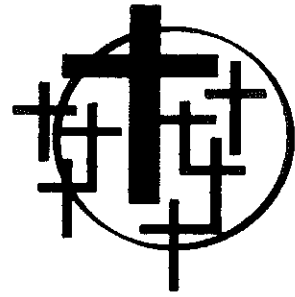


CHRISTOGRAM

Concordia Lutheran Church

July 1998



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 **Education Hour:** 9:15 AM

Concordia Lutheran Church
755 Concordia Lane
PO Box 770428
Steamboat Springs, CO 80477

A Note From the Pastor

Dear Members and Friends of Concordia:

Greetings in the name of our wonderful and gracious God!

"Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." (Rom. 6:3-4)

(From the Religious News Service-RNS) "The Jordan River site where many believe Jesus was baptized may reopen to the public

"Our baptism is not a one time snapshot. Our baptism is a lifelong video."

after being off-limits for more than 30 years. An Israeli newspaper said June 1 that Israel's tourism minister hopes to reopen the site to visitors by the year 2,000."

Vacations are spent returning to places familiar. Children come home for summer vacation from college studies. Adult children return to the place where they grew up in order to visit familiar family and friends. Wedding locations are visited. Cemeteries are frequented. Vacation spots are often returned to over and over again.

Ducks and geese are controlled by migratory instinct. Deer and elk head to the hills and mountains. Salmon run. Birds of all kinds fly home.

A savvy, Jewish tourism minister recognizes the financial windfall of reopening the "supposed" baptismal site of our Lord in the Jordan. This same savvy Israeli is smart enough to capitalize on the foolish "year 2,000" craze that is presently choking much of the mind of America. There is money to be made by opening this site again.

Returning to the site of baptism is a wonderful idea. However, let me encourage you not to waste your

money and head to the banks of the Jordan. Rather, head to the font. . . the baptismal font. For there you were joined to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.



Our baptism is not a one time snapshot. Our baptism is a lifelong video. For in the waters of baptism our whole life was baptized. Our whole being was joined to the life, death and resurrection of Christ. It wasn't just a fleeting moment of forgiveness granted at the font. It was a lifetime, an overflowing eternity of forgiveness, that was granted.

When you see a baptism take place here at Concordia be reminded that God may be inviting you to "return home" to the place of your new birth. It reminds me of our Pathways theme, "**BEHOLD, GRACE OVERFLOWING!**"

July 1998

Concordia Lutheran Church **CHRISTOGRAM**

inside...

Building Assets in Your Children

Sunday school concerns - "We Tried that Once"

God is Forgiving - good news from "The One Minute Bible"

Building Assets

The Jump-Start program used in the Kennebunk area of Maine is rooted in the asset-building approach of Minneapolis-based Search Institute. Search has identified 40 assets desirable for young people. The more assets a young person has, the less likely the youngster will be involved in risky behavior.

Here's how the Jump-Start program helps build some of the assets identified by Search Institute.

Family Support: Jump-Start involves parents with an overview of the program and a session designated as parent night. Parents are given a chance to learn conflict resolution and parenting skills.

Other adult relationships: Each student is teamed with a mentor.

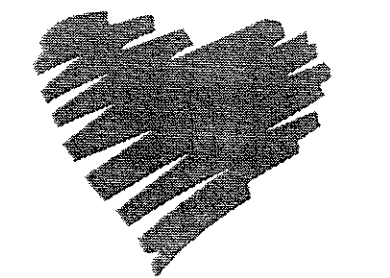
Caring school climate: Youth are encouraged to talk about school experiences and to use problem-solving techniques in school.

Community values youth: One session is dedicated to meeting with adults from the community.

Community service to others: Community service is required, and students are encouraged to become more involved in their community.

*"Encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."
(1 Thessalonians 5:11).*

Family boundaries: Youths participating in Jump-Start must abide by a set of rules or face consequences for disobeying.



Adult role models: Mentors and community panelists participating in the program are from varied backgrounds, providing a wide array of role models for students.

Positive peer influence: Students listen to each others' goals, dreams and

aspirations and are taught to respect each other. Students also provide positive reinforcement to each other.

Creative activities: Music has proved to be an excellent learning tool. The music and lyrics are analyzed so that situations, goals and decisions are pinpointed. Poems, short stories and other literature are used as well.

Time at home: Participants' outside activities are limited, resulting in more time spent with parents.

Achievement motivation: Students are motivated through the setting of short-range, mid-range and long-range goals.

School encouragement: Students sign a contract while in the program agreeing to stay in school and maintain their grades.

Responsibility: Student are required to write letters of apology, make restitution, observe curfews and participate in counseling.

Planning and decision-making: Mentors help students use the decision-making skills they're learning.

Love That Knows No Limits

Acertain minister regularly called at the farm home of one of his church members and her husband, who was not a believer in Christ. For some time the minister had been looking for an opportunity to teach the unbelieving farmer about the depth of Christ's love for him. One day that opportunity arrived.

The farmer greeted the minister as he got out of his car, saying, "I'd like to show you something in the chicken house." With that the two men headed for the coop. As they entered it, the farmer pointed to a hen sitting with her brood of little chicks peeping out

from under her wings.

"Touch her," the farmer said as he motioned to the minister. When the minister did, he noticed that the hen was stiff and cold. She had been dead for hours. "Look at the wound in her head," said

*"As I have loved you . . ."
(John 13:34)*

the farmer. "During the night a weasel came and drained her body of every drop of blood in it, but she never moved from that spot in her nest. She died protecting her little ones from harm."

With that the minister saw his opportunity. As they walked back to the farmhouse, he began to use the incident the two had just witnessed to teach the farmer about the depth of Christ's love for his little ones - all of lost humanity - including him.

As the hen loved her chicks so much that she willingly died on her nest to protect them from the weasel, the minister told that farmer how Christ loved him so much that he willingly died on the cross to rescue him from his sins, eternal death, and the power of the devil.

The hen could have left her nest and saved her life, but her love wouldn't allow it. At any moment on that first Good Friday, Jesus could have stepped down from his cross to save his life, but his love for our souls wouldn't allow it. He knew that beneath his outstretched arms were billions upon billions of souls for whom he had purposefully come to die because he loved them all. For all of them he died, that all of them might be forgiven and saved through believing in him.

Thank God that *all* includes you and me.

Show Kids You Care

- Below are five simple ways to show kids (yours or others') that you care about them:
- ♦ Listen to their favorite music with them
 - ♦ Give them lots of compliments
 - ♦ Keep the promises you make
 - ♦ Be consistent
 - ♦ Admit when you make a mistake
- from *150 Ways to Show Kids You Care* brochure, a resource of Lutheran Brotherhood and Search Institute.

(From *The Bright Morning Star* - May 15, 1998)

Courage Kits, Prayer Pillows and Jazz

by Marlys Cartwright, DCE

Twenty five years ago this summer I started my journey into professional church work, as a consultant for youth ministry in 80 congregations in Southern Illinois. During those years and the years since then, Vacation Bible School has always been an exhilarating experience, but never more than this year!

Concordia has always been known for its great VBS programs with great crafts, recreation, Captive Free or Marketplace AD. This year we created our own VBS based on the theme *SHINE JESUS SHINE*. It was a team effort of more than 100 people.

The main focus of the VBS was the Easter Story. Other stories, like Jesus calming the storm and action stories from the New Testament emphasized the importance of living Easter Joy and Courage.

Team players included Pastor Tim who illustrated the stories with lifesize stage props and drama with children of all ages. Music leaders Rebecca Duryea and Tim Cartwright led the kids with upbeat Jazz. The kids sang with all their hearts and smiles (note the pictures on the bulletin boards downstairs and in the Narthex). Art projects were sensational this year with 100 prayer pillows, cross necklaces, Photo-Easter cards, home job charts, etc. directed by Ellyn Myller, Donna Starbucks, and Pam Patterson. Suppers were delicious and very

kid oriented planned by Judy Plumb and her excellent staff. Recreation was absolutely wonderful especially considering the rain! Special thanks to Pam Parker and her high school assistants: Kia Cartwright, Suzanne Zimmerer and Travis Wolf. Thirty additional staff worked with the kids as teachers and assistants.

The highlight of the week were the 100 Courage Kits (totebags) made with fabric donated by LeeAnnPifer from MATERIAL GIRLS fabric store in Steamboat. Twenty women met for two weeks to cut and sew the bags. The high school kids had an overnight at the church Saturday night stuffing the totebags with flashlights, frisbees, crayons, coloring books, candy, pencils, paper and toiletries. Then the kids colored "courage cards" including 15 Spanish ones, adding their

prayers for courage and blessing to each kit. The kits will be given to children at Children's Hospital and Lutheran Hospital in Denver, and to children at our Routt County hospital.

Money offerings from VBS were donated to the new hospital chapel to be built, and food donations were given to Lift-Up. I am very proud of these youngsters who have so much FUN giving. Including these Vacation Bible School kids, we have had over 150 young people participating in community service through the church in projects like Habitat for Humanity, Lutheran World Hunger and Disaster Relief, Special Olympics, Extended Care Center, Children's Hospital, and Lift-Up food shelter.

It is a privilege to work in such a wonderful church with such terrific people and such a Great God! Behold, Grace Overflowing.



Pastor Tim teaching a story about Dorcas & Lydia - "Caring for Others"

We Tried That Once

by Jay Musfeldt, DCE, from the Spring issue of *INTERACTION*

On October 4 a Sunday school staff gathered in the name of Christ, opened with prayer, expressed a desire to improve, and began to deal with some needs within the program. Some of their agenda items were:

- Bible study and a reminder that teachers need to be "in the Word" just like the students they teach.
- In the interest of a more worshipful opening devotion, teachers were encouraged to sit with their class before and during the worship.
- Teachers were reminded that each class should be a loving, close-knit unit. In such an atmosphere, a feeling of Christian love and understanding would flourish.
- The leaders recommended that teachers get to know the parents of children in their classes and follow up when a

child is absent.

- The teaching staff was told to remember each child's unique spiritual needs. This is a Sunday school that truly sets forth some principles necessary if it is to be effective in the new millennium. These teachers dealt with many of the real needs

"How can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?" ... teaching the faith remains a high calling.

of all Sunday schools today. By the way, did I mention that this Sunday school teachers' meeting took place on October 4, 1960?

Some things are new - the names of the children, the style of clothes, the date on the lesson materials and the teaching materials. But the message of salvation through Christ remains the same. That message still needs to touch

the life of each child personally.

For all its staying power, Sunday school continues to be a challenge for congregations. Perhaps the greatest challenge is this: How to take this established institution and keep it fresh and vibrant for each generation.

This writer began teaching Sunday school in 1960. Through it all I have seen creative teachers discovering and rediscovering ways to be effective communicators of the Gospel. The result is children attending Sunday school with a spirit of joy and enthusiasm.

In moments of uncertainty, when we ask whether anything that's been around so long can still be effective, I see the face of a preschool child at worship, face smiling and eyes aglow. "Jesus loves me, this I know for the Bible tells me so," the child sings. Someone taught that child about the Savior, probably in Sunday School.

Here lies the point of it all - teaching the faith. "How can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?" (Romans 10:14). The task of teaching the faith remains a high calling.

God grants grace to teachers in each time and place to pass on His story to the next generation. The process continues today and will continue into the next century. As we remember Jesus' promise to be with us always, the Sunday school may have one or two more good centuries left in it after all.

Jesus, as I daily consider your limitless love for me, move me to put no limits on my love for you but to live more faithfully for you until I live forever with you in heaven. Amen.

Bible reading: 1 Samuel 22:3-24 ; Psalm 56

CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH

JULY 1998

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. On the third Thursday evening of each month at 6:30 PM a group of people meet in the basement of the church for a meal, devotions, speakers, and support. We are done by 8:15 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.

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
			1 Discovery 7 PM	2 Women's Bible Study 10 AM	3	4
5 Worship 8/10:30 AM Education Hr. 9:15 Message Ron Schirmer	6 Playgroup 9:30 AM Women's AA 7 PM Elders 7 PM Craft Workshop at Elaine Stroncek's 7 PM	7 Bible Study 6:30 AM	8 Discovery 7 PM	9 Women's Bible Study 10 AM	10	11 Men's Breakfast 7 AM 8:30 AM Koffee Klatsch
12 Worship 8/10:30 AM Education Hr. 9:15 AM	13 Playgroup 9:30 AM Women's AA 7 PM Craft Workshop at Elaine Stroncek's 7 PM	14 Bible Study 6:30 AM Church Council 7:30 PM	15 Discovery 7 PM Ministerial Assoc 9 AM	16 Women's Bible Study 10 AM Recovery Potluck 6:30 PM 7 PM HV Survey Mtg	17 Parent's Support Group 6 PM	18 8:30 AM Koffee Klatsch
19 Worship 8/10:30 AM Education Hr. 9:15 AM	20 Playgroup 9:30 AM Women's AA 7 PM Craft Workshop at Cindy Svendsen's 7 PM	21 Bible Study 6:30 AM Atlanta Parents & Kids BBQ 6-8 PM Video Mtg. 7 PM	22 Discovery 7 PM	23 Women's Bible Study 10 AM Pastor Degner In 4:30 -8:45 PM	24	25 8:30 AM Koffee Klasch Knutson Wedding
26 Worship 8/10:30 AM Education Hr. 9:15 AM ECC 12:45 PM	27 Playgroup 9:30 AM Women's AA 7 PM Craft Workshop at Cindy Svendsen's 7 PM	28 Bible Study 6:30 AM	29 Discovery 7 PM	30 Women's Bible Study 10 AM	31	



Atlanta or Bust!

It's finally here! We leave at 5 AM on Saturday, July 25. We've been planning and raising funds for this for three years, and meeting in regular Bible studies and information sessions for the past three months.

The Youth Gathering is going to be the largest in church history with 30,000 students and counselors! Now is the time for us to say thank you for all your support



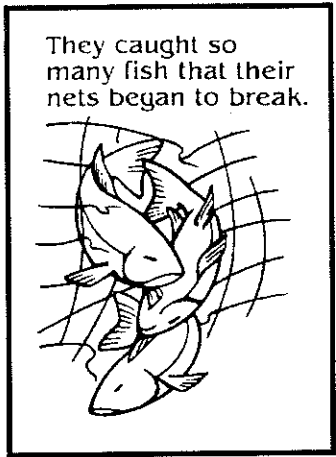
and prayers. . .we've made it! We raised the funds with your help and God's Grace. There are 32 of us going, 4 are adult counselors: Bert Svendsen, Pam Parker, James Welch and Marlys Cartwright.

There are 17 high school girls and 15 high school guys from Concordia attending and we are counting the days!

Mark your calendar for Sunday, July 19 at the late service where we will be commissioned for the

Gathering. Then mark your calendar again if you are a parent or participant for our big BBQ on Tuesday, July 21, at 6 PM where we will be signing our covenants, completing our medical release forms and having a wonderful sendoff party!

We thank God for such a marvelous group of kids and pray that we will have a chance to share everything with you when we return. Keep us in your daily prayers.



They caught so many fish that their nets began to break.

Concordia Worship Statistics

June Average Sunday Attendance:

1991	103
1992	141
1993	155
1994	135
1995	179
1996	153
1997	236
1998	261

June 1998 Sunday Attendance

wk. #1 - (E) 140 (L) 91	231
Vacation Bible School - 85 kids - 55 helpers	
VBS Closing service	209
wk. #2 - (1 Service)	307
wk. #3 - (E) 110 (L) 136	246
wk. #4 - not available at time of printing.	

Parents of Young Children BBQ at church July 17th, 6:00 PM

Join us for our monthly supper and topic at the church from 6:00-8:00 PM. It's always good to be together to review ways to keep our families strong in faith and fun! See you Friday, July 17th at 6!



Women's News

Don't forget to mark your calendar for our "Amazing Grace" women's retreat right here in Steamboat Springs September 18-20. We are including women from the entire Western Slope area, and have some great things planned! Call the church office for more information 879-0175.

Women's Bible studies are continuing through out the summer, with once-a-month scenic hikes as well. If you'd like to join us call Marlys at 879-8455 or Mary Dombey 870-3337.

Psalm 43



*O God,
my life is cluttered up with conflicts.
And there are times
when You seem so oblivious to it all.
The pitfalls before me, the weaknesses within me -
all this is most depressing.
I feel as if I am groping in utter darkness.*

*Break into my darkness, O God.
Set me free from my hang-ups.
May these daily pressures
that threaten to strangle me
drive me to Your fountainhead of grace.
Then night will give way to the dawn,
depression shall resolve into joy,
and I shall sing Your praises once more.*

*O foolish spirit,
why do you fret over so many things?
God is here!
He knows all about your troubles and trials.
Renew your faith in Him, and rejoice.*

*I shall rejoice!
No matter how black the night,
God is my ever-present and eternal Hope.*

(Parts of Psalm 43 as re-written by Leslie Brandt)

God Is Forgiving

THE ONE-MINUTE BIBLE™

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.

1 John 1:5-10

Related texts: Numbers 14:1-35; 1 Kings 8:27-53; Psalm 32:1-5; Daniel 9:1-19; Matthew 6:14-15; 18:21-35

The One Minute Bible is a daily Bible reading program at which ANYONE can succeed and edited by John R. Kohlenberger.

Who is a God like you, who pardons sin and forgives the transgression of the remnant of his inheritance?

You do not stay angry forever- but delight to show mercy.

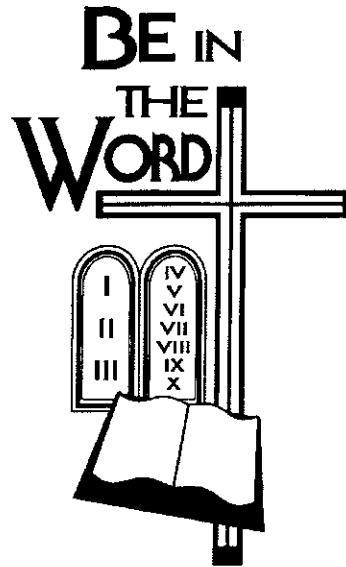
You will again have compassion on us; you will tread our sins underfoot

and hurl all our iniquities into the depths of the sea.

You will be true to Jacob, and show mercy to Abraham, as you pledged on oath to our fathers in days long ago.

Micah 7:18-20

This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.



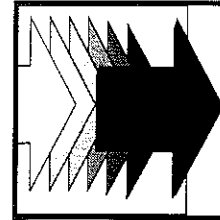
Hidden Books of the Bible

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible.

It was a lulu; kept people looking so hard for facts...and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam especially since the names of the book was not capitalized. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of our readers. To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for

you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there are sixteen names of books of the Bible in this paragraph.

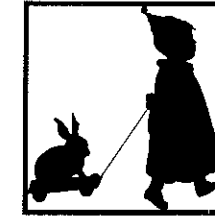
ANNOUNCEMENTS



ATLANTA UPDATE

It's coming up soon:
July 25-29.

Note special meeting times on the calendar.

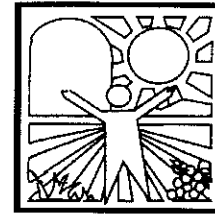


JULY 17

Parenting Support Group

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Begins with a potluck at 6 PM. Special time for the kids - special topic for the parents.



Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study

10 AM at Loretta Hammerslags (807 Amethyst) on July 2nd and 9th. Please note location change.



JULY 16th - THURSDAY Recovery Study Potluck

Thursday, 6:30 - 8:00 PM

"Special Speaker"

Invite a Friend!



DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY

7 PM at the Church

(Childcare is provided.)

Will not be held on June 10th.



CHRISTMAS CUPBOARD CRAFT DATES:

Every Monday evening in July. July 6 & 13 at Elaine Stroncek's July 20 & 27 at Cindy Svendsen's



CONCORDIA

COMMUNITY CARES

meets July 19th after the late service for July and August Teams

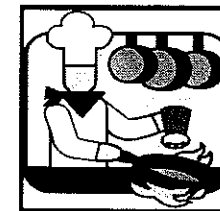


JULY 21 - TUESDAY

ATLANTA KIDS & PARENTS

BBQ begins at 6 PM

Meeting ends at 8 PM



JULY 11TH

MEN'S BREAKFAST

7 AM-8:30 PM

Bring a friend!



SUNDAY, JULY 5

Ron Schirmer of PathWay Lutheran Ministries will be here.

By day the Lord directs his love, at night his song is with me - a prayer to the God of my life. - Psalm 42:8