



WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?

1. A Christian Recognizes God's Love

God loves everyone in the world
God sent his Son, Jesus Christ

John 3:16
Hebrews 1:1-3

2. A Christian Admits that Everyone Is a Sinner

All have sinned and failed
The wages of sin is death

Romans 3:23
Romans 6:23

3. A Christian Believes that God Dealt with Sin

Jesus Christ came to save sinners
Jesus Christ died for our sins
Jesus Christ was raised from the dead

1 Timothy 1:15
Romans 5:8 (6-10)
Romans 4:25

4. A Christian Confesses Inadequacy

I am helpless in sin
I cannot count on my own good
I cannot believe by myself

Romans 5:6
Ephesians 2:8-9
1 Corinthians 12:3

5. A Christian Trusts in Jesus Christ to Save

I believe in Jesus Christ

I am born of the Spirit
I accept God's free gift by faith

John 1:12
Acts 16:31
John 3:3-8
Romans 3:21-26

6. A Christian Accepts What Christ Offers

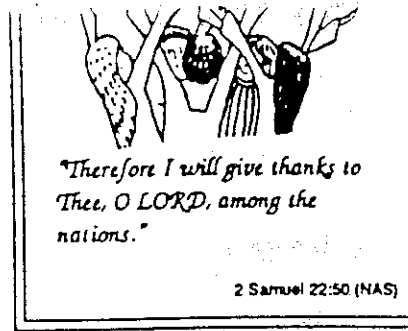
He gives new life
He gives eternal life
He gives light to the way
He gives freedom
He gives victory over death
He gives peace
He gives hope

2 Corinthians 5:17
1 John 5:11-12
John 8:12
John 8:31-35
John 11:25-26
John 14:27
Romans 15:4

7. The Result

I am baptized
Jesus Christ is my Lord
I am controlled by love
I am sure of eternal life
I grow in the faith

Acts 2:38-39
Romans 10:9-10
2 Corinthians 5:14-15
1 John 5:12-13
2 Peter 3:18
Acts 2:42, 46-47



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.)

Natural Knowledge of God.
The Aztec king Nezahualcōyotl (1431-72): "Verily, the gods that I am adoring, what are they but idols of stone without speech or feeling? They could not have made the beauty of the heaven, the sun, the moon, the stars, which light the earth, with its countless streams, its foundations and waters. . . . There must be some God, invisible and unknown, who is the universal Creator." (Quoted in *Theological Quarterly* 10:82, 84-85)
References: Ps. 19:1-6; 97:6-7; Acts 14:15-17; 17:22-31; Rom. 1:18-23.

Knowledge, Spiritual

Look at a mathematician and physicist like Sir Isaac Newton. Consider his invention of the telescope, his study of gravitation, his famous *Principia*. Yet when he was asked as an old man, "What do you consider your greatest discovery?" Newton humbly replied, "I have made two important discoveries in life: the one, I know I am a very great sinner; the other, I know Jesus is even a greater Savior." *References:* Prov. 4:7; Jer. 9:24; Hos. 14:9; John 17:3; Phil. 3:8; 1 John 1:7-9.



Charles Dickens shared his faith with his eight children when for their use he wrote *The Life of Our Lord*, stating that he wanted them to know Jesus Christ as he knew Him. He wrote, "You never can think what a good place heaven is without knowing who He was and what He did." *References:* Jer. 9:24; John 17:3; Phil. 3:8-10; Col. 1:10.

CONCORDIA SEPTEMBER STATISTICS:

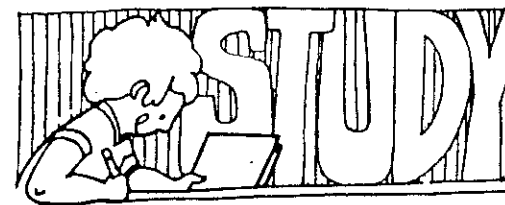
Week #1...97(E) 107(L).....204
Week #2...97(E) 102(L).....199
Week #3...99(E) 138(L).....237
Week #4..106(E) 98(L).....204

1991.....123
1992.....163
1993.....184
1994.....225
1995.....212

When we look at our average attendance for the year 1995 some good things are happening. We are worshipping over 200 people per Sunday. 1995 is the first year that our congregation has had two services on a Sunday morning. Presently our Baptized membership totals just about 400 members. We are worshipping 50% of our membership total each week.

Here is an interesting statistic that helps one understand the make-up of our congregation. One out of every four members of Concordia are under the age of 18. What conclusions can one draw from that tidbit of information?

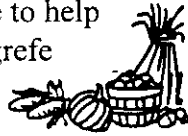
During the month of September we have seen 25 kids begin our Junior High Confirmation class. During the month of September we have seen 25 Young People attend our High School Youth Ministry activities. Isn't that marvelous? During the month of September we have seen 50 kids (pre-K through 6th) in our Sunday School program. Thank God!



Confirmation 

FALL RUMMAGE SALE

The annual Fall Rummage Sale will be held Friday and Saturday Oct. 20 & 21. If you would like to help please call Sandra Holgreffe 879 4884.

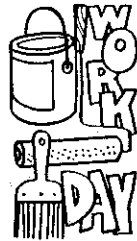


Please store your rummage at home until the week of Oct. 17th.

HERE'S THE OPPORTUNITY YOU HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR

Have you ever heard a plea for ushers or singers or Sunday School teachers and thought, "I wish I could help, but I can't commit to help on a regular basis, my schedule is too full, too erratic."?

Saturday, Oct. 21 from 9am - noon and 1- 4pm, we will be holding **Concordia Fall Clean-up Day**. You can come for an hour, for just the morning, just the afternoon, or even all day.



It will be a time of "Bonding", a time of organized **SCRUBBING**, **CLEANING**, and **POLISHING** and it will be **FUN** and **REWARDING**.

Mark your calendar now and look, for the sign-up boards in the Narthex. So come help your family at Concordia make our Father's House shine.

SYNODICAL VISION STATEMENT

1. STRONG IN THE WORD: We need to feed deeply on God's Word if we are going to be effective in evangelism. You cannot give away what you don't have.

2. PEOPLE CENTERED AND PEOPLE SENSITIVE: As we care about people and grow in our compassion for the lost, we will seek to build relationships with them and communicate with them in ways that clearly communicate the Gospel to them.

3. REACH OUT BOLDLY WITH THE GOSPEL: People cannot come to faith unless the Holy Spirit calls them by the Gospel. Our ministry is to reach beyond our current membership, to reach out boldly with that Gospel. Evangelism is the call of the Lord on the Church and its ministry.

4. FAITHFUL TO THE SCRIPTURES AND THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS: We are Lutheran Christians. We understand that people don't "decide" for Jesus. All our evangelism is a speaking of the Gospel so the Holy Spirit can be at work. We don't manipulate or sell or coerce. We share the Gospel. The Holy Spirit brings faith. In all we do, we need the integrity to uphold the Scriptures and the Confessions.

5. MARKED BY PEACE AND UNITY: As our congregations and our entire church body treats one another with respect, consideration and love, we will enhance the witness to the world that we are claimed by the Prince of Peace. A church in turmoil will not be effective in sharing the unconditional love of God.

We are thankful that President Barry has lifted up this vital vision of our church and that the recent convention overwhelmingly endorsed it.

IN HOME/SMALL GROUP EVENTS

Recently, our congregation has been making some moves in the direction of providing "In-Home/Small Group" events.



It has been good to see that the new members of our congregation have provided the locations and footwork to make such a ministry possible. This element of ministry is a major component found in churches that grow.

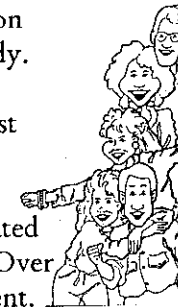
Mike and Sarah Beurskens provided a summer meal and Bible Study at their home. This was done in conjunction with our Wednesday, "Discovery" Bible study. A dozen people attended this event.



Pastor and Marlys Cartwright hosted a Bar-B-Que at their home late in August. This was done as an extension of our Thursday, "Recovery" Bible Study/Support group. Thirty people attended this study/meal.

Dan and Joni Selvy hosted a meal/Bible Study at their home in the month of September. Over a dozen people attended this event. This was done in conjunction with our Wednesday, "Discovery" study.

Bill and Barbara Gibson hosted our first Elder "In-Home" neighborhood care group. Devotions and a potluck meal characterized this event. Members located in the South Rount area were invited. Over 20 people attended this "In-Home" event.



Our LWML has regularly held their monthly events in the home of members. Most recently, the Madsen's hosted this event. Over twenty members of our congregation were present for this event.

Dennis and Sher Scheiwe hosted in August a Youth Meal and special event. Nearly twenty people attended that event.

Diane and Jake Weber hosted a meal for the benefit of the Choir in early September. A dozen choir members attended that event.

Homes make the congregation personal. It makes us experience a sense of family and warmth. It allows us to see our ministry as existing beyond the walls of our physical church facility.

With the exception of the Scheiwe's and Webers, all of the above hosts are new to our ministry here at Concordia. Most have joined our congregation in the last 2 years.

There is no "exclusive" nature to these groups. The Wednesday and Thursday groups are open to all members of our congregation. The LWML is open to all the women of our congregation. The Elder Care group are working with specific "target" geographical areas.

If your desire is to see our congregation grow in faith and numbers, then this "style" of ministry is a proven route to accomplish that goal.

All small group events that our congregation hosts are set into motion by the Pastor, the Elders, and the specific existing ministry groups in our congregation. There are no "private" groups. Private "non-approved" groups only divide a congregation. The existence of private groups are signs of individuals who have a detrimental agenda for the common life of a congregation.



If you would like to host an "In-Home" event, please speak with the Pastor about your desire. We must continue to make strides in this vital area of ministry here at Concordia.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS AT CONCORDIA:

1. Concordia's monthly income (gifts/offerings) are presently keeping pace with our monthly expenses. We are slightly below budget in income, and we are also slightly below budget in expenses. We thank God for this consistent care.

2. Our Voting Assembly (September 12, 1995) passed a resolution to have the exterior of our church facility stained, painted, varnished, etc. This major upkeep project was years overdue. Special reserve funds were identified to fund this project. The only stipulation was that this reserve fund would be repaid in the coming months. The cost...\$3,400.00.

3. The main sewer line at the church-owned parsonage (Pastor's home) was damaged and in need of repair. Sewage had backed up into the utility room. Our portion of the repair bills was \$1,100.00 dollars. This was not a budgeted item for our 1995 year. We will borrow from reserve funds to pay this expense. It is hoped that we will repay this account in the coming months.

4. After all the financial components of our Organ Fund have been received, we are \$600.00 dollars short of our goal of \$16,000.00 dollars. There was a small oversight regarding our AAL matching funds donations. Assumptions were made regarding one of these gifts having yet to be received, when in fact it had already been included in our total. We had in effect "counted it twice." The reality is that we must come up with \$600.00 to complete the final payment on the organ.

Presently, we need \$5,100.00 in order to pay these bills. We are using our reserve funds to pay these expenses. However, the reserve fund was not designed to cover these type of bills. All permanent use of funds from this reserve fund must be repaid or approved by our Voter's Assembly.

Please consider a special gift to one of the above areas. Pray about how you can give toward one of these needs. It has been marvelous to see our growing congregation take on the challenges of caring for the day-to-day life of a ministry.

Please remember, we do not have outside sources caring for our ministry. We pay our bills by the offerings of our members and guests. The ability of our congregation to remain financially solvent is directly related to the members giving from their means.

Thank you in advance for your gifts.

Newsletter Nuggets

Lutheran Brotherhood's Scripture Quiz

1) Who was the prophet sent by the Lord to confront David about his sins of adultery and murder?

(A) Elijah (B) Ezekiel (C) Nathan

2) According to the Apostle Paul, which of these abiding traits is greatest?

(A) Faith (B) Hope (C) Love

3) Which disciple wrote the fourth gospel, three epistles and the book of Revelation:

(A) Matthew (B) John (C) Peter

Answers: (1) C; II Samuel 12:7-14. (2) C; I Corinthians 13:13. (3) B



Perspective

"Everybody wants to go to heaven, but nobody wants to die." --Joe Louis, Boxing Champion

Lutheran Brotherhood's Martin Luther Quiz

1) At the Diet of Worms, Luther said that he would not recant his writings and beliefs unless convinced of his error by:

(A) Scripture (B) The Pope (C) Elector Frederick the Wise

2) How many children did Luther and his wife, Katherine, have?

(A) Two (B) Six (C) Twelve

3) This art form is credited with greatly spreading Luther's theology to ordinary people:

(A) Poetry (B) Painting (C) Hymns/music

Answers: (1) A (2) B (3) C



Wonderfully Made

Stretched end to end, the vessels of the human circulatory system—arteries, arterioles, capillaries, venules, and veins—would measure about 60,000 miles. -- From *Yale University School of Medicine Heart Book*