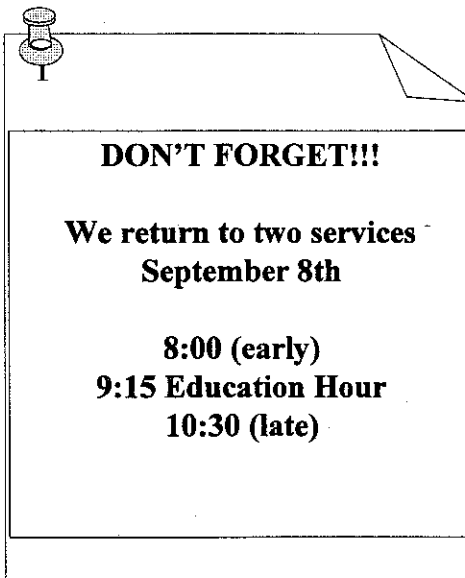


The Christogram is a monthly newsletter of Concordia Lutheran Church, Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Deadline for newsletter items is the fourth Sunday of each month. We welcome contributions of news items, art work, and other appropriate articles.

Editor: Pastor Cartwright and Jean Smith

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

Sunday Worship: 8:00 and 10:30 am



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

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN *CHRISTOGRAM* SEPTEMBER 1996

Dear Friends and Members of Concordia:

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord!

Recently two news stories caught my attention. The first story was related to teenage alcohol/drug use. Levels of abuse/use are now paralleling the crisis of the late 60's and early 70's. The second story related the need to pass laws identifying tobacco as an addictive substance. Legislation will be aimed at curtailing teen access to tobacco products.

I know the reality of addiction to both of the above mentioned areas. They are real and they are life-robbing. We have a good area of ministry here at Concordia...it is our Thursday Evening Recovery Group.

I was having dinner with one of the girls recently at a local eating establishment...a bar adjoined the dining area. My daughter asked why the noise level was so high. The voices were almost "shouting" loud. The non-smoking eating area was filled with second hand fog. I looked at my watch...it was 6:45 pm. I told my daughter that "Happy Hour" (an oxymoron) was drawing to a close. The noise and smoke were directly related to the "adults" and old people legally drinking and smoking. We did not see one teenager in that crowded bar as we left.

It seems to me that if we are going to curb "teenage" use, we must curb the appetite of adults. A scripture passage comes to mind:

"Everything is permissible...but not everything is beneficial" (I Cor. 6:12)

Pastor

Concordia Statistics

August 1996:

Week #1	226 (S) 9 (W) 235
Week #2	205 (S) 16 (W) 221
Week #3	169 (S) 20 (W) 189
Week #4	187 (S) 10 (W) 197

Summer:

1991.....	108
1992.....	144
1993.....	169
1994.....	180
1995.....	182
1996.....	180

August (History):

1991.....	108
1992.....	151
1993.....	193
1994.....	208
1995.....	201
1996.....	211

Budget

As of the beginning of September (1996) our congregation is right on target in meeting our 1996 monthly budget. We did not end the summer month "in the red". We thank God for this financial reality.

In order to continue to progress and develop our shared ministry here at Concordia we must be aware of our financial obligations. 1997 will require some new budget challenges. It is an exciting time here in Steamboat Springs.

20% of congregational members take care of 80% of congregational needs.

On average 37% of congregational members worship on any given Sunday.

President or Vice-President Comment

The president of our congregation is Clair Erickson. Our vice-president is Brian Thornton. These officers are elected for one-year terms. We are presently preparing for new elections here at Concordia. These two people have served our congregation well this past year.

The president, vice-president, as well as all our council positions, are not positions of power and glamour. These positions are servant roles here in our congregation. Day-to-day, nuts and bolts concerns accompany their particular areas of service. Our congregation needs people to care for these offices.

A congregation must have a way to govern itself and make collective, corporate, shared decisions. Our church council meets 8 times a year. Anybody is welcome at these meetings. The Church Council and our boards bring reports and decision needs to a "Voters Meeting" 4 times a year. Anybody is welcome at these meetings.

Board of Elders

Please pray for Concordia's Board of Elders who serve you as they:

1. Pray for Pastor & Congregational leaders.
2. Encourage Pastor in his special ministry at Concordia.
3. Concern themselves with member's worship attendance.
4. Concern themselves with member's Communion attendance.
5. Focus on Concordia's spiritual education of our young people.

(Partial list taken from our Congregational Constitution)

Outreach and Assimilation

Concordia's Outreach and Assimilation Board is alive and well! Here are just a couple of the projects they are working on...or recently completed.

1. Reception for new members (Aug 25 - 11 new members were received)
2. Community Outdoor Worship Service
3. Preparing for another New Members Sunday in late September or early October
4. This board commits to pray for a specific area of our ministry each month.
5. Overseeing a "sponsor" program for the assimilation of new members. Each new household is matched up with an established household to help the "getting acquainted" time period.
6. Generally raising our congregation's mission statement that is an extension of Matt.28: 20 "The Great Commission."

Stewardship

The Stewardship Board of Concordia is working on some significant areas of concern here in our congregation. Some are mentioned below:

1. How can we identify areas of "volunteer" need?
2. How can we identify members to address those areas of need?
3. How can we help those volunteers succeed in their volunteer area?
4. Do we need a paid volunteer coordinator here at Concordia?
5. Do we need a one-day workshop on volunteerism?

A bottom line concern of this board is best stated: "How can we care collectively for our congregation?"

Self-centeredness

The ancient Greeks had a legend that Narcissus, the son of the river god, had fallen in love with himself after seeing his image in a pool of water. A seer had told his mother that her son must never see himself if he was to mature into manhood. For this reason everything that threw off a reflection, such as metal, was removed. But one day he found a spring that formed a pool filled with crystal-clear water. As Narcissus stooped to drink, he saw his reflection in the pool. He fell desperately in love with himself, and seeking to embrace himself, he fell into the water and drowned.

Everyone is more or less in love with self. The Bible says, "No one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it" (Eph. 5:29). And Jesus tells us that if we want to love someone very much, we must love him as much as we love ourselves. "Love your neighbor as yourself." But many people fall in love with themselves to such an abnormal extent that they become extremely selfish and self-centered, that they lose all interest in others or use them only as tools to obtain greater advantages for themselves. *References:* Prov. 12:15; 20:6; 26:12; Luke 18:10-12; 2 Cor. 10:12; Phil. 2:3.



Caring for the Communion Table:

Scripture teaches us that God has placed into the life of His Church the ongoing gift of Holy Communion. This is a "Thanksgiving Meal" which gives to the believing heart the wonderful gift of forgiveness and the assurance of salvation. In, with, and under the bread and wine of the Lord's Table are the very body and blood of Jesus Christ.

Concordia has established the following guidelines to encourage you to come to the Lord's Table.

1. Young people who have been instructed in God's good and guiding Word regarding the truths of the Communion Table are invited to come and receive this real gift of God's grace. Our congregation offers instruction and preparation for the Lord's Table during 7th and 8th grade Confirmation instruction.

2. Some young people have prepared for the Lord's Table at an earlier age due to guidance received in another congregation. Those young people are welcome at the Lord's Table here at Concordia.

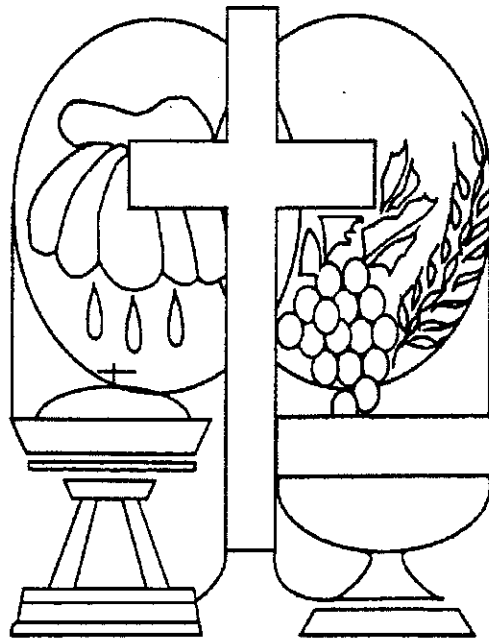
3. Because of the truths present in God's word, Concordia believes that Jesus' body and blood are miraculously present in the bread and wine. Jesus himself said, "This is my body...This is my blood."

4. We are guided by God's Word when it states that a person needs to examine themselves prior to coming to the Lord's Table. This "self examination" should result in one being able to recognize the Biblical

truth of "real presence" (#3 above) as well as the truth that the sinner needs the Savior.

5. When a person comes to the Communion feast, that individual is making a profession of faith. You profess your trust in God's gracious gift of forgiveness. You profess that you hold much in common with those you are communing with.

Please fill out the Communion registration cards on Communion Sundays and give it to an usher as you come to the table. When you come to the Table, come knowing God's grace is for you. If you are yet to be instructed feel free to come and receive a Pastoral blessing.



Heart Listening

What marriages need, especially in this busy and bothered world, is not active listening but heart listening. That phrase may seem trite, but for the Christian and for the person in a relationship of committed love with another, it means something quite profound. The person practicing heart listening -

- hears the "heart plea" that lies behind a loved one's words. The wife who complains about being ignored is sending out a heart plea. She seeks to be reassured, supported, valued, attended to. She is not making a demand. The plea, however, can be heard and accepted only in the heart of the person who is committed to loving her.

- hears with acceptance - the same acceptance that God has for us. Heart listeners avoid defensiveness. Heart pleas often have an accusation in them: "You are not doing or being what I'd hoped. You are failing to be what I need you to be. You are less than I'd hoped you would be." Hear the accusation in a husband's question: "Does your family always come first?" Only a committed, loving heart can hear the plea behind those words and respond helpfully.

- keeps forgiveness ready. Hidden heart pleas often arise from less than perfect self understanding. In fact, many heart pleas have a lot of self pity in them. But they also may be speaking a real need or an important message of confession. Heart listeners know that forgiveness is a treasure that must be shared. They know that God's forgiveness has the power to renew. Because heart listeners are forgiven, they can also forgive. This also applies to forgiving themselves. (Ted Schroeder "The Good Shepherd Magazine")

HOW DO YOU DEFINE RECOVERY?

"The process of becoming a whole person by getting rid of old stuff that doesn't work and learning new stuff that does. Becoming your real, true self without using drugs."

"Identifying harmful patterns. Learning new patterns of behavior, and finding resources to support putting them in action."

"Having the courage and patience to learn who you are and what you want and need."

"Having choices."

"Coming to know the self who's been hidden under all the masks and cover-ups. Realizing that I can live life on its terms and that I am lovable."

Worship

Concordia's Worship Committee is attempting to meet the various needs of our membership and target outreach groups in our community.

Our worship services are varied in format and style. A balance of the liturgical, contemporary, traditional, and creative is sought.

Varied styles of music, hymns, songs, and special music is a concern of this committee. Chanting, as well as a contemporary worship band are being considered.

What a wonderful task we have! God has given to Concordia many individuals with many differing backgrounds. Pray for this committee as they seek to serve the total constituency of Concordia.

Tuesday Bible Study:
Meet and study the Word of God prior to work. This study begins at 6:30am and is done promptly at 7:30am. The format is one of discussion and reflection on God's Word. A good cup of coffee or tea is ready for you upon arrival. Give this study a try!

Wednesday Discovery Bible Study: This Wednesday evening study opportunity has been put into place for a midweek spot of spiritual refreshment. A person can come once a month, twice a month, or every week. It is a relaxed atmosphere for learning, discussion and fellowship. Please, come and enjoy some great "Discovery!"

Thursday Recovery: Concordia Lutheran congregation has made a commitment to open its doors to the special needs surrounding those individuals, couples, and families who are dealing with the reality of addiction and recovery. Each Thursday night at 7:00pm a group of people meet in the basement of the church for devotions and support. This meeting is designed to aid the recovering person in the quest for a stronger spiritual life.

Concordia Lutheran Church

September -1996

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship 9am Education Hr 10 am	2 Women's AA 7pm	3 Bible Study 6:30am Choir 6:15pm Committees 7pm	4 Discovery 7pm	5 Recovery 7pm	6 Drager/Fisher Rehearsal 6:00	7 Drager/Fisher Wedding 5:00
8 Worship 8/10:30am Education Hr. 9:15 Confirmation 4:30 HS Youth Grp. 5:30	9 Women's AA 7pm Scouts 3:30	10 Bible Study 6:30am Choir 6:15pm Church Council 7:30pm	11 Discovery 7pm	12 Women's Study 10am Recovery 7pm	13 Soup & Scripture 12noon Duryea Wedding	14 Men's Breakfast 7-8:30am
15 Worship 8/10:30am Education Hr. 9:15	16 Women's AA 7pm Scouts 3:30	17 Bible Study 6:30am Choir 6:15pm Callers 7pm	18 Discovery 7pm Potluck 5:30 Captive Free Concert 7pm	19 Women's Study 10am Recovery 7pm	20 Soup & Scripture 12 noon Confirmation 20th.....	21 Vail Musicians Worship Workshop Retreat21st
22 Worship 8/10:30am Education Hr. 9:15 ECC 12:45 Wedding	23 Women's AA 7pm Scouts 3:30	24 Bible Study 6:30am Choir 6:15 pm Callers 7pm	25 Discovery 7pm	26 Women's Study 10am Recovery 7pm	27 Soup & Scripture 12 noon Colorado Springs 27th.....	28 Mission Festival29th
29 Worship 8/10:30am Education Hr. 9:15 Confirmation 4:30	30 Women's AA 7pm Scouts 3:30					

Women's Bible Study
A special Bible study is in place to assist the women of our congregation in the study of God's Word. On Thursday morning at 9:30am, in the basement of the church, the women gather for a time of reflection, study, fellowship and prayer. This Bible study opportunity is a great time for spiritual support.

Saturday Men's Breakfast Fellowship
Concordia's Men's Breakfast is a ministry opportunity designed to enhance the faith of men in our congregation and community. Breakfast, fellowship, study, guest speakers, and topics are all prepared for our time together. We are done promptly at 8:30am if not before.

Extended Care Center Worship (ECC)
On the fourth Sunday of each month our congregation is responsible for the care of the worship service at the ECC. The Pastor leads this service with congregational volunteers. There is a need to visit with the residents at the ECC. It is a great way to learn compassion and service. The residents always appreciate a kind contact from visitors.

Trustees

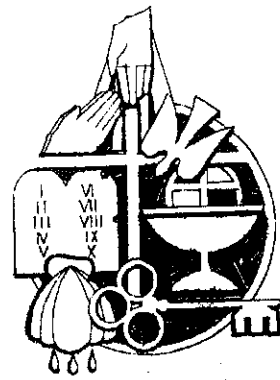
- Thank God for the fence constructed on our northern boundary.
- Thank God for the progress made on our downstairs men's bathroom.
- Thank God for the new cabinets soon to be installed in our organ/keyboards area.
- Thank God we found a home for the organ!

Concordia's Trustees are entrusted with the physical upkeep and management of our "shared" property. This is a monumental task. It is way beyond the capability of just the Trustees themselves.

When they solicit your participation and support please consider volunteering your time and efforts. The way in which our facility is kept and cared for is a definite reflection of our appreciation to God for this ministry.

Long Range Concerns

1. Financial Considerations
2. Basement/Fellowship Hall Concerns
3. Office Remodel
4. Parking Lot Issues
5. Outdoor Worship Area
6. Educational Wing



Confirmation

Remember the following dates for upcoming Confirmation events in September:

September 8 (Sunday)
Orientation 4:30-6pm

September 18 (Wednesday)
Captive Free Concert 7pm

September 29 (Sunday)
10 Commandments 4:30-6pm

Sunday School Update

Begins: Sept. 8th 9:15 am

A wonderful year of learning, activity, music, and fun has been planned and organized.

Parental support and commitment is a key ingredient to the success of Sunday School and Christian Education.

See you on the 8th! Give it a try this year!

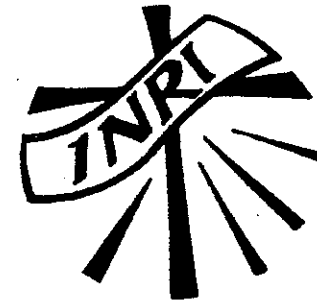
High School Corner

September 8th - 5:30 pm
Annual Planning Session

September 18th (Wed) "*Captive Free*"

At 5:30pm we will have a meal prior to this concert. The concert will take place at 7:00pm. Be sure to invite friends and family. We are planning on inviting other area youth groups. This should be a great evening for our youth group.

Concordia thanks God for the privilege of serving the young people in our congregation. You are the "Next" Generation...not the "X" generation.



Women's Study

On the 12th of September Concordia's Thursday Morning Study (10:00am) will begin. Marlys Cartwright will be leading this wonderful time of study and conversation. An in-depth study of God's word strengthens faith and belief. Friendship found around the Word of God is wonderful. Come and join this group.

You are welcome!

LWML

September 18th is the first fall gathering of women.

(Location in a member's home TBA)

October 18th-19th - Fall Rummage Sale

November 23rd - Annual Fall Bazaar

The letters LWML stand for "Lutheran Women's Missionary League." This organization meets monthly for Christian fellowship, devotion, and fun. The LWML generates nearly \$10,000 a year through the Bazaar, Rummage/Recycling sales and baked goods sales. These dollars are all sent to various mission projects locally and globally.

Men's Concerns

On Saturday, September 14th, the men of Concordia will be gathering in the church basement for breakfast, song, and "male bonding."

For those of you interested in high cholesterol there will be food for your arteries...blood sludge. For the health conscious there will be fruit, bran and yogurt.

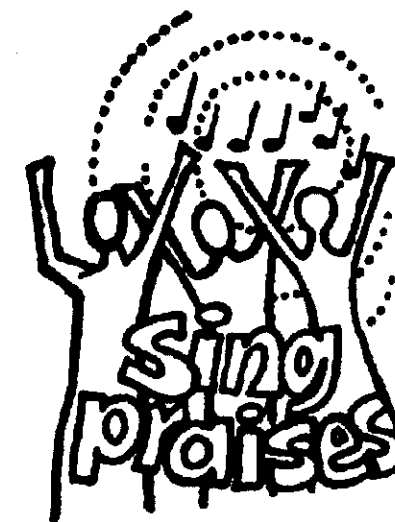
A great time of devotion is planned. We start promptly at 8:00am. We are done absolutely by 8:30 am (If not before). Come and join us.

"CONCORDIA'S MINISTRIES"

1. EVERY SUNDAY WORSHIP...REGULAR COMMUNION
2. NINE MONTH SUNDAY SCHOOL & CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
3. SUMMER VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
4. JUNIOR HIGH (7th & 8th) CONFIRMATION MINISTRY
5. ORGANIZED HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY
6. TUESDAY MORNING ADULT BIBLE STUDY
7. WEDNESDAY EVENING "DISCOVERY" BIBLE STUDY
8. THURSDAY EVENING "RECOVERY" (ADDICTIONS SUPPORT)
9. THURSDAY MORNING (SEPT-MAY) WOMEN'S STUDY
10. MONTHLY MEN'S SATURDAY BREAKFAST FELLOWSHIP
11. FRIDAY NOON "SOUP AND SCRIPTURE LUNCH"
12. TUESDAY EVENING ADULT CHOIR
13. MONTHLY WOMEN'S EVENING GROUP (LWML)
14. BI-ANNUAL RECYCLING/RUMMAGE SALE/BAZAAR
15. EXTENDED CARE CENTER WORSHIP (MONTHLY)
16. SEASONAL SPECIAL SERVICES (CHRISTMAS, EASTER, etc.)
17. RETREAT/TRIP MINISTRY (ALL AGES)
18. FACILITY USE FOR SCOUTS, A.A. AND THE LIKE
19. FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF BROADER CHURCH CONCERNS
20. FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF LOCAL HUMAN NEEDS
21. CHURCH GOVERNANCE AND BOARDS
22. FACILITY/PHYSICAL PLANT CARE AND UPKEEP
23. HOSPITAL, SHUT-IN, CRISIS CARE & COUNSELING
24. PRE-MARITAL COUNSELING AND WEDDINGS
25. FUNERAL CARE AND GRIEF SUPPORT
26. CHURCH OFFICE AND MINISTRY DETAIL CARE
27. GENERAL PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING
28. BAPTISM PREPARATION AND ADMINISTRATION
29. FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AROUND FOOD
30. A QUIET PLACE TO COME AND PRAY/REFLECT

Announcements

*Choir is starting up again!
Please consider joining us
on Tuesdays at 6:15pm-
7:15pm for practice. It's
a great way to make new
friends and use your
musical talents in praise
of a good God.*



"Soup & Scripture"

Fridays at 12:00 Noon

This new Bible study
opportunity kicks off on
September 13th.

Please join us over the noon
hour and receive food for the
body and the soul!

"Captive Free"

Concert - September 18

Wednesday - 7 pm

