

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

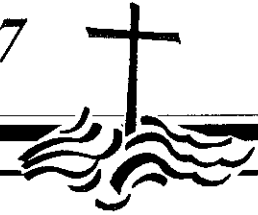
The Weekly Bulletin is printed on Thursday mornings. News items for the bulletin should be submitted by 9:00 am on Thursdays.

Sunday Worship: 8:00 and 10:30 am

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Concordia Lutheran *CHRISTOGRAM*

July 1997



To the Members and Friends of Concordia:

“Christian, persecuted by his enemies, took refuge in a malhouse; he crept into the empty kiln and lay down. Soon he saw a spider lower itself across the narrow entrance by which he got in, fixing the first line of what was soon to be a large and beautiful web. Not long after this, his pursuers also came. He noted their steps and listened to their cruel words as they looked about. When they came close to the kiln, he overheard one saying to the other, ‘It’s no use to look in there; the old villain can never be there. Look at that spider’s web; he could never have gotten in there without breaking it.’ They went to search elsewhere, and he escaped safely out of their hands.”

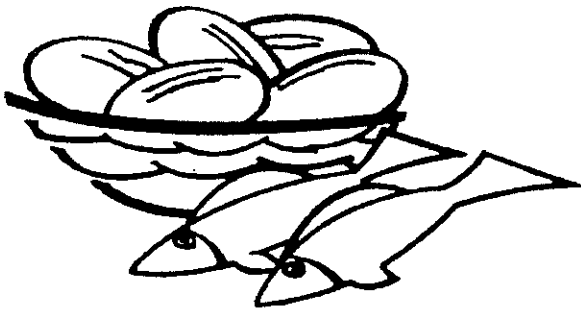
Simple things often play an important role in the grand design of God’s grace. God’s protective hand may come in the most hidden ways. That spider web may be:

- ◆ A small note to a friend.
- ◆ A prayer for a child.
- ◆ A walk with your spouse.
- ◆ An invitation to coffee.
- ◆ An invite to church.
- ◆ A gift to a missionary.
- ◆ A bit of volunteer time.

...you get the idea! Random acts of kindness!

In Christ, God has weaved quite a web over our lives. Forgiveness of sins is not just the ridding of past brokenness, but it gives strength to live courageously. Christ’s resurrection is a web over the believer’s life.

Tim



HOW'S YOUR ATTITUDE?

Take a moment and write down the name of one person you consider to be very influential in your life. Now write 10 things about this person that you admire. Next to each characteristic, note whether that trait is a "skill" or an "attitude."

If you've done the above exercise, you should find something very significant. About 80% of what you admire in someone else is attitude! If he is positive - that's an attitude. If she is loyal - that's an attitude. And if he is man of integrity - you guessed it, it's an attitude!

An upbeat, exciting class leader goes a long way in bringing the unchurched back into the church.

So many times leaders fret over the material they use, asking if it is interesting, relevant or inspiring. The material you use is not nearly as important as the attitude you display. God's Word is exciting! Learning about Him is fun! This is cool stuff! If you convey that attitude to your prospective members, you'll get them hooked! (Didn't Jesus say something about being a "fisher of men?")

Excerpt from an article in the *EVANGELGRAM* by Pastor Mark Rossington of Granbury, TX.

CONCORDIA JUNE STATISTICS

Avg. Sunday Attendance

1991 - 103
1992 - 140
1993 - 155
1994 - 135
1995 - 179
1996 - 153
1997 - 251

June 1997 Sunday Attendance

wk.#1 - 109(E) 160(L) 269
wk.#2 - 109(E) 137(L) 246
wk.#3 - Outdoor Worship 230
wk.#4 - 127(E) 134(L) 261
wk.#5 - Not available at printing time.

Wed. June 11th - VBS Closing 210

"But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, keeping a clear conscience, so that those who speak maliciously against your good behavior in Christ may be ashamed of their slander."

1 Peter:15-16

FLOOD RELIEF UPDATE

Life is starting to return to some sense of normalcy for Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and it's members in Grand Forks, North Dakota. Our Redeemer is the church that Concordia adopted as a way to help our brothers and sisters to recover from the disasters of the 500 year flood of the Red River Valley.

Concordia to date has donated approximately \$4,000, plus matching funds of \$2,000 from an AAL Branch in Craig. In addition to the monies, a member of our congregation has donated a piano.

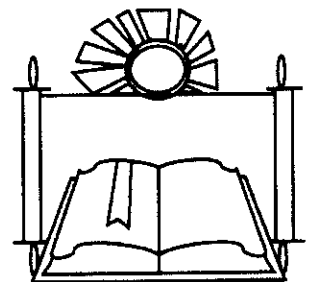
David Stephens, an Elder at Our Redeemer, stated that words cannot fully express the gratitude of it's members for the generosity, love and prayers of Concordia's congregation. The gifts are very much appreciated. They have now gutted the portion of the church affected by the flood, which includes the fellowship hall, Sunday school rooms, kitchen and mechanical rooms. Electrical service has been restored. (They used some of the funds from Concordia for this.) 'Builders for Christ' have now arrived and have started to insulate and sheet rock the basement. Damage to the members' homes ranged from partial to total destruction. Rev. Nissen, pastor at Redeemer, felt that most of the members have accepted their loss quite well but the uncertainty of the future now tugs at their heart strings. Things like jobs, rebuilding, friends moving, and landscape changes are very much a concern for the flood victims. Pastor Nissen urged us to keep them all in our prayers.

The Committee wants to thank everyone for their generous support. May God continue to bless this moment of grace as we are privileged to share the burdens of others. We will give you updates on their progress and keep you posted on ways that we can continue to care for our sisters and brothers at Our Redeemer. God Bless.

Why is the Bible called "The Bible"?

The word comes from the Greek "Byblos", the name of the city in Phoenicia which produced papyrus, the first paper, for the Greeks.

The word "biblia" was then coined to describe little books, and since the Scriptures are essentially that - a collection of little books - the word Bible was used to describe them.



FAMILY ISSUES: Teens Face Risks to Health and Faith



- **overeating with consequent obesity.** The number of overweight Americans, children and youth included, is rising steadily. Boredom, low self-image, family example, television advertising—all create the stimulus for overnutrition and future diabetes, cardiovascular disease, skeletal misalignment, and joint damage. A genetic predisposition to food addiction makes moderation the more necessary.

- **sexual promiscuity.** In 1994, 20 percent of the legal abortions were performed on young women below 19 years of age. More than 50 percent of adolescents have experienced sexual intimacy by age 18. The prevalence of sexually transmitted diseases in this age group more than confirms the widespread abuse of this precious gift of God.

- **the abuse of drugs.** The use of marijuana among adolescents is on the rise and includes junior high school children.

- **alcohol use and abuse among teens.** Thousands of young lives are snuffed out each year on American roads by teens driving drunk; additional thousands sustain disabling and sometimes lifelong injuries.

- **physically inactive youth.** Physical activity declines drastically in adolescence (Surgeon Generals Report), especially among females. Enrollment in high school physical education classes for all students dropped from 42 percent in 1991 to 25 percent in 1995.

At the stirring of puberty, our children blossom into young adults; in the process, they pass through the fragile and promising teen years. During those years a positive response to God's First Article gifts is critical to their continued development as Christians.

Yet during those years youth pass through a minefield of temptations that can cripple or even destroy the life God has given. A partial list includes:

- **preoccupation with body image** that does harm to physical health and assumes greater importance than their personal relationship with Jesus Christ. This preoccupation can develop into starvation dieting alternated with binge eating.

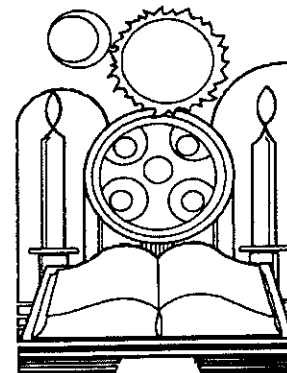
- **tobacco use.** Smoking is currently on the rise among teens and pre-teens. Addiction comes swiftly to this age group. Continued cigarette use forecasts almost certain later degenerative diseases affecting body systems critical to life and health.

Many teens ignore the dangers of these lifestyle choices to their future health, alternately declaring a present "benefit" more important than a distant danger or holding to a pessimism that their life will need before they are adults.

Letting our youth stand alone before forces that threaten their gift of life and their life with Christ is unacceptable to Christian parents, pastors, teachers, congregations, physicians, and nurses. By their modeling, congregations can bring a powerful First Article presence before youth; pastors can give prominence to the First Article in confirmation class; families can teach and live appreciation for the gift of life in the home; physicians and nurses, as authority figures on practices that build or destroy human life, have special influence.

We cannot surrender to the notion that societal forces against the First Article are too strong for us to prevail. The gospel, given expression, will prevail.

(Taken from the *Cross and Caduceus* of LCMS Health Ministries.)



The First Article
from Martin Luther's Small
Catechism

CREATION

I believe in God the Father
Almighty, Maker of heaven and
earth.

What does this mean?

I believe that God has made me and
all creatures; that He has given me
my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all
my members, my reason and all my
senses, and still preserves them;

also clothing and shoes, meat and
drink, house and home, wife and
children, fields, cattle, and all my
goods; that He richly and daily
provides me with all that I need to
support this body and life;

that He defends me against all
danger, and guards and protects me
from all evil;

and all this purely out of fatherly,
divine goodness and mercy, without
any merit or worthiness in me;

for all which it is my duty to thank
and praise, to serve and obey Him.

This is most certainly true.

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!"



Concordia Lutheran Church

JULY 1997



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.

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.

| <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 Committees 7 pm | 2 Discovery 7 pm | 3 Recovery 7 pm | 4 | 5 |
| 6 Worship 8/10:30 Education Hr. 9:15 | 7 Women's AA 7 pm Craft Workshop at Pam Patterson's 30 Highland Drive 7 pm (879-3297) | 8 6:30 am Bible Study Church Council 7:30 pm | 9 Discovery 7 pm | 10 Recovery 7 pm | 11 | 12 Men's Breakfast 7 am Playgroup 11:30-1:00 Discovery Learning Ctr 2875 Village Dr. |
| 13 Worship 8/10:30 am Education Hr. 9:15 | 14 Women's AA 7 pm Craft Workshop at Judy Plumb's 365 N. Steamboat Blvd. 7 pm (870-8040) | 15 6:30 am Bible Study Callers 7 pm | 16 Discovery 7 pm | 17 Recovery 7 pm | 18 | 19 Playgroup 11:30-1:00 Discovery Learning Ctr 2875 Village Dr. |
| 20 Worship 8/10:30 am Education Hr. 9:15 Concordia Cares 11:30 | 21 Women's AA 7 pm Craft Workshop at Pam Patterson's 30 Highland Drive 7 pm (879-3297) | 22 6:30 am Bible Study Elders Mtg. 6:30 pm | 23 Discovery 7 pm | 24 Recovery 7 pm | 25 | 26 Playgroup 11:30-1:00 Discovery Learning Ctr 2875 Village Dr. |
| 27 Worship 8/10:30 am Education Hr. 9:15 ECC 12:45 | 28 Women's AA 7 pm | 29 Callers 7 pm | 30** Discovery 7 pm | 31** Recovery 7 pm | Habitat.....for.....Humanity | |
| | | | | | | **Pastor on Vacation |

Listening to Your Life An excerpt from the daily meditations of Frederick Buechner



Patriotism - July 4

All "isms" run out in the end, and good riddance to most of them. Patriotism for example.

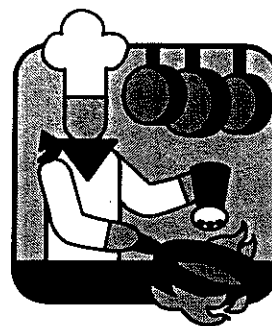
If patriots are people who stand by their country right or wrong, Germans who stood by Adolf Hitler and the Third Reich should be adequate proof that we've had enough of them.

If patriots are people who believe not only that anything they consider unpatriotic is wrong but that anything they consider wrong is unpatriotic, the late Senator Joseph McCarthy and his backers should be enough to make us avoid them like the plague.

If patriots are people who believe things like "Better Dead Than Red," they should be shown films of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, respectively, and then be taken off to the funny farm.

The only patriots worth their salt are the ones who love their country enough to see that in a nuclear age it is not going to survive unless the world survives. True patriots are no longer champions of Democracy, Communism, or anything like that but champions of the Human Race. It is not the Homeland that they feel called on to defend at any cost but the planet Earth as Home. If in the interests of making sure we don't blow ourselves off the map once and for all, we end up relinquishing a measure of national sovereignty to some international body, so much the worse for national sovereignty.

There is only one Sovereignty that matters ultimately, and it is of another sort altogether.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST
SATURDAY, JULY 12TH
7:00 AM - 8:30 AM
JOIN US! BRING A FRIEND!

CONCORDIA COMMUNITY CARES

July 20th (11:30 am): Meeting for July and August teams.
If you have any questions or comments please call Ellyn Myller (871-1860).

SUMMER SATURDAY PLAYGROUP

Three Saturdays in July on the 12th, 19th and 26th
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Concordia Lutheran & St. Paul's Episcopal are joining together for a Summer Saturday Playgroup.

WHAT? Outdoor playgroup and Christian discussion for parents. Possible topic is strengthening our relationships with friends, family, children, spouses, co-workers, community and God.

WHO? Moms and Dads with kids five and under.

WHERE? The playground at the new Discovery Learning Center - 2875 Village Drive.

Bring a bag lunch, hats and sunscreen. Juice will be provided by the LWML. Please call Barbara Gibson (879-3714) with any questions.

Christmas Cupboard Craft Dates

Monday Evenings at 7:00 PM

July 7 and 21 at Pam Pattersons (879-3297) 30 Highland Drive
July 14 at Judy Plumb's (870-8040) 365 N. Steamboat Blvd.