

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* November 1996

To the Members and Friends of Concordia:

Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord!

"Once more (for the second time) Jesus put his hands on the man's eyes. Then his eyes were opened, his sight was restored, and he saw everything clearly." (Mark 8:25)

Before we make any reflections on this section of Scripture we need to get one thing clear. Jesus did not fail the first time in his attempt to heal this man's sight. For whatever reason, this man required "two touches" from our Lord. This is good news for us.

Sharing our faith is a tough task. For some it may be easy, but for most it is hard and challenging. We are confronted not only with our own doubts and issues, but we are faced with another's questions and life circumstances.

Jesus touches this man twice. Jesus touches us twice. Jesus will touch others through our witness. It may be the second touch of Jesus in that person's life. He does not give up.

In the life of every Christian there is a common reality. It took more than one contact with the Christian faith before you "got it!" We must trust this patient nature of God. Some people may be hearing the Gospel for the first time. Be patient. Trust that God will not give up on the person you share with. However, it may be through another Christian's words that a person will "see everything clearly."

Learn the Gospel yourself...Pray...Attend the Lord's Table...Study...Fellowship with other Christians...Worship regularly. It is from this base that you will be able to share "your" faith story. It is from this base that you will be able to touch your child, your neighbor, your work partner, your friend, your parent, your spouse, etc.

The bottom line is this. We have been "twice touched" by our Lord. Our lives have been restored. God wants no less for those we share the Good News with.

Tim

STEWARDSHIP

Did you know?

Our congregation is totally self supporting. We pay the principle and interest on the church debt and the parsonage. We pay all the upkeep expenses, staff salaries, as well as supporting the district and synod.

Did you know -

That worship, Bible Study and Fellowship opportunities have more than doubles since 1991?

Did you know -

That average Sunday service attendance has risen faster than the budget has increased. This means those attending church now are giving less on average than those attending five years ago. About \$120 per year less.

What if this trend continues?

Expanding services to members and our outreach efforts will stop growing because of our inability to supply the needed staff time. (Outreach and Christian fellowship is what we are all about isn't it?)

A building program will not be possible. It may not be necessary, but that raises an important question. Is a

congregation that isn't feeling real growing pains in a growing community really getting its job done?

How can we reverse this trend?

Every member should plan to give a specific amount of financial support for 1997. Consistent giving is much more effective in accomplishing the Lord's work than sporadic giving of what ever is left over.

Bill Baldwin Sr.,
Stewardship Chairperson

Concordia Statistics

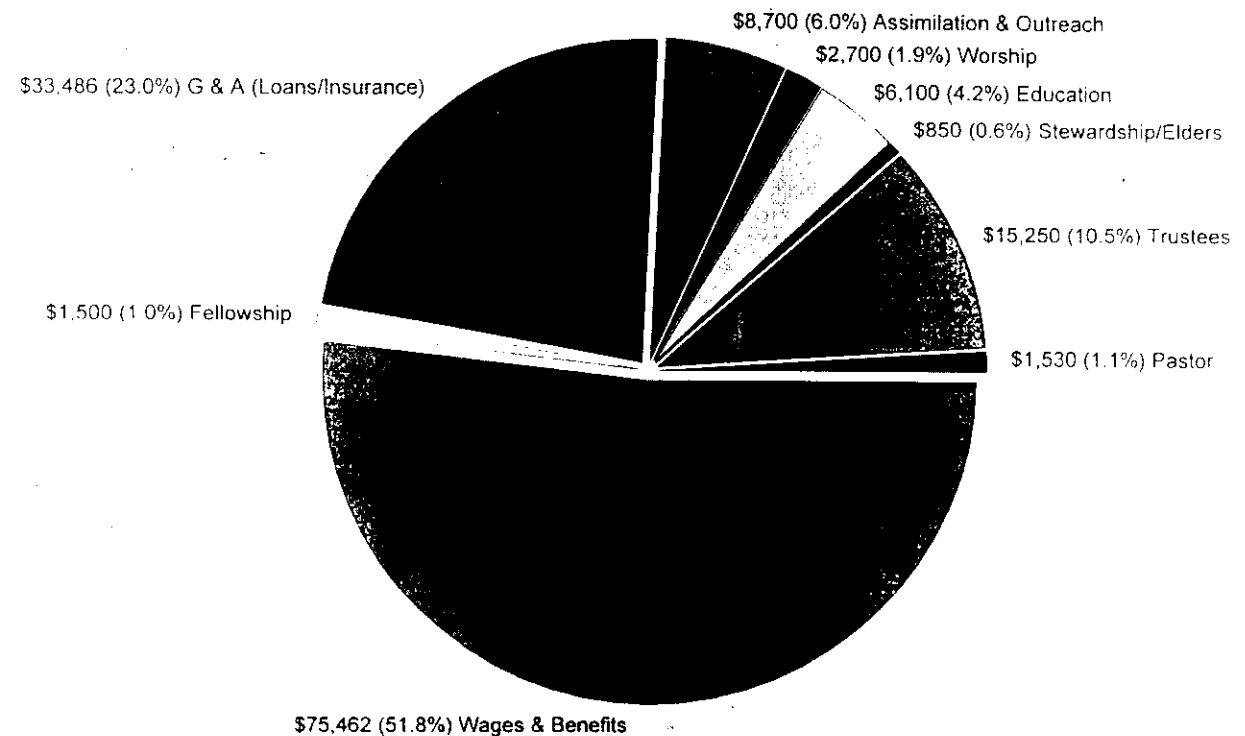
October History (worshipping numbers)

1991-117
1992-169
1993-179
1994-209
1995-207
1996-236

wk.#1	81 (E)	148(L)	<u>229</u>
wk.#2	89(E)	129(L)	<u>218</u>
wk.#3	65(E)	175(L)	<u>240</u>
wk.#4	142(E)	115(L)	<u>257</u>

Summary of 1997 "Approved" Budget (Ratified at October Voting Assembly)

1. TRUSTEES	\$15,250.00
2. EDUCATION	\$ 6,100.00
3. ASSIMILATION/OUTREACH	\$ 8,700.00
4. ELDERS	\$ 550.00
5. WORSHIP	\$ 2,700.00
6. STEWARDSHIP	\$ 300.00
7. FELLOWSHIP	\$ 1,500.00
8. PASTOR	\$ 1,530.00
9. GENERAL ADMINISTRATIVE (Loan, Insurance, Supplies, etc.)	\$33,486.00
10. WAGES & BENEFITS (Pastor, Office Staff, Organist)	\$75,462.07
	\$145,578.07



CONFIRMATION

The Jr. High Sponsor Program

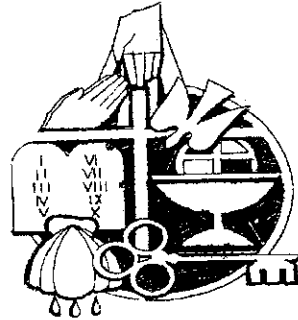
In a sponsor program, adults are assigned to be a mentor to a student. Students are assigned a mentor. In order for the program to be successful, the sponsor, the student, the parents, and the pastor must be aware of the expectations and guidelines for the program. Some of these are as follows:

- The mentor prays regularly for the student and his or her family.
- The mentor remembers the student on his or her birthday, confirmation, and on holidays.
- The mentor serves as a model for the student so that he or she sees the Christian nature of the mentor's life and is encouraged to become more involved in the life of the congregation.
- The mentor is present on the day of confirmation and serves as a congregational sponsor for the confirmand and his or her family.
- The parent(s) or guardian(s) and the pastor commit to support the

mentor/student relationship, to be aware of the activities the mentor and student share, and to act as advisers.

We recognize that relationships need to be tended with care and over time to be healthy and strong, and we will not give up too quickly. Mentors and students alike can look forward to being enriched as the mentor and student share thoughts, faith, and fun together.

Please contact Marlys Cartwright if you are interested in being a Confirmation Sponsor. (879-8455)



Remember the following dates for upcoming Confirmation events in November:

November 10 - 4:30 pm
November 17 - 9:15 am
November 27 - 7:00 pm (Thanksgiving Eve Service)

**VOTE NO
ON 11!**

*Don't hurt
the
helpers!*

Good News

I'm here to share some good news - *and unfortunately* - some bad news. The good news is, by nature we Coloradans are givers. We are a state of helpers. We value our communities and we put a lot of energy into making Colorado a great place to live.

Bad News

The bad news is, unless we all work *together* to defeat it, voters in November will pass a dangerous property tax initiative - An initiative which threatens to destroy our communities by bankrupting our charities and our churches.

Can you imagine an initiative designed to destroy many of Colorado's most precious charities and churches by saddling their already tight budgets with an annual property tax?

- An initiative designed to funnel dollars away from our charities and churches while, by definition, makes no provisions for replacing the valuable services provided by those organizations?

Imagine an initiative which also socks homeowners with \$1.4 million in new property taxes?

The property tax initiative voters will consider in November is so harmful to our communities, it's difficult to *imagine* that *anyone* would actually vote for it. Yet, drafters of this mean-spirited property tax initiative coaxed more than 80,000 people into signing petitions to put the measure on the ballot by telling them they'd begin some sort of tax break - which, of course, isn't true.

Clearly, the property tax initiative must be stopped - it will hurt the helpers. We can't afford a new tax which strips us of our ability to volunteer and to give to the causes we believe in.

More information is available from Pastor Cartwright if needed.

November 1996

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1 Soup & Scripture 12:00 Girl Scouts 6 pm	2
3 Worship 8/10:30 Education Hour 9:15	4 Girl Scouts 3:30 pm Women's AA 7 pm	5 Bible Study 6:30 am Cookie Baking 9:30 am at Church Choir 6:15 pm Committees 7 pm	5 Discovery 7 pm	7 NO SCHOOL K-5 Women's Study 10 am Recovery 7 pm	8 Soup & Scripture 12:00 Wedding 6 pm	9 Men's Breakfast 7am "Volunteer Development Workshop" 10:00 am to 3:00 pm
10 Worship 8/10:30 Education Hour 9:15 Confirmation 4:40 Youth Group 5:30	11 Girl Scouts 3:30 Women's AA 7 pm	12 Bible Study 6:30 am Choir 6:15 pm Church Council 7:30	13 Discovery 7 pm	14 Women's Study 10 am Recovery 7 pm	15 Soup & Scripture 12:00 Girl Scouts 6 pm	16
17 Worship 8/10:30 Education Hour 9:15 Confirmation 9:15	18 Girl Scouts 3:30 m Women's AA 7 pm	19 Bible Study 6:30 am Cookie Baking 9:30 am at Church Choir 6:15 pm Callers 7 pm	20 Discovery 7 pm LWML 7 pm	21 Women's Study 10 am Recovery 7 pm	22 Soup & Scripture 12:00	23 BAZAAR 9 am - 2 pm
24 Worship 8/10:30 Education Hour 9:15 ECC 12:45	25 Girl Scouts 3:30 pm Women's AA 7 pm	26 Bible Study 6:30 am Choir 6:15 pm Callers 7 pm	27 THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE 7 pm Confirmation 7 pm NO SCHOOL	28 THANKSGIVING NO SCHOOL	29 Soup & Scripture 12:00 Girl Scouts 6 pm NO SCHOOL	30

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.

Thursday 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. Child care is available in the basement of the church at 9:30 where coffee and goodies will be provided.. The study will begin (for adults only) at 10 am at Mary Dombey's home (775 Amethyst Drive).

Friday Soup & Scripture
Each Friday a light lunch will be provided and then we will take a few minutes to review a section of the great Word of God...a Psalm, a story, a proverb, a parable, etc. We will close with a prayer at 12:50 and you can be back to the office, home, job site, school, etc..by 1:00 pm!

Sunday 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.



Thanksgiving Day

In 1621, "after the ingathering of the first harvest in a new world," Governor Bradford of the Plymouth Colony invited the Pilgrims to keep "a day of prayer, praise, and thanksgiving." In 1789 President George Washington issued the first *national* thanksgiving proclamation in the United States. In 1863, after the bloody Battle of Gettysburg, President Lincoln urged the entire nation to observe a day of prayer and thanksgiving on the last Thursday of November. Since then this particular Thursday has been America's annual Thanksgiving Day.

References: Lev. 23:39; Deut. 8:10-11; Ps. 67:5-7; 92:1.

When did you last write a thank-you note?

Dr. William L. Stidger told in Guidepost (November 1953) that he decided one evening years ago to write to his boyhood schoolteacher and thank her for awakening in him a love for English poetry. "Weeks later the lonely woman wrote him: "I want to let you know what your note meant to me. I am an old lady in my eighties, living alone in a small room, like the last leaf on a tree. I taught fifty years, yet in all that time yours is the first letter of appreciation I have ever received. It came on a blue, cold morning and cheered my lonely heart as nothing has in many years." From that time on until his death, Dr. Stidger wrote thank-you notes to many for the little things and many favors shown to him over the years.

References: Ruth 2:10-11; Luke 17:15-19; 1 Thess. 5:18 (appreciating the gratitude of others). Neh. 9:26; Eccl. 9:15; Is. 1:2-3; Luke 17:11-19; Rom. 1:21 (so few are grateful).

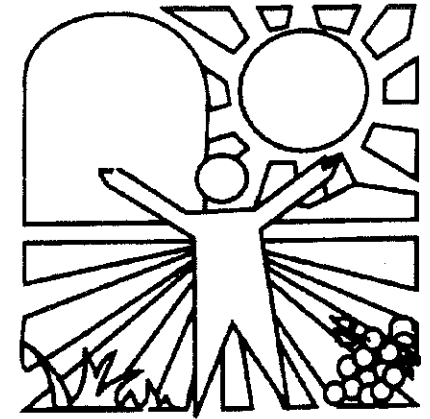


FAMILY ISSUES

Time with Your Child

This week, as you consider how you might give your child both quality and quantity time, consider some of these possibilities:

1. Schedule a minimum of 15 minutes a day with your child, making sure she knows the time is for her.
2. Plan a time when you can take each child out for a meal and some conversation.
3. Read a story to your child.
4. Pray for your child while waiting in line at the grocery market, or while stuck in a traffic jam.
5. Use a Sunday school leaflet or a children's message in church as a springboard to find out what your child is thinking about God. Such moments reap everlasting blessing.



Psalm 100

Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth.

*Worship the Lord with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.*

*Know that the Lord is God.
It is he who made us, and we are his;*

we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.

*Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.*

*For the Lord is good and his love
endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through
all generations.*

Outreach and Assimilation

What is Outreach and Assimilation?

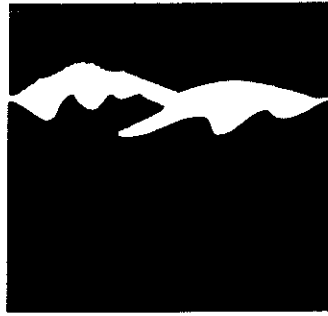
When we think of "Outreach" most of us get sweaty palms. Oh no, I can't speak to someone or "witness" about my faith. Outreach really is just building relationships and inviting friends to come and see for themselves. The Holy Spirit does the rest. Come and hear more about this subject at Pastor's Adult Sunday School hour November 3rd. You may be surprised how easy sharing really is!

Now assimilation is a really weird word. But it's really simple. It's making sure all the members of our congregation feel like family.

One way we help people assimilate is by providing new member sponsors, packets and luncheons. Another way members become "family" is by working side by side. Things like the Rummage Sale, the Spring and Fall Clean-up days, the Soup Suppers, etc., all give people the opportunity to serve together, to grow closer together. If you haven't yet participated in this way, you've missed out. Make it a priority! You'll see.

Assimilation is important for us all and LOTS OF FUN.

- Judy Plumb,
Fellowship Chairperson



Sharing Update



LCMS World Relief

This is harvest time in many parts of the country. We are again reminded that this is a land blessed with plenty. Yet there are many, even here in this country, who do not have access to adequate food supplies. Consider the following:

- The developing world has 75% of the world's population but only 30% of the world's food grains.

- Poverty is the main cause of malnutrition. Without money, access to food is obstructed. In 1993, 15% of the population in the United States lived in poverty.

- The U.S. Census Bureau reports that 1 in 10 Americans receives food stamps. Children age 17 and under comprise 26 percent of the population and make up 43 percent of all food stamp clients.

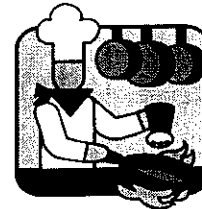
Announcements

BAZAAR

Save Saturday, November 23rd, to attend our annual Bazaar from 9 am to 2 pm. Brunch will be available, as well as the famous cookie caper. There will also be a book sale to benefit the church library.

VOTE NO ON 11!

Don't hurt
the 
helpers!



Men's Breakfast
Fellowship
Saturday, Nov. 9th
7 am at the church

Join us! Bring a friend.

Cookie Caper News

Cookie Baking Schedule:

Tuesday, November 5th:
9:30 am at the church

Tuesday, November 12th:
9:30 am at Diane Weber's
home (1769 Timothy)

Tuesday, November 19th:
9:30 am at the church

If you are unable to help us bake cookies for the bazaar you can make a donation for the ingredients and put it in Diane Weber's box. If you have any questions call Diane at 879-3863.

