





### CONCORDIA STATISTICS:

#### August 1995:

Week #1...95(E) 99(L)...194

Week #2...Outdoor.....230

Week #3...60(E) 75(L)...135\*

\* (Pastor gone doing continuing education work.

Also, A.L.L. planned Rockies game in Denver)

Week #4...118(E) 125(L)..243

#### Aug. Ave. Sunday Attendance:

1991.....108 (Pastoral Vacancy)

1992.....151

1993.....193

1994.....208

1995.....201

#### Ave. Summer Attendance: (June-Aug.)

1991.....109 (Pastoral Vacancy)

1992.....144

1993.....169

1994.....179

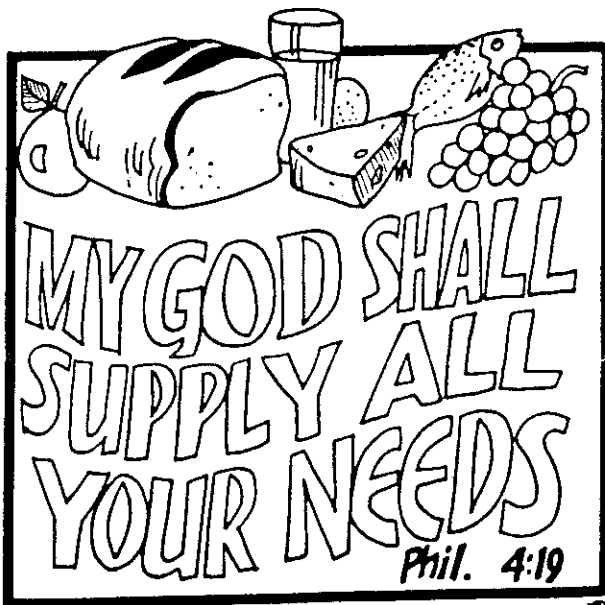
1995.....183

It is marvelous to see steady growth in the summer worship life of our congregation. Because of the unique make-up of our community here in this resort area we are blessed with many guests and visitors during the summer months. Let us thank God for this opportunity of ministry we share.



### Prayer No Substitute for Good

Sense. Though we urge the sick to pray, we are far removed from the view of those who hold that nothing but believing prayer is necessary to effect a cure. When we pray, "Give us this day our daily bread," we are not such simpletons as to expect that now we may lay our hands into our laps and God will feed us without the use of means. He has indeed on extraordinary occasions, as in the case of the Israelites in the wilderness, supernaturally provided bread for people. And we know that He could do so again. But He has not promised us that He would. And to believe what God has not promised is just as wrong as not to believe what He has promised. That is superstition and presumption; this is unbelief. Sober Christians do not trust in prayer alone any more than they trust in the means alone. Their confidence is in God's blessing on the means. *References:* Luke 10:34; Col. 4:14; 1 Tim. 5:23.



## SEARCHING SCRIPTURE

### GOD'S 'CONTRACT WITH AMERICA AND THE WORLD'

by Ben Eder

The first 100 days of the 104th Congress ended with a legislative flurry not seen since the era of Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the New Deal. A hallmark of this activity was a document called the "Contract with America," a set of promises made by the eventual majority party in the House of Representatives to the American people. Whether you agreed with the objectives of the contract or not, it was nonetheless refreshing to see politicians making promises they intended to keep.

In an earlier time, God spoke to His people through the inspired authors of Holy Scripture. They recorded God's promises to believers in every time and place. We might regard these promises of God's as an unbreakable "Contract with America . . . and the World." Let's review some of them.

Read Gen. 3:14-15. What was God's first promise to a world suddenly lost to sin?

In the aftermath of the Great Flood, God made a promise to the human race. What was it (see Gen. 8:20-22)?

Read Gen. 9:1-17. What command did the Lord give to Noah and his family in v. 1?

What covenant did God establish with Noah in v. 11?

Did this covenant, or promise, apply only to Noah and his immediate family (see v. 9)?

What was to be the visible sign of God's promise (see Gen. 9:12-17)?

Read Gen. 12:1-3. What did God command Abraham to do?

How would God bless Abraham and Sarah (see Gen. 15:1-6)?

What would be the visible sign of God's promise to Abraham (see Gen. 17:9-14)?

From generation to generation, God repeated His promises to the people of Israel. Read Gen. 26:1-5 (concerning Isaac) and Gen. 28:10-22 (concerning Jacob) to see how this is true.

Read Acts 13:23-33. Who is the fulfillment of God's promises?

Jesus is indeed "the mediator of the new covenant." Read Heb. 9:15-21



"Therefore I will give thanks to Thee, O LORD, among the nations."

2 Samuel 22:50 (NAS)

to see why it was necessary that Christ's blood be shed to seal this new covenant between God and His people.

How does God's covenant with Abraham apply to believers in Jesus Christ (see Gal. 3:13-18)?

What is the visible sign of God's new "contract," or covenant, with His people (see 1 Cor. 11:23-26)?

As we await the fulfillment of God's promises in these final days, what assurance does He give us concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (see 2 Peter 3:9)?

When it comes to promises, we humans tend to break them as much as we make them. Some people live up to the terms of their contracts, while others don't. Thanks be to God—and praise, too!—that our new covenant with Jesus Christ is a *binding* contract, sealed with His blood.



THE FOOL says in his heart, "There is no God."

Psalms 14:1a RSV

## YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS!

Thanks to all for the fine camping trip that the High School Youth Group enjoyed to Pearl Lake on August 25-26. It is great to see such a good diversity of activities for a diverse bunch of great kids.

Some upcoming activities:

1. Adult Youth leaders are going to meet on September 10th at 5:00pm. This one hour meeting will help us get to know our past youth leaders and some new volunteers. We will be done promptly at 6:00pm. Devotions included.
2. On September 10th, at 6:00pm the Youth Group will be meeting at the church. A special meal is being prepared as well as some unbelievable activities. Devotions included.
3. On September 24th our Youth Group and all the adult leaders, plus parents, are being invited to an annual planning session. We hope to set a year of High School Youth Ministry into action. This should prove to be a very forward looking and exciting night. We will meet at 5:00pm for dinner followed by a one hour planning session. Devotions included.

## WHAT BIT OF WISDOM WOULD YOU PASS ALONG TO SOMEONE NEWLY RECOVERING?

"Don't use, even if your butt falls off. If it does, you can just find a new way to sit."

"Make working the Twelve Steps the foundation of your recovery."

"It does get better. There are a lot of people who have been through your pain and are willing to share their experience and hope with you."



"Do all you can in the first year to simplify your life, and place your priority on recovery."

"Be considerate of yourself—nurture yourself through the bad times, and when it gets better reward yourself, then issue a gentle challenge to take the next step."

"Recovery is a process. It takes time. Find a sponsor, forgive yourself."

"If you want to use again ask yourself the question, 'Will one use of my favorite chemical satisfy me?'"



"Keep it simple. Don't use. HALT: Don't get too Hungry, Angry, Lonely, or Tired. The rest will happen. Take little steps—it will make you feel good about yourself to accomplish small goals."

*How in the world have we been able to do it?*

Concordia is wrapping up some major projects. The year long project of "parsonage" renovation is for all intents and purposes complete. A couple final outstanding bills and a couple small jobs to finish and then the occupancy permit will be approved. The new organ has been installed...and paid for! Thank God! During this time of remodeling and organ purchasing we have maintained a ministry and its financial budget. We have supported the many volunteer efforts of Concordia. We have kept our financial head "above water." Concordia's 1995 average Sunday attendance is 200+ per Sunday.  
*Some thoughts as Fall approaches.*

# FALL

As September approaches perhaps a bit of encouragement is needed regarding the caretaking of our congregation. I would like to offer some thoughts regarding three particular words: **CONSISTENT, SACRIFICE, AND COMMITMENT.**  
*How can you become "consistent" in your care of Concordia?*

Concordia needs the care of each one of its households. Without your care, your congregation cannot maintain, or move forward, with ministry. Your congregation needs your consistent care in order to bud and blossom. Members of congregations must mature in their understanding of "congregation-care." It is inappropriate to think that somebody else will carry the load. The load must be shared. Each person and/or household must shoulder part of the "consistent" care of the congregation.  
*What does it mean to sacrifice for a congregation?*

Each time a person gives an offering, volunteers hours of service, or attends worship or other ministry events, there is a degree of sacrifice made. A choice between two alternatives means that one is "sacrificed." The word sacrifice carries with it a degree of pain. Members must go through a bit of pain in order for a congregation to survive. Members must "sacrifice" in order for ministry to happen.  
*Does the word "commitment" describe your involvement?*

Commitment must be reflected in consistent worship attendance. Commitment must be reflected in the support of Bible study opportunities. Commitment must be reflected in financial giving. Commitment must be reflected in praying for each other and our joint ministry opportunities. You are not being encouraged to give **BEYOND** your means, you are being asked to give **FROM** your means.  
*Some concluding thoughts.*



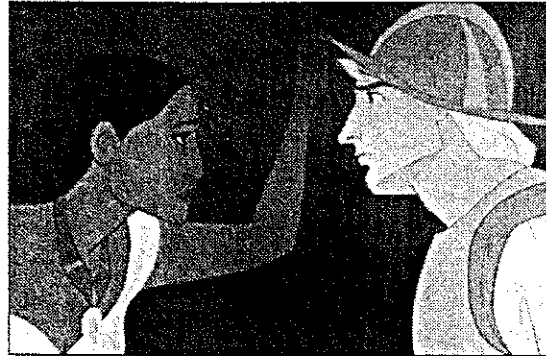
Jesus Christ committed His life, to the point of death, for you and I. He was committed to take upon Himself our sin, so that when He stepped free from the grave, we might have forgiveness and eternal life. He was sacrificed for us. Where we should have been eternally been lost, He was lost on the cross, so that we might be found. When He stepped free from the grave, we now are free from sin, death and everlasting condemnation. Jesus, through the work of the Holy Spirit, is consistently with us, encouraging and strengthening us.

## IN MY OPINION

### THE REAL POCAHONTAS

by Ronald Stelzer

Like any good American father, I took my six kids to see Walt Disney's "Pocahontas." As we have come to expect, the Disney Studios have once again provided us with creative, captivating and technically superior children's entertainment. Unfortunately, they have also provided us with revisionist pseudo-history fitting the mold of the politically correct, New Age, anti-



Christian propaganda that we have also come to expect from those who strive to obliterate our patriotism and Christian heritage.

According to the original documents and to the historical, untampered-with record, the Jamestown colonists came to America to bring the Christian faith and the possibility of salvation through the Gospel of Christ to those who had never heard it. Upon arriving on these shores, they planted a cross, took Holy Communion, and built a church forthwith.

According to the Disney version, however, these same representatives of Western culture came only to get rich, find adventure, and kill Indians. Upon arriving, they began immediately to dig for gold and, according to the Disney screenwriters, "prowl the earth like ravenous wolves destroying everything in their paths."

According to the historic record, the settlers' peaceful dispositions and lifestyles, based on the Biblical teachings of the Prince of Peace, attracted many Indians, Pocahontas included, to embrace the Christian faith and a new way of life. Pocahontas was baptized, married one of the colonists, and went to England. She died there, and her remains have lain buried in England to this day.

In Disney's fanciful film, however, Pocahontas proselytizes a religionless John Smith into a kind of New Age paganism. She informs him that every rock and tree has a spirit, that animals are equivalent to people, that rainstorms and rivers are our "brothers," and that if you cut down a tree, you're an enemy of the great "Circle of Life," which is meant, apparently, to replace the Triune God in our hearts. (Come to think of it, wasn't "Circle of Life" a

prevalent term in Disney's "The Lion King" as well?) In the end, Pocahontas, contrary to historical fact, chooses to stay in America and keep her own religion and way of life.

Truth is no deterrent to those who wish to capture the minds of this and future generations. When history is an embarrassment to their beliefs, they simply rewrite it to suit themselves and their purposes.

Certain members of our congregation experienced this same sort of attempted brainwashing from the National Park Service when we took a delegation from our day-school to Jamestown. The Park Service has set up a Jamestown settlement that majors in Indian lore and the settlers' diet and effectively diverts tourists from the original site (about a mile farther down), at which the Christian convictions and character of the colonists are plainly etched in ancient monuments. Our bus driver told us that he had taken at least 20 school groups to Jamestown, and didn't even know that the original site existed.

That's selective history, and such history, like the revised history presented in "Pocahontas," is misleading history.



Rev. Ronald Stelzer is senior pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Centereach, N.Y.

## What Parents Want

If you ask parents what they most want for their children, they're most likely to say they want their kids to think for themselves, according to a recent study by University of Michigan sociologist Duane Alwin. Parents also want their children to work hard, be honest and responsible, and use good judgment.

This emphasis on what Dr. Alwin calls "autonomy" values is quite a change from 30 years ago. Analysis of surveys from the 1950s suggest that parents of that generation placed more emphasis on "conformity" values such as obedience, good manners, and filling traditional roles.

-Wall Street Journal, March 24, 1995

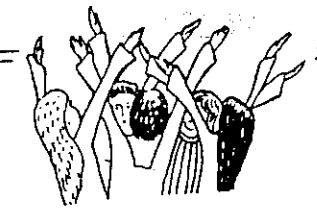
## Mall Money

If you think teenagers go to the mall just to hang out, think again.



According to a study for the trade magazine *Chain Store Age Executive*, 90 percent of teenagers say they make a purchase every time they go to the mall, spending an average of \$32.68 per visit. In addition, teens go to the mall an average of almost six times per month without their parents and twice with their families.

-Youth Markets Alert,  
February 1995



"Therefore I will give thanks to Thee, O LORD, among the nations."

2 Samuel 22:50 (NAS)

## JR. CONFIRMATION 1995-96 CALENDAR

SEPT. 17...ORIENTATION- 4:30-6PM (SUN.)  
 OCT. 1...10 COMMANDS- 4:30-6PM (SUN.)  
 OCT. 15...10 COMMANDS- 9:15AM (SUN.)  
 OCT. 22...E.C.C.- 12:45PM (SUN.)  
 OCT. 29...GUEST SPEAKER- 4:30-6PM (SUN.)  
 NOV. 12...CREED- 4:30-6PM (SUN.)  
 NOV. 19...CREED- 9:15AM (SUN.)  
 NOV. 29...WORSHIP- 7:00PM (WED.)  
 DEC. 3...FORGIVE (KEYS)- 4:30-6PM (SUN.)  
 DEC. 10...FORGIVE (KEYS)- 9:15AM (SUN.)  
 DEC. 17...DINNER/PARTY- 4:30-6PM (SUN.)  
 JAN. 7...LORD'S PRAYER- 4:30-6PM (SUN.)  
 JAN. 21...LORD'S PRAYER- 9:15AM (SUN.)  
 FEB. 4...OUTING- 4:30-7PM (SUN.)  
 FEB. 11...BAPTISM- 4:30-6PM (SUN.)  
 MAR. 3...BAPTISM- 9:15AM (SUN.)  
 MAR. 6...WORSHIP- 7:00PM (WED.)  
 MAR. 10...LORD'S SUPPER- 4:30-6PM (SUN.)  
 MAR. 17...LORD'S SUPPER- 4:30-6PM (SUN.)  
 MAR. 24...MEAL/REVIEW- 4:30-6PM (SUN.)  
 MAR. 31 **CONFIRMATION**-10:30AM (SUN.)  
 APR. 4...FIRST COMMUNION..7PM (THURS.)

A marvelous year of Junior High Confirmation ministry has been planned. A sensitivity regarding the school calendar has been in place while making this calendar. Not every scheduling concern can be addressed. Please set a high priority for this calendar in your scheduling.

# SEPTEMBER 1995

SUNDAY		MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY						
AUGUST S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31		OCTOBER S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31				1	2						
3	13th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 8/10:30	4	Labor Day	5	Bible Study 6:30 am Choir 6:15 pm Committees 7 pm	6	Alliance 9 am Discovery Bible Study 7 pm (New Members Class)	7	Women's Bible Study 10 am Recovery Study 7 pm	8	Girl Scouts 6:30-8:00 pm Wedding Reh. 6pm	9	Wedding 5:30
10	14th Sunday after Pentecost Grandparent's Day Worship 8/10:30 Sunday School 9:15 Adult Youth Leaders 5 Youth Group 6 pm	11		12	Bible Study 6:30 am Choir 6:15pm Voters 7pm	13	Alliance 9 am Discovery Bible Study 7 pm (New Members Class)	14	Holy Cross Day Women's Bible Study 10 am Recovery Study 7 pm	15	Wedding Reh. 5pm	16	Wedding 2 pm Reception 3-6 Bill & Alma Baldwin 40th Wedding Anniv. Congregation invited
17	15th Sunday after Pentecost Citizenship Day Worship 8/10:30 Sunday School 9:15 Confirmation Class 4:30-6:00	18		19	Bible Study 6:30 am Choir 6:15 pm Callers 7pm	20	Alliance 9 am LWML Meeting Discovery Bible Study 7 pm (New Members class)	21	St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist Women's Bible Study 10 am Recovery Study 7 pm	22	Girl Scouts 6:30-8:00 pm Wedding Reh. 10am	23	Clean Up Day 8:30 Wedding 2:00
24	16th Sunday after Pentecost Worship 8/10:30 Sunday School 9:15 E.C.C. 12:45 pm Youth Group 5 pm	25		26	Bible Study 6:30 am Choir 6:15pm Callers 7pm	27	Alliance 9 am Discovery Bible Study 7 pm (new members)	28	Women's Bible Study 10 am Recovery Study 7 pm	29	St. Michael and All Angels	30	