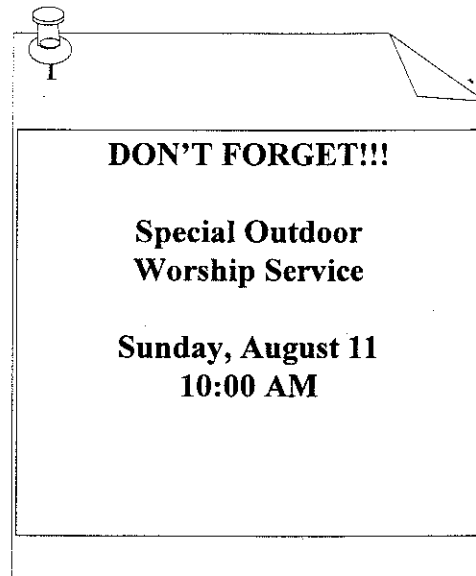


*The Christogram* is a monthly newsletter of Concordia Lutheran Church, Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Deadline for newsletter items is the fourth Sunday of each month. We welcome contributions of news items, art work, and other appropriate articles.

Editor: Pastor Cartwright and Marlys Cartwright.

**The Weekly Bulletin** is printed on Thursday mornings. News items for the bulletin should be submitted by 9:00 am on Thursdays.

**Sunday Worship: 9:00 AM**



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

## CONCORDIA LUTHERAN *CHRISTOGRAM*

### *August 1996*

*To the Members and Friends of Concordia:*

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord!

"Last year our house burned down. I lost my cat. We lost it all. The Red Cross made sure I had a pair of boots for the winter."

The above comments were shared by a couple of young men who made the trip to Glorieta (Santa Fe, NM) with our youth group. They shared these realities during one of our devotion times. These two guys are spending the summer with their mother who worships regularly here at Concordia.

One of the Psalms prompted the comments. I do believe that we were discussing the constant care of a good God. We were talking about how easy it is to get focused in on "things." Things go away. Things change. Things fall apart. Things break. Things rust. Things die. Things fail. Things.....!

*"..As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever!"*

That's what we were discussing..."forever." These guys shared the reality that things change, but God does not. Life has an eternal dimension. We need to see beyond things. A house of ashes brought this reality home to these guys and to us.

God is the only real "eternal" thing. In order for us to receive eternal life...we have to be connected to Jesus and the forgiveness He offers us. Forgiveness from Calvary's cross and the open tomb gives us eternity...with God!

It was a good trip with the young people in our church. I wish you all could have gone. Maybe next year. Maybe the following year. Maybe...? We have an eternity to decide.

## What is God Like?

Thinking deeply about God is difficult, and at times, confusing. This is caused by our human limitations. You could think that God exists, and that God is responsible for our human existence, and still not believe in the God whom Jesus called his Father. Sometimes people's sickness, accidents, financial losses, death, and the tragedies they see affect how they think about God. These people begin to blame God for their troubles, and they decide that he is not kind and loving. They conclude that if God creates or even permits such trouble he must be monstrous and hateful.

Certainly, there is no simple answer to justify the kinds of troubles that cause people to think of God that way. Who could ever say, for example, that an automobile accident is God's doing? Who could say that crippled and helpless accident victims are an expression of the loving will of the heavenly Father? Christians pause in the face of such terrible things and admit that they do not understand them. But they also refuse to blame God for those evils.

Christians remain convinced that God is good. They look about them, and on the basis of their own experience see beauty and love in the world. They consider all the

provisions they believe God has made for their welfare. They are certain, because of these things, that God loves them.

In the minds of Christians God's love is reinforced by Jesus. They believe that God sent Jesus to the world because of his love for them. They know that Jesus even accepted death on the cross as an expression of that love. These words of John's Gospel express this belief: *"God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may...have eternal life"*(3:16)

The Bible and the church say that God is love. What does that mean?

**Lift-Up** of Routt County Food Bank has served over 100 clients since opening in May. Most our residents who have fallen on hard times. Please remember Lift-Up in your prayers. If you have the resources, food or cash is always needed. If you have the time, this is a rewarding way to serve the Lord as you serve your community. Lift-Up is located at 325 7th St., Rm. 23 or call the Director, Karen Rhoads, at 870-8804.

## Glorieta Youth Gathering Santa Fe NM

Sixteen people from Concordia enjoyed the District Youth Gathering July 19-22. We celebrated our VICTORY in Christ with the Amazing voices and antics of Lost & Found; the sensational drama, humor & mime of AJ; and the speaker, Pastor Tom Rogers. In addition we participated in a servant event working in a huge garden to provide food for the Santa Fe homeless.

And let's not forget the fun we had at the big dance, the water games, miniature golf, paddleboating, Santa Fe shopping - and our inspirational group devotions. Thank you Concordia for supporting us in an event that let us experience fully the JOY of our faith.

## Future Possibilities

1. Christian Day Care & Pre-school.
2. Remodel church basement to increase space needs for fellowship activities.
3. Add educational wing.
4. Increase worship area.
5. Storage space for LWML rummage/bazaar concerns.
6. Pave parking lot.
7. Future staffing concerns.
8. Retreat ministry for congregation & other churches.
9. Develop contemporary worship band.
10. Monthly worship service in Clark area.

**It is Good to Dream!**



***"Outdoor Worship"***  
***August 11, 1996***

***"Come and Celebrate the  
Grace of God in His Good  
Creation"***

**WHERE:** Steamboat Springs  
Middle School  
**WHEN:** Sunday, August 11  
**TIME:** 10am Worship  
11 am Lunch/Picnic

Grill, burgers and hot dogs will be provided. Bring picnic items for a picnic potluck....salad, chips, dessert, etc. Bring personal items to B-B-Q if you wish!

**10:00 AM WORSHIP**

**11:00 AM PICNIC**

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**Be sure to invite a friend!  
Both to worship and  
the Bar-B-Que!**



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# Concordia Lutheran Church - August

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1 Recovery 7pm	2	3 Stronceks 50th Anniversary Open House 3-7pm (no gifts)
4 Worship 9am Ed. Hr. 10am	5	6 VBS 9-1:30 Bible Study 6:30 am	7 VBS 9-1:30 Discovery 7pm	8 VBS 9-1:30 VBS Closing Program 7pm	9	10 Karst/Watson Wedding 10:00
11 Outdoor Worship 10am Picnic 11am	12	13 Bible Study 6:30 am	14 Discovery 7pm	15 Recovery 7pm	16	17
18 Worship 9am Ed. Hr. 10am	19 Congregational Dessert at Beurskens 8pm	20 Bible Study 6:30 am	21 Discovery 7pm	22 Recovery 7pm	23	24 Kim Montana Wedding 5:30
25 Worship 9am (new members) Ed. Hr. 10am ECC Worship 12:45	26 School Begins	27 Bible Study 6:30 am	28 Discovery 7pm	29 Recovery 7pm	30	31

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### Lutheran Brotherhood's Martin Luther Quiz

- 1) Luther believed that music in church worship:  
 (A) Should be very limited (B) is a good way to serve Him who created it  
 (C) Is necessary to keep the congregation awake
- 2) The first of Luther's 95 theses claimed that: (A) Indulgences are a central part of repentance  
 (B) Repentance involves the whole life of a Christian (C) Christians should repent at Church once a week
- 3) Luther believed God is:  
 (A) An important philosophical idea (B) A judge who determines our fate after life  
 (C) A real spiritual being with a divine personality

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

### THANKS!

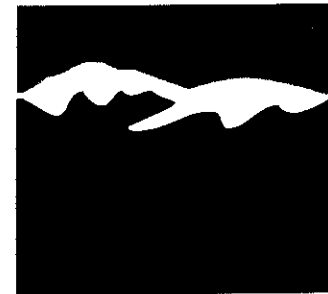
Thank you to each and everyone who answered our call for supplies to be used for Vacation Bible School. Also, thanks to those who sewed Togas, made money pouches and donated tents for our use.

It was all very much appreciated.

The Supply Committee

### CONCORDIA JULY STATS:

Week #1	.....227(S) 13 (W).....	240
Week #2	.....177 (S) 15 (W).....	207
Week #3	.....140 (S) 10 (W).....	150
Week #4	.....146 (S) 10 (W).....	156
<b>AVG. JULY SUNDAY ATTENDANCE</b>		
1991	.....	115
1992	.....	138
1993	.....	154
1994	.....	193
1995	.....	170
1996	.....	185



### Temporary Abundance in Defiance of the End

In Africa there is a certain tribe which elects a new king every seven years, but on the installation of the new king, the old one is killed.

During the seven years of his reign, the king has absolute rule and enjoys every possible comfort and abundance in life. One thing, however, he cannot do, and that is change the custom of the old king being killed after his seven-year reign.

One would think that there would not be enough candidates to become king. Nevertheless, there are always plenty. There are those who prefer seven years of absolute rule with abundant enjoyment of everything that life can offer in spite of the end that comes to it all after seven years.

Although we are surprised at such a custom, we too accept it without realizing that we are like those kings who want temporary enjoyment of power and pleasure regardless of the tragic end that comes at the conclusion of that period of time. We want to enjoy life here and all that it can offer us without even thinking of what the end will be.

### What is Success?

For many Americans, family represents success, according to a national Louis Harris survey of 1,000 adults recently conducted for Lutheran Brotherhood. When given a choice among career achievement, financial security, faith, and family, 46 percent said family most represents success to them. Financial security and faith tied as the second most popular choices, each cited by 22 percent of respondents. Surprisingly, only 8 percent chose career achievement as the greatest measure of success.

### Scripture Quiz

- 1) What did Essau sell to Jacob?  
 (A) His sheep (B) His birthright (C) His first-born daughter
- 2) What man lost all of his possessions and his health but remained true to God?  
 (A) Ichabod (B) Amos (C) Job
- 3) Where did his parents find Jesus in Jerusalem?  
 (A) In the streets (B) In the hospital healing the lame (C) In the temple

Answers: (1) B; Genesis 25:29-34 (2) C; Job 1: 7-22 (3) C; Luke 2:46.

**Christian Thought:** "Every Christian should be both conservative and radical; conservative in preserving the faith and radical in applying it." —John R. W. Scott