

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.

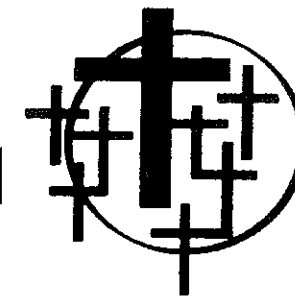
Sunday Worship: 8:00 and 10:30 AM **Education Hour:** 9:15 AM

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

CHRISTOGRAM

Concordia Lutheran Church

September 1998



A Note From the Pastor

To the Members and Friends of Concordia;

Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord!

Recently a balloonist attempted a flight around the world. 20,000 feet was the approximate height that the balloon traveled its global trek. The pilot was a millionaire. Just after the half-way point, somewhere over the east coast of Australia a severe storm tore apart the craft. On the way down the pilot had to battle the reality of impend

"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Lord of the Church, and the Author and perfecter of our faith and life together here at Concordia."

ing death. Clear thinking prevailed. His actions amidst the crisis saved his life. He managed to get rid of the unnecessary and retain the necessary.

We are nearing the half-way point

here at Concordia. You might ask, "Half-way to what?" We are half-way through our commitment with Pathway Lutheran Ministries and our "Behold, Grace overflowing" campaign. We are nearing the half-way point with our building project. What lies ahead for our family of faith? How will we at Concordia complete the journey with Pathways and our parallel project of facilities remodeling?

There is always risk in any journey. There are always storms that have the potential to rip apart any craft. We are working together to complete these common congregational commitments. *WE* are in an exciting time of ministry here at Concordia. On our own individual strength no common task can be completed here at Concordia. Not everybody will agree with every detail when projects of such magnitude are attempted. The question is not so much "What do I not like about this or that." But rather, how can I minimize the weakness and maximize the strength. How can I complete the tasks at hand?

Jesus Christ is the pilot. He is the one who is calm in the storm(s). Through the gift of His life, death and resurrection, He jettisons the unnecessary and retains the necessary. What is necessary? It is necessary that we continue to be recipients of His grace and mercy. It is necessary that we each confess our sin and receive absolution. It is necessary that we regularly worship together. It is necessary that we each regularly commune at the Lord's Table. It is necessary that we each pray and enjoy a private devotional life. Jesus tossed our sin overboard. He retained our life by giving us His life. We survive the fall only because of the pilot that was calm in the midst of crisis.

It is half-time. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the Lord of the Church, and the Author and perfecter of our faith and life together here at Concordia.

In Christ,

Pastor Cartwright

August 1998

Concordia Lutheran Church **CHRISTOGRAM**

inside...

Heart to Heart Talks - Being up front with your kids
Are your children leaving for college? A Blessing for Kirsten
SIDE by SIDE - news from Youth Encounter

Heart-to-Heart Talks by Tom Couser

We were seated at the table for our traditional Thanksgiving Day meal.

It is our custom to individually pray for things we are thankful for. Daughter Katie had added a twist. She randomly assigned us other members of the family to pray for. Fourteen-year-old Mark had my name. "I am thankful that Dad likes his new job working for the district," Mark prayed. "He needs to be happy."

Inwardly I smiled. My kids, at least Mark anyway, had gotten the message. My new job had caused me to be away from home about a third of the time. That was difficult. But the reality was, after years of feeling like my talents were not being properly used, I felt fulfilled. I had tried hard to communicate that to our children.

That was not always the case for me, and I sense for many other parents. Our anger, frustration, grief or other feelings can be hidden from the members of our own family, especially our children. We don't want to burden them or, worse yet, see our vulnerability. The end result is that they only can judge us by our actions. They only see the results and often don't have a clue as to the why. We hide our souls from them. In the end they might even blame themselves for our unhappiness.

Sharing Helps Them Understand

A parent who shares what's going

on inside helps those around them to comprehend the "why" behind the actions. It might be as simple as, "I'm fighting a cold so I might seem more irritable than usual."

If things aren't going well at the office, they need to be

"By sharing our soul we are giving them permission to share their feelings too."

aware of that. They don't need all the details but they do need to be aware that the source of the frustration is outside, rather than inside, the home.

Sharing Allows them to Support

By sharing our soul we are giving them permission to support us in our struggles. My son Mark's prayer was an example. We had talked about my disappointments, now he was affirming my happiness. Sharing feelings allows them to provide us with the words of encouragement, the prayers and the extra hugs needed to get through the difficult times in life.

The Model of Sharing

By sharing our soul we are giving them permission to share their feelings too. If it's okay for mom and dad to feel disappointment and hurt, it must be okay for me. We can help them

with that by letting them know that we care and by providing a listening ear when it's appropriate.

Feelings Are A Gift

Lastly, when feelings are shared, we are acknowledging them as a gift from God. Feelings are part of our human nature. Jesus modeled that during his earthly pilgrimage. At Lazarus' wake, he didn't excuse himself so he could have a "good cry". Publicly, "Jesus wept." When faced with the hypocrisy of the religious leaders, Jesus didn't veil his anger. He expressed it and always let those around him know the source.

If feelings are a gift from God, then they must be okay. Even anger is good - it's what we do with it that makes it bad.

God has made us to be sensitive and loving creatures. Our feelings and emotions are part of our soul. That needs to be communicated to those around us, especially our children.

Tom Couser is a free-lance writer who also works part-time for the Texas District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.



TAKING THE RISK

A man hated cats. His wife owned a cat. One day he decided to get rid of the cat and not tell his wife. In fact, after the cat disappeared, the man put up signs all over the neighborhood offering a \$1,000 reward for anyone who could find and return his wife's cat. One of his neighbors stopped him one day and complimented him on his commitment and willingness to find his wife's cat. To that, the man simply said, "When you know what I know, you can afford to take the risk!"

In a real sense, we, too, are people who can take risk in our lives, because of what we know! We know that Christ has died and risen again for us! We know that He has prepared a place for us in eternal heaven. We are risk-takers, because of what we know!

So we can risk celebrating life, even in the midst of pain and suffering. We can risk spending time and energy for other people. We can risk becoming a servant for others, because of Christ the Servant.

Let's continue to take risks for others, because of what we know.

And, more importantly, because of Whom we know!

Six Ways to Heal Your Heart from Prevention

Your heart needs more than a healthy diet and regular exercise to heal. It also needs intimacy. From his new book, *Love & Survival: The Scientific Basis for the Healing Power of Intimacy* (Harper Collins, 1998), here's how Dean Ornish, MD, believes you can provide it:

Share your feelings. Join a support group or keep a personal journal. These are two ways you can uncritically give and receive love and acceptance.

Learn how to forgive. Carrying a grudge? Make a point to drop it. Forgiving others doesn't excuse their behavior, but it frees

you from the negative effects of anger on yourself.

Help others. Doing volunteer work or just lending a helping hand is a powerful tonic for isolation and loneliness.

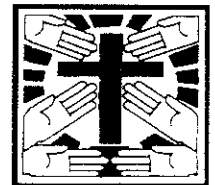
"Learn how to forgive. Carrying a grudge? Make a point to drop it."

Develop your spiritual life. Whether you go back to the religion of your childhood or follow another spiritual path, believing in a power greater than yourself

allows you to feel part of a larger community.

Touch. Whether it's a pat on the back or a stroke on the cheek, touching someone with respect establishes a free flow of intimacy.

Make a commitment. Commitment to another gives you a safe zone in which you can be vulnerable. And that makes greater intimacy possible.



News from the DCE - Marlys Cartwright

"You gain strength, courage and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You are able to say to yourself - I lived through this, I can take the next thing that comes along. You must do the thing you think you cannot do."
- Eleanor Roosevelt

At first glance, I loved this quote because it engenders courage to step out and do the good thing we think we are unable to do. As a Christian, I would also add: "I gain strength, courage and confidence by God's actions in Christ, on my behalf - and by His presence with me daily. Also it is the support and love of God's people wherever I find it that helps me do the thing I think I cannot do.

Is it any wonder that I love my work in the church? I find inspiration in the church council meetings from leaders who are committed to making God's Grace permeate every aspect of Concordia, through decisions and reports.

I find encouragement in the Thursday morning Bible studies with a dozen friends as we study how God gives strength and peace in the midst of change.

I find joy in the high school youth events - whether youth gatherings in Atlanta, servant events with Special Olympics, Bible Study and prayer, or just plain fun get-togethers.

"May God bless each one of us as we venture out into this new season of spiritual nourishment and adventurous ministry."

I find strength in the Wednesday night Discovery Study - where we explore God's Word for those gems that help us celebrate His love, and get us through tough times.

I find confidence as I mingle with friends at the ECC where we listen to decades of faith stories - God's faithfulness through the years.

I find gratitude in the parents who gather monthly to share the joys, challenges, humor and insights of parenting - and in summer Sunday School listening to little ones boldly express their faith!

I find the healing mercy of God each Sunday in Word, Sacrament and song - . . . always enabling us to do the things that God has called us to do.

During the month of September I look forward to a dynamic women's retreat on "God's Amazing Grace" - complete with campfires, music, discussions, worship and good food (September 18, 19, 20). I look forward to a new Sunday School and Bible Class season September 13 - and new LWML, confirmation and youth ministry seasons. I anticipate a wonderful prayer concert September 25, as well as completion of all the congregational home friendship visits.

May God bless each one of us as we venture out into this new season of spiritual nourishment and adventurous ministry.

In Christ,
Marlys



SIDE by SIDE: SERVING THE WORLD FOR JESUS

By Jen Knutson, SIDE by SIDE Administrator

As one of Youth Encounter's newest ministries, SIDE by SIDE: Global Work Crews celebrates it's fourth summer in 1998. SIDE by SIDE provides an opportunity for people from the United States to dedicate one month of their summer to service and relational ministry in another country. The focus of a Work Crew centers on building relationships and sharing Christ with one another with a service project serving as the catalyst for bringing groups from different parts of the world together. The Crews serve the Lord and their fellow Christians through worshipping and working together, learning about different cultures, and building friendships overseas.

The Americans and foreign nationals work together on service projects coordinated by the hosting community. These projects vary tremendously both in type and intensity depending on the location. Last

summer the Crew to India helped paint apartments and plant fruit-bearing trees as an economic means for a Christian College while the Bolivian Crew painted a youth center

"It was incredible to see how one common thread, Christianity, can bring people so culturally different together."

and provided some construction on a church and the Tanzanian Crew dug a new church foundation. Katie Cartwright (Bolivia Crew) recalls, "The work projects we ended up doing were a little different that what was described, but that was part of the experience. We learned how to be flexible and to do what was needed."

While it was exciting to see the impact of the service projects, Crew members agree that the people made the experience and ministry most meaningful. Jennifer Allen (Ecuador Crew) tells, "This trip really helped me grow in faith because I saw people who

didn't speak my language or know me for very long open their lives to me. The people told me how much they loved me and that I always had friends in Ecuador." This common theme of generosity prevailed throughout all of the countries visited. "They treated us like we were Jesus visiting their homes. It was incredible to see how one common thread, Christianity, can bring people so culturally different together" recalls Heather Shelsta (Tanzania Crew). The relationships made and the service project really go hand in hand.

Youth Encounter welcomes youth and adults at least fifteen years old or having completed 9th grade to join this incredible ministry experience of SIDE by SIDE. This summer's ministry sites included India, Latvia, Puerto Rico, and Tanzania.

For more information about SIDE by SIDE, please call the Youth Encounter office at 1-800-65YOUTH.

"We always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, when we pray for you, because we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love you have for all the saints - the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven and that you have already heard about in the word of truth, the gospel that has come to you. All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God's grace in all its truth."
Colossians 1:3-6

September 1998

Friday Parent Support Group (Usually the first Friday of each month from 6-8 PM.) Concordia Lutheran has a support group for Parents with young children 2nd grade to newborn. If you have older siblings they are welcome to come. This will provide a time for parents to make friendships within the church and the studies will help you find strength, direction and hope as you fulfill God's calling in your life as a parent. The evening begins with a simple potluck. After dinner, childcare will be provided and parents can get together for a video and discussion or a Bible study which focuses on parenting issues.

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 Bible Study 6:30 AM Choir 6:30 PM	2 Discovery 7 PM LWML Kick-Off 6-8 PM	3 Women's Bible Study 10 AM Choir 6:00 PM Bells 7:00 PM	4 12:15 PM Koffee Klatsch LABOR DAY WEEKEND	5
6 Worship 8/10:30 AM Education Hr. 9:15 AM	7 LABOR DAY Playgroup 9:30 AM Women's AA 7 PM Elders 7 PM	8 Bible Study 6:30 AM 5:45 PM Co-Chairs/Pastor 7 PM #3 CC Meeting 8:45 PM Pld. Giving	9 Discovery 7 PM 6:15 PM Promotions 7 PM LGE Commt. 8 PM ACBqt/TH 8:15 PM PV Hrly. Caps Trng. 9 PM TH Capt. Trng.	10 Women's Bible Study 10 AM 7 PM HV Reports Choir 7 PM Bells 7:30 PM	11 12:15 PM Koffee Klatsch Parent's Support Group 6-8 PM	12 Men's Breakfast 7 AM
13 Worship 8/10:30 AM Education Hr. 9:15 AM SUNDAY SCHOOL KICK-OFF	14 Playgroup 9:30 AM Women's AA 7 PM Craft Night 7 PM at Patty Duryea's	15 Bible Study 6:30 AM Church Council 7:30 PM	16 Ministerial Association 9 AM Discovery 7 PM	17 Women's Bible Study 10 AM Choir 6:00 PM	18 12:15 PM Koffee Klatsch LWML RALLY	19 LWML RALLY
20 Worship 8/10:30 AM Education Hr. 9:15 AM LWML SUNDAY	21 Playgroup 9:30 AM Women's AA 7 PM Craft Night 7 PM at Patty Duryea's	22 Bible Study 6:30 AM	23 Discovery 7 PM	24 Women's Bible Study 10 AM Choir 6:00 PM Bells 7:00 PM	25 12:15 PM Koffee Klatsch 24 Hour Prayer Vigil starts at 6 PM	26 9:15 AM Co-Chairs/ADV 10 AM CV Caps. Trng. 11 AM TH Callers Trng. #4 CC MTG. NOON YOWELL WEDDING
27 Worship 8/10:30 AM Education Hr. 9:15 AM ECC 12:45 PM All Congregation Bible Study#2 6 PM	28 Playgroup 9:30 AM Women's AA 7 PM Craft Night 7 PM	29 Bible Study 6:30 AM	30 Discovery 7 PM			

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!"



A Blessing for Kirsten by Daniel Y. Quello

If you've sent a son or daughter off to college, you know the feeling. If you haven't yet, you will. Our family was filled with emotion the week Kirsten was preparing to leave for college. After 17 years of having her around our table each night, her chair soon would be empty.

But we enjoyed a wonderful moment as we said goodbye to our firstborn. It happened in our home on the evening before she left, and it's an idea you may want to try if your son or daughter is preparing to leave home for the first time.

Kirsten had packed her boxes. Jacque, my wife, had prepared Kirsten's favorite meal. In anticipation of this night, I had written a special prayer, "A guest at our table," to be used before the evening meal (see next page). Emotions we'd stored up for weeks found their first expression in our family's tears as the prayer was read.

The prayer offered, we brushed away the tears and enjoyed Kirsten's chosen meal of chicken fajitas.

After clearing the table - and her younger brother's unceremonial prompting of "Let's get on with this!" - we gathered at the fireplace. I lit a candle on the mantel and invited Kirsten to kneel. Each member of the family

placed a hand upon her head. With voice cracking, I offered this blessing: *Kirsten, it seems not so long ago that you were born into our family. Even before you had a name you were loved. From the day of your birth we have shared with you who we are, whose we are, what we value and believe. The beautiful young person you have become tells us it has all been worthwhile.*

You will always be our daughter,

"As you step into the larger world, know that you will never be outside of our love or God's love."

but more and more you will be on your own, living out your dream for your life with integrity. As you do, know deep within your heart that we believe in you, respect you and pray God's blessing upon you.

We are excited about your future and eager to watch your life unfold. As you step into the larger world, know that you will never be outside of our love or God's love. Our prayers will follow you still. As you leave now for college, go with God's blessing.

The blessing spoken, our emotions spilled out. Kirsten sat back on the couch, and all five of us piled on top of and around her. Our

hugs, kisses and tear-swollen faces turned to laughter as Beret, Kirsten's sister, opined how silly we would look if someone were to come to the door.

The next day we made the long-anticipated trip. We found Kirsten's dormitory, met her roommate and unloaded the van.

At 2 PM it was time to say farewell. Some of the other parents, struggling with their emotions, looked suspiciously at how easily we seemed to be saying our good-byes. Jacque's eyes connected with mine as if to say, "If only they had seen us last night." With a kiss, we jumped in the van and waved good-bye.

Kirsten loves college. She has met many wonderful friends. We still miss her, of course. I get lonesome for her, but I don't worry about her. I know - and she knows - she is wrapped in God's blessing.

Kirsten has a sister and two brothers still at home. I don't know if "letting go" will get easier or harder as the nest empties. But I do know we won't send them off without a blessing.

Quello is pastor of Light of Life Lutheran Church, Aloha, Ore.



A Guest At Our Table

O Lord, our family is coming apart it seems. Beret flies off to Europe, Kirsten prepares to leave home for college, Peder is leaving for a weekend tournament. Only Jon is staying home.

You burst with pride to see each one - each so tall, so gifted, so beautiful, so loved. But now, as often as not, the circle around our table is broken - an empty chair here, a vacant spot there, a voice not heard, no after-school tales, just a longer stretch as hands are joined to pray.

But here, around this table, I will continue to place my hand in Jacque's and we'll pray: "Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest..." And with head bowed, eyes closed and lips moving in prayer, we'll add your names - Kirsten, Beret, Peder and Jon - and thank God for deciding to make you guests at our table.

Dan Quello



Illustration

The story is told about a woman who was in love with a missionary who was preparing to go to India. He wrote her a letter telling of the dangers and inconveniences of the life of a missionary, but proposing marriage. He asked her to send her answer back to him. The woman loved the man and immediately wrote to her beloved, saying "yes" to his proposal. She gave the letter to her younger brother and asked him to mail it.

Weeks, then months, then years went by without an answer. The woman never married and never heard from the man again. One day she read an article in a missionary magazine and discovered the man had married somebody else and was doing fruitful work in India. She was heartbroken. Many years later she was cleaning out the attic in the house and came across her brother's old leather jacket. There in the pocket was her letter, the letter her brother had never mailed, the message that was never told.

Tell a friend the Good News about Jesus - about His death on the cross and His resurrection. Expect resistance to your message! Tell your friend with boldness - a boldness that comes from being in the presence of Jesus.

LWML Update

**LWML 1998-99 Season
Kick-off Dinner - Wednesday,
Sept. 2, 6:30 PM
365 N. Steamboat Blvd.**

If you've ever wondered what LWML is or does, now is your time to find out.

All women are invited to the Lutheran Women's Missionary League 1998-99 Kick-off Dinner. It's at Judy Plumb's home, 365 N. Steamboat Blvd. The main dish will be provided. Just bring yourself and a friend, if you can, and a salad or dessert to share and be ready for fun and

fellowship. If you have any questions, or want directions call Judy at 870-9040.

There will be a special drawing for an all-expense paid retreat to attend the LWML Zone Rally.

**Concordia Women's Retreat
LWML Western Zone Rally
Friday - Sunday,
September 18-20**

Registration forms need to be turned in by September 9 and are available at the church.

YOUTH NEWS

What a great time we had last night at the youth bonfire out at Wojtowicz's. It was a time to eat roasted marshmallows, s'mores, and play some hilarious games around the ping-pong table! More than that, we finished with a time of prayer from everyone and found encouragement in God's Word for the coming school year.



Talk about a visual for grace overflowing! Atlanta participants refreshed by the cooling waters of a fountain. Be reminded of your baptism.

Youth Group will be held September 13 at 5:30 PM and Youth Bible Class for grades 9-12 will begin Sunday, September 13th at 9:15 AM. Don't miss out on a great year!

Coming soon: We will be planning a youth program for the congregation to show highlights of the Atlanta Youth Gathering. What a wonderful event, and we are especially thankful to our adult volunteers: Bert Svendsen, James Welch, and Pam Parker. Thanks for your time, energy and care!

In Christ,

Marlys Cartwright, DCE

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

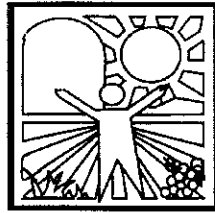
Next meeting is Friday, September 11, 6-8 PM

The objectives of our second session of "Parenting with Purpose" series are as follows:

- 1 review the meaning of commitment;
- 2 recognize that God wants families to spend time together;
- 3 reflect on past memories of time spent together;
- 4 identify barriers which prevent families from using time wisely;
- 5 identify ways in which families can use time more wisely;
- 6 identify subcontractors used to subcontract out parenting responsibilities;
- 7 define "teachable moments" and know how to take advantage of such moments;
- 8 select one or more specific ways to practice better time usage.

Don't miss out on an evening of great food, friendship and conversation!

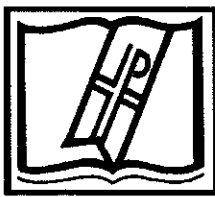
ANNOUNCEMENTS



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



SEPTEMBER 11TH 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.)




SEPTEMBER 17TH Thursday Recovery Study Potluck
6:30 - 8:00 PM
"Special Topic"
Invite a Friend!



SEPTEMBER 12TH MEN'S BREAKFAST
7 AM-8:30 PM
Bring a friend!




CHRISTMAS CUPBOARD CRAFT DATES:
September 14 and 21
7 PM
at Patty Duryea's Home



Pathway
LUTHERAN
MINISTRIES

**PATHWAY LUTHERAN
MINISTRIES UPDATE**



**BEHOLD
GRACE
OVERFLOWING**

All Church Bible Study Update: If you missed the All Church Bible Study you missed a wonderful evening, indeed! Great speaker, tasty refreshments and the children were delighted with their care and treats too.

But **DON'T DESPAIR**. You've got another chance. Mark your calendar now for The All Church Bible Study #2, Sunday, September 27, 6:00 PM. **YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS NIGHT.** Child care & transportation available. Your personal invitation will be in the mail soon. Any questions call Bible Study Coordinators, Gene Carrell, 879-3019, or Judy Plumb, 870-8040.

Home Visits Begin August 25th and end September 18th

24-Hour Concert of Prayer will begin 6 PM Friday, September 25th and end 6 PM Saturday, September 26th.