

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

December



1996

"I bring you news of a great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11)

Greetings in the name of the "Reason for the Christmas Season"...Jesus!

In a "Peanuts" cartoon by Charles M. Schultz, little Lucy throws up her hands in utter despair and shrieks, "For months we looked forward to Christmas. We couldn't wait till it came, and now it's all over!"

"Oh little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie." (Hymn #60) Christmas is a time of "stillness." Yet, the hectic schedules we all surround ourselves with make it less than still. We care for home, work, school, kids, church, sports, drama productions, etc. Quite the opposite of little Lucy, we may find ourselves hoping for Christmas to be over.

"The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay." (Hymn #64) Christmas is a time of rest. Yet, we prepare feasts. We rush to visit family and friends. We try to meet the expectations of all. We buy presents. We melt our plastic credit cards in preparation for this day. Quite opposite of little Lucy, we may find ourselves hoping for Christmas to be over.

"Silent night, holy night! All is calm." (Hymn #68) Christmas is a time of calm. Yet, we operate on short nights of sleep. We work two jobs to make ends meet. We teach our kids that December is nothing more than harsh words and quick paced living. Quite opposite from little Lucy, we may find ourselves hoping for Christmas to be over.

Christmas is a time of stillness, rest and calm. It is the time when the Christian community recognizes that into a busy, fast paced, hurried world of struggle and frenzied schedules, God sent His only begotten Son. He did it quietly. Find sanctuary this "Holy" season in God's good gift of love. There are some helps in this newsletter.

God's peace to you and yours.

In Christ,


Pastor Cartwright.

Concordia Statistics

November History (worshipping numbers)

1991-114
1992-166
1993-185
1994-215
1995-214
1996-238

wk.#1 81(E) 115(L) 201
wk.#2 106(E) 154(L) 260
wk.#3 122(E) 106(L) 228
wk.#4 134(E) 129(L) 263

We can truly be thankful as we see our worshipping numbers growing stronger each month and year. This is a gift from God.

Please be mindful that each "number" represents a person, a couple, a family, a kid, a need, a joy, a concern, a life, a hope, a child of God.

We are spread out during our week. We have homes, hobbies, and personal lives. We have smaller "group" events here at the church. Sunday is that "coming together" time. How wonderful it is!

See you Sunday!



Youth Group

The Youth Group would like to thank the LWML for the \$700 contribution from the fall rummage sale which will be used to offset expenses at the '97 Youth Gathering in Atlanta. This contribution was matched by AAL to give us a total of \$1400.



The parents and youth of the High School Youth Group would like to announce that they are sponsoring the Advent suppers this year as a service to the church and as a potential fund-raiser.

The Youth Group families will be serving supper on the first 3 Wednesdays of December at 5:30 pm. A suggested donation of \$4.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children (5-12) will help offset the costs and allow proceeds to go towards Atlanta '97.

How to Tell the Story

Parents, if you haven't already told your children the story, who has? What sort of Gabriel brought it to them? Don't you know that the teller shapes the tale?

Grandparents, are you satisfied to let mumbling Rumor garble this marvelous story for your grandchildren? Should they piece it together themselves, from Christmas carols and that dead set, that mercenary invasion, the box of empty sentiment and silliness, the television? "The true meaning of Christmas"—indeed!

Fathers, make a holy time in which nothing distracts you and nothing delights your children except this story. Mothers, prepare a holy space in a corner of your home. Time and space will prove the story important. Grandma, Grandpa, present a holy attitude. You reach to an ancient bedrock for this story. Both the age in your face and the love in your eye will convince that child of that, and of its truth.

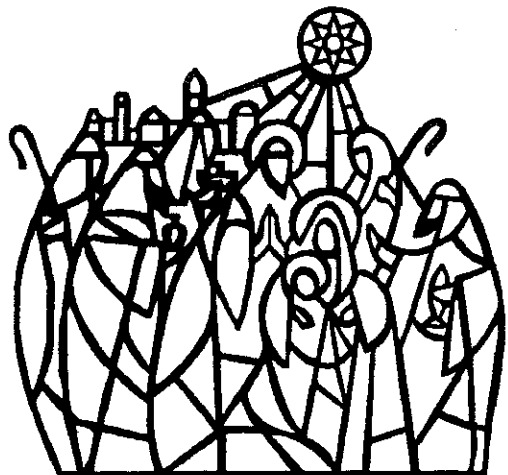
Then tell the story whole, beginning to end, all of a piece, and seamless.

Say, "Child, I want to tell you a story beautiful and true. It actually happened; it happened for you."

Say, "Once upon a time, the angel Gabriel was sent from God —"

Mark 1:1-3





LWML

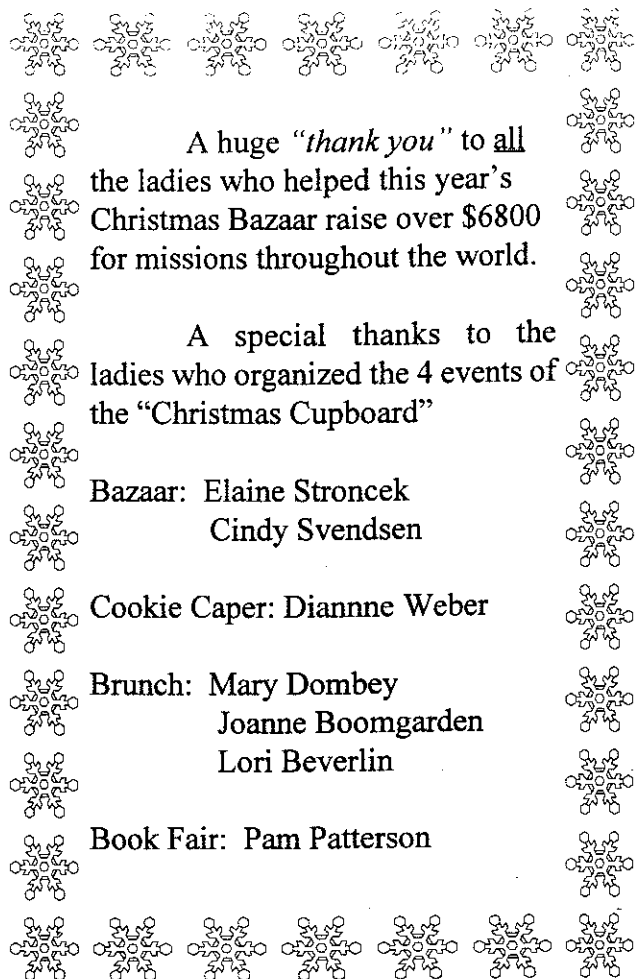
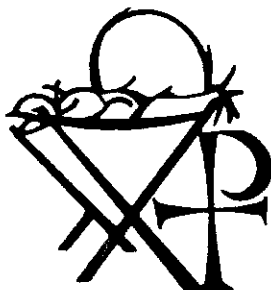
December's meeting will be held at Dianne Weber's at 1769 Timothy Drive (Phone # 879-3863). Our meeting will be a Christmas Brunch and *all women* in our congregation are invited to come! Secret Sisters are to bring a Christmas gift for their Secret Sister and their identity will be revealed! It all starts at 10 am on Saturday, December 14. Please join us!

In His name,
Pam Patterson

From Mary's Song

....Older than eternity, now he
is new. Now native to earth as I am, nailed
to my poor planet, caught that I might be free,
blind in my womb to know my darkness ended,
brought to this birth
for me to be new-born,
and for him to see me mended
I must see him torn.

Luci Shaw, Listen to the Green



A huge "thank you" to all the ladies who helped this year's Christmas Bazaar raise over \$6800 for missions throughout the world.

A special thanks to the ladies who organized the 4 events of the "Christmas Cupboard"

Bazaar: Elaine Stroncek
Cindy Svendsen

Cookie Caper: Diannne Weber

Brunch: Mary Dombey
Joanne Boomgarden
Lori Beverlin

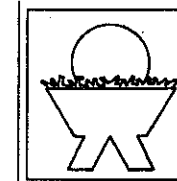
Book Fair: Pam Patterson

FAMILY ISSUES

Christmas Without Cookies?

My children banded together to bake sugar cookies for the school Christmas party. As they worked together and prepared the batter, they tasted it, but it wasn't right. Something had been left out, and even the raw batter could not hide it. Quickly they rechecked what they had done with the recipe and learned to their astonishment that they had left out the sugar. What a difference that addition made! Sometimes we leave that out of the Christmas Bread of life itself. We follow the recipe with cold assurance, only to discover that the most important ingredient has been forgotten. As sugar cookies without sugar, so Christmas Bread cannot be Christmas Bread without Christ.

References: Matt. 2:1-2; Luke 2:10-11; Gal. 4:4.



Christmas & Advent Worship Schedule

Wednesday, December 4th:
Soup Supper - 5:30 pm
Advent Service - 7 pm

Wednesday, December 11th:
Soup Supper - 5:30 pm
Advent Service - 7 pm

Wednesday, December 18th:
Soup Supper - 5:30 pm
Advent Service - 7 pm

Tuesday, December 24th:
CHRISTMAS EVE
5:30 pm
7:30 pm
Candlelight Service - 10 pm

Wednesday, December 25th:
CHRISTMAS DAY
10:00 am

Tuesday, December 31st:
Communion Service - 7 pm

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

December 1996



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
1 Worship 8/10:30 Education Hr. 9:15 Confirmation 4:30 pm	2 Girl Scouts 3:30 Women's AA 7 pm	3 6:30 am Bible Study Choir 6:15 pm Committees 7:15 pm	4 Advent 7 pm Soup Supper 5:30 pm	5 Women's Study 10 am Recovery 7 pm	6 Soup & Scripture 12 noon	7
8 Worship 8/10:30 Education Hr. 9:15 Confirmation 9:15 Youth Group 5:30 pm	9 Girl Scouts 3:30 pm Women's AA 7 pm	10 6:30 am Bible Study Choir 6:15 pm Church Council 7:30	11 Advent 7 pm Soup Supper 5:30 pm	12 Women's Study 10 am Recovery 7 pm	13 Soup & Scripture 12 noon	14 Men's Breakfast 7 am LWML 10 am at the home of Dianne Weber (1769 Timothy Drive)
15 Worship 8/10:30 Education Hr. 9:15 Confirmation 4:30 pm Dinner/party and (Christmas Carolling at 6 pm downtown.)	16 Girl Scouts 3:30 pm Women's AA 7 pm	17 6:30 am Bible Study Choir 6:15 pm Callers 7:00 pm	18 Advent 7pm Soup Supper 5:30 pm	19 Women's Study 10 am Recovery 7 pm	20 Soup & Scripture 12 noon	21
22 Worship 8/10:30 Education Hr. 9:15 ECC 12:45	23 Women's AA 7 pm	24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES: 5:30/7:30 Candlelight Service 10:00 pm	25 CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE 10:00 am	26 Recovery 7 pm	27 Soup and Scripture 12 noon	28
29 Worship 8/10:30 Education Hr. 9:15	30 Women's AA 7 pm	31 6:30 am Bible Study New Year's Eve Communion Service 7:00 pm				

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. The study will begin (for adults only) at 10 am at Mary Dombey's home (775 Amethyst Drive).

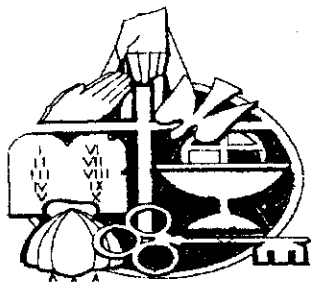
Friday Soup & Scripture

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.

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 December:

December 1 - 4:30 pm
December 8 - 9:15 am
December 15 (Dinner/Party) 4:30 pm
Christmas Carolling downtown at 6 pm.

Outreach & Assimilation and Fellowship Look Ahead to 1997

As 1996 draws to an end the Outreach & Assimilation Committee is taking a look back at the year. We are pleased that many of our goals have been or are being met, but we are also very aware that much still needs to be done in reaching the unchurched and helping all our members feel valued.

One of the areas that still needs addressing is the Fellowship Committee. According to our new constitution, this committee works hand and hand with the Outreach & Assimilation Committee to help provide a warm and inviting atmosphere where visitors and members alike feel welcome.

A Fellowship Committee is being assembled for next year and will be comprised of all kinds of people — those who like to work behind the scenes, those who like to plan the details of events, and those who like to greet people and host events. There truly is something for everyone. Please start praying now about how you might be used by the Lord in this area. Let Jean Smith, our church secretary, know if you'd like to help in this area. If you just want to know more about Outreach and Fellowship opportunities call Judy Plumb at 870-8040.



A Christmas Prayer for You and/or Your family

Holy blessed Trinity, fill me with the excitement of the birth of the Son of God.

Father of our Lord, who sent Your Son to be like us and made Him the Son of Man that I might become a son of God, open my heart to accept this mystery of grace and to trust Your love forevermore.

Child of Bethlehem, I am grateful for Your coming to be one with the children of men so that our eyes may see and our ears may hear the goodness of God's life-giving love. Enable me to receive this gift with the joy of angels.

Holy Spirit of God, against whom no door can be shut, enter the homes of our land and make them holy this day with the pureness and beauty of love given in the birth of our Savior. Through all we have seen and heard, move us to share the Good News and good love with all men

Holy blessed Trinity, fill me and all the earth with the excitement of the birth of the Son of God. Amen.

Lift-Up



Lift-Up of Routt County currently runs a food bank, distributes excess food to needy citizens through the Colorado Commodities program, and administrates the Community Care Fund which helps travelers who have become stranded here with food, lodging or ways in which to get back on their way. It also acts as a referral service to help people with long term solutions.

Lift-Up was the brain child of the Ministerial Association and was originally funded by Concordia Lutheran Church and four other churches. We have agreed to continue our pledge of \$170 per month through 1997 and several other churches and organizations are now helping to fund this worthy endeavor.

The need for emergency services has been much greater than

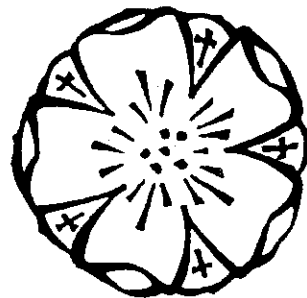
anticipated and the response by the community with food has been wonderful. But the Lift-Up Board soon realized that Karen Rhoads, our part-time director, needed to be full-time. We stepped out in faith and have hired Karen full-time. She has worked very hard and has already obtained several grants, but in order to keep the doors open and to help pay for Karen's health insurance, Lift-Up needs cash donations.

This is the Time of year many of us write checks to various charities. If you are doing so this year, please consider sending a donation to:

Lift-Up
PO Box 881145
Steamboat Springs, CO 80488.

Thank you!

Judy Plumb, Representative
Lift-Up Board.



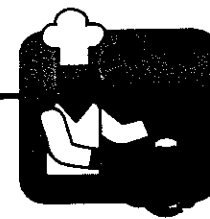
Announcements



*LWML
Christmas Brunch*

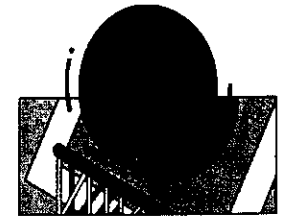
*Saturday, December 14
10:00 am
Dianne Weber's Home
(1769 Timothy Drive)*

*All Women of the
Church are invited!*



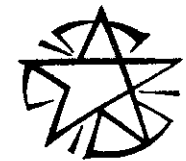
**Men's Breakfast Fellowship
Saturday, December 14
7 am at the church**

Join us! Bring a friend.



Basketball League

If you are interested in playing on Concordia's Winter Basketball league beginning Sunday evenings in 1997, call Bert Kounovsky at 879-2532 or Mike Beurskens at 870-9720.



Mark your calendars for the Epiphany Party at the Ore House on January 4th at 7:00 pm! All singles and married couples are invited. Invitations with details will follow.