

CONCORDIA JANUARY STATISTICS:

January Average Sunday Worship:

1991.....	139
1992.....	110
1993.....	180
1994.....	183
1995.....	180
1996.....	181

January 1996 Sunday Worship Numbers:

Week #1.....	88(E) 96(L).....	184
Week #2.....	64(E) 112(L).....	176
Week #3.....	118(E) 88(L).....	206
Week #4.....	70 (E) 89(L).....	159

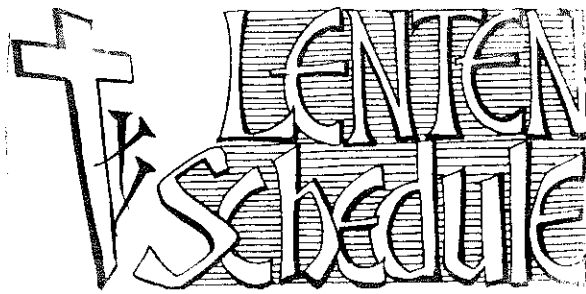
In 1989 Concordia Lutheran communed 2,945 individuals for the whole year. In 1995 Concordia communed 3,739 individuals. The Altar Guild here at Concordia keeps track of such records. This particular statistic helps us to see our growth from another angle.

Regular participation at the Lord's Table is one way that an individual, couple, and/or family, can strengthen the spiritual life within.

May God continue to bless the internal and external development of our congregation. God's habit is never to forget us...May we respond by not forgetting His good grace. Regular worship and attendance at the Lord's Table are two ways to make remembering possible. See you at church!

Sing
unto God ye
kingdoms of the
earth: ✝ O sing
praises unto the
LORD

Psalm 68:32



- FEBRUARY 21.....Ash Wednesday 7pm**
- MARCH 6...(Wed.)....Lenten Service 7pm**
- MARCH 20...(Wed.)..Lenten Service 7pm**
- APRIL 4.....Maundy Thursday 7pm**
- APRIL 5.....Good Friday 7pm**
- APRIL 7....Easter Sunrise Service 6:30am
Easter Celebrations 8am & 10am**

Lent is the story of how God deals with the fundamental problem that troubles us all. We can never know fully what it meant to God, but we know what it means to us. He has brought us back together. His forgiveness has cleaned up our past, gives us a new chance now, and offers sure hope for the future.

Of course, things aren't right everywhere. But now something can be done about it. Forgiveness can heal and bring together all that sin has separated.



Take Note

The Race

Cross-country is a sport where the races come in only two distances – too long and way too long.

My daughter Sarah decided to join the cross-country team in her Junior year of high school. She had not even run around the block before the first practice. They went eight miles that day. On the way home in the car her eyes were glazed over and she just kept mumbling to herself, "I won't quit. I won't quit." And she didn't.

Through several weeks of practice she struggled and suffered and prepared for that first meet. Her goal? To be able to finish the race.

by Peter Velander

That beautiful fall day came, the day of Sarah's first ever athletic contest. She was so nervous that she was exhausted before her race ever started. Finally she and her teammates stood ready at the starting line and the gun sounded. They were off.

She ran the first mile strong and fast with all the other runners. But the effort left her spent with a whole mile to go. She began to cramp up - to the point where she could not run upright, but rather was kind of hunched over. She didn't quit. The pain got so bad that she started to cry. It's hard to breath when you're crying. It's hard to run when you can't breath. But she kept going.

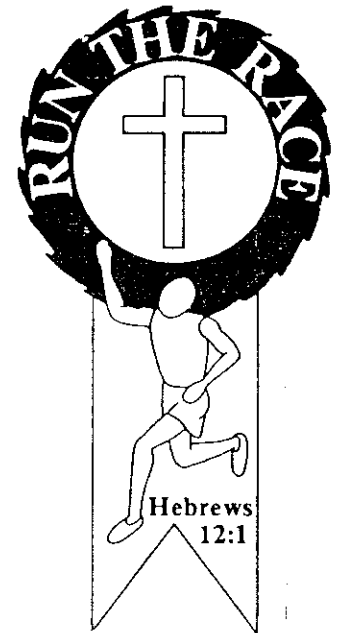
All the runners in Sarah's race had long since crossed the finish line when she finally came into view. The participants were already lined up for the next race, when someone said in near astonishment, "Look, there's another runner still coming!" The crowd migrated from the starting line to the finish line to witness this moving event.

"What a courageous girl," someone said quietly. "Yes." I thought silently, "what a courageous girl."

When Sarah was close enough for us to see the pain in her eyes and the tears running down her face, we too began to cry. Her parents, her sister, her brother, her friends, even people who didn't know her - we all wept with her. Someone began to clap. Then everyone clapped. We cheered through our tears. Sarah dropped to the ground as she crossed the finish line. Her team mates were there to congratulate and to console. Her pain soon gave way to satisfaction and a great sense of accomplishment. What a moment.

As parents we many times share in the suffering of our children, but this was the first time I had witnessed one of my children choosing suffering as the required road to a higher goal.

We will soon see Jesus in the manger again. It was his starting line. The race he ran was often filled with pain and suffering. Some might have looked at the cross and said he lost. But he suffered, instead, in pursuit of a higher goal. Thank you, Sarah, for teaching us that winners don't always, or even often, finish first. Thank you, Jesus, for being willing to suffer in our stead.



CONFIRMATION NEWS

This month the confirmation class begins by having their annual outing to the bowling alley. We meet at the SNOWBOWL at 2PM Sunday Feb. 4, 1995.

So far this year we have covered the 10 Commandments, the Office of the Keys (Forgiveness of Sins), the Apostles Creed, and the Lord's Prayer. In February and March we will be talking about Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

We thank our long list of Sponsors who will make themselves known to the students on March 31. They are as follows: Cheryl Stine, Judy Plumb, Barb Guest, Tim and Marlys Cartwright, Albert and Kathy Deepe, Dan and Cindy Schlie, Gene Carrell, Linda Riele, Kammerers, Jan Fritz, Peggy Haas, Jane Hallman, Kounovsky's, Mike Beyers, Pam Parker, Sandy Craker, Jerry Taylor, Dianne Weber, Dave & Lori Beverlin, Jim & Michelle Sprengle, Mike & Sarah Buerskens, Lori Joens and Jerry Thornton.

Our project for this year is to support the work of LUTHERAN ASSOCIATION OF MISSIONARY PILOTS in Northern Canada through the work of Carmen Etzel in LaRonge SASK. Each student is asked to donate at least \$5 this year. Thank you.

WOMENS GUILD NEWS

Our monthly meeting will be held at the home of Susan Rostvedt on Feb. 28th. Pam Parker will be leading the topic beginning at 7pm.

Tammy Bracken is compiling a list of secret sisters for Concordia. If you would like to be a part of this program call Tammy at 879-8196 by Feb. 11. Secret sisters share cards and special gifts during the year, then at Christmas you find out who your secret sisters has been all year.

We need people to sign up to donate Sunday Flowers. Each vase costs \$10.75. The sign up sheet is in the Narthex. Make your check payable to Concordia Lutheran Church.



Thank you

Thanks to Bart Kounovsky for getting the Concordia Basketball league organized. We have enjoyed the Sunday night games which will continue till March 31. All games will be played at the Human Service Center gym at 8th and Aspen.

"The Parable of the Weeds"

"The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat, and went away. When the wheat sprouted and formed heads, then the weeds also appeared.

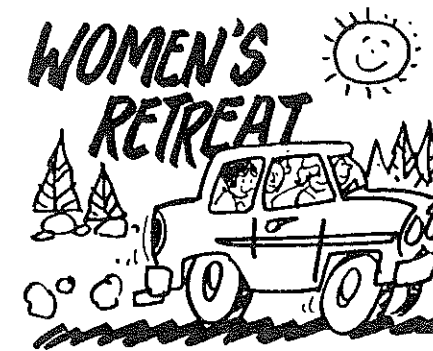
"The owner's servants came to him and said, 'Sir, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where then did the weeds come from?'

"An enemy did this,' he replied.

"The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'

"No,' he answered, 'because while you are pulling the weeds, you may root up the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest. At that time I will tell the harvesters: First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles to be burned, then gather the wheat and bring it into my barn.'"

Matthew 13:24-30



Women's Ski Day- February 15, 1996

This year Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study is once again sponsoring a Cross Country Ski Day. It will be at the Viste Verde Ski Ranch. We will leave the church by 9am...to begin skiing at 10am. Lunch will be served around 12:30pm. Come and enjoy the day. \$20 per person for the entire day of skiing and lunch, Thursday Feb. 15.

Our women's bible study is offering good pay for one very special baby sitter to come each Thursday between 10 and 11:30am at the church. Thanks.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

January's class of the month is the 5/6th graders taught by Jan Fritz and Peggy Haas. This class designed and made the beautiful altar banner you saw through most of December.

February's class of the month is the 1st/2nd grade class. Judy Plumb and Cyndy Simms head up this group. Check out their bulletin board display downstairs!

**From Charles Colson's book entitled,
"The Body; Being Light in Darkness."**

The late Max Cadenhead, when he was pastor of First Baptist Church in Naples, Florida, riveted his congregation one day with a bold confession.

"My message today is on the parable of the Good Samaritan," Max announced. "Let me start with an illustration.

"Remember last year when the Brown family came forward to join the church?" he asked. Everyone nodded; the Browns were a very influential family. "Well, the same day a young man came forward and gave his life to Christ. I could tell he needed help...and we counseled him." No heads nodded; no one remembered.

"We worked with the Browns, got them onto committees. They've been wonderful folks," Cadenhead said to muffled amens. "And the young man...well, we lost track.

"Until yesterday, that is, as I was preparing today's message on the Good Samaritan. I picked up the paper, and there was that young man's picture. He had shot and killed an elderly woman."

Chins dropped throughout the congregation, mine included, as the pastor continued. "I never followed up on that young man, so I'm the priest who saw the man in trouble and crossed to the other side of the road. I am a hypocrite."

*No
other
foundation
Jesus
Christ.*



**"Step out of our rooms...
and live new lives."**

FINANCIAL CARE OF CONCORDIA

I would like to encourage each household in our congregation to sit down and make a plan regarding their giving for 1996. Without a "plan" giving becomes fragmented. We set a frugal budget. Our budget is a bargain! We do so much good for so many with our financial care of Concordia. Thanks for your past support. Thanks for your future support.

*Freely
you have
received
freely give*

I THOUGHT YOU'D LIKE TO KNOW!

"Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young" was the name of a singing group in the 1970's. A line from a song of theirs came to mind recently.

"Teach...your children well...of their father's hell."

I bring that line to your attention because I began wondering what we hope to pass on to our children? What priorities do we want them to recall when they have left our homes, communities, and churches?

When it comes to Concordia, there are some things that I think we should bring to the attention of our children regarding the church that is their worship home. Maybe we all could use this reminder.

Concordia is presently giving this witness of hope to our children:

1. We monthly care for the isolated and shut-in at the Extended Care Center. We do so by our care of a monthly worship service. It is at this time that gracious contact can be made with the lonely and disregarded.
2. Concordia hosts a yearly Thanksgiving Community Worship service of which all the offerings go to help the homeless in our community. Last year nearly \$1,500.00 was given to this need from this event.
3. Concordia budgets \$2,000.00 annually for the care of people in crisis in our local community. The "Steamboat Community Outreach" is the destination of these funds.

4. Through Concordia's Women's Group, and our congregation's support of that group, nearly \$10,000.00 dollars each year is generated to care for missionary efforts, crisis care concerns, etc.

5. Each year Concordia has a fund raiser to sponsor "feeding the hungry" concerns throughout the world. This is done in conjunction with Lutheran World Relief. \$1,000.00 dollars a year buys a lot of grain which in turn feeds many starving people.

6. Each year at Christmas time Concordia is responsible for making Christmas possible for four or five families. Food, clothing, toys, etc., is provided for these families. We give from our abundance.

7. Individuals and families who struggle with medical bills have been cared for by fund raising efforts of Concordia with matching funds provided by Lutheran Insurance companies. In 1996 over \$1,000.00 dollars was provided.

8. Concordia opens its doors to those dealing with addiction and recovery concerns. Weekly meetings are held to assist adults. An annual 8 week session is held for young people dealing with this issue.

Teach your children well! Not of their father's hell, but of that bit of heaven! Teach them to give to the shut-in, the homeless, the hurting, the hungry, the sick, those in need. Your congregation has worked hard to establish these opportunities. If you do not tell your children, who will?

F	E	B	R	U	A	R	Y
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
				1 Women's Study 9:30am REcovery Study 7pm	2	3	
4 Worship 8/10:30 Ed.Hr. 9:15am Jr.Conf. 2pm Snowbowl Fifth Sunday after Epiphany	5 Insight Gp. 10-11am Girl Scouts 3:30pm	6 Bible St.6:30am Choir 6:15pm Committees 7pm	7 Discovery St. 7pm	8 Women's Study 9:30am Recovery Study 7pm	9 Girl Scouts 6:30-8pm	10 Families with pre-schoolers & toddlers... Potluck.... 5:30pm	
11 Worship 8/10:30 Ed.Hr. 9:15am Conf. 4:30pm Youth Gp. 5:30 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany	12 Insight Grp. 10-11am Girl Scouts 3:30pm	13 Bible St.6:30am Choir 6:15pm Council 7:30pm	14 Discovery St. 7pm	15 Women's Study 9:30am Recovery Study 7pm	16	17	
18 Worship 8/10:30 Ed.Hr. 9:15am Transfiguration	19	20 Bible St.6:30am Choir 6:15pm Callers 7pm	21 Ash Wednesday Worship 7pm Soup Supper 6:00pm Ash Wednesday	22 Women's Study 9:30am Recovery Study 7pm	23	24	
25 Worship 8/10:30 Ed.Hr. 9:15am ECC 12:45pm First Sunday in Lent	26 Girl Scouts 3:30pm	27 Bible St.6:30am Insight 10-11 Choir 6:15pm Callers 7pm	28 Discovery St. 7pm LWML 7pm Rostvedts	29 Women's Study 9:30am Recovery Study 7pm	Youth Ski groups at Con- cordia 16th-23rd.		