

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.

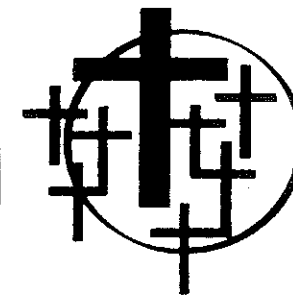
Sunday Worship: 8:00 and 10:30 AM **Education Hour:** 9:15 AM

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

CHRISTOGRAM

Concordia Lutheran Church

August 1998



A Note From the Pastor

To the Members and Friends of Concordia;

Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord!

I broke two teeth while on vacation. I was just eating popcorn. I happened to be crunching down on a mouthful when I slammed into an un-popped kernel. Ouch! The second tooth sheered off while eating a Hershey's chocolate bar. I've always had trouble with my teeth. My parents have "soft" teeth. There is a history of dentures in my

*Our congregation is here
because of the saving
message of the Good News.
"For God so loved the
world!" (John 3:16)*

family tree. I'm doing my best to save what I can and protect the rest.

I visited the dentist as soon as I arrived home. After a brief consultation the verdict came back as to

what to do and what the costs would be. Two to three thousand dollars for two to three golden caps. Big guys who perhaps clench their teeth need the gold. I just happen to be one of the lucky ones. The dentist wants to restore my broken teeth.

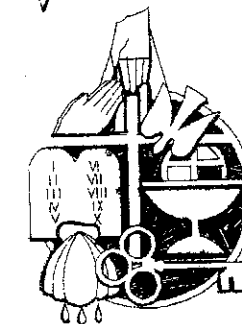
Save, protect, and restore were the words of the dentist's office. I couldn't help but feel a certain professional kinship with the dentist. Why, isn't that the purpose and function of my work as a pastor? The dentist should have been wearing a clerical collar.

Our congregation is here because of the saving message of the Good News. "For God so loved the world!" (John 3:16) The Psalms indicate that the Word of God is a "lamp unto our feet...a guide of protection for our lives." Our Sunday Adult Bible Class has recently been studying the theme of restoration and reconciliation. We have been given a "Ministry of reconciliation." (II Cor. 5)

A brief visit with the dentist has a

price tag. A brief encounter with the Word of God also has a price tag. However, we are not the ones who pay. God does! He sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to pay the price of our sin. He did not do it with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood.

Hey, sink your teeth into that piece of Good News.



**Save
Protect
Restore**

August 1998

Concordia Lutheran Church **CHRISTOGRAM**

inside...

How can I get faith? **Walt Wangerin Jr.**, answers with a parable.
New study opportunities coming your way
Healthy Families

Not by my own reason or strength

By Walter Wangerin Jr., Lutheran pastor and author

Dear Walt, How can I get faith?

Dear friend, this is how I answer you. With a parable.

When I was a kid in the second grade, I roared it all over the neighborhood, how strong were the arms of my father. I knew my Dad, had watched him chopping wood and declared his strength superior to Jimmy's Dad for sure. But I didn't believe it. Not with my life.

In our backyard stood a cherry tree. Ten feet up a stout branch forked northward. Upon that fork I would lay me down - my "private place" where I went to be alone, to dream, to read, to bathe myself in the higher air of self-importance.



Now it happened on a summer's day that a thunderstorm caught me in my kingdom unaware. Suddenly the east wind assailed my tree, and tore the book from my hands, and made a small boy throw his arms around the forking

branches for dear life, his head slung down between them. "Dad! Dad!" I shrieked, and the rain swept up and whipped me. A low cloud cracked and blackened the earth. "Dad!"

"I had fallen to land on the truth, and truth was a living being."

My father appeared at the back door. For just an instant I giggled in the wind, relieved. "Hurry!" I cried. But my father didn't climb the tree as I'd expected, made not effort at all, in fact, to carry me down. He stood directly below me and raised his two arms and called above the thunder, "Jump." *Jump?* If I broke his sticklike arms I would hit the ground and then what? Then I'd die. Forget your jumping! I gripped the branches with my arms tighter than ever.

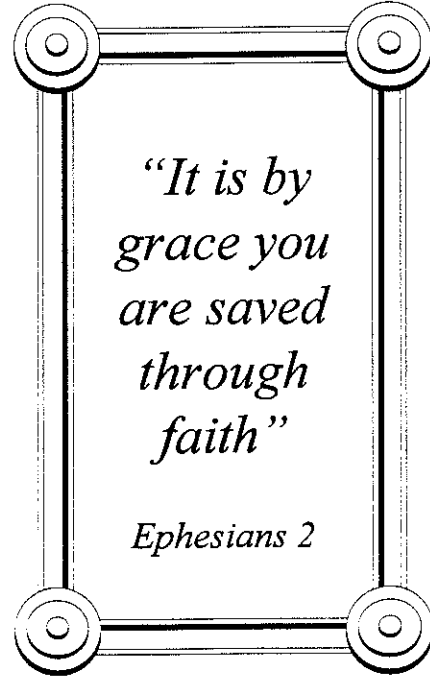
But the east wind makes no concessions to the sensibilities of little boys. It ripped that tree and bent it. Savagely it shook it. Then suddenly my own poor branch exhaled and split beneath me. "Daddeeee!"

I did not jump that day. In bloody panic, I let go. All helplessly, I fell. I thought, *Here*

comes the bump, and simply gave up. But my father caught me.

Then - *then*, dear Karen, my father's arms were strong indeed. And to say so was a creed in me. And to hug him, and to let him carry me, why, that was love and faith and life together. We strode that storm bare-faced into the kitchen. Me, I was weak and strong at once, who had only been weak before. Dad, he was as strong as he had always been. So, what had happened? I had fallen to land on the truth, and truth was a living being.

So what had happened? Faith.



Thank you

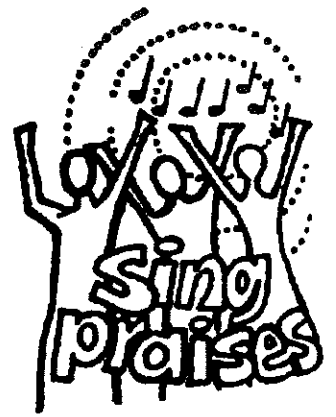
Dear Friends of Concordia,

Thank you for remembering our family with your prayers, food and flowers and cards.

In our time of grief you extended God's love to us and we deeply appreciate it. This is the love that helps to heal the broken heart. We know my Dad is home with the Lord - what a comfort!

Your kind expression of sympathy and friendship will always remain in our memories. Thank you for your thoughtfulness.

*Love, Jeanne & Lee Willman,
My Mom, Ruth Bortz - and all the family*



Thank You So Much

Dear friends at the Lutheran Church Youth Group,

Thank you so much for sending the gift bag to Winston. It was very thoughtful of you to remember him along with the children. He was cheered by seeing everything in it and, hopefully, will be playing frisbee in the fall! We will attach the bag to his "walker" so that he can reach things.

We are very thankful for Winston's progress. We have put our faith in the Lord for his healing. Thank you for all your prayers.

Sincerely, Cindy Walker

Healthy Families by Mel Kirschnick Good Shepherd Magazine

The best research on healthy families gives some direction. Healthy families feel and show affection. They stay committed to each other through differences and adversity. They spend time together, talk to and listen to each other. They express appreciation for each other and have reasons to joke and laugh together. They tend to their spiritual well-being at church, together as a family and in quiet personal reflection.

There's more. Parents and adolescents learn to set boundaries. Healthy adolescents have the strength and the skill to say "no" and to not permit others to

violate their personal boundaries. Parents and adolescents agree to necessary structures and rules, but avoid coming up with long lists of rules. (Anybody can figure out how to break a rule and rarely get caught.)

Healthy families feel and show affection.

Parents and adolescents work very hard at "hating it - but doing it anyway." This applies to honest interpersonal confrontation, keeping commitments and avoiding certain very attractive temptations.

News from the DCE - Marlys Cartwright

In talking to Pastor Ralph Unger in Arcadia, Michigan last month, I was excited to hear about his work in inner city Detroit. He spoke of many inner city churches which died of fear, - yet remarkably a few others are joyfully growing.

His observation is that those who not only struggled to survive, but who struggled to SERVE and to CARE, not only survived but thrived in their community.

Caring is not always easy. Living

our faith, which we all do inadequately, is not easy. However, the bottom line is that we must care. That is the admonition of our faith. Last Sunday's message from Galatians encourages in

"Let us not become weary in doing good -"

these words, "Let us not become weary in doing good ..." knowing that our main resource is God's care for us.

In the fall we have some new

education opportunities to strengthen our resolve to care: In Adult Bible Class we will have 12 weeks in the series *Living With Purpose*; in our Friday night parenting group we will discuss *Parenting with Purpose*; and in 1999 we will build our marriages in a special study called *The Power of WE*. Descriptions of these courses can be seen in this newsletter. Don't miss these dynamic opportunities to grow and stretch in your Christian faith and friendship.

In Christ - Marlys

New Study Opportunities -

Marriage retreat 1999 & monthly study - *Being "one flesh" in attitude and action helps marriages grow stronger, regardless of the circumstances.*

The Power of WE helps couples appreciate the different gifts each partner brings to their marriage and how best to work together on even the most sensitive issues. The interactive format encourages open, honest communication and the video segments offer real-life examples that spark lively discussion. It's an inspiring study for couples of any anniversary and for those in premarriage counseling.

Use this simple, fun series to enrich marriages and help keep them alive and growing in the Lord.

Adult Bible Class - beginning September 1998 - *What is the purpose God has given to your life?*

Living With Purpose explores the benefits of regular spiritual exercise, motivating a richer spiritual walk with God. Participants in this convenient, interactive video-based study learn that shifting their focus from themselves to God helps make way for the Holy Spirit to work in their lives. And the home study and devotional materials continue to help students learn how God's empowering Spirit can help them have contented, satisfying, fulfilling lives.

Find a new dimension to faith - by living with purpose.

Parenting Support Group - beginning Friday, August 7 from 6-8 PM. *Being a parent means a lot more than simply raising children.*

Parenting with Purpose helps parents incorporate faith and the characteristics of healthy families into daily family life. Single and two-parent families - and even grandparents - can discover how successful parenting begins with strong personal and faith relationships through this interactive video-based series.

Focus on communication, appreciation and faith - and give parenting purpose.



Be Stroke Smart from the *Harvard Health Letter*

Researchers at the University of Cincinnati found that almost 40% of 163 stroke patients brought into hospital emergency rooms were not familiar with the signs of a stroke. Those over 65, who are at a greater risk, knew less than younger people. Early detection and immediate treatment may prevent permanent damage or death, and increase the chances of a faster and more complete recovery.

Get to know the warning signs:

- sudden numbness of the face, arm, or leg on one side of the body
- trouble speaking, slurred

- speech
- sudden dimness or loss of vision in one or both eyes
- dizziness, loss of balance, trouble walking
- very severe, sudden, unexplained headaches

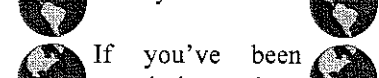
"Between 5,000 and 10,000 lives would be saved each year if people took an aspirin when they experienced stroke or heart attack symptoms -"

While it's important to seek immediate treatment should you experience any of these symptoms, you may also want to take an aspirin. Between 5,000 and 10,000 lives would be saved each year if

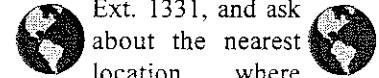
people took an aspirin when they experienced stroke or heart attack symptoms, says the American Heart Association. Aspirin is effective because it prevents the blood platelets from sticking together and forming clots, which clog blood vessels and eventually lead to a stroke.



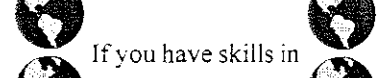
You can be the Global Link between Concordia Lutheran and a congregation nearby!



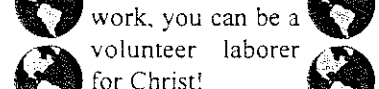
If you've been wondering how you might serve God during vacation or retirement, call 1-800-433-3954, Ext. 1331, and ask about the nearest Laborers For Christ are building for God's mission.



If you have skills in carpentry, plumbing, concrete work or related work, you can be a volunteer laborer for Christ!



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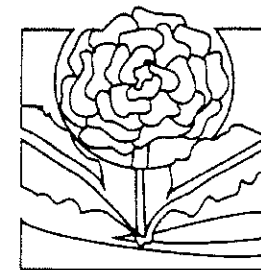
LWML Update

The new LWML year is just upon us and many exciting things will be happening.

Our first meeting will be September 2, 6:30 PM (Dinner / Social) at the church. If you're new or old to Concordia come find out what we are about.

Our theme this year is "Gifted by God". The focus of our programs will be the gifts God has given us and how we may use them to build up His church.

As in the past for each month we need a woman who is willing to

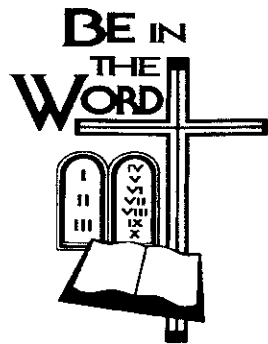


host a meeting in their home and women to present the program and share devotions.

Please call Elyn Myller (871-1860) if you would like to serve LWML in this way.

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!"



August 1998

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						1
2 Worship 8/10:30 AM Education Hr. 9:15 AM	3 Women's AA 7 PM Elders 7 PM Craft Night 7 PM	4 Bible Study 6:30 AM	5 Discovery 7 PM Wedding 6 PM	6 Women's Bible Study 10 AM Bell Choir 6:30 PM	7 Pathways 12:15 PM Parent's Support Group 6-8 PM	8 Men's Breakfast 7 AM Wedding 10 AM Wedding 4 PM
9 Worship 8/10:30 AM Education Hr. 9:15 AM	10 Women's AA 7 PM Pathways Mtg. 7 PM Craft Night 7 PM	PRECINCT 11 VOTING 7AM - 9 PM Bible Study 6:30 AM Church Council 7:30 PM	12 Discovery 7 PM	13 Women's Bible Study 10 AM Bell Choir 6:30 PM	14 Pathways 12:15 PM	15
16 Worship 8/10:30 AM Education Hr. 9:15 AM	17 Women's AA 7 PM Craft Night 7 PM	18 Bible Study 6:30 AM	19 Ministerial Assoc. 9 AM Discovery 7 PM	20 Women's Bible Study 10 AM Recovery Potluck 6:30 PM	21 Pathways 12:15 PM	22
23 Worship 8/10:30 AM Education Hr. 9:15 AM ECC 12:45 PM 6 PM Congregation Wide Bible Study WEDDING	24 Women's AA 7 PM Craft Night 7 PM	25 Bible Study 6:30 AM	26 Discovery 7 PM	27 Women's Bible Study 10 AM Choir 5:30 PM Bell Choir 6:30 PM	28 Pathways 12:15 PM	29 Wedding
30 Worship 8/10:30 AM Education Hr. 9:15 AM	31 Women's AA 7 PM Craft Night 7 PM					

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.



Atlanta Youth Gathering -

Thank you from the 32 Atlanta Youth Gathering participants. We are all looking forward to growing in our faith, - to celebrating our confidence in Christ, - and to becoming even better friends to each other.

We appreciate all you've done to get us to the Atlanta Lutheran Youth Gathering, with 30,000 other Lutheran young people.

God Bless You -

Nathan Deepe; Deena & Danielle Schuelke; Kristin and Sara Stine; Marlys, Katie & Kia Cartwright; Laura & Suzanne Zimmerer; Nick & Danny Weber; Bert & Kyle Svendsen; Jordan Schackelford; Ryan Thompson; Baille Thornton; Pam Parker; Angela Carrell; Janel & Stephanie Kammerer; Evan Wojtowicz; Lisa & Christy Warner; Wade Hendricks; Taylor Patterson; Jessica Fritz; Nathan Plumb; Garrett Anderson; James Welch; Robbie Marten; and Stewart Beail.



Thanks to James Welch, Matt Tredway, and Kyle & Bert Svendsen for laying a firm foundation for Concordia's new addition.

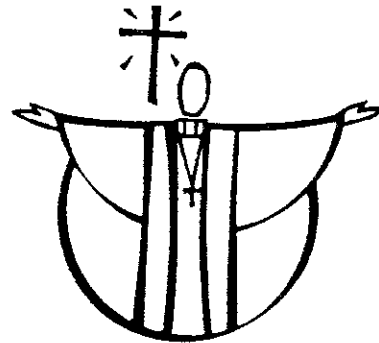
The History of Sanctuary Paraments from the First Congregational Church, Manchester, VT

The use of color in worship began in the ninth century. At first, the newest or most magnificent vestments and paraments were used on great festival days, irrespective of color, in much the same way we like to 'dress up' at Easter or Christmas.

In 1570 an accepted pattern of color was formally defined in the reformed missal under Pope Pious V. The churches of the Reformation rejected the use of color in worship at the time. Where the Calvinist or puritan spirit prevailed, clergy wore plain black gowns.

Liturgical color came into renewed use in the Church of England in the mid-nineteenth century and spread to other

Protestant churches. Today many churches use the traditional



liturgical colors at specific times to help express the mood and meaning of the various seasons in the church year. It is natural to associate red with blood, passion, fire and Pentecost; violet with dignity, majesty, Advent and Lent; white with celebration, purity, Christmas and Easter; and green with growth and renewal.

Concordia Worship Statistics

July Average
Sunday Attendance:

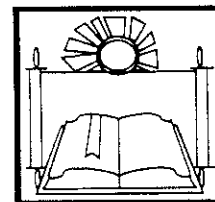
1991	115
1992	137
1993	153
1994	194
1995	170
1996	184
1997	226
1998	217

July 1998 Sunday Attendance

wk. #1 - (E) 78 (L) 106	<u>184</u>
wk. #2 - (E) 73 (L) 95	<u>168</u>
wk. #3 - (E) 94 (L) 160	<u>254</u>
wk. #4 - (E) 117 (L) 148	<u>265</u>

This summer's worship, Bible study, and general "people" participation at all congregational events has been strong and wonderful. We truly can thank God for this reality.

August is a transition month of sorts. School is around the corner. Fall colors are just weeks away. Vacations will draw to a conclusion. Steamboat's summer activities will lessen. Keep a constant in your schedule. Make worship and congregational participation on your list of things "to do." God did it for you!



Psalm 99

As rewritten by Leslie Brandt

*The Lord does reign over this world!
Even when the earth quakes
and the fires rage through the canyons
and floods inundate the lowlands
and men and their creations are laid low,
God is Lord and Master over all the earth.*

*The Lord does reign over this world!
Even when men turn against one another and nations
are engaged in war and violence and injustice are
heaped upon His creatures,
God is Lord and Master over all the earth.*

*God's creatures bear the consequences
of their self-centeredness,
and this world is distorted by their depravity.
But the Lord forgives those who turn to Him
and makes them His children and His
servants and through them
seeks to heal this world's gaping wounds
and the hurts that men inflict upon one another.*

*The Lord relates to those who call upon Him.
The priests and prophets of history
heard His voice
and followed in His course for their lives.
His servants and disciples of this hour
sense his presence and communicate His love
and grace to those who reach out for Him.*

*The Lord does reign over this world!
He is Lord and Master over all the earth!*

What Junk?! by Steve Gruenwald, Editor of *Better Health*

The man who uttered "One man's junk is another man's treasure" must have had children. I'm not totally sure of the attraction, but kids love junk. They're not happy just finding or making a piece of junk, they have to have a COLLECTION. So in our house we have a rock collection, a stick collection, a collection of bottle caps: you name it, we have it. I have hauled rocks, twigs, and broken sea shells hundreds of miles so that they could be added to "the collection."

The twigs, rocks and pine cones are quite ordinary in my eyes. Yet, for my kids, they are pathways to a brand new world of things to explore, to touch, to experience. These objects are a way

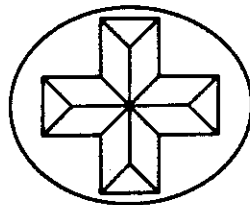
"For as much as I try to teach my kids while they are growing up, I'm the one who keeps getting educated."

to grasp onto the beauty of God's

world and look at it close up, savor it, and try to preserve it in a type of museum - a collection! There is nothing special

about them, except in the eyes of the beholder.

What a perfect analogy to explain God's relationship to us. We may feel like ordinary, worthless "objects," but in God's eyes, we are worth saving. We are worth the death of His Son on the cross. One day, because of Christ's redeeming death and resurrection, we will be taken home to be added to the glorious collection of believers!



Up In Smoke

We all know the added health benefits that can be had by quitting smoking, but what about the added monetary benefits? The following calculations, based on an estimate of \$2.00 per pack of cigarettes, show that quitting can give smokers an immediate financial reward.

Out-of-pocket expenses for cigarettes over 50 years (U.S. Dollars)

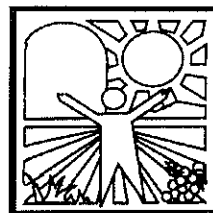
Packs per day	10 yrs	20 yrs	30 yrs	40 yrs	50 yrs
1/2	\$3,650	\$7,300	\$10,950	\$14,600	\$18,250
1	7,300	14,600	21,900	29,200	36,500
1 1/2	10,950	21,900	32,850	43,800	54,750
2	14,600	29,200	43,800	58,400	73,000
2 1/2	18,250	36,500	54,750	73,000	91,250
3	21,900	43,800	65,700	87,600	109,500
3 1/2	25,550	51,100	76,650	102,200	127,750
4	29,200	58,400	87,600	116,800	146,000

Source: American Institute for Preventive Medicine

Now, I'm pretty particular about keeping my cars clean so I have often had to bit my tongue when the inevitable question would come my way: "Hey, dad, can I take this home?" (I couldn't complain too much; after all, they were much cheaper than souvenirs!) I also had to make adjustments in my home. I would have to get used to seeing barkless twigs sitting on the book shelf in my son's room ("Feel it, dad. It's so smooth!") or a container full of rocks sitting on my daughter's dresser ("See how this one sparkles?").

During clean-up days the temptation to help these objects disappear when the kids weren't looking was almost more than I could bear, but I knew that those items meant something to them. For as much as I try to teach my kids while they are growing up, I'm the one who keeps getting educated.

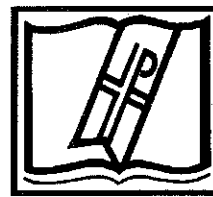
ANNOUNCEMENTS



Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study
10:00 AM at Mary Dombey's Home (775 Amethyst)
Childcare is provided.



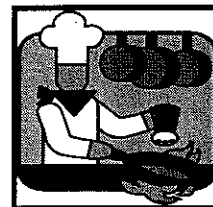
AUGUST 7TH
Parenting Support Group
6:00 - 8:00 PM
Begins with a potluck at 6 PM.
Special time for the kids - special topic for the parents.



DISCOVERY BIBLE STUDY
Wednesdays -7 PM
at the Church
(Childcare is provided.)



AUGUST 20TH - THURSDAY
Recovery Study Potluck
6:30 - 8:00 PM
"Special Topic"
Invite a Friend!



AUGUST 8TH
MEN'S BREAKFAST
7 AM-8:30 PM
Bring a friend!



CHRISTMAS CUPBOARD
CRAFT DATES:
Every Monday evening in August.
August 3; 10; 17; 24; and 31
7:00 PM



PATHWAY LUTHERAN MINISTRIES UPDATE



First All Church ALL Congregation Bible Study - August 23, at 6 PM

Two All Congregational Bible Studies have been designed so that all can attend. Have an early Sunday dinner and then come and feast on the Word of God. Our leader for the first evening will be the gifted and dynamic retired Lutheran pastor, Rev. Dr. Charles W. Keturakat, or Pastor K, as he is fondly called. One of his former members said, "If he don't light your fire, your wood is wet!" Mark your calendar now. We look forward to seeing you at 6 PM on August 23.

Home Visits Begin August 25th

One of the goals of our "Grace Overflowing" journey is to build up the family of faith here at Concordia. Home visits are designed to be Friendship Visits. *Calls are meant to share joys and concerns; hopes and dreams about the ministry here at Concordia.* Families and individuals are also welcome at this time to share prayer requests and have fellowship with their fellow members.