advocated is mentioned in Acts 2:44-45..."All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need."

IN SUMMARY

- 1) Give because you have first been given to.
- 2) Give from your firstfruits.
- 3) Give a percentage of what you have been given.
- 4) Give from a willing heart.
- 5) Give your all, for all has been given to you.
- 6) Giving is an opportunity.
- 7) Giving is God's gift to us.
- 8) Giving is a response to God's gift to us.

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One does not give in order to get from God. The blessing of giving is the giving itself. Giving is done in response to what has already been given. The offering plate is an opportunity. The offering plate is not designed to create an internal surge and sense of failure. The offering plate is a part of the worship service. The taking of the offering is not the natural break point between the two ends of a worship service. The taking of the offering is not the signal that the end of the service is just around the corner. The offering plate opens up to us the opportunity to respond back to our God. By the way, the whole worship service is designed to be this type of event.



# HOW TO MANAGE GOD'S POSSESSIONS

# MINISTRY POINTS AT CONCORDIA LUTHERAN

## I. WHAT IS A STEWARD?

He or She is a \_\_\_\_\_

- Psalms 24:1
- Luke 12:48
- I Chronicles 29:14
- I Corinthians 4:2

## II. WHAT ARE WE TO DO WITH GOD'S POSSESSIONS?

- Matthew 25:14-30

Who was rewarded? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

Who was condemned? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

## III. LIST THE THINGS GOD HAS GIVEN YOU TO MANAGE

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_

## IV. SPIRITUAL GIFTS AND ABILITIES

- I Corinthians 12:1
- I Corinthians 12:4-11

How are these to be used?

- I Peter 4:10-11

Why are they to be used?

- I Corinthians 12:12ff

## V. MANAGING YOUR MONEY

Why is Money a sensitive subject?

Where does your money come from?

Why should we give to God?

- John 3:16
- Luke 6:38

What should we give to God?

- Malachi 3:8-10

We are to give \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

What is a "TITHE?"

What is an "OFFERING?"

How much should we give?

- I Corinthians 16:2

What should our attitude be?

- II Corinthians 9:7



**WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:** Concordia Lutheran provides two services each Sunday. A 9:00am service and a 7:00pm service are in place year round for our worshipping community. Also, special services are provided on Christmas, Easter, and Thanksgiving. Special Advent and Lenten services are provided on Wednesday evenings for your worship needs.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL AND BIBLE CLASS:** Each Sunday and Educational hour is provided for one's spiritual growth through study. Sunday School is provided for children pre-school through sixth grade. A Junior High Bible Class, as well as a Senior High Youth Seminar are provided for our young people. An Adult Bible Class meets during this hour. The time of this Educational hour is 10:30am. During the Summer months Concordia presently does not have an Educational hour.

**ADULT MEMBERSHIP/INSTRUCTION:** Two or three times a year Concordia offers a special class which helps individuals and families prepare for full membership in the congregation. These classes generally meet for four to six weeks on Wednesday evenings. These classes are under the guidance of Concordia's Pastor.

**HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY:** Regular Sunday morning Bible Class opportunities are in place for our High School young people. Also, a monthly gathering on Sunday afternoons is in place for our youth ministry. Special trips to youth gatherings are offered through Concordia's ministry. Volunteer counselors from the congregation help make this work possible. Attempts are being made to expand the work our congregation does with our High School population.

**JUNIOR HIGH CONFIRMATION:** Concordia offers a two year course of instruction for the benefit of our Junior High young people. This class meets on Sunday afternoons. This course of instruction prepares our young people for a more complete participation in the life of our congregation. Also, this two year course prepares a person to come to the Lord's Table. This class parallels the school calendar. Generally, Confirmation Sunday falls on the Sunday prior to Easter.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** Each Summer Concordia plans and implements a one week Vacation Bible School (VBS) for our congregation and community. The exact timetable varies from year to year. This program targets children from the ages of pre-school through sixth grade.

**TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASS:** Each Tuesday morning there is a Bible Study which takes place in the basement of the church. This group meets at 6:30am and concludes promptly at 7:30am. A volunteer from the congregation leads this study.

**THURSDAY MORNING WOMEN'S STUDY:** On Thursday mornings at 10:00am a group of women from our congregation gather for Bible study and Christian fellowship. This study is under the guidance of a volunteer of our congregation.

**MONTHLY MEN'S BREAKFAST:** Each month the men of Concordia gather on a Saturday morning at 7:00am to 9:00am for breakfast and Bible study. Generally, this occurs on the second Saturday of the month.

**WOMEN'S GUILD:** On the third Wednesday of each month the women of Concordia gather in a member's home for Bible study and fellowship. This meeting takes place in the evening at 7:30pm. Service projects as well as Mission projects are identified and supported through the guild. Crafts, Bazaar items and rummage recycling are used to generate nearly five \$5,000 to \$7,000 dollars for mission support.

**CONCORDIA CHOIR:** Throughout the year Concordia offers the opportunity for its members to join together in song on Tuesday evenings at 6:30pm. The choir helps lead our congregation in worship on selected Sundays and special services. Generally speaking the choir does not meet during the summer months. The choir is under the direction of volunteers from the congregation.

**RECOVERY ROOM:** Each Thursday evening a group of individuals meets in the basement of the church for support and guidance regarding the many faces of addiction and recovery. Individuals who are dealing with a life of sobriety, as well as individuals who are presently struggling with addiction, as well as individuals who may have a loved one struggling with addiction meet together for support and encouragement. Meeting time is 7:15pm.

**VOTING ASSEMBLY:** If you are an official member of Concordia Congregation you have the right and responsibility to participate in the Voting Assembly. This decision making body sets the financial directions for the congregation. Major decisions regarding the day-to-day care of the congregation are made here at the Voting Assembly. Presently the Assembly meets during selected months of the year on Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm.

**BOARD OF ELDERS:** Concordia's Board of Elders meets monthly to tend to the spiritual care and direction of the Congregation. The Board of Elders supports the Pastor as the Pastor seeks to serve the congregation.

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES:** The Board of Trustees cares for the Physical Plant here at Concordia. This Board meets monthly in order to address the many mechanical needs of our congregation. The Board of Trustees also has the responsibility to care for the upkeep of the parsonage. Cleaning schedules for church cleaning are organized by this board.

**EDUCATION COMMITTEE:** An Education committee is established by the congregation in order to manage the educational directions of our congregation. The Education Committee helps to identify and support a Sunday School Superintendent. This committee meets monthly to keep a watchful eye on the various programs of Concordia.

**CALLING AND CARING COMMITTEE:** Concordia's outreach is accomplished through this committee. Friendship Sunday's, visitor support, congregational training in sharing the faith, as well as many other details of outreach are addressed by this committee.

**WORSHIP COMMITTEE:** The Worship committee meets with the Pastor in order to work out the many details of nearly 75 worship services during the course of any given year. Organists, choir directors, and volunteers from the congregation work to provide variety and continuity to our services here at Concordia.

**STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE:** The Stewardship committee at Concordia is under the guidance and direction of the Vice-president of the congregation and the Pastor. This committee works to educate the congregation in the area of using time, talents and treasures to the glory of God.

**FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE:** This committee has been established to help our congregation address the many details regarding the building of friendships within the network of our worshipping community. The Annual Epiphany Party (January) and the Annual picnic (summer) are two main events supported by this committee.

**HOSPITAL AND SHUT-IN CARE:** Pastoral care for the sick and shut-in is available here at Concordia. Please notify the Pastor in such case. Shut-in communion is served to those who are unable to attend service due to sickness and extreme circumstance.

**PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING AND WEDDINGS:** Concordia provided Pastoral care and guidance for wedding service preparation and married life.

**THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS:** Baptism and Communion are administered by the Pastor of the congregation. Instruction regarding the Sacraments is available through the Pastor of the congregation.

**FUNERALS:** Arrangements for funerals are made through the Pastor of Concordia. Care for the dying and grieving is a primary function of our congregation and shared ministry.

**EXTENDED CARE CENTER WORSHIP (E.C.C.):** Once a month our church provides a worship opportunity for the residents at the Extended Care Center here in Steamboat. This takes place on the fourth Sunday of the month at 12:45pm. Individuals of the congregation are invited to attend this service and care for the ECC residents.

**ALTAR GUILD:** Concordia offers an opportunity for individual to help care for the many needs that surround the details of the sanctuary life. Communion set-up and Altar care are primary focal points for the Altar Guild. Flowers, weddings and funeral details are often cared for through the Altar guild. Candle care and Baptismal service details are tended to by the guild.

# FEBRUARY 1994

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		<b>1</b> 6:30 Bible Study 3:30 Brownies 6:30 Choir 7:30 Coommittees	<b>2</b> The Presentation of Our Lord	<b>3</b> 10:00 Women's Study 2:30 Insight 7:15 Recovery Rm.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 5th Sunday after the Epiphany 9:00 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 10:30 Alter Guild 4:30 Confirmation 7:00 Worship 8:00 Alter Guild	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 6:30 Bible Study 3:30 Brownies 6:30 Choir 7:30 Voters	<b>9</b> 2:30 Insight	<b>10</b> 10:00 Women's Study 7:15 Recovery Rm.	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Lincoln's Birthday
<b>13</b> Last Sunday after the Epiphany TRANSGURATION OF OUR LORD 9:00 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 4:00 Youth Group 7:00 Worship	<b>14</b> Valentine's Day	<b>15</b> 6:30 Bible Study 3:30 Brownies 6:30 Choir	<b>16</b> Ash Wednesday 2:30 Insight 5:30 Soup Supper 7:00 Worship	<b>17</b> 10:00 Women's Study 7:15 Recovery Rm. <b>Women's Guild</b> <b>7:30PM Fomes Home</b>	<b>18</b>  Ft. Collin's Youth	<b>19</b>  Ft. Collin's/Kasota Youth
<b>20</b> 1st Sunday in Lent  9:00 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 4:30 Confirmation 7:00 Worship  Ft. Collins/Kasota Youth	<b>21</b> Presidents' Day   Kasota Youth	<b>22</b> Washington's Birthday  6:30 Bible Study 3:30 Brownies 6:30 Choir  Kasota Youth	<b>23</b>   Kasota	<b>24</b> St. Mathias, Apostle  10:00 Women's Study 2:30 Insight 7:15 Recovery Rm.  Kasota Youth	<b>25</b>  Strengthening The Band.....7:00pm  Howellson Hill Olympian Hall	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 2nd Sunday in Lent  9:00 Worship 10:30 Sunday School 12:45 ECC 7:00 Worship	<b>28</b>					