

*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

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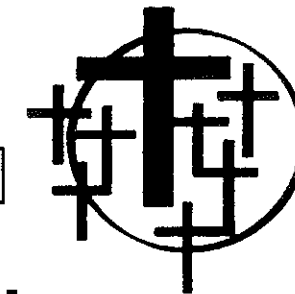
January 1999

Concordia Lutheran Church **CHRISTOGRAM**

# CHRISTOGRAM

Concordia Lutheran Church

January, 1999



## A Note From the Pastor...

Dear Members and Friends of Concordia;

I found the following illustration in a book I was reading recently.

"I think of Rosa Parks on December 1, 1955. Coming home from her job as a tailor's assistant she was tired. Her neck ached and her shoulders were sore. She went across the street to a drug store to try to find a heating pad, but they didn't have any. She went back out to the bus stop and waited. The bus picked her up and then on the ride home as the bus got more and more crowded, finally the bus driver came back and told her that she and three other blacks would have to get up from their seats and stand, so that one white man could sit down. She refused. She was tired so she didn't move. She did nothing. Literally she didn't do anything. But she did everything. A dynamic movement for freedom began that day.

Or I think of the woman who made a phone call to her friend: "I haven't seen you in church for quite some time and I just called to see if everything is okay with you." The response was hesitant at first; the person at the other end of the phone was having trouble getting the words out. And then, like a dam breaking loose, a flood of worries and concerns that had been pent up poured out. That woman ended her conversation by saying that we were beginning to think that no one cared. "I felt all alone," she said.

The woman who called did not do anything special...it was just a phone call, she just listened...but she did everything.

God can take our little actions...halting, feeble, awkward acts of caring...and bless them with the Holy Spirit. God can take our nothing and make it into something."

God bless you this 1999 as you do "nothing." God will do something with it.

Pastor Cartwright-1999

**inside...**

"The Stephen's Ministry"  
"Strengthening The Bond"  
"What Do You Think?"

# NEW THINGS AT CONCORDIA IN 1999 . . .

## The Stephens Ministry:

Our congregation is now officially enrolled. The Stephens Ministry program equips people for ministry and at the same time enriches lives. Joni Eareckson -Tada says, "The Stephens Series gives believers a chance to practice Christianity 'with it's sleeves rolled up.'" Stephen's ministers are people in congregations who care, *really care*. After training, Stephen's ministers are commissioned by the congregation and linked with the first person to whom they will be ministering - including perhaps one of the following: the hospitalized, the terminally ill, the elderly, the disabled or handicapped, those in job crisis, the shut-in and homebound, new members, and many more. Marlys Cartwright and Jan Fritz will be trained as leaders on February 7-13th in San Antonio, TX, and will return to train others to

## New "Strengthening The Bond"

We will be having quarterly events to celebrate our congregation's marriages. The Svendsen's and Scheiwe's will be planning our winter event. The Myller's and friends will be planning our Spring event, the Berntson's and friends will be planning our Summer event and the Dombey's, Thornton's and Hammerslag's will be celebrating our Fall event. Watch upcoming news bulletins for details! You don't want to miss the fun!



## New Confirmation Sponsors!

A special thank you to our new sponsors who will be remembering their student with prayers and little gifts and cards on special days. Most students will not discover who their sponsor is until their Confirmation Day. We are grateful to the following people for their investment of time and caring in this wonderful ministry: James Welch, Jean Smith, Gene Carrell, Mary Dombey, Loretta Hammerslag, Thorvilsons, Fresemans, Deepes, Jane Hallman, Bette VanDahl-Rinck, Tredways, Donna Starbuck, Berntsons, Joanne Boomgarden, Cindy Klein, Marlys Cartwright, Katie Cartwright, Jerry Thornton, Pam Patteron, Rebecca Duryea, Kia Cartwright, Patti Duryea, Cindy Svendsen, Judy Plumb and Terry Denton.

## LWML News . . .

The January meeting will be on Wednesday, January 20th at 7:00 PM at Loretta Hammerslag's home, 807 Amethyst Drive (at the top of the hill, past the church).

The new Secret Sister list and Prayer Chain will be printed and put in your mailboxes in January, so be watching for those.



## 1999 FLOWER CHART AVAILABLE

"Thank You" to everyone who provided flowers for the altar this past year.

The 1999 Flower Chart is now up on the revolving bulletin board. This is a way to remember someone's birthday, anniversary or any other occasion.

Cost of a vase is \$12.50. Please make checks payable to Concordia Lutheran Church and place them in the "Altar Flowers" box to the right of the mailboxes.

If you have any questions, please contact Elaine Stroncek.



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 ☆ Please ☆  
 ☆ Note: ☆  
 ☆ LeAnn Wattles' ☆  
 ☆ address was ☆  
 ☆ enlarged right off ☆  
 ☆ the page in last ☆  
 ☆ month's newsletter. ☆  
 ☆ Our apologies and ☆  
 ☆ here is her address: ☆  
 ☆ LeAnn Wattles ☆  
 ☆ CU-CS ☆  
 ☆ Housing Village ☆  
 ☆ Unit #469 ☆  
 ☆ 1010 Austin Bluffs ☆  
 ☆ Parkway ☆  
 ☆ Colorado Springs ☆  
 ☆ CO 80918 ☆  
 ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

# WHAT DO YOU THINK?

## Will Winterval Replace Christmas?

The City Council of Birmingham, one of the nation's largest cities, has voted to call the city's festivities between Christmas and New Year's - "Winterval" - a combination of winter and festival - rather than Christmas, the more traditional name for the holidays.

The council members said Christmas remains "at the heart" of the festival - which lasts 42 days - but that Winterval was more appropriate, according to Ecumenical News International.

...What do you think?

## Campaign Aims to Recruit LCMS students

A major campaign gets under way next year to double the number of Missouri Synod Lutherans at the 10 LCMS colleges and universities by the year 2010. Called "For the Sake of the Church," the campaign seeks to boost campus recruitment efforts and to raise \$400 million in endowments to cover tuition debt for academically qualified members who can demonstrate financial need. The ultimate aim is to identify and prepare more young people for future church leadership. Each college will have its own endowment fund and recruitment efforts. The campaign also includes a fund for undesignated donations.

...What do you think?

## China Arrests Church Members

Chinese police have arrested more than 140 members of underground Protestant churches in what one dissident says is a new crackdown on unregistered worship.

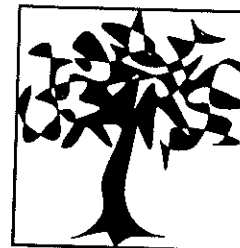
The worshippers were arrested at unregistered churches services on Oct 26 and Nov 5 in two separate places in central Henan province, according to dissident church sources, the Associated Press reported on Nov 10.

According to New York-based Human Rights in China group, after jailing the worshippers, police beat at least 13 - identified as leaders. Their fate, according to a letter from a member of one of the churches, remains unknown.

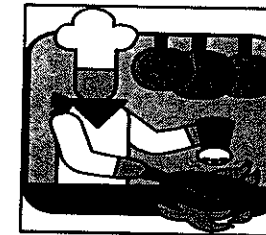
China forbids worship outside of churches approved by the state. According to a police official in Wugan, where 40 of the arrests took place Oct 26, police moved to shut down what they called an illegal meeting and began hauling people away only when they resisted. The police officials said some of the worshippers shot at police with homemade rifles.

Officials in the city of Nanyang, where the other arrests took place, refused to comment, as did the central government's Religious Affairs Bureau, which oversees religion policies, the AP said.

... What do you think?



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



Men's Breakfast  
January 9th  
7 - 8:30 AM  
Bring a Friend!



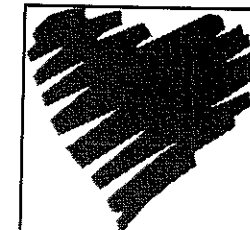
Discovery Bible Study  
Wednesdays - 7 PM  
at the Church  
(Childcare Provided)



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)



Recovery Study  
Thursdays 7 PM  
at the Church  
Invite a Friend!

**WHAT BIT OF WISDOM  
WOULD YOU PASS ALONG  
TO SOMEONE NEWLY  
RECOVERING?**

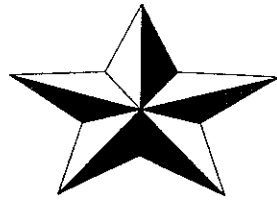
"Know that you are not alone. When feelings from the past or the enormity of the road to recovery overwhelm you, reach out, let yourself be comforted.

That's your basic entitlement as a human being."

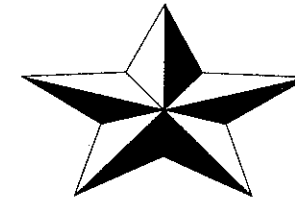
"Become an active participator in your life. Stop expecting others to take responsibility for you and make you happy. Love others enough to teach them how to get along without you. All you have is this moment. Live it to the fullest."

**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!"



# January 1999



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1	2
3 Worship 8/10:30 AM Education Hr 9:15 AM	4 Playgroup, 10 AM Womens AA, 7 PM Elders 7 PM	5 Bible Study, 6:30 AM	6 Discovery 7 PM	7 Womens Study 10 AM Choir 6 PM Bells 7 PM Recovery 7 PM	8 Parent Support Group 6-8 PM	9 Men's Breakfast 7 AM Church Workday 8-12 noon
10 Worship 8/10:30 AM Education Hr 9:15 AM Confirmation 9:15 AM Youth Group 5:30 PM	11 Playgroup, 10 AM Womens AA, 7 PM	12 Bible Study, 6:30 AM Church Council 7:30 PM	13 Discovery 7 PM	14 Womens Study 10 AM Choir 6 PM Bells 7 PM Recovery 7 PM	15	16 Journey, 10-12 AM
17 Worship 8/10:30 AM Education Hr 9:15 AM Care Team Mtg 11:30 AM	18 Playgroup, 10 AM Womens AA, 7 PM	19 Bible Study, 6:30 AM	20 Discovery 7PM LWML-7PM-Loretta Hammerslag Home	21 Womens Study 10 AM Choir 6 PM Bells 7 PM Recovery 7 PM	22	23 Journey, 10-12 AM
24 Worship 8/10:30 AM Education Hr 9:15 AM ECC 12:45 PM Confirmation 12:45 PM	25 Playgroup, 10 AM Womens AA, 7 PM	26 Bible Study, 6:30 AM	27 Discovery 7 PM	28 Womens Study 10 AM Choir 6 PM Bells 7 PM Recovery 7 PM	29	30
31 Worship 8/10:30 AM Education Hr 9:15 AM						

**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.

# News from the DCE - Marlys Cartwright

It's 1999 and time to make it one of the best years of the 1900's. In adult Bible class we talked about how the Grace of God makes that possible. The Hymns, "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past" and "My Hope is Built on Nothing Less Than Jesus' Blood and Righteousness" **Emphasize** the fact that regardless of our circumstances, we always carry with us a certain and living **HOPE**.

A few resources recommended for the New Year of Adult Bible Class members were: "The Gift of the Blessing" by Smalley and Trent, "Hind's Feet on High Places" by Hurnard, "Mountains of Spices" by Hurnard, "What's so Amazing About Grace?", "The Jesus I Knew", and "Where is God When it Hurts?" all by Yancey. In addition to books, ideas mentioned to make 1999 the best possible:

- regular worship
- Bible study
- attendance at the

Lord's table  
a flourishing prayer life

- nurturing good friendships
- regular exercise in the outdoors
- taking time to help others

May God bless all your efforts to serve Him in the New Year -

*Marlys*

1. The value of time.
2. The success of perseverance.
3. The pleasure of working.
4. The dignity of simplicity.
5. The worth of character.
6. The power of kindness.
7. The influence of example.
8. The obligation of duty.
9. The wisdom of economy.
10. The virtue of patience.
11. The improvement of talent.
12. The joy of originating.

**Hating people is like  
burning down your  
own house to get  
rid of a rat.**

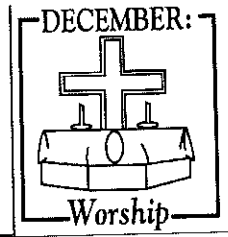
*But if ye bite and devour  
one another, take heed that ye be not  
consumed one of another*

Galatians 5:15

## December 1998 Worship Statistics

1991.....	105
1992.....	139
1993.....	196
1994.....	195
1995.....	201
1996.....	228
1997.....	233
1998.....	232

Week 1.....	98 (E).....	128 (L).....	226 (T)
Week 2.....	72 (E).....	212 (L).....	284 (T)
Week 3.....	118 (E).....	153 (L).....	271 (T)
Week 4.....	65 (E).....	83 (L).....	148 (T)



### Christmas Eve

1991.....	278 (2)
1992.....	338 (2)
1993.....	442 (3)
1994.....	582 (3)
1995.....	584 (3)
1996.....	501 (3)
1997.....	708 (3)
1998.....	698 (3)

### Christmas Day

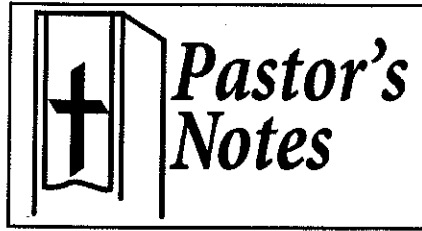
1991.....	N/A
1992.....	N/A
1993.....	N/A
1994.....	96
1995.....	89
1996.....	65
1997.....	77
1998.....	119

### Advent Average

1991.....	N/A
1992.....	41
1993.....	97
1994.....	80
1995.....	99
1996.....	99
1997.....	78
1998.....	120

### Annual Average Sunday Attendance

1991.....	123	1995.....	209
1992.....	138	1996.....	209
1993.....	184	1997.....	240
1994.....	201	1998.....	244



### THE GIVING ELEMENT

\$30,000.00 dollars were given away in 1998! Who...What...Where...When...Why?

It is truly wonderful to belong to a congregation that does not solely focus on its own needs in terms of finances. So many congregations are dying these days. A sign of life and vitality is the ability to give to needs beyond self. What is true for the individual is true of a congregation.

Through many different avenues our congregation has shared its treasures with a diverse range of local, regional, national, and global concerns. Without boring you, I would like to highlight some of these sources (where the money came from) and targets (where the money ended up).

#### Budgeted Gifts

Our congregation has an annual budget of \$170,000.00 dollars. In 1998 we budgeted \$2,000.00 to be directed toward our local Lift-Up food shelter and ecumenical crisis care effort here in Steamboat Springs. We also budgeted \$7,000.00 to be given to our Regional and National Lutheran Church offices. These dollars are distributed, in tandem with 6,000 other congregations who give, to provide resources for global missionaries, national new mission starts, the training of clergy, etc.

#### Hurricane Mitch

A request was made on a Sunday morning identifying the critical needs of Hurricane Mitch victims. Within one week \$4,500.00 was collected and sent to Lutheran World Relief. These dollars were immediately put to use supporting the effort to rebuild the lives of shattered people in Central America. Nearly 100% of these dollars go directly to the need.

#### Women's Guild

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) of our congregation collected nearly \$10,000.00 through rummage sales, bazaars, bake sales, etc. These dollars, 100% of these dollars, are distributed to a variety of local and broader concerns. Domestic violence shelters, children's education, global missions, etc. The women of Concordia pray and decide the target of these dollars.

#### Matching Funds

Our congregation worked jointly with Lutheran Insurance Agencies and their matching fund programs to provide two thousand dollars of help for critical and often confidential concerns.

#### A Gift from a Will

Concordia received a gift of \$70,000.00 dollars from a person who remembered our congregation in his will. These dollars were designated toward our building fund. The church council decided that 10% of this gift would be given toward a special ministry in Salt Lake City, Utah. They care for Sudanese Christians who have moved to the United States after being driven from their own land by Muslim Extremists who have been practicing genocide for nearly a decade. These Sudanese Christians often search out Lutheran Churches because Lutheran World Relief came to their assistance in a time of need. Keep in mind, by conservative counts, over 1,000,000 people have been killed in the Sudan in the last decade.

I am thankful that I am a Pastor of a congregation that sees the needs of others beyond our own local needs. This is a healthy sign in a congregation. We certainly have our own financial concerns here at Concordia, yet we have been diligent in seeing the needs of others. God bless you giving to our local ministry as well as more distant concerns.

