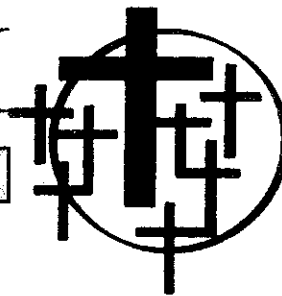


CHRISTOGRAM



Concordia Lutheran Church

November 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 Cindy Svendsen

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

To the members and friends of Concordia;

Greetings in the name of our Risen Lord!

"For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you and in the day of salvation I helped you . . . I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation." (II Corinthians 6:2)

Thirteen years ago the time was right for Concordia to make the move to this new location. Seven years ago the time was right to call a new pastor. Last year the time was right to begin the expansion of our facility. The time will come when we will add additional staffing. The time may come when we will establish a new congregation in the Yampa Valley.

As we move through the challenging and exciting time of our history, we must keep a strong grip on our past, a clear view of the present and a courageous look to the future. The common bond that links the history of Concordia together is the

reality of God's overflowing grace.

People who were baptized through the ministry of Concordia have brought their children to be baptized. The once small congregation has become a mid-sized congregation. Time has rolled on like an ever-moving stream. Babies

"Will this congregation be in place for our children and our children's children?"

born into the families of Concordia are now graduating from college. Will this congregation be in place for our children and our children's children?

Because of God's grace, this congregation will have a future. The time is right for decision making and executing those decisions. The formula is rather simple. We have received from God and we give back to God. Why? Because time rolls on like an ever-moving stream. Why? Because people need the Lord! Why? Because

now is the day of salvation.

God's greatest blessings on your support and care of your congregation.

In Christ,

Timothy C. Cartwright
Pastor



November 1998

Concordia Lutheran Church **CHRISTOGRAM**

inside...

"Youth Making a Difference"
"Look To The Future"
"Stephen Ministry"

Obituaries

Francis Haines: 1919-1998

Francis "Fran" Haines, 78, of Steamboat Springs, died Thursday, Oct. 15, 1998, at the Routt Memorial Hospital in Steamboat.

Fran was born Nov. 10, 1919, in Gladwin, Mich., the son of the late James and Mary Ballard Haines. Fran married Thelma Walls on Nov. 6, 1953, in Englewood. She survives.

Fran moved to Colorado in 1946 from Michigan and relocated to the Western Slope in Steamboat in 1972. He was the manager of Trans America Title in Steamboat and was employed in Littleton and Denver prior to moving to Steamboat.

He and Thelma are members of Concordia Lutheran Church. Fran was a former member of the Optimist Club of Littleton.

Fran was an avid golfer, having been a member of the Steamboat Golf Club and helping out at the golf course part-time. He was an active volunteer for the American Cancer Society Golf Classic. He also enjoyed bowling.

Survivors are his wife, Thelma; their two sons, Rick Haines and his wife, Barbara, of Arvada, and Larry Haines of Golden; three grandchildren, Nicholas, Alyxandra and Erik;

10 brothers and sisters, Beatrice Buzzell of Onaway, Mich., Glenn Haines and his wife, Stella, of Colorado Springs. George Haines and his wife, Gertrude, of Afton, Mich., Norman Haines and his wife, Letha Mae, of Carleton, Mich., Harold Haines and his wife, Cora, of Lansing, Mich., Arlene Hare of North Carolina, Wanda Lee of Cadillac, Mich., Jan and Bob Mercer of Candler, N.C., Esther Skeldon of Hendersonville, N.C., and Irene and Warren Wing of LaTana, Fla., and numerous nieces and nephews.

Memorial services were held Sunday, Oct. 18, 1998, at Concordia Lutheran Church in Steamboat Springs. The Rev. Timothy Cartwright officiated. There was a cremation. Peterson Funeral Home of Steamboat was in charge of the arrangements.

Memorials in Fran's name may be sent to the Concordia Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 770428, Steamboat Springs 80477.

Reprinted from *The Steamboat Pilot*

"STILL THEY COME"

by Lee Sasser

The Steadfastness of the old speaks of faith.

"I don't want to go to church. It's just full of old people." Old people in church?

Amazing! Through seven, eight and nine decades they have experienced collectively the whole spectrum of human tragedy.

Hurt.

Sorrow.

Grief.

Alienation.

Perhaps the death of a child.

Perhaps the desertion of a spouse.

Perhaps the betrayal of a friend.

Perhaps the indignity of a debilitating disease.

But they still come.

Still they cling to, no, practice their faith in our living Lord.

No fair-weather Christians these.

Their steadfastness speaks to all, from pastor to great grandchildren.

In the spirit of Psalm 34 they say, "I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth."

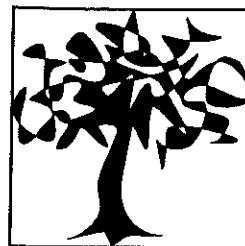
Consider the implication: Their faith is stronger than the strongest evil Satan can inflict.

If they were not in the church - now that would be frightening.

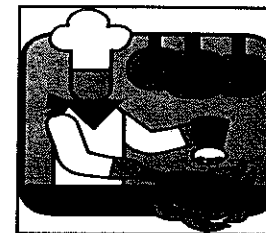
The church is full of old people?

Rejoice!

(Lee Sasser is a member of Grace Lutheran Church, Fairfield, MT)



Parent Support Group
November 6th
6-8 PM
Begin with potluck
Special time for kids
Special topic for parents



Men's Breakfast
November 14th
7 - 8:30 AM
Bring a Friends!



Discovery Bible Study
Wednesdays - 7 PM
at the Church
(Childcare Provided)



Tuesday Morning
Bible Study
at the Church
6:30 - 7:30 AM
Bring a Friend!



Monday Morning Moms
10 - 12 AM
Meet in Church Basement
(Childcare Provided
during Book Study)



Thursday Morning
Women's Bible Study
10 AM at Mary
Dombey's
775 Amethyst Dr
(Childcare Provided)



BEHOLD
GRACE
OVERFLOWING



We are in the commitment phase of our Behold, Grace Overflowing program here at Concordia. At the Leadership Gifts Banquet, 33 families chose to give early pledges totaling \$170,912 over the next three years. This is in addition to their normal giving to Concordia. This is a giant step towards our Celebration Goal of \$270,000 - the amount needed to complete our building project. Our Victory Goal of \$447,000 would also pay off the debt incurred during this project. Our Miracle Goal of \$650,000 would leave the congregation totally debt free at the end of three years. Between now and November 13th, the youth of our congregation will be making "screen door" visits to all members to pick up your commitment cards. They will be calling you to schedule these visits. Please welcome them. You could also choose to put your commitment cards in the collection plate. Please prayerfully consider your gifts to our growth. The final results will be announced at our special Celebration Sunday services on November 15th. Plan to join us!

News from the DCE - Marlys Cartwright

YOUTH MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Four and a half years ago, our confirmation and youth wrote letters and sent gifts to Amy Luethye as she lived her last year of life. Enclosed is an article from Amy's mom. Concordia youth made wooden crosses to hang in the cars of all the Zion Lutheran members at Amy's funeral. The family wrote back and said "What a wonderful gift - a wonderful way to honor Amy's memory."

This year, once again, Concordia youth have made a commitment to make a difference by investing in various "servant projects". Last week, we had 17 youth cleaning the highway, soon we will be helping with Christmas baskets, caroling at the ECC, snow-shoeing for Disaster Relief, helping with Special Olympics, Habitat for Humanity again - and other projects as they come up!

I love working side by side with these incredible young people as they live their faith - and make a BIG difference in our world today.

Don't miss our November events:

Youth Group Meal & Topic - Nov 8, 5:30 PM

Bible Study & Pizza at Joanne's-Nov 18 6-7 PM

Church Volleyball Tourney Nov 22, 2-4 PM, SSMS

Marlys

"I'll See You Soon, Amy!"

by Dawn Luethye

When our children were growing up, November at our house always meant the anticipated arrival of a double celebration. Not only did we look forward to Thanksgiving, but also to the birthday of our first-born child. With Amy's birthday

falling on the 22nd of the month, her big day was always within a few days, if not on, Thanksgiving. But four years ago, the meaning of the month forever changed for us. Amy died Nov 3, 1994, just 19 days short of her 17th birthday. Her death marked the end of a courageous three-and-a-half year battle with osteogenic sarcoma, a form of bone cancer. November became "the month that Amy died." Death is what Amy faced, and death is what Amy conquered. She knew, without a doubt, that heaven and all its glory awaited her because Christ had died for her. I thank God daily for Amy's faith and courage and ask that I may be given but a portion of what she possessed. After Amy died, I truly wondered if I would be able to get on with life or be happy again. But it gradually happened, and I now maintain some degree of normality. I no longer set four places at the supper table. cont'd

I no longer look for Amy in her room every time I pass by or awaken to the sound of her voice calling me. There have even been many occasions of happiness. But a day has not gone by when I have not thought of Amy and wiped away a tear.

I miss her smile and her laughter and her love of life. I miss the sounds of her and her sister whispering and giggling into the late-night hours. I miss her coming and going with her friends. I miss her mere presence.

But there is no anger and there is no bitterness and there is no despair. November will always and forever be "the month that Amy died." But November will also continue to be a month for celebration and thankfulness. Most of all, I'm thankful that Amy is in heaven. What peace and comfort I'm given with the knowledge that I will someday experience the joyous reunion with my daughter in our heavenly home.

As you prepare to celebrate this Thanksgiving season with your family, it is my hope and prayer that you set aside a little extra time for your children. Talk to them, encourage them, and listen to them. Most importantly, let them know how much they are loved.

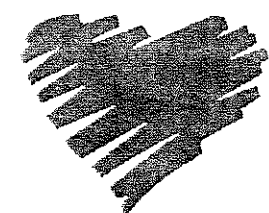
I'll miss Amy this November and this Thanksgiving, but through the tears I'll miss her with a smile on my face and joy

in my heart. For God gave to me the treasured privilege of being her mother and of being loved by her. And His everlasting love for us both in Jesus Christ gives me the confidence to say, as my daughter did in her journal, "I'll see you again, Amy. Real soon!"



Amy Luethye

She wrote in her journal: "There are so many things I want to tell my friends, family and pastor, but for some reason I can't. I know that after I leave to be with my Father, everybody will get on with their lives and be happy again. In my heart, I know I'll see them all again, real soon."



October Average Worship Attendance

1991	117
1992	169
1993	179
1994	209
1995	207
1996	236
1997	239
1998	245

October, 1998

Week 1	126 (E)	128 (L)	Total	254
Week 2	102 (E)	126 (L)	Total	228
Week 3	138 (E)	118 (L)	Total	256
Week 4	130 (E)	111 (L)	Total	241

November 1998

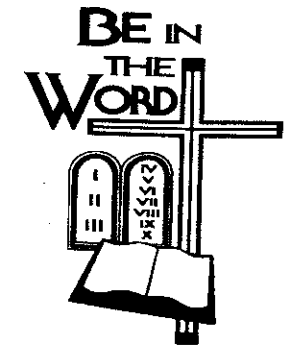
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Worship 8/10:30 AM Education Hr 9:15 AM Confirmation 4:30-6 PM	2 Playgroup 10-12 AM Womens AA 7 PM Elders 7 PM Crafts 7 PM - Judy Plumb	3 Bible Study 6:30 AM Contact 2:15 PM Public Voting - 7-7 PM	4 Discovery 7 PM	5 Womens Study 10 AM Choir 6 PM Bells 7 PM New Members 7 PM	6 Koffee Klatch 12:15 PM Parent Support Gr 6-8 PM Cookies 9:30 AM at Diane Weber's	7 Journey 9 AM
8 Worship 8/10:30 AM Education Hr 9:15 AM New Members Youth Group 5:30 PM	9 Playgroup 10-12 AM Womens AA 7 PM Girl Scouts 3:30	10 Bible Study 6:30 AM Contact 2:15 PM Church Council 7:30 PM	11 Discovery 7 PM LWML 7 PM - Ann Mattlage Cookies 10 AM at Church	12 Womens Study 10 AM Choir 6 PM Bells 7 PM DCE Conference CA	13 Koffee Klatch 12:15 PM Concert of Prayer 6-12 PM DCE Conference CA	14 Mens Breakfast 7 AM Cookies 9:30-3 at church DCE Conference CA
15 Worship 8/10:30 AM Education Hr 9:15 AM Celebration Sunday Confirmation 9:15 AM	16 Playgroup 10-12 AM Womens AA 7 pm	17 Bible Study 6:30 PM Contact 2:15 PM Cookies 6-9 PM at Church	18 Discovery 7 PM Youth Group Bible Study 6 PM at Joanne B. CCC Mrg 7 PM with Pastor Degner	19 Womens Study 10 AM Choir 6 PM Bells 7 PM Recovery 7 PM	20 Ministerial Association 9 AM (Holy Name)	21 Christmas Cupboard Bazaar 9 - 1 PM
22 Worship 8/10:30 AM Education Hr 9:15 AM ECC 12:45 PM Confirmation 4:30-6 PM Church Volleyball Tourney 2-4 PM SSMS	23 Playgroup 10-12 AM Womens AA 7 PM Girl Scouts 3:30	24 Bible Study 6:30 AM Contact 2:15 PM	25 Thanksgiving Eve Service 7 pm Soup Supper 5:30	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28
29 Worship 8/10:30 AM Education Hr 9:15 AM 1st Sunday in Advent	30 Playgroup 10-12 AM Womens AA 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!"

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.



Stephen Ministry Acts Quickly

Three days after the tornado, 80 strangers paired up and went door to door along some of the hardest-hit streets in East Nashville.

All they brought with them were clipboards and listening skills. Their name tags announced them as "Stephen Ministers."

"We'd like to know if you have any special needs we can relay back to the church," Lynn Spaw, one of the Stephen Ministers, told tornado-stunned residents coping with twisted trees, blasted roofs and spiritual numbness.

They found people too scared or disoriented to seek help. They found one family whose elderly relative had died that morning.

By the end of the afternoon, the squad of lay ministers - Methodist, Presbyterian, and other church stripes - had canvassed a 50-block area, talked to 1,250 families.

They duly reported their findings to the command post, East End United Methodist Church, whose staff made follow-up visits.

It was just another day for Stephen Ministers, a cadre of trained lay people who are changing the way churches connect daily with people to show compassion.

"The Stephen Ministers are good in crisis - patient, cool under fire, no hysteria," said Becky Waldrop of East End church.

We've kept every scrap of paper they wrote on to report about the neighborhood. It would have taken us a year to do this ourselves."

Stephen Ministry is a national movement that trains Christian lay people to be a listening ear to people who need to unload their woes. They're not clergy. They're not therapists.

"It's primarily a ministry of listening," said the Rev. Geoffrey Butcher of Christ Church Cathedral.

It's considered a needed dimension to the work of local churches, which are usually too understaffed to deal satisfactorily with the emotional needs of the neighborhood or their own memberships.

Tornado crises aside, Stephen Ministers spend most of their time in one-to-one relationships, over months or even years, with individuals, who are called "care receivers."

Care receivers, usually church members but not always, suffer from loneliness or anguish due to divorce, serious illness, job loss, death in the family or a host of other conflicts.

"Our role is to be there for someone, without judgement, with confidentiality," said Linda Reid, an executive recruiter in Nashville who is also a Stephen Ministry leader at Brentwood United Methodist Church.

"Our role is not to help them 'fix' it. We're the care-giver, not the cure-giver. God's the cure-

giver."

Since 1975, when the organization was founded in St Louis by a Lutheran minister trained as a psychologist, some 225,000 lay people have been trained. They get a minimum of 50 hours training by local leaders.

Currently, 6,000 congregations nationally have Stephen Ministers, with an average of 15 active ministers each. About 20 congregations locally have Stephen programs. They match a Stephen Minister with a person who asks for one, a process done in strict confidence.

"Stephen" comes from the Book of Acts. He was one of the first people commissioned by Jesus' apostles to do a caring ministry.

Mary Lou Redding, diagnosed with degenerative retina disease, wasn't sure she wanted emotional support from a Stephen Minister at first.

"I have this thing about not wanting to look needy or fragile," she said in an interview.

But news of the genetic eye disease was a blow. She's an editor and writer who was facing the prospect of eventual blindness. Two years ago, she sought out a Stephen Minister at her church, Brentwood United Methodist Church. They started meeting weekly, in the park, or at a restaurant.

"It took a few sessions - I had to get in touch with how sad I was at this," said Redding, 47, who is managing editor at *The Upper Room*, a worldwide devotional magazine published here.

cont'd

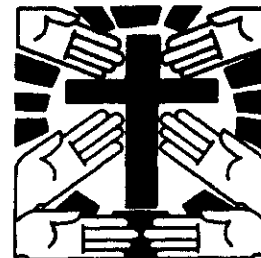
"It helped to be with someone who gave permission to grieve. All those nice things people say about God 'being there for you' are fine, but sometimes you need a person to be there at your side to meditate God's care to you."

The Rev. Clay Hall, a disaster relief coordinator for local Methodists, said Stephen Ministers bridge the emotional distance that sometimes exists between lay people and clergy.

"We've never had this kind of dimension in such an emergency," said Hall, pastor of Gladeville United Methodist Church.

Stephen Minister Lynn Spaw, a trained nurse, said the Stephen training and experience helped her get over a fear of saying the wrong thing to people to whom she's trying to offer Christian compassion.

"It's not like we're preachers, or trying to teach the Bible to people," she said. "But this is something the church has needed for a long time. It's a great privilege to be invited into someone else's life."



New Believers Burn Fetishes, Take Communion

LCMS Missionary manager Mike Squires reports that recently many new Christians in Matougou, Togo, publicly burned fetishes, giving up these important ties to animism and idolatry. By taking this step, they were able to become the first Togolese congregation in their area to receive Holy Communion.

New Lutherans in Datoudjena, Kong, Nagbeni and Namar have followed their example. There, new members renounced ancestor worship and burned fetishes before being baptized.

A Gift of Love for China: Making a Difference

The "Gift of Love for China" offering from LCMS congregations has reached more than \$605,929! The generous offering is already serving Chinese Christians in many ways, including the following:

The "Gift of Love for China" provided \$50,000 toward translating and printing Bibles, Christian textbooks and literature in the minority languages of Yunnan Province, in partnership with the United Bible Society. For more details on this project, see the article in the June issue of *Mission News*, still available on the Internet site (www.lcms.org/mission).

LCMS World Mission sent \$75,000 to help the Hong Kong Synod build a "Luther House" on the premises of a seminary near Shanghai. The building will be used for training Chinese Christian leaders.

*LCMS - Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Heading Into The Future . . . by Dennis Scheiwe

I could use this time to try to line out for you a blue print of specific projects and programs that our church should institute in the future. There are many options and I'll just name a few such as:

- finish our current building project
- add more worship services and Bible studies
- provide additional fellowship opportunities
- start a Christian daycare service or even a Christian school
- hire an assistant pastor and more church staff
- buy a new piece of property so we can build an even bigger church
- start a new congregation in Oak Creek or Hayden
- or . . . finally finish the men's bathroom!

But I'm not here to try to sell you on any specific future project or program. What I would like to do is explore with you what God has to say about our future. So let us first see what instructions the Bible has concerning the future.

God tells us in the Book of Joel (a name near and dear to me) and also again in the Book of Acts - *In the last days, God says, I will pour out my spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will profess, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will profess. I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of*

the great and glorious Lord. (And then this promise.) And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

So here we have God's promise to us that even though the present and future may contain hardships and brokenness, God will rescue us and grant us salvation if we call on his name.

And how does God say we are to manage this promise of salvation as we proceed into the future? As in Acts 2, we can follow the example of the people at the Pentecost who heard this same promise and responded.

Those who accepted his message were baptized . . . They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and into the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

And how does God say we are to manage this promise of salvation as we proceed into the future?

Jesus tells us in Matthew 28 - *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.*

And in Luke 22, He gives us a new covenant through the Sacrament of Holy Communion. *This is my body given for you; do this in remembrance of me. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is poured out for you.*

So we have been given our commission and marching orders. It

is clear that now and in the future, God wants Concordia to concern itself with the business of:

- One. Spreading the Gospel
- Two. Baptizing and teaching
- Three. Remaining in God's covenant through Holy Communion, which is the Sacrament that connects us with all believers in the past, the present and the future.

As we wrestle with the tough decisions as to what options to pursue in the future, above all, we must maintain our Word and Sacrament ministry.

We can joyfully face the future with the certainty that God will pour out his Spirit upon us and that his grace will be overflowing. Like Joshua, we can march boldly into the future with God's promise as recorded in the Book of Joshua (Joshua 1:9) *Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.*

So, of all the projects and programs that we could do in the future, if they result in more effective spreading of the Gospel, then let's do them. If they facilitate the baptizing and teaching of more people, then let's do them. If they provide more opportunities for people to partake in Holy Communion, then let's do them.

God's Peace,

Dennis Scheiwe, Elder

LWML News . . .

The Fall Rummage Sale and Bake Sale was a huge success for the women of Concordia netting \$2700 to be used for local charities and mission worldwide. A **BIG** thank you to all the ladies that helped sort, work, and clean-up. And a special thanks to the Worrell's for hauling all the "leftovers" to Craig for us.

The November LWML meeting will be on November 11th at 7 PM at Ann Matlage's home, 31685 Inca Way. We will carpool to Ann's by meeting at the Church at 6:45 PM. Please call the office or any one of the ladies if you need a ride.

The much anticipated *Concordia Christmas Cupboard* will be Saturday, November 21st at 9 AM sharp! Bring your friends. Shop 'Til You Drop!

Cookie Baking Dates: 11/6, 9:30 AM at Diane Weber's 11/11, 10:00 AM at Church
11/14, 9:30 AM at Church 11/17, 6PM at Church

Walk It Off

I go to the mall 20 minutes early and walk the whole place before I start shopping. That's a mile, and I burn 100 calories. To save money and walk off more calories, I deliver Christmas cards to the neighbors myself.

I also do plenty of housecleaning and burn off 200 to 300 calories - and I have a lot to show for my time.

Finally, it's 80 miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem, so I set myself the goal of covering 80 miles through exercise - running, walking, riding a stationary bike - over the 12 days of Christmas.

Althea Zanecosky

The American Dietetic Association, Chicago

(Submitted by Mary Beth Bradfield)



The office has several copies of the wonderful "Amazing Grace Video" created for Concordia Lutheran Church by Kim and Thong Truong. They are available for check-out. Please see Cindy in the office.

Community Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday, November 25, 1998

5:30 PM - Soup Supper, 7:00 PM Worship Service

All donations and offerings will be given to Lift-Up