

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

“Let my people go.”

This line from Exodus 5:1, one of the most famous from the Old Testament, is widely thought to have been uttered by Moses to Pharaoh.

Not so.

When God told Moses to return to Egypt and free the Hebrew slaves, Moses rejoined, “O Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue” (4:10).

God was displeased, and said that Moses’s brother Aaron should go with him and do the talking for him. Thus, it was Aaron who stood at Moses’s side and told Pharaoh, “Thus saith the Lord God of Israel, Let my people go.”

Concordia Lutheran *CHRISTOGRAM* *August 1997*

To the members and Friends of Concordia;

Greetings in the name of our Good God!

Years ago a man driving through Pennsylvania saw a large field of mules. On inquiring, he was told that the mules worked all week in the mine below the ground and must be brought up each Sunday so they don’t go blind.

After we struggle and strive all week with our varied activities and responsibilities, we too need to come to the Son and let Him fill us with the rays of new light and hope. This is why the psalmist cries out, “my soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.” (Psalm 84:2)

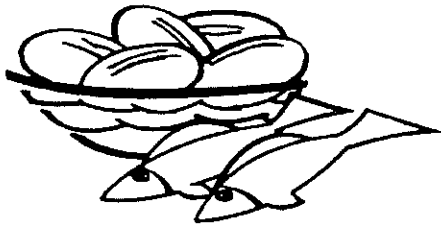
Prior to Katie’s (our oldest daughter) journey to Bolivia, I took her for an overnight campout to Steamboat Lake. We took a couple of hikes. We fished a little and caught nothing. We laughed and we ate spam. We built a campfire and talked under the stars. The fire burned low. The hour grew late. I took a stick and pushed the coals of the fire together. The heat of the fire grew more intense as the coals were kept together.

Acts 2:42-47 communicates the reality that the Christian community must “gather together” in order to be kept alive. Christianity is not an individual, “personal”, private journey. Worship, study, fellowship, etc. are for the body of Christ.

Concordia is comprised of unique individuals coming together regularly for Son light and Christian fellowship. Whether for Sunday worship or weekly opportunities of study....come....”do not forsake the gathering together of the saints!”

PASTOR
CARTWRIGHT

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



CONCORDIA JULY STATISTICS

Avg. Sunday Attendance

1991 - 115
 1992 - 138
 1993 - 154
 1994 - 194
 1995 - 170
 1996 - 185
 1997 - 227

July 1997 Sunday Attendance

wk.#1 - (E) 97	(L) 122	<u>219</u>
wk.#2 - (E) 115	(L) 109	<u>224</u>
wk.#3 - (E) 60	(L) 178	<u>238</u>
wk.#4 - (E) 101	(L) 124	<u>225</u>

Worship attendance has been very consistent and strong this summer at Concordia. We have cared for many new families and visitors during these summer months. We thank God for this wonderful worship participation.

Our adjustment to two worship services throughout the summer months was a wise one.

Our summer Bible Class and Children's Sunday School participation has been good. 30-40 adults are participating in study. 20-25 young people are taking advantage of an education hour. This is our first summer to offer Sunday School. Thank God!

Christmas Cupboard Filling Up

What a great time we've had this summer working on craft items for the annual missions fundraiser we call "The Christmas Cupboard."

Many lovely items have already been completed, but there's still lots to do.

Come join the fun and meet new friends, chat and, of course, eat some yummy desserts. You don't need to be talented, just willing.

This August we will meet at 7 PM on August 4, and 11 at Judy Plumb's (365 N Steamboat Blvd. 870-8040) and August 18 at Elaine Stroncek's, (850 Aspen 879-2442).

If you can't join us for the crafting evenings you can still help by making items on your own for the November Christmas Cupboard. All kinds of handmade items are welcome. Make what you'd like and we'll collect them in early November. Let Elaine Stroncek, (879-2442) or Judy Plumb, (870-8040) know and they'll make sure your items are picked up, priced and set out.

Concordia and Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF)

Concordia has a loan from LCEF with a balance of \$182,000. These funds were used to build the church and to build the addition to the parsonage. In addition, 26 members have used LCEF as an investment and have \$290,000. on deposit in different investments.

LCEF has a rebate program for those congregations whose members maintain deposits with them. Since our congregation members' deposits are 100% or greater than our loan the congregation receives a 1% rebate on our loan every year or a refund of \$1,820.00.

Last month the church opened a congregation's account of \$30,000. with funds that have been designated for building. Since we have our loan covered with deposits \$10,000 was credited to Our Redeemer in Grand Forks, ND. This brings their deposits to over 50% of their loan so that they will get .5% refund.

You too can help in the building of churches by becoming an investor in LCEF. Please see the material in the rack in the narthex or call Clair Erickson for information at 879-5867 (work); or 879-4419 (home).

Notes from Sunday School

Thanks to J.P. Schmidt for assisting us all summer with Vacation Bible School and Sunday School. We have been averaging 20-25 kids all summer with active-learning Bible Stories. We always have an activity which reinforces the Bible's truth. The older students are a big help with the younger ones. A Big thanks to everyone who helped us with our Summer Servant Project - collecting videos, games and art supplies for Children's Hospital this summer.



News from the Youth

We are grateful to the youth who helped with VBS this summer. We couldn't have done it without your assistance. Also big thanks to Evan Wojtowicz, Bert Svendsen, Nick Plumb, Wade Hendricks, Jordan Shackelford, Tim Cartwright, Kia Cartwright, Kristin Stine & Sara Stine for their hard work at Habitat for Humanity in July. Reports are that the Servant Event was so much fun - we'll do another one next year!

Prepare your calendars for our
Big Youth Event:

CAPTIVE FREE CONCERT
7 PM Sunday, September 14, 1997.

- Marlys

PROCRASTINATION

"Don't put off working on your goals. Experts say that if you put off starting on your plans for more than 24 hours, there's a 50 percent chance that you'll never work on it. If you wait until tomorrow, you may never start, let alone finish." - from *First Draft*



What is the Relationship Between Health and Balance? Actually, wholistic health refers to a process of wholeness that exists when there is balance among our different dimensions (physical, emotional, spiritual, social, vocational, an environmental). As Christians, we believe that balance is only possible when we base our life on Christ; the spiritual dimension of our real essence. In John 10:10 we read, "...I have come that they might have life, and have it to the full." It seems that often we try to create our own "full life" and find ourselves overcommitted, under-appreciated, fatigued, frustrated and out of balance. We need to find the "full life" and balance that only Christ can give.

Why Am I Out of Balance? There are many different reasons why we can feel out of balance. First, unfortunately, the human condition seems more aligned with chaos than balance. If this were not true, we would not need a Great Physician to bring balance, peace, and wholeness to our broken lives. Second, we live lives in which demands out-pace our time or energy. Some of these demands we place on ourselves, and some are imposed from the

outside. We spend our lives trying to "balance" roles related to the home (spousal & parenting); work place; church; friends and extended family; and community. Third, our culture seems to over-value service to others and under-values care of ourselves. Self-care may seem a luxury which few of us can afford, yet without it the "full life" remains out of our grasp. Fourth, we seem addicted to "quick fixes" and have little appetite for long-term solutions. Finding and keeping balance takes time and effort day by day.

What Life Principles Can Help Me Find & Keep My Balance? The Bible provides us with several principles which can be helpful in finding and keeping our balance. First, all we do should be done for the glory of God (I Cor. 10:31). This is really a primary objective of our lives as Christians, and following this principle can help keep our stressors in perspective. Second, God has created all of life. Jesus reminds us that rest (Sabbath) was made for man's benefit; rather than man being created for either work or observance of the Sabbath. Rest and work are equally important dimensions of our life (Mark 2:27). Third, we are encouraged to not be overly concerned about things which are temporary (Luke 12:22). Jesus reminds us that our Father will provide those things which are necessary for this life, and we are encouraged to set our minds on spiritual concerns.

How Can I Keep My Life in Balance? There are several specific approaches we can use to nourish this gift of balance. First, we can consider our current life in terms of energy

investment, values, and priorities. Are we "spending" our life in activities that have eternal consequences? Second, we can develop an action plan, if we would like to spend our energy and time in a different way. To be helpful, the plan would need to identify what needs to be changed, what it needs to change to, and how the change will be made. Third, we can live our changed lives with the confidence that "...He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." (Philippians 1:6)

I encourage you to bring up this subject of balance with others in fellowship during the summer weeks. Let's share our thoughts, concerns and ideas with each other - listen to and encourage one another.

(By Carolyn Struve, Parish Nurse of Trinity Lutheran Church, Mpls, MN.)



LWML WOMEN'S
RETREAT AT
DUTCH CREEK
RANCH

Mark your calendars now for the upcoming fall retreat on Friday and Saturday, October 3-4. We had a wonderful time last year. Don't miss out. All women of the church are invited to attend. The fee is \$35.00.

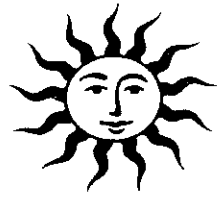
The Second Article
from Martin Luther's Small Catechism

**And in Jesus Christ,
His only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary;
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell;
The third day He rose again from the
dead;
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of
God the Father Almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge
the quick and the dead.**

What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ - true God, Son of the Father from eternity, and true man, born of the Virgin Mary - is my Lord. At great cost He has saved and redeemed me, a lost and condemned person. He has freed me from sin, death, and the power of the devil - not with silver or gold, but with His holy and precious blood and His innocent suffering and death. All this He has done that I may be His own, live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead and lives and rules eternally. This is most certainly true.

Tuesday Bible Study:
 Meet and study the Word of God prior to work. This study begins at 7:30am 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!



Concordia Lutheran Church

August 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.

Wednesday Discovery Bible Study: This Wednesday evening study opportunity has been put to place for a midweek spot of spiritual enrichment. 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!

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.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Playgroup 11:30-1:00 Discovery Learning Ctr 2875 Village Dr.
3 Worship 8/10:30 AM Education Hr. 9:15 AM	4** Women's AA 7 PM Craft Workshop 7 PM at Judy Plumb's (365 N. Steamboat Blvd.)	5** Bible Study 6:30 AM Committees 7 PM	6** Discovery 7 PM	7** Recovery 7 PM	8**	9** Men's Breakfast 7 AM Playgroup 11:30-1:00 Discovery Learning Ctr 2875 Village Dr.
10** Worship 8/10:30 AM Education Hr.9:15 AM	11** Women's AA 7 PM Craft Workshop 7 PM at Judy Plumb's (365 N Steamboat Blvd.)	12** Bible Study 6:30 AM Church Council 7:30 PM	13 Discovery 7 PM	14 Recovery 7 PM	15	16 Playgroup 11:30-1:00 Discovery Learning Ctr 2875 Village Dr.
17 Worship 8/10:30 AM Education Hr. 9:15 AM	18 Women's AA 7 PM Craft Workshop 7 PM at Elaine Stroncek's (850 Aspen)	19 Bible Study 6:30 AM Callers 7 PM	20 Discovery 7 PM	21 Recovery 7 PM	22 Olan Mills 3-9:30 PM	23 Olan Mills 10-5 PM Wedding Playgroup 11:30-1:00 2876 Village Dr.
24 Worship 8/10:30 AM Education Hr. 9:15 AM ECC 12:45 PM	25 Women's AA 7 PM First Day of School	26 Bible Study 6:30 AM Callers 7 PM Olan Mills 2:30-9 PM	27 Discovery 7 PM Olan Mills	28 Recovery 7 PM	29	30 Wedding
31 Worship 8/10:30 AM Education Hr. 9:15 AM						

**Pastor on Vacation





MARK

GET THE BIG PICTURE

"Is it lawful to love - even on the Sabbath Day?" At heart that's the question with which Mark 3 begins. Jesus answered it in His actions. These actions sparked a clash with the Pharisees and set in motion a series of events in which Jesus revealed the upside-down way a servant looks at relationships, power, and the purpose of life. Be on the lookout for this as you read.

Read Mark 3-4. If time is short, focus on 3:20-35.

SHARPEN THE FOCUS

God's wisdom is foolishness to human beings. St. Paul makes that fact clear in 1 Corinthians 1:18-30. If that's so, then Jesus *must have* seemed out of His mind (Mark 3:21). Never had anyone spoken and demonstrated the wisdom of God so thoroughly. So far-fetched did His servanthood and humility seem that His friends and family wanted to take Him into custody. His enemies even accused Him of being possessed by the devil.

How thoroughly has God's wisdom infiltrated your heart? When was the last time someone looked at your service for the Lord Jesus and said, "You're out of your mind"?

Jesus lived out a radical lifestyle - radical

meaning "from the root" or "getting to the root." He got beyond the showy foliage and down to the core of what it means to care for those whom the Father so loves (John 3:16). That route led Him to the most foolish, most radical act of all. This is how St. Paul puts it:

- ♦ *We preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*

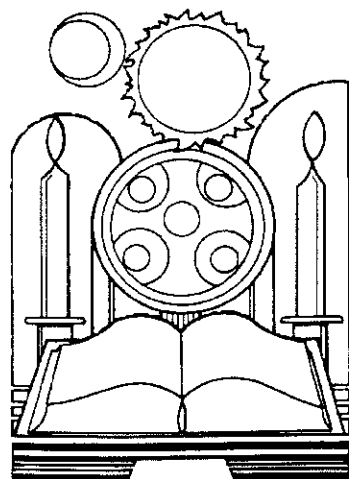
(1 Corinthians 1:23-24)

- ♦ **MARK 3:** The Servant Who Lost His Mind?
- ♦ **MARK 4:** The Power of the Servant's Word

ZOOM IN

Jesus died for you. Foolishness? No. God's wisdom and love. What "foolish" things will you do today in His name?

(From *Today's Light* by CPH, 1997)



A VISION OF THE FUTURE FOR CONCORDIA

1. Complete the established and ratified building program.

-Maximize the available space here on our present site.
-Be specific in regard to solving the parking issue in present site. If there is a need to trim part of the hill and add a retaining wall...so be it. If we need to fill part of the ditch along Concordia lane...so be it. Blacktopped and lined! Solve the problem.
-We need a larger fellowship area.
-We need better classroom and meeting space on this site.
-We need storage.
-We need to add worship overflow space...not a larger sanctuary.
-We need to be more sensitive to young families with better nursery space.
-Be prepared to use the new classroom space for Christian pre-school and day care.

We need to plan to maximize this particular location. At the same time we need to be planning a second congregation when we approach the "full" usage of this space. We do not need to build a bigger "Concordia" somewhere else. We need to think about a second congregation and preaching stations. Hayden/Clark/Oak Creek/Stagecoach.

2. Call a second pastor.

-A second pastor would serve part-time here at Concordia and work toward the development of a second congregation in the Oak Creek Stagecoach area.
-Part of the vision of the new "Mission" might be the development of a retreat setting for front range congregations as well as a facility for congregational use.
-We have nearly 20 households that are located south of the new Haymaker Golf Course. Oak Creek/Stagecoach have many unchurched families.
-District dollars \$\$\$ are perhaps available for such an effort.

3. Develop a new congregation in the Oak Creek/Stagecoach area.

-Find a site and purchase the site. (District Mission \$\$\$)
-Canvass the community and gather data.
-Commission the families south of the Haymaker to begin this effort.
-Rent a facility in that community to begin worship and mission efforts.
-The releasing of these families will make room here at Concordia.
-Retreat and Conference opportunities are truly wonderful.
-Train "Preaching" Elders for this task in its initial phases.

A Word from the DCE

Last January the congregation provided a position description for me as your Director of Christian Education. Among the tasks identified were: Assist & teach 50% of Jr. High Confirmation Classes; organize annual high school events; help organize & direct annual VBS programs; administer Jr. High Sponsor program; teach & administer Thurs. Women's Bible Study; help with and lead Thursday Recovery Group & Wed. Bible Study Group when needed; and organize & lead an annual Women's Retreat.

In addition, this summer I have also taken on coordinating and leading a summer "integrated age group" Sunday School - and helped with the annual Outdoor Worship.

Directors of Christian Ed (DCE's) in Lutheran Churches are a diversified branch. Some congregations have a DCE whose job is clearly music oriented, whereas some DCE's are trained only in youth ministry. Some are early Childhood Ed. specialists - and some prefer only Adult Ed. Many of you have asked what is my background and emphasis.

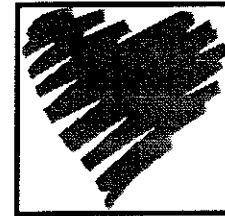
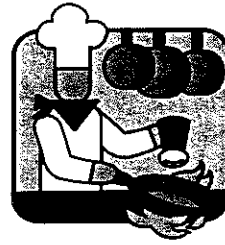
I started in 1973 serving as the LCMS's first youth staffer to the So. Illinois District. My job for a year was as a consultant to 80 congregations to revive & restore youth ministry. I led youth retreats & district conventions and worked with many churches on location to facilitate a healthy youth ministry. From there I was called to serve as a youth director at St. Johns Lutheran Church in Seward, NE where I worked with 250 youth from 1974-76. In 1977 I worked as a DCE intern at Chapel of the Cross—St. Louis Missouri, and finished my BA degree with

DCE Certification from Concordia College in Seward, NE in 1979.

My emphasis in college covered theology and social work as well as methods of education. During my first two years of college at St. John's Winfield I worked teaching "Special Ed" Bible Classes for all ages at a state hospital, and also served a January term as a youth counselor at the County Detention Center in St. Louis.

Because I enjoyed intergenerational work, I insisted that my college courses covered education & theology classes that would prepare me for working with all ages. My first DCE position was at Our Savior Lutheran, Minot, ND - a mission congregation where I led a year-round "VBS" program for 3-5 year olds called "King's Kid's" and taught a weekly Bible Study at a group home for "mentally & physically challenged" adults - as well leading a myriad of other congregational ed. programs. I also worked as a DCE at Trinity, Eden, ID where I concentrated on small group ministry (i.e. Bible Studies & the Recovery Group), organized & helped teach a mid-week program for 75 elementary kids on Wednesdays, co-led Marriage Strengthening events, administered VBS, participated in weekly senior citizens study luncheons, helped with Youth Ministry, and strongly supported women's ministries.

Growing up in a Midwest clergy family gave me the foundation of enjoying congregational life. Working with my husband has provided a richly stimulating team ministry. Having a Christ-centered marriage & homelife with 3 teenage daughters has added depth to my faith and humor to my life. Thank you for the opportunity to use my gifts to serve as your DCE.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST
SATURDAY, AUGUST 9TH 7:00 AM - 8:30 AM
JOIN US! BRING A FRIEND!

CONCORDIA COMMUNITY CARES
August 17th (11:30 am): Meeting for August & September teams.
If you have any questions or comments please call Ellyn Myller (871-1860).

SUMMER SATURDAY PLAYGROUP

WHEN? 4 Saturdays in August (2, 9, 16, & 23) 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM
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
August 18 at Elaine Stroncek's (879-2442) 850 Aspen; and August 4, & 11 at Judy Plumb's (870-8040) 365 N. Steamboat Blvd.

Bring the world home! Well, at least one student at a time. We are actively searching for host families for high school foreign exchange students who will be coming to America this fall. Students speak English, have their own spending money and insurance. Call now for your choice of countries. This is a great experience for the whole family!
Call Clint or Nina Hanson, 736-1142.