

*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*

## February 1997



Dear Members and Friends of Concordia;

Greetings in the name of our risen Lord!

January thaw! Isn't it time for our January thaw? When will the thaw come? Don't you just love the word *thaw*? The dictionary has a simple definition: To cause to melt. Thaw may indicate the change from one form to another. Let me give you some examples of "thawing" in the Word of God.

- A. Lazarus went from dead to living by Jesus' words.
- B. Successful business woman Lydia went from a non-believer to a baptized believer.
- C. Abram and Sarai went to Abraham and Sarah...claimed by God.
- D. The Prodigal Son went from failure to forgiven.
- E. Fishermen became faithful followers of Jesus.


This "thawing" list could go on, and on, and on, and on.....etc.

As you look toward your worship home and the spiritual patterns in your personal lives, let me make some simple suggestions...not mandates!

1. Commit to a regular habit of Sunday morning worship. (8:00am & 10:30am)
2. Choose to a Bible Study. Look at the schedule. Each day of the week there is opportunity. Call the Pastor for detailed information. Very kind study environments.
3. Invite a congregational Christian friend and/or family over for dinner.
4. Establish a 10 minute daily devotion and prayer time. The Pastor can put good resources in your hands to accomplish this.

God bless your January thaw!

In Christ,

  
Pastor Timothy C. Cartwright

## OPPORTUNITY

Most of us are so busy these days we have a hard time making a commitment to serve our church on a regular basis. What if I can't make it to church that week? I can't possibly fit another meeting in my schedule. Or maybe we'd like to help, but we don't like to drive at night or we don't feel qualified to hold an office or be on a committee. We may feel guilty. We may feel disconnected.

Well, we have just the answer for you. In your box this week are three opportunities to serve your church. Each is easy. Each takes very little time. And each one is a short term commitment. You can say yes or no according to your schedule.

You could be a sponsor for a new person or family joining our church. (The job description is on the sheet.) Or you could prepare a dessert or dish for a special event every so often, as your schedule permits. Or you could help with phone calls when needed. It's easy. You choose the time at your convenience and the commitment is limited.

And we promise that if you sign-up to serve in one of the ways listed you

will receive a call within one week verifying your willingness to help. Please consider the ways in which you can help your worship community and still maintain your sanity. Then, fill out the sheet in your box and place it in Judy Plumb's box. Thanks. It really is true that many hands make the work light.



### January Average Worship Attendance

1991	138
1992	109
1993	179
1994	183
1995	179
1996	181
1997	196

### January 1977 Worship Attendance

wk.#1	110(E)	107(L)	217
wk.#2	69(E)	65(L)	134
	(heavy snow)		
wk.#3	109(E)	95(L)	204
wk.#4	126(E)	102(L)	228

## SEARCHING SCRIPTURE BAPTISM AS A MEANS OF GRACE

by Rev. Kenneth R. Scherer, pastor of Spirit of Life Lutheran Church, serving Inverness and North Hoffman, Ill.

by Rev. Kenneth R. Scherer

*Editor's note: Beginning this month, "Searching Scripture" will carry a three-part Bible study that sets forth the solid Scriptural basis for the Lutheran understanding and practice of baptism. The three parts will cover the issues dividing Lutherans and fundamentalists: baptism as a means of grace, infant baptism and methods of baptism.*

Baptism is one of God's greatest gifts to His people. Unfortunately, the sacrament is often a source of disagreement among various churches. Fundamentalist churches often give the impression that their understanding and practice of baptism is in full accordance with the teachings of the Bible and that we Lutherans have little, if any, Scriptural basis for our understanding and practice. This is simply not true.

For fundamentalist churches, baptism is not so much a means of grace as it is a profession of faith—a physical act that the "born-again" person submits to as an act of obedience, to show that he is indeed born again. The fundamentalist churches stress the human element in baptism. For them, baptism is not so much what God is doing but what man is doing. Man plays the *active* role in his baptism. But is this the emphasis of Scripture in regard to baptism? Let's look.

Acts 2:37-38—Notice that Peter tells those whom the Holy Spirit is reaching through his message to be baptized "for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Baptism is not something that they were to do as a testimony to being saved. In baptism, God would do something for them. He would

forgive their sins, and they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 22:16—If anyone ever had a born-again experience and could point to the day and the time, it was the apostle Paul. But was his baptism just a testimony to his conversion and an act of obedience? Hardly! He is told to "be baptized and wash your sins away." Forgiveness of sins flowed to Paul through his baptism.

1 Peter 3:21—Baptism is not "the removal of dirt from the body" but a sacrament "that now saves you." God does far more for us in our baptism than any amount of physical washing could do. He totally cleanses our whole being, and we have the "pledge of a good conscience" toward Him. This pledge is not the *means* of salvation but the *result*. We can have a "good conscience toward God" only after we have received His grace. In this verse, baptism is the channel through which that grace flows.

Titus 3:5—God saves us, not by anything that we do, but by what He has done for us. He saves us through "the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit." God's grace flows through baptism for our salvation. He is the subject of this sentence; we are the object. God's role in baptism is active; ours is passive. God gives, and we receive, salvation through baptism.

Eph. 5:25-27—What a picture of God's grace! We stand before Christ tattered and filthy with sin, and He bathes us in baptism—"the washing with water through the Word"—and presents us to Himself "radiant . . . without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless." Again, Christ's role is active; ours is

passive. Christ washes us and makes us presentable to Himself.

Rom. 6:3-4—Notice again the passive role of the person baptized. Baptism is not a testimony that we are in Christ, but rather it is the very means that God uses to put us into union with Christ and to give us the benefits of His death on our behalf. We "were baptized into Christ Jesus." We "were baptized into His death." Our *active* role is to "live a new life" as a *result* of our baptism.

The Scriptures are abundantly clear. God is active in baptism. Man is passive. God is giving. Man is receiving. Baptism is a means of grace. God's grace flows through the channel of baptism to forgive our sins, save us and empower us with the Holy Spirit to live a Christian life.

A word of clarification: While it is true that baptism saves us (1 Pet. 3:21), it saves us in the sense that it is a *means* of grace—a *channel* through which God's grace flows. Our faith is not in the channel, but in the grace that flows through it. Our faith is not in the *ritual* of our baptism, but in the *reality* of God's grace in our baptism. We can lose all the benefits of our baptism if we reject God's grace in it, if we in unbelief refuse to live the Christian life to which God calls us through our baptism.

*Editor's note: Next month, the Scriptural basis for infant baptism.*





## CONFIRMATION NEWS

A big thank you to our sponsors who remembered us on Christmas! Not one of us was missed...which is great when you consider there are 28 of us!

We are going bowling on Feb. 16th from 3-4:30 pm. Meet at the Snowbowl at 2:50 pm to get shoes on and bring \$2.00 for bowling, the church will cover the rest. (Bring extra if you want to buy refreshments.)

Thanks to the Fritz's and the Svendsen's for letting us use your homes for our morning Confirmation sessions. We have another big event coming up in February. The concert by the group "RIVER" at 7 pm on Wednesday Feb. 19th, preceded by dinner at 5:30 pm at the church. This is mandatory for all confirmation students. See you there.

Other meeting dates in February:

- February 2nd** - 4:30 pm at church (5:30 pm Pizza and Parents meeting)
- February 9th** - 4:30 pm in Sanctuary
- February 12th** - 5:30 Soup Supper and 7 pm Ash Wednesday Worship
- February 16th** - 9:15 am at Svendsen's Bowling at 3-4:30 pm
- February 19th** - RIVER CONCERT at 7 pm / dinner at 5:30 pm



## WOMEN'S RETREAT

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Women's Easter Retreat entitled: Celebrate who you are in Christ to be held at Dutch Creek Ranch Friday April 11 - Saturday April 12. More information will be available in the March newsletter. Plan on coming! Questions? Call Marlys at 879-0175.

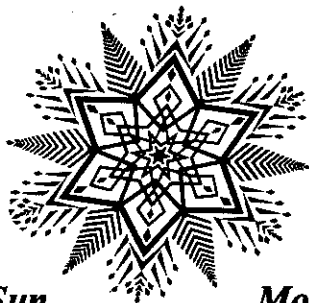


## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Don't forget to save these important dates for this year's Vacation Bible School. We will start with a Celebration Worship Service on Sunday June 8th with the Captive Free Team. Then on Monday - Wednesday we will run a Vacation Bible School from 9 am to 1:30 pm with music led by Captive Free. We will end the program on Wednesday evening, June 11th. It's an exciting and FUN VBS you won't want to miss! Adults we will need your help with crafts, recreation and teaching. Remember the great times we had together last summer? Sign up for more of the same this year.

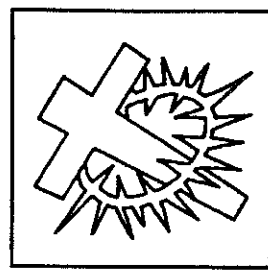
## CONCORDIA'S 1997 LENTEN/HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- FEB. 12TH**...Ash Wednesday Worship & Communion.....7:00pm (Worship Ensemble will lead this service)
- FEB. 16TH**...Regular Sunday morning services.....8:00am & 10:30am (Jan Fritz organist & Adult Choir...Communion)
- FEB. 19TH**...Lenten Service #1..."River" concert (Wed.).....7:00pm ("River" lead music-Community invited)
- FEB. 23RD**...Regular Sunday morning services.....8:00am & 10:30am (Worship Ensemble will lead this service)
- MAR. 2ND**...Regular Sunday morning services.....8:00am & 10:30am (Jan Fritz and Adult Choir lead music...Communion)
- MAR. 9TH**...Regular Sunday morning services.....8:00am & 10:30am (Jan Fritz organist-Special music TBA)
- MAR. 12TH**...Lent Service #2-Wed.-Marlys Cartwright, DCE-7:00pm (Music concerns yet to be identified)
- MAR. 16TH**...Regular Sunday Morning services....8:00am & 10:30am (Jan Fritz organist-Adult Choir...Communion)
- MAR. 23RD**...Confirmation Sunday.....8:00am & 10:30am (Conf/10:30am-Jan Fritz organist-Special music TBA)
- MAR. 27TH**...Maundy/Thursday service-Ensemble.....7:00pm (First Communion for Conf. class...Jan Fritz organist)
- MAR. 28TH**...Good Friday service.....7:00pm (Jan Fritz organist-Special Music TBA)
- MAR. 30TH**...**EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES:(Communion All)**
  - A. Sunrise Service (Music-TBA).....6:30am**
  - B. Early Service Celebration (Music-TBA).....8:00am**
  - C. Late Service Celebration (Music-TBA).....10:00am**
  - \*Jan Fritz organist for these services**



# February

## CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH 1997



*Sun*                      *Mon*                      *Tue*                      *Wed*                      *Thu*                      *Fri*                      *Sat*

						1
2 Worship 8/10:30 am Education Hr. 9:15 am Confirmation Outing/Dinner 3:00 pm	3 Worship Ensemble 6-7:30 pm Women's AA 7 pm	4 Bible Study 6:30 am Choir 6:15 pm Committees 7 pm	5 Discovery 7 pm	6 Women's Study 10 am Recovery 7 pm	7 NO SCHOOL Soup & Scripture 12 noon  (Fort Collins Youth Group)	8 Men's Breakfast 7-8:30 am Village Inn
9 Worship 8/10:30 am Education Hr. 9:15 am Confirmation 4:30 pm Dinner Theater 6pm	10 Women's AA 7 pm	11 Bible Study 6:30 am Choir 6:15 pm Church Council 7:30 pm	12 ASH WEDNESDAY 7 pm Confirmation 7 pm Soup Supper 5:30 pm	13 Women's Study 10 am Recovery 7 pm	14 Soup & Scripture 12 noon	15
16 Worship 8/10:30 am NEW MEMBERS 10:30 SERVICE Education Hr. 9:15 am Confirmation 9:15 am	17 Worship Ensemble 6-7:30 pm Women's AA 7 pm	18 Bible Study 6:30 am Choir 6:15 pm Callers 7 pm	19 "RIVER" CONCERT 7 pm Dinner - 5:30 pm	20 Women's Study 10 am LWML at Pam Patterson's (30 Highland Dr.) 7 pm Elder's 6:30 pm Recovery 7 pm	21 Soup & Scripture 12 noon	22
23 Worship 8/10:30 am Education Hr. 9:15 am ECC 12:45 pm	24 NO SCHOOL Women's AA 7 pm	25 NO SCHOOL Bible Study 6:30 am Choir 6:15 pm Callers 7 pm	26 NO SCHOOL Discovery 7 pm	27 NO SCHOOL Recovery 7 pm	28 NO SCHOOL	

**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. 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.

## WHAT IS A DCE?

At our January Quarterly voting our congregation decided to extend a part-time call to Marlys Cartwright, D.C.E. She will target specific areas of our christian education needs here at Concordia.

D.C.E. represents "Director of Christian Education." The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS) operates numerous colleges, universities, and seminaries. At these institutions there are specific degrees that allow an individual to train for positions in congregations that address certain christian education needs.

Marlys completed the 5 year undergraduate degree at Concordia College in Seward, Nebraska. Her internship was done in a large congregation just outside of Lincoln, Nebraska. Marlys has served as a D.C.E. in St. Louis, North Dakota and Idaho.

D.C.E.'s are trained in biblical studies, theology, educational methodology, congregational dynamics, group mechanics, and a general liberal arts education. Special emphasis can be in music, outreach, social work, youth, adult education, etc.

This area of service to God's church may be possible for your child. Our Lutheran Church has many areas of training and service.

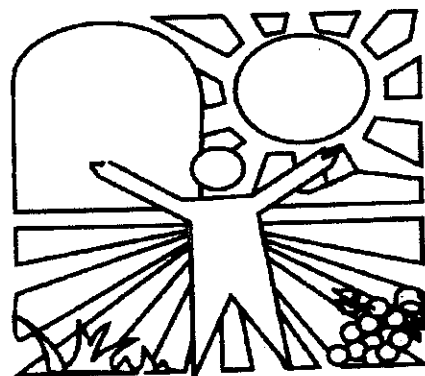
Welcome to Marlys! God bless her continued ministry in HIS church and among the family of faith at Concordia.

Now all we need is office space, and program space for her and the people of our congregation.

## THANK YOU TO THE CONGREGATION

Thank you for remembering us at the Epiphany party with a wonderful Christmas gift. We appreciate the friendships that enrich our lives on a daily basis. God Bless your new year with His Bountiful Grace.

In Christ's Love,  
Tim, Marlys, Katie, Kia and Kelly



## The One Minute Bible

Edited by John R. Kohlenberger

February 14

## THE GREATEST IS LOVE

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

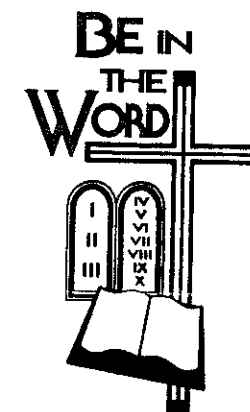
Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

*1 Corinthians 13:1-8a; Ephesians 5:25*

Related texts: Deuteronomy 6:1-5; Psalm 136; John 15:9-17; 1 John 3

## Well-doing and Wellness

(a note from the Director of Christian Ed.)



The apostle Paul urged the people of Galatia not to "grow weary in well-doing." Paul recognized there are "dog days" and "rat races" when we Christians feel less than human. There are days when we feel driven, numb and stale. Regardless of the gracious nature of our work, we can weary ourselves in well-doing.

Even the heroes of the Bible encountered days when they felt ineffective, when the "fire was gone", the "warmth disappeared." Inner-cheerleading just wasn't enough to enliven Elijah in I Kings 19. He needed the strength of God's mercy.

That's why I love Christian Education at Concordia. The Bible studies are a great place to refuel when I'm spiritually fatigued. The friendships combined with the nurturing Word of God refresh my spirit like nothing else I know. Please, come and join us anytime...find new beginnings everytime!

In Christ, Marlys

## FAMILY ISSUES

### *love means setting limits*

(from "*bond*" *Strengthening Ties with Friends and Family*, a magazine put out by Lutheran Brotherhood.

### What Limits? When?

Of course, a child's age determines the nature and extent of the boundaries in their lives. Search Institute suggests these mileposts:

### Boundary Helpers

#### age 0-1

Realize that children at this age don't intentionally violate standards. Distract your child from negative behavior and draw attention to a positive one.

#### age 2-3

Move all breakable and cherished items out of reach so your child can safely explore. Give your child a firm "No!" and then immediately give your child something positive to do.

#### age 4-5

Don't just tell your child what and what not to do. Demonstrate the appropriate way of doing something. Be calm when your child "acts out" in highly emotional ways.

#### age 6-10

Be firm and consistent about safety boundaries. Be equally consistent with consequences for violating boundaries.

#### age 11-15

Negotiate new boundaries as your child grows older. Be patient, calm and consistent as young adolescents test the boundaries you set.

#### age 16-18

Respect growing privacy needs while maintaining strong interest in your teenager's activities and friends. Help your teenager think about future life goals and help your teen develop self-discipline as a means to achieving their self-defined goals.

### For More Information

Search Institute offers a variety of books and pamphlets to help parents, children, schools, churches and communities find creative boundaries that work, all available from Search Institute, 700 South Third Street, Suite 210, Minneapolis, MN 55415; 800-888-7828.

Two excellent titles to add to your reading list are:

*Common Sense Parenting*, Buerke and Herron, Boys Town Press, 1996;  
800-BT BOOKS.

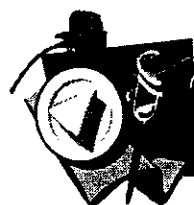
*Discipline That Works*, Penguin Books, 375 Hudson Street, New York, NY 10014;  
800-331-4624.

## Announcements

### Dinner Theater presented by Concordia Youth Group



*An evening of music, dance  
and comedy...*



*February 9th  
6:00 pm  
Tickets \$15.00*

*Dinner includes:  
Field green salad with roasted shallot  
dressing, Chicken picatta with rice,  
vegetable medley, rolls, and a  
selection of fine desserts.*

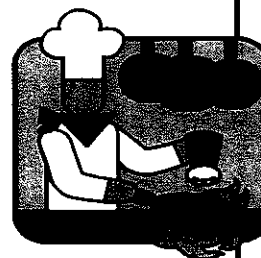
*Limited seating.*

LWML  
Thursday, February 20  
7:00 pm

We will meet at Pam  
Patterson's home (30  
Highland Drive). All  
women of the church  
are invited to attend.



When you're cutting coupons don't forget that you could help cut the cost of youth events significantly by your support in purchasing Citymarket or Safeway gift certificates between church services every Sunday. We appreciate your support!



**Men's Breakfast Fellowship**  
**Saturday, February 8th**  
**7 am at the Village Inn**

**Join us! Bring a friend.**