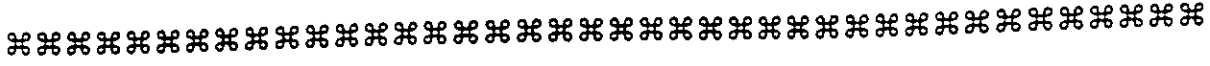


THE CHRISTOGRAM is the monthly newsletter of Concordia Lutheran Church, Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Deadline for newsletter items is the fourth Sunday of each month. We welcome contributions of news items, art work, and other appropriate articles.

Editor: Pastor Cartwright and Marlys Cartwright.

THE WEEKLY BULLETIN is printed on Thursday mornings. News items for the bulletin should be submitted by 9:00am on Thursdays.

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 8:00AM AND 10:30AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL: 9:15AM



CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH

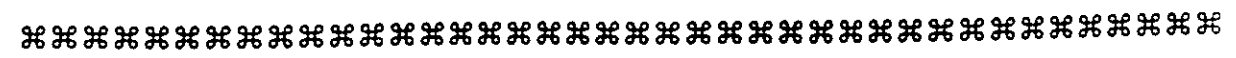
CHRISTOGRAM

MAY 1996

CHRISTOGRAM



"CHRISTOGRAM"



To the Members and Friends of Concordia:

Recently I used this illustration in one of my Sunday morning messages:

"An elderly man dying in a hospital asked for his son, a marine in a boot camp in South Carolina. A young marine made a lonely pilgrimage to the dying man's bedside. He sat there all night holding the old man's shriveled hand. The old man died just before dawn. The marine asked, "Who was that old man?" "He was your father!" the nurse answered. "No, he wasn't," said the marine. "I never saw him before tonight. I knew there had been a mistake, but I also knew he needed his son...so I stayed."

God has come to us in our need. He came to sit with us in the most tragic of circumstances. He comes to walk with us in the midst of real life. At times the presence of God is unrecognized in our lives....almost hidden. At times God's presence is very real and overt. The celebrations of life, its joys, as well as life's sorrows are experienced within the context of God not being absent!

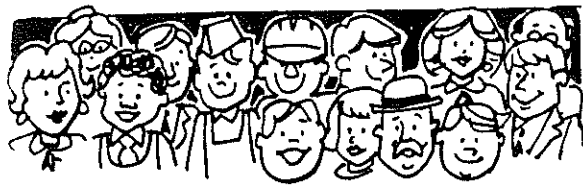
It is the reality of God NOT BEING ABSENT that has captured my attention at this newsletter deadline time. From Genesis to Revelation, completely throughout the Word of God, we find the constant theme of God NOT BEING ABSENT from creation itself. Our schedules, our pace of living, events, circumstances, tragedy, success, priorities, choices, etc., all can steal from us the truth that God is NOT ABSENT from our lives. In other words, we may draw the conclusion that we have no need for God, or God has no need for us.

Jesus Christ was sent into the world, to "sit with the world." Jesus came to a dying creation to take sin and death upon himself. Jesus came and showed us that GOD IS NOT ABSENT from His creation. God sends us His Holy Spirit to demonstrate this same truth.

God be with you during the month of May.....He truly is with you!

Pastor Cartwright

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH
P.O. BOX 770428; 755 CONCORDIA LANE
STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, CO. 80477



LWML NEWS

A Big thanks to LWML for purchasing new tables and chairs that were much needed. These are located downstairs in the basement.

The women's Retreat was wonderful! More than 20 women gathered for fun, food, fellowship, and crafts. The Main topic was "Disappointment with God". Thanks to Sher Scheiwe and Marlys Cartwright for leading the discussion of this topic.

Our May meeting will be Wednesday May 8 7PM at Cindy Klein's home (16 Valley View Dr.) Pam Parker has the Devotions, and the topic will be led by Marlys on "Caring through meeting the needs of the heart."

RUMMAGE SALE

BARGAINS! BARGAINS! BARGAINS!

Help is needed to sort rummage on the evenings of Monday May 13 - Thursday May 16. Also help is needed to clean up after the sale on Saturday May 18th at noon.

Donated baked goods can be dropped off at church Thursday evening or Friday morning May 16 or May 17. Sign up Sheets are in the Narthex.

The hours of the Rummage sale and Bake Sale are 9-5pm Friday May 17th and 9-12 am Saturday May 18th. The Proceeds go to various Mission Projects.



PONDERING OUR FUTURE

What will Concordia be like in 5 years?

I do believe that the family of faith at Concordia must try and answer that question? That question must be asked! That question must find an answer in the hearts and minds of those people who call Concordia "their" worship home and church. The members of Concordia must think about the answer to that question.

Additional Staff /Competent Office help

Will Concordia have a second staff person? At what point will our congregation be large enough to call a second staff person? That second staff person must enter into the life of Concordia once competent and predictable office, secretarial help, is secured.

Day Care and Pre-School?

Will Concordia ever seek to develop a focused "Christian Day-Care and Pre-School" ministry? Our community is begging for just such a facility. Will the members of Concordia address this area of ministry? As well as serving the community with competent care, this area of ministry pays for itself and serves an outreach goal of our congregation.

More classroom and fellowship space?

As the members of Concordia evaluate the lack of space for congregational fellowship events will the congregation seek ways to enhance the physical plant to meet this need? Classroom space is overcrowded and inadequate. Will Concordia's membership address these issues in the next five years or sooner?

Wednesday Night Regular Worship?

Will the ministry at Concordia develop a regular Wednesday night worship and/or study opportunity? We need not build a bigger worship setting, rather we must be creative in how we use our worship setting. Also, we need to develop additional worship styles and settings to meet our congregational and community needs.

Earlier Communion for Concordia kids?

Do we want to use a model of early communion used by many Lutheran congregations that prepare students to commune at an earlier age? Generally this is around the fifth grade with the completion of a special Bible based study opportunity for student, parent(s), and pastor.



SUMMER WORSHIP TIME

A special worship schedule will be put into place for our summer schedules. We will have just one service on Sunday morning. That service will be at 9:00am. On Wednesday evening we will have a special Study/Worship opportunity at 7:00pm.

JUNE THROUGH AUGUST:

SUNDAY.....9:00am
WEDNESDAY.....7:00pm

The special worship times will be in place for the months of June, July, and August. Concordia hopes to have a consistent Wednesday evening worship/study opportunity for the summer months to meet the needs of individuals and families that are gone on the weekend.

Some special worship opportunities are also scheduled for the summer months. An outdoor worship service is scheduled to take place on August 11th. Also, we usually have a closing "Thursday" evening event when our Vacation Bible School closes.

LOOKING FORWARD TO A GREAT SUMMER OF WORSHIP!

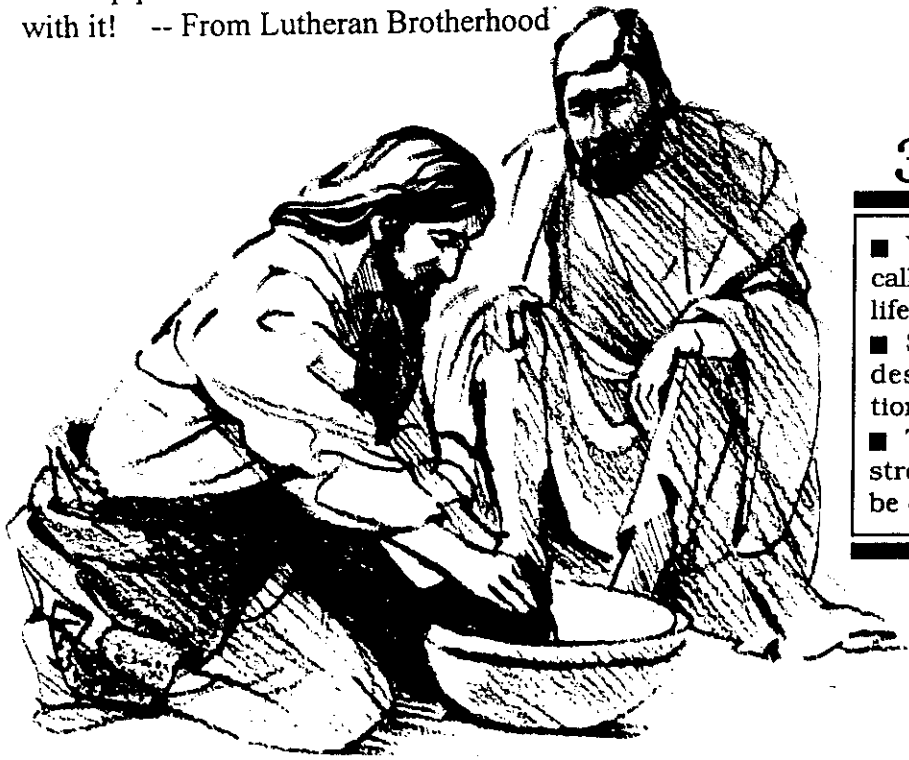
Newsletter Nuggets

Raising Healthy Youth

When it comes to raising healthy children, promoting prosocial behavior is as important as preventing antisocial or health-compromising behavior. Acts of compassion help develop social competencies, positive values and a sense of purpose in life. Students who engage in helping behavior on a weekly basis are shown to be less likely than non-helpers to report risky behaviors. According to a survey of more than 46,000 students in grades six through 12, 53% reported that during the last 12 months, they had not spent any time helping people who are poor, hungry, sick, or unable to care for themselves; 37% reported helping needy people one to four times; and 10% said they had helped needy people five times or more in the past 12 months.

For Fitness, Take a Hike!

Walking may be the closest thing there is to the "perfect" exercise. Walking offers plenty of variety and flexibility. It also provides a lifelong form of exercise, affords less risk of injury, improves cardiovascular fitness, burns calories for weight loss, and, best of all, is relatively easy. Here are some tips for a successful walking program: (1) Wear comfortable shoes; (2) Walk with a friend; (3) Incorporate walking into your daily routine; (4) Explore new routes; (5) Have a back-up plan for bad weather; (6) Pick up the pace as your program progresses; and, (7) Stick with it! -- From Lutheran Brotherhood



3 STATEMENTS

- Your response to God's call is carried out in daily life.
- Serving God in daily life deserves full-time attention.
- The beliefs you feel most strongly about are likely to be challenged the most.

An Ordinary Bowl and Towel

As you read the story in John 13:1-16, note that Jesus used very ordinary things to demonstrate his willingness to serve the disciples. Through a bowl and towel Jesus encouraged the disciples in a dramatic way to care for each other.

Departing from Custom

When Jesus washed the feet of the disciples, he was departing from custom in an unusual way. This was not something that a teacher or master would do. In a day of dust and grime, of animal droppings and sewerless cities, a person's feet were probably the last thing you would want to wash.

Do you agree or disagree with the following points? Underline the answer that best reflects how you feel. Be prepared to tell why. (There are no right or wrong answers.)

1. I would have felt uncomfortable to have my feet washed by Jesus. (agree/disagree)

2. I would want the chance to repay Jesus and wash his feet. (agree/disagree)

3. It is easier to do something you don't want to do if you see somebody else doing it. (agree/disagree)

4. To serve God, I will need to be able to serve others where they need my help. (agree/disagree)

In Daily Life

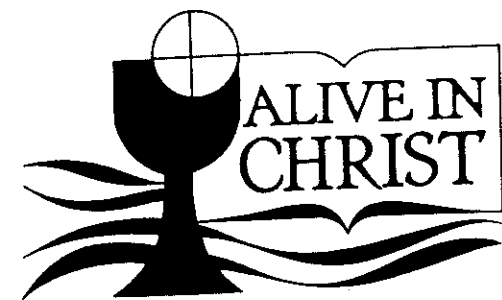
Serving God in daily life deserves full-time attention. Our journey of faith did not end in the waters of Baptism, nor does it continue only in church. There are many places in our world where our journey leads us to serve God!

There are many ways to use a bowl and a towel. But most of the time, we are called to use our very ordinary gifts to make extraordinary statements about how we feel, believe, and act as Christian people. *The beliefs you feel most strongly about are likely to be challenged the most.*

You may find yourself in many situations where your biases and the ideas that you treasure the most are called into question. You may want to support a cause strongly but are afraid you will be laughed at by your friends. You may feel that injustice is done when you ignore a person at school but know that to befriend him or her will cause others to exclude you as well. Such is the way of the bowl and towel.

True servanthood is really quite ordinary. It takes place in the places you know the best: your home, your streets, your school, your church, your world.





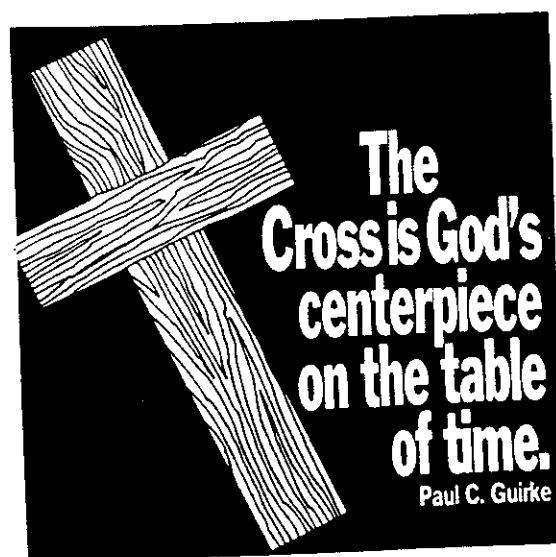
Remembering Whose You Are

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! *1 John 3:1*

"Remember whose child you are!" the Christian father said, giving his teenage daughter a hug as she headed out with her friends for the evening. Whose child are you? *1 John 3:1* reminds us that we are "children of God." Remembering whose child we are shapes how we act.

Remembering that our Father loved us enough to save us from the hell we deserve enables us to be merciful and compassionate. Recalling that Christ became the lowly Servant so He could take our place on the cross and pay the death penalty for us motivates us to be grateful and sensitive. Reflecting on the fact that the Spirit dwells within us keeps us pure and holy. This good and gracious God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, makes us heirs to His eternal kingdom of glory. As heirs we are content and joyful and unafraid. Yes, remembering whose we are changes everything about us.

Remembering whose we are makes a difference. Sons and daughters of God enjoy a "glorious freedom" (Romans 8:21), free from enslavement to our old sinful natures, free to live compassionate, grateful, responsive, pure, and joyful lives as children of God.



CONCORDIA APRIL STATISTICS:

Average April Sunday Worship Attendance:

1991.....	132
1992.....	141
1993.....	218
1994.....	245
1995.....	248
1996.....	251

April 1996 Weekly Worship numbers:

Week #1....47 (Sunrise) 198 (8am) 208 (10am)....	453
Week #2.....	78(E) 101(L).....179
Week #3.....	68(E) 96(L).....164
Week #4.....	86(E) 114(L).....200

Concordia presently is worshipping 210 people per Sunday for the first third of 1996. We thank God for the opportunity to serve our community with the freeing news of the Gospel message.

Concordia has presently met its financial obligations for the first third of the year. Our annual total ministry budget is approximately \$130,000.00. Our giving up to this point in 1996 has met the \$43,000.00 (one third of the year) need. We can thank God for this reality.

Please remember, in order for our shared ministry here at Concordia to remain solvent, the financial offerings of members and guests is crucial. Concordia has no outside income sources. We succeed in ministry financially by the giving and gifts that come through Sunday morning offerings.

HELLO AND GOOD-BYE!

Our congregation is once again getting ready to make its spring membership transitions. A number of individuals and families here at Concordia will be moving to other parts of the state, country and world.

Roger Oeschel moved to Pakistan. Dawn and Michael Moon have arrived in Equador where they will be serving in the Peace Corps.

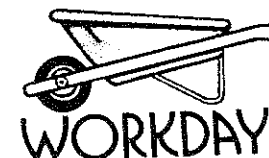
Danny Schlie has moved to Longmont. Danny was active in our Youth Ministry. Mike and Dawn Moon cared for the music ministry here at Concordia. Tammy Bracken (our Financial Secretary) has moved to Boulder. Gary and Shar Korsmeyer have moved to Grand Junction. Gary served as an Elder here at Concordia. We have households that are preparing to move to Iowa, Nebraska, and Washington.

We are saying "good-bye" this summer to approximately 25-30 individuals.

However, we are saying "hello" to 30-40 individuals this month through our Adult Instruction/Membership class.

Clean up Day at the Church

Come help make the church spic and span to celebrate the 10th anniversary of our church building. We have scheduled our Clean-up day between 9 and 2pm Saturday May 18th, to prepare for the anniversary celebration on Sunday May 19th. We need lots of energetic helpers. Thanks!!



LWML MISSION PROJECT:

The Mission Service ingathering project chosen for the convention in El Paso is to benefit the Ysleta Hispanic Mission in El Paso. The mission service committee would like to encourage you to participate in this ingathering for Ysleta. The needs are very great there and Concordia Women's Guild has chosen to put together 50 health kits. Each health kit is to contain:

- 1 Handtowel
- 1 Washcloth
- 1 New bar of bath size soap
- 1 Toothbrush
- 1 Tube of toothpaste
- 1 Comb
- 1 Nail file
- 6 Band-aids

Please bring one or more of these items by Sunday May 26th.

MAY 1996

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1 Discovery 7:00pm New Members Class	2 Women's Study 9:30am Recovery Study 7pm	3 Colorado Prayer Luncheon-Denver Girl Scouts 6:30pm	4
5 Worship: 8 & 10:30 Sunday School 9:15 Fourth Sunday of Easter	6 Girl Scouts 3:30pm	7 Bible Study 6:30am Choir 6:15pm Committees 7:00pm	8 Discovery/New Members Class 7pm LWML 7:00pm at Cindy Klein's	9 Women's Study 9:30am Recovery Study 7pm	10	11
12 Worship: 8 & 10:30 Sunday School 9:15 Fifth Sunday of Easter	13 Girl Scouts 3:30pm	14 Bible Study 6:30am Choir 6:15pm Council 7:30pm	15 Discovery/New Members Class 7pm	16 Women's Study 9:30am Recovery Study 7pm Ascension of Our Lord	17 Spring Rummage Sale...9:00am to 5:00pm	18 Spring Rummage Sale...9:00am to 12:00pm SPRING CHURCH CLEAN UP...COME HAVE FUN!
19 Worship: 8 & 10:30 Sunday School 9:15 Youth Group 4:00pm ELDERS: 12:00pm Sixth Sunday of Easter	20 Girl Scouts 3:30pm	21 Bible Study 6:30am Choir 6:15pm Callers 7:00pm	22 Discovery Study 7pm	23 Women's Study 9:30am Recovery Study 7pm	24	25
26 Worship: 8 & 10:30 Sunday School 9:15 ECC...12:45pm Pentecost	27 Memorial Day	28 Bible Study 6:30am Choir 6:15pm Callers 7:00pm	29 Discovery Study 7pm	30 Women's Study 9:30am Recovery Study 7pm	31 Girl Scouts 6:30pm	