



## THE "SIZE" OF CONCORDIA

Did you know that.....

- 1) Our congregation has approximately 330 baptized members?
- 2) Our congregation has approximately 140 "member" households?
- 3) Our congregation worships just over 190 people per Sunday?
- 4) Our congregation operates on an annual budget of \$108,000.00 dollars?
- 5) Our congregation has just about 25 households that worship only 1 in 8 Sundays?
- 6) Our congregation has welcomed approximately 40 new households in two years?
- 7) Our congregation has released from membership approximately 30 households in 2 years?
- 8) Our congregation has been active in the Steamboat community for a half century?
- 9) 20% of the congregation takes care of 80% of the financial and volunteer responsibilities?
- 10) Our congregation will someday need two Sunday morning services?

## BAPTISM

Many churches teach that baptism is something which man does to confess his faith, or which the congregation does to dedicate the person to Christ. But the Scriptures teach that God is the one who acts on the recipient through baptism. Baptism is God's work. Eph. 5:26 says that Christ has "cleansed the Church by the means of the washing of water in connection with the word." Titus 3:5 says that "He (God) saved us ...by means of the washing of regeneration and (of) the renewal of the Holy Spirit." Rom. 6:4 states that "we have been buried (by God) with Christ by means of baptism into death."

## THE CHALLENGE OF STARTING A MEN'S MINISTRY



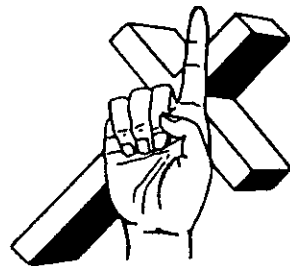
"So far, the only thing we have in common is an aversion to singing, socializing, and sharing."

## SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP

Our Sunday evening worship services are going strong this summer. We are having a marvelous time worshipping at 7:00pm. The numbers vary from week to week. However, July is seeing nearly 40 worshippers per evening service. One evening we had 52 individuals.

If you miss Sunday morning worship for whatever reason, be sure to take advantage of this opportunity. If you are a bit crowded in the morning service, try out the evening service.

Our evening service is a bit more casual than the morning service. But, don't let that keep you away. Communion is offered on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. Come join us!



## FALL SUNDAY SCHOOL!

Sunday School and Adult Bible Class will begin on September 11th here at Concordia. This is "RALLY DAY" for our congregation.

We will have Sunday School for pre-K through 6th grade. There will be a 7th and 8th grade Bible Class. Also, a High School class is offered. Adult Bible Class will meet in the Sanctuary after worship.

## Kids

### How Spiritual Are We?

A U.S. News & World Report article (4/4/94) suggests that while Americans may be more spiritual than ever, confusing signals remain to be sorted out.

For example, though 93 percent of Americans believe in God or a universal spirit, and 75 percent pray at least once daily, 70 percent say that individuals must decide on their own what is right and wrong.

In addition, while 65 percent say that religion is losing influence on society, 62 percent say that religion has been gaining influence in their own lives.

## ALTAR GUILD/FLOWER NEWS!

The Altar Guild requests that the brass vases and liners be **NOT** taken home with the flowers. Please leave these vases in the Altar Guild Room so that the florist can find them. Otherwise, the price of flowers goes up, and delivery will no longer be possible.

Thanks for your cooperation!

Also, there are several individuals and families who owe for flowers for the first half of this year. If you signed up for a particular week, make sure you pay for that week. Also, when you sign up, please use your last name.

Thanks,

Jammy Ryan

Elaine Stroncek



## YOUTH GROUP NEWS

A special trip is being planned for the High School group on the second weekend of August. Be aware of this event. Should be fun...WaterWorld!

Also, a special youth group dinner is being planned for the 28th of August prior to the evening service. The evening will have a 50's theme. The dinner is scheduled to take place at 5:00pm. Put this meal on your agenda. Good food... Good fun...Good friends...Good time!

## **moving forward with a plan**

### A FUTURE ORIENTED QUESTIONNAIRE:

PLEASE ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS. PERHAPS, YOUR INPUT CAN BE INCLUDED AT OUR FALL VOTERS' ASSEMBLIES?

1. How important is it to you that Concordia Lutheran Church and congregation be here in the year 2,000?
2. When is it time to add an additional worship service on Sunday morning?
3. Do you want to see continued numerical growth in our congregation?

### **strategies for growth**

4. How do you propose to handle the need for more parking on Sunday morning?
5. At what point do you think it is necessary to hire a full-time secretary?
6. When will Concordia add another professional position to care for the spiritual needs of our ministry? (Pastoral care position may include a Seminary Vicar or Intern; A Director of Christian Education (DCE); A second Pastor).
7. How important is it for you to participate in a small group Bible study which is implemented by the pastor and leadership of Concordia?
8. Do you think that it is right that 20% of our identified membership takes care of approximately 80% of the volunteer and financial care of our congregation?

**Congregation looks for ways  
to make its presence known**

9. When should our congregation consider a building project to meet the increased needs of a larger Fellowship (basement) area. Also, when should we look at the need of providing appropriate Sunday School and Adult educational areas? In other words, when should we build an educational wing here at Concordia?
10. Should Concordia look into the possibility of starting a Christ-centered, professional day care program?

### **Church growth and community outreach**

11. What should some of the long term goals of Concordia be?
12. How willing are you to increase your support and participation of the ministry that is in place here at Concordia?
13. What type of Pastoral leadership do you see as necessary here at Concordia?
14. What are the unique needs of our congregation here in this Resort town?

### **Evangelism is everything we do!**

15. How can we communicate to the tourists who visit Steamboat about our ministry here at Concordia?
16. When should Concordia purchase a new organ and sound system?

**Outreach**

**Witnessing**

## CONCORDIA STATISTICS

### July Average Worship Statistics:

Week #1.....188(M) 20(E)...208  
Week #2.....128(M) 52(E)...180  
Week #3.....189(M) 32(E)...221  
Week #4.....157(M) 17(E)...174  
Week #5.....N/A at printing

July 1991.....115 (per Sunday)  
July 1992.....138 (per Sunday)  
July 1993.....154 (per Sunday)  
July 1994.....196 (per Sunday)

Consistent growth in those worshipping here at Concordia is indeed an exciting part of our ministry. Our summer ministry sees a substantial number of out-of-town guests. We thank God for their participation in worship.

If you are on vacation it is extremely important that you seek out a place of worship while you are on the road. It gives you a chance to be nourished by Word and Sacrament while you travel. Also, it gives a marvelous witness to other Christians as you seek out a place of worship.

Percentage of high school seniors who have had sexual intercourse: 72  
Percentage who have had at least 4 partners: 19

Ratio of churches to people in the U.S.: 1:900

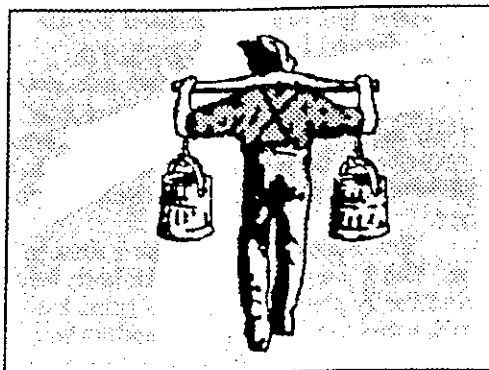
Percentage of people who say religion answers today's problems: 60  
In 1984: 56

Percentage of Americans who pray daily: 75  
Percentage who say they have had prayers answered: 95

## GOD USES US IN OUR DAILY WORK

We talk a lot about "the ministry of the Laity" in church these days, and many books, church programs, and whole ecclesiastical bureaucracies are devoted to developing "lay ministries." Perhaps we have not devoted enough of our attention to the ministries the lay people of the church already have in their day-to-day work. We call our work our "vocation" ... and that word really means "that which we are CALLED to do." Whether we have consciously acknowledged a specific CALL by God to work in a particular occupation, I believe God does expect to use us in our daily work. In fact, He sometimes does use us even though we are unaware of His activity. But the more aware we are of His intention to use us where we are, the better able we will be to fulfill the ministry He has in store for each of us. ■

G. Garrett Carpenter  
The Core and More



## 'Joy' in Jesus is contagious

Members of Joy Lutheran Church, Cambridge, Minn., live up to their parish name when they share their faith. Their readiness to share their joy in Jesus Christ as their Savior is contagious.

Joy gained 48 members in 1993. Church attendance and gifts increased 20 percent.

Our local evangelism efforts follow suggestions readily available in any good book on church growth and in the Synod's evangelism helps. We adapt them to our local situation and our Lutheran confessions. Among the most helpful suggestions are the annual Friendship Sunday ideas from the Synod's Board for Evangelism Services.

We sponsor Home Coming Sunday in September and Friendship Sunday before Lent. These are opportunities to invite our inactive members and the un-churched. We emphasize every member's role as an evangelist by encouraging every member to pray for and invite people to share in these special services.

We try to reflect our parish name, Joy Lutheran, in all our worship services. We choose music from Lutheran hymnals

and other sources that express our joy in Jesus Christ. We respect the church year and historic liturgy. We make it user-friendly by translating church language into common English. For example, the Epistle is the Second Lesson from God's Word, etc.

Every new household is assigned a sponsor who tries to bring them into the parish life. The sponsor sits with them in church, introduces them to other members, builds a personal relationship with them, invites them to serve in the various ministries of the church, etc. The sponsors serve for six months or until the new member is an active member.

New member sessions led by the pastor are offered for both Lutheran and non-Lutheran new members three times a year. Basic Bible teachings and Lutheran church practices are reviewed. The sessions respond to the spiritual questions and needs of the group and to make the Bible and worship meaningful for daily life. Our goal is to let the Holy Spirit use us to create worshipping, learning, serving "Joyful" Christians.

—Rev. Palmer Ruschke

Estimated number of U.S. couples trying to adopt a child: 1,500,000  
Number of infants available for adoption: 25,000

# AUGUST 1994

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Bible Study 6:30am  Committees 7:30pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> Recovery Rm. 7:00pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Wurschum/Sherrod Wedding...11:00am  Musser/Haas Wedding...4:00pm
<b>7</b> 11th Sunday after Pentecost Worship...9:00am/7:00pm  A.A.L. 10:15am	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Bible Study 6:30am	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Recovery Rm. 7:00pm	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>  YOUTH GROUP Trip to Denver
<b>14</b> 12th Sunday after Pentecost Worship..9:00am/7:00pm	<b>15</b> Mary, Mother of Our Lord	<b>16</b> Bible Study 6:30am	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Recovery Rm. 7:00pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 13th Sunday after Pentecost Worship..9:00am/7:00pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> Bible Study 6:30am	<b>24</b> St. Bartholomew, Apostle	<b>25</b> Recovery Rm. 7:00pm	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 14th Sunday after Pentecost Worship..9:00am/7:00pm E.C.C. 12:45pm YOUTH Group 50's DINNER 5:00pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Bible Study 6:30am	<b>31</b>			