

# Concordia Lutheran *CHRISTOGRAM*

APRIL 1997

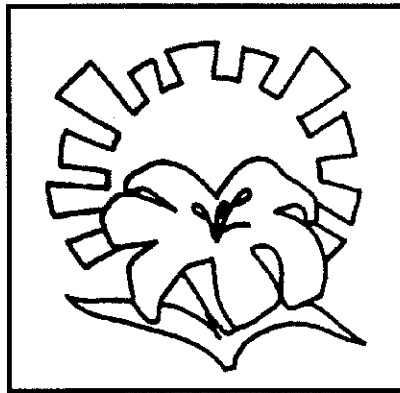


*The Christogram* is a monthly newsletter of Concordia Lutheran Church, Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Deadline for newsletter items is the fourth Sunday of each month. We welcome contributions of news items, art work, and other appropriate articles.

Editor: Pastor Cartwright, Marlys 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



*"But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong." (1 Corinthians 1:27)*

April Fool's Day! This day is a day for every prankster to strut their stuff. It is a day for practical jokes to be tried out. Creative deception is somehow "green-lighted" on this day. I grew up in a home that played April fools jokes. I have to admit that many of the jokes bordered on being cruel and unkind.

In the above text, I Corinthians 1:27, we catch a glimpse of opposites. Wise and strong are set in opposition to foolish and weak. God is not playing an "April fools" joke. God is not a prankster. God is not being unkind. But there is cruelty associated with salvation.

Worldly wisdom and strength have nothing to do with salvation. That is the bottom line of this passage. The cruelty of the cross and crucifixion of Jesus Christ looked foolish to the world's wise and strong. The cross and crucifixion looked weak to the powerful. But God chose to use this to bring salvation to the world. That's just the way it is!

How many weight-trainers have the power to cast off six feet of dirt from their graves when they are laid to rest? How many professional "hoopsters" can jump from the grave and slam dunk a resurrection on their own power? How many political leaders can legislate eternal life? How many people in the medical profession can "cure" (forever) that which ails us? How many Hollywood actors can avoid the final curtain call?

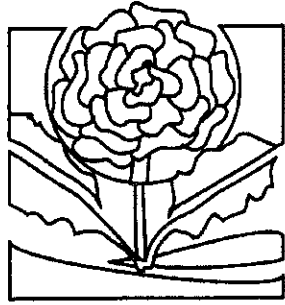
Strength and wisdom for the Christian, and for all humankind, is found in the foolishness of the cross. This is not an April fools joke! The open tomb is power, strength, and true wisdom. Sin's forgiveness is no joke.

God invites us to use the strength and wisdom which He has given, not for our sole benefit, but for the benefit of all humanity. We can use these things to play eternal April fools pranks. We can start by sharing this foolish message with the world around us.

In Christ,  
*The Fool!*  
Pastor Cartwright

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

**Concordia Women's League**  
**LWML**



Next Meeting:  
April 16th at 7:00 pm  
Hostess: Joanne Boomgarden  
40410 Yampa Drive (879-8327)

PLEASE COME! All women of the church are invited to join us.

A total of \$11,750.00 was distributed to local and international missions by the LWML. These funds were raised from the Christmas Bazaar, bake sales and rummage sales.

- \$1,500 Good Sheperd Lutheran Home of the West
- \$300. Centro Christiano DeYsleta
- \$500. Heifer Project International
- \$500. L.A.M.P.
- \$200. Concordia Tract Mission
- \$250. Lutheran Bible Translators - Judy Olson
- \$400. LCMS World Mission
- \$200. American Bible Society-Concordia Gospel Outreach
- \$300. Wheatridge
- \$700. Morningstar Victim Center
- \$300. Navajo Mission

- \$100. Colorado Christian Home
- \$200. Dakota Boys Ranch
- \$300. Marva Dawn (\$200 - Marva Dawn, \$100 - Treasury to acquire books & tapes.)
- \$700. Steamboat Hospice
- \$500. Local Emergency Mission Fund
- \$450. Discovery Learning Center Scholarship Fund
- \$400. Yampa Valley Pregnancy Center
- \$400. Concordia Youth Servant Event
- \$50. Sunshine Fund
- \$500. Christmas Bazaar
- \$1,000 General Treasury
- \$250. Service Project, Charlotte, NC
- \$350. Scholarship for LWML International Convention, Charlotte, NC
- \$400. LWML Professional Lutheran Church Worker Scholarship
- \$200. Lutheran World Relief
- \$450. Lift-Up
- \$200. Lutherans for Life

*"By the reading of Scripture  
I am so renewed that all  
nature seems renewed  
around me and with me.  
The whole world is charged  
with the glory of God and I  
feel fire and music under my  
feet."*

Thomas Merton (1915-1968)  
American Monk

**A Word from the DCE**

The article below was written by Jane Fryar of Concordia Publishing House.

**THE TOP 10 REASONS TO DO VBS THIS SUMMER**

(with apologies to David Letterman)

10. The pastor and church staff can't wait any longer for the homemade cookies and cherry Kool-Aid that addicted them last summer.

9. What else are you going to do with the 549 orange juice can lids the craft lady has been collecting in the fellowship hall closet for 10 months?

8. All the tickets to the Summer Olympic events you wanted to see have sold out already, and this year's VBS program (with Captive Free), will be more fun anyway.

7. VBS lets you recruit lots of volunteers so each one can contribute to the fun without feeling overloaded, thus expanding your volunteer pool for the rest of the year.

6. A vibrant VBS program raises your congregation's visibility in your community and opens doors to the homes of non-member children who participate.

5. Member children who attend worship and Sunday school only sporadically have a chance to hear God's Word in a systematic, appealing way; (three days of VBS at 4 1/2 hours a day equals nearly 14

weeks of contact hours - one whole quarter of perfect attendance at Sunday school.)

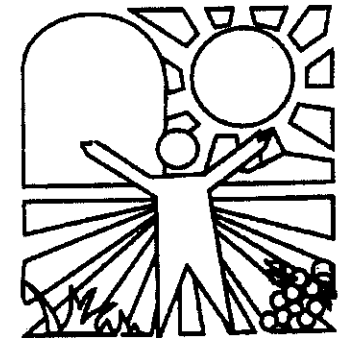
4. In the average VBS, 40 percent of those who attend are not members of the congregation. What a chance to plant the seed of the Gospel!

3. The consistent contact with caring adults and the daily opportunity to hear about the cross of Christ and to worship the Savior help establish member children in their faith and in their families' commitment to your congregation.

2. Matthew 28:18-20.

And the Number One reason to do VBS this summer...

1. Who would want to miss this opportunity from our Lord to share the Gospel with some of the 20 million children and young people in North American who have never heard of their Savior!



**Expressions of Love** by Sandra P. Aldrich, former editor of *Focus on the Family*

I wish I had known earlier that spouses hear "I love you" in different ways. In fact, I didn't know that there are actually five languages of love: words, gifts, touch, acts of service and quality time.

I first heard this concept from Dr. Gary Chapman, a North Carolina pastor and counselor. He said that we hear expressions of love in different ways and that, invariably, a husband and wife do not have the same love language. Then he listed the languages:

### WORDS

Folks who have the language of words need to hear things like "I love you," "Thank you," "I'm glad you're part of our family" and "I'm so glad I married you."

### GIFTS

To those who have this language, a gift says, "I was thinking of you when I saw this on my trip." Are you always buying gifts for someone else, and you don't understand why she never buys you gifts?

### QUALITY TIME

These folks see the hours spent together as a special expression of love. When I hear this, I suddenly understood why the men in my family insist that their wives go fishing with them all day - they're quality time people.

### TOUCH

Dr. Chapman said husbands understand this one best, but feel as though their wives often say, "No touch without the words." But touch doesn't have to be limited to sex. Even our teens who are too "grown up" to be hugged will appreciate a pat on the back when we go past them.



## CONCORDIA STATISTICS

### March 1997 Worship Attendance

wk.#1 - 130 (E) 105 (L)  
wk.#2 - 131 (E) 116 (L)  
wk.#3 - 105 (E) 122 (L)  
wk.#4 - 89 (E) 280 (L)

*The Lord is gracious  
and compassionate,  
slow to anger and rich  
in love.*

*The Lord is good to all;  
he has compassion on  
all he has made.*

Psalm 86:15-17

## FAMILY ISSUES

### *Gaining the World but Losing Your Children* by Roger Sonnenberg

A wise proverb says, "You have to dig deep to bury your father." Fathers and mothers have a profound impact on their children. Unfortunately, fathers don't always realize the type of impact they make in the amount of time they spend, or do not spend, with their children.

#### *What Does it Profit a Father?*

Jesus made it clear to His disciples that a man could gain the whole world but if, in the process, he loses his soul, it would do him no good. We can adapt Mark 8:36 to make another true statement, "What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, but lose his children?" Fathers are easily tempted to spend so much time gaining the world that they miss gaining their children.

Research tells us that, although we have more leisure time than ever before, we spend less and less time in meaningful conversation with our families. Technology has decreased our social interaction. Television, video games, headphones, and computers can easily alienate families instead of bringing them closer together. Recent research indicates that the average father spends only 37 seconds a day in one-on-one conversation with his children.

#### *Assessment Time*

Most employees go through a yearly assessment review. A wise father will make periodic assessments on how he is doing with his family responsibilities. He might ask questions like these:

- How many minutes do I spend each day in meaningful, one-on-one conversation with each of my children?
- How many times a day do I hug my children and tell them I love them?
- How often do I pray with my children and tell them God loves them?
- Do I make every effort possible to be at my

children's activities?

- Do I make it a priority to spend one relaxed meal with my children each day?
- Which is greater - the time I spend in front of the television or the time I spend in front of my children?

#### *Behave as If You Love Them*

Many fathers *talk* about loving their children, but fathers who live out their God-given responsibilities also *behave* in love. Though every father has to decide for himself what behaving in love might look like, these suggestions might serve as starters.

#### *Spend time with your children.*

T-I-M-E spells love. Spending time doesn't mean that you invite the kids into the den to read a book as you finish a special project. It doesn't mean taking them to the driving range to watch you perfect your swing while they pick up stray balls. It means spending time doing things your children like to do - playing Chutes and Ladders or shooting hoops on the driveway. Those kinds of activities require intentional planning. Schedule it into your day.

#### *Turn off the television*

If there is a great Trojan Horse in many homes today, it is the television. Dad can take the lead in turning it off, getting up from his favorite chair, and getting down to his children's eye level as he plays with them and listens to them.

#### *Date your children.*

Plan dates with your children, just as you did with their mother! It might mean a lunch at McDonald's with plenty of time to talk. It might mean going fishing and sharing your child's dreams and aspirations.

#### *Leave the perfectionism to God.*

Every dad makes mistakes. Thankfully our heavenly Father sent His only Son to the cross to take the punishment for our sins. He daily offers us forgiveness and a new beginning. And as our heavenly Father freely offers love and forgiveness, so earthly fathers freely love and forgive their children.

Roger Sonnenberg is pastor at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Arcadia, California. His newest book is *501 Practical Ways to Love Your Wife and Kids*, Concordia Publishing House.

**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.



# April 1997

## CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
		1 6:30 am Bible Study 6:15 pm Choir 7:00 pm Committees	2 7:00 pm Discovery	3 10:00 am Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm Recovery	4 12:00 noon Soup & Scripture	5
6 Worship 8/10:30 am Education Hr. 9:15 am	7 Women's AA 7 pm	8 6:30 am Bible Study 6:15 pm Choir	9 7:00 pm Discovery	10 10:00 am Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm Recovery	11 12:00 noon Soup & Scripture	12 Men's Breakfast 7 am
13 Worship 8/10:30 am Education Hr. 9:15 am VOTING ASSEMBLY 12:00 NOON HS Youth 5:30 pm	14 Women's AA 7 pm	15 6:30 am Bible Study 6:15 pm Choir	16 7:00 pm Discovery LWML 7 pm	17 10:00 am Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm Recovery	18 12:00 noon Soup & Scripture	19
20 Worship 8/10:30 am Education Hr. 9:15 am New Member's Lunch 12:00 noon	21 Women's AA 7 pm	22 6:30 am Bible Study 6:15 pm Choir	23 7:00 pm Discovery	24 10:00 am Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm Recovery	25 12:00 noon Soup & Scripture	26
27 Worship 8/10:30 am Education Hr. 9:15 am CARE GROUP LUNCH 12:00 Noon	28 Women's AA 7 pm	29 6:30 am Bible Study 6:15 pm Choir	30 7:00 pm Discovery			

**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.

## SEARCHING SCRIPTURE

### INFANT BAPTISM by Rev. Kenneth R. Scherer

*Editor's note: This is the second in a series of three "Searching Scriptures" setting forth the solid Scriptural basis for the Lutheran understanding and practice of holy baptism.*

One of the main questions regarding whether infants should be baptized is this: Can infants receive God's grace without possessing an *observable* faith? Notice we do not say without *faith*, but without an *observable* faith. As far as the churches that reject infant baptism are concerned, there is *no* faith in infants since it cannot be observed or recognized by any outward sign.

Read Mark 10:13-16 and Luke 18:15. In the Luke passage ("People were also bringing babies to Jesus to have him touch them. . . ."), the Greek word means "infants" or "babies." In the Mark passage (" . . . Jesus said to them, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. . . .'"), we are told that Jesus "blessed them." Was God's grace flowing through this act of Jesus? Of course it was. Did these babies receive the blessing? Of course they did. But how? The same way all of us do: as completely helpless people, who, regardless of our age, can contribute nothing toward our own salvation. God does it all.

Notice what account the Holy Spirit places immediately after Jesus speaks the words, "I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it," and then blesses the children. It is the account of the rich young man, who asks, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" Remember, Luke makes it crystal clear that these were *babies* who were brought to Jesus, babies who, naturally, could do little or nothing of their own volition. Jesus is saying that one can receive the kingdom of God only like a baby, completely helpless and unable to contribute anything toward being saved. When God's grace flows to a person, even the faith that

receives it is a part of that same grace that comes from God and not from the person (see Eph. 2:1-10).

Since even an adult's faith is all by God's grace and not of oneself, could not God also give faith to infants as His grace flows to them? Indeed, the Scriptures teach that babies can have faith. What do the following verses say about this?:

Ps. 22:9-10: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Ps. 71:6: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Luke 1:41, 44: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Matt. 21:16: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2 Tim. 3:15: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Our human *minds* may tell us that babies can't have faith, but God's Word tells us that they can. Which do we accept?

In Matt. 28:19, we are told to "make disciples of all nations. . . ." That part of the verse tells us *what* we are to do; the next part tells us *how* we are to do it: ". . . baptizing them . . . and teaching them . . ." Whom did Jesus tell us to baptize? "All nations." He doesn't say all nations after they have reached a certain age, but simply "all nations." The most complete meaning of "all nations" would include all ages, including infants. We baptize them and then teach them Christian truths as they are able to learn them.

In Col. 2:11-12, Paul explains how

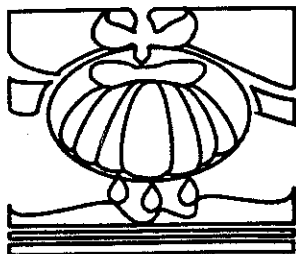
the sacrament of baptism supplanted the Old Testament rite of circumcision. Whom, in Old Testament times, had God commanded to be circumcised? Babies. (See Gen. 17:12.)

Read Acts 2:38-39. When urging the people to be baptized, assuring them that they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, Peter told them that "the promise is for you and your *children*." The Old Covenant made provision for babies (see Gen. 17:9-14). Surely the New (and better) Covenant would do no less.

What were the apostles doing in each of these three passages: Acts 16:14-15, Acts 16:30-34 and 1 Cor. 1:16? They were baptizing *entire households*.

The weight of Scripture is on the side of infant baptism. The rejection of infant baptism rests primarily on a human concept that babies cannot have faith, a concept that is the product of human rationalization and is contrary to clear passages of Scripture. People of all ages, *including infants*, are to be baptized.

A word of clarification: Those places in Scripture where repentance (Acts 2:38) or a confession of faith (Acts 8:37) is connected with baptism in no way contradict infant baptism. (It is very doubtful that the latter verse was part of the original manuscript.) These were, after all, *first generation* Christians. We would expect the same of any new convert who has not been baptized. Remember the words Peter also spoke to the very people whom he told to repent: "The promise is for you *and your children*" (Acts 2:39).



## Well-doing and Wellness

### Structuring your body

Your body is a living sculpture, a dynamic instrument that produces energy, force and motion. The dynamics of your body were engineered by God, but he commits the operation of those dynamics to you.

The way to wellness is an integrated approach, involving every part of your life. Behaviors that promote health in one area of life will reinforce such behaviors in another area. The more positive things you do for your body, the fewer negative things you will want to do against it.

As you pursue wellness, you are demonstrating responsible stewardship of your body. You are realizing more of your body potential to think, to do and to relate - three expressions of your body-self through which you work, serve and find fulfillment.

But what is wellness? It is the ability of your body to function at a high level, given a healthy environment, nutrition, diet and the right quality and quantity of challenge.

### Maintaining your body

Freedom from muscular activity brought by technology has detrimental effects on the body, for muscles deteriorate from lack of use. If adequate activity is not inherent in our occupations, it must be programmed into our leisure hours. Without this adjustment, our muscles become weak and shapeless from disuse. In this placid state, they lose tone and their response to impulses from the nervous system becomes uncoordinated and sluggish. They cannot effectively perform the functions

necessary for efficient body operation. These functions include holding the body in a balanced posture, giving support to the visceral organs, aiding in efficient vascularization, exerting the necessary force for work or play and giving the body shapeliness.

The implementation of such a program will be influenced by your body-self view. A high regard for the body gives support to an activity program. The body-view that has evolved from God's purpose for man and woman accepts the fact that adequate use of the body is an essential aspect of stewardship. To put this into action involves the will, and the will responds to desire.

To maintain a program, I must desire to do it more than I desire other options. When I accept it as part of my schedule, and resist rationalization, I can do it. As the habit is being formed, I find it easier to maintain. Because it makes me feel more energetic, more alive, and more satisfied with myself, I have a strong desire to maintain the program. The following suggestions may help you incorporate an exercise program into your lifestyle:

- Accept your body as a gift from God.
- Thank him for it every day.
- Reflect on the fact that an exercise program will raise your level of wellness.
- Consider the positive effects increased wellness will have on your health, sense of well-being and efficiency.
- Accept the fact that using the body adequately is an important aspect of responsible stewardship.

*From cross and caduceus: LCMS Health Ministries*

## AN EVENING OUT 6-8 TIMES A YEAR

Concordia Lutheran Church is starting it's very own Dinner Club. Here's your chance to meet some new people or get to know some long time acquaintances a little better. It's fun, it's inexpensive and it's easy. Any member - single or married couple can participate.

How does it work? When you sign-up you will be put in a group consisting of 6-8 people made up of singles and couples. We hope to place people in groups this first year with others who live in the same general area. Each person in the group will be the host or hostess for a dinner one time each year. So a couple will host a meal at their home twice, a single person will host the meal once.

Each group will be together for a year. They will decide on a calendar of dinner dates meeting as many times as there are members.

What are the responsibilities? When it is your turn to host a meal, you would select the menu, prepare the main dish and let the others in your group bring the other dishes such as an appetizer, salad, side dish, dessert, bread and beverages.

How can I find out more or sign-up? You can fill out a sign-up sheet that's underneath the mailboxes or call Michelle Sprengle at 879-8988 or Judy Plumb at 870-8040 for more information.

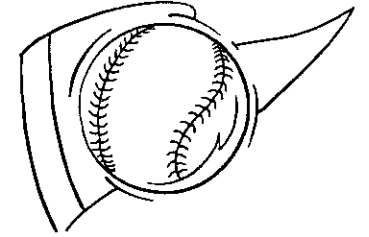
### Lutheran Brotherhood's Scripture Quiz

- 1) Through a vine and a worm, the Lord taught this Old Testament prophet that he needed to be more compassionate toward people, especially the people of Ninevah:  
(A) Micah (B) Jonah (C) Amos
- 2) According to Psalm 9:10, the Lord will never forsake those who do this:  
(A) Tithe (B) Pray (C) Seek Him
- 3) In the gospel of John, Jesus' first words to his disciples are these:  
(A) The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news. (B) Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men. (C) What are you looking for?

Answers: (1) B; Jonah 4. 1-11. (2) C; Psalm 9:10. (3) C; John 1:37-39.



## Announcements



**Baseball season is here again!  
Think about going to one of the  
Rockies Games with a host of  
other Lutherans.**

Games available (until sold-out):

July 26th at 6 pm (Cubs)

July 27th at 1 pm (Cubs)

August 15th at 7 pm (Mets)

August 16th at 6 pm (Mets)

August 17th at 1 pm (Mets)

September 14th at 1 pm (Mariners)

Please order your tickets from Sally Marshall as soon as possible. Deadline is April 13th. Ticket prices range from \$4 - \$11.



### 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.

**Men's Breakfast Fellowship  
Saturday, April 12th  
7 am at the church**

