

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.

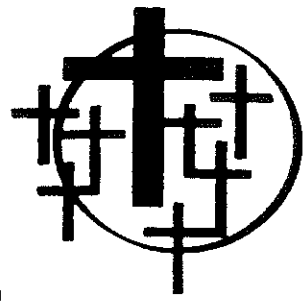
Sunday Worship: 8:00 and 10:30 AM **Education Hour:** 9:15 AM

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

CHRISTOGRAM

Concordia Lutheran Church

February, 1999



A Note From the Pastor...

Greetings in the name of our Lord!

"Faith . . . is a great art and doctrine, which no saint has learned and fathomed fully unless he has found himself in despair, in the anguish of death, or in extreme peril." (Martin Luther)

"You will never be an inwardly religious and devout person unless you pass over in silence the shortcomings of your fellow man, and diligently examine your own weaknesses." (Thomas A. Kempis)

"Words and magic were in the beginning one and the same thing, and even today words retain much power. By words one of us can give to another the greatest happiness or utter despair." (Sigmund Freud)

In summary: 1) Faith finds life in crisis. 2) Look at yourself first. 3) Be careful with words.

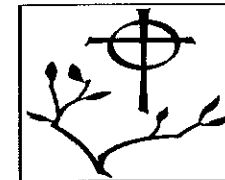
We all know how despair and crisis can drive us from what we felt was our firm foundation of faith! If we think faith is our private property, versus a gift given to us by the grace of God, then faith disappears when crisis comes. In peril, one must remember that faith has a focus. That focus is Jesus. "Lo," he says, "I will be with you

always." (Matthew 28:20)

It may be true of each of us, at one time or another, that we are quicker to point out the weakness of our neighbor than to address the weaknesses in our own lives. Jesus said, "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye?" (Matthew 7:3)

A quick word of a coach to a referee earns him a "T". A harsh word of a spouse generates an unnecessary marital dispute. A sharp word leads to a deep cut. A gentle word heals. Words of encouragement lead to accomplishment. A word of hope leads to life. James writes: "If anyone does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he/she deceives himself/herself and their religion is worthless." (James 1:26)

Guard your words. Look honestly at self. Faith in times of trial has as its focus - Jesus!



In Christ,

February, 1999

Concordia Lutheran Church **CHRISTOGRAM**

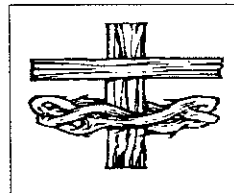
inside...

"Tenants, Tidbits and Trails"
"Concordia's Lenten Journey"
"Strengthening The Bond"

Concordia's 1999 Lenten Journey

February 17th.....Ash Wednesday, Worship - 7 PM (communion)
 Soup Supper - 5:30 PM
 February 24th.....Lenten Bible Study - 7 PM
 March 3rd.....Lenten Worship - 7 PM
 Soup Supper - 5:30 PM
 March 10th.....Lenten Bible Study - 7 PM
 March 17th.....Lenten Worship - 7 PM
 Soup Supper - 5:30 PM
 March 24th.....Lenten Bible Study - 7 PM
 April 1st.....Maundy Thursday, Worship - 7 PM (communion)
 April 2nd.....Good Friday, Worship - 7 PM
 April 4thEaster Sunrise Service - 7 AM (communion)
 Easter Early Service - 8:30 AM
 Easter Late Service - 10:30 AM
 Pancake Breakfast, 8-10 AM

Last year (1998), we worshipped 560 people on Easter morning during our three services. What a wonderful opportunity God has granted us to recognize our Lord's Resurrection! In order to be properly prepared for this reality, our congregation works hard to organize a "Lenten Journey" for our common benefit. Make this a priority in your year.



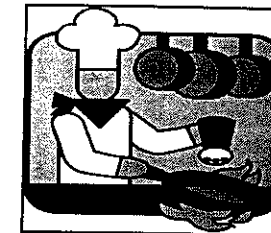
WANTED!!!

at least two more adults to help out with nursery care. If interested, please contact Terry Denton, 879-0318

 ★ Concordia Youth Group ★
 ★ cordially invites you to a ★
 ★ FREE Dessert Theatre ★
 ★ Sunday, March 7th at 7:00 PM ★
 ★ WHY? ★
 ★ To say "Thank You" for all the support ★
 ★ on our trip to Atlanta in 1998 ★
 ★ Come and see what Atlanta was all about! ★



Parent Support Group
 February 5, 1999
 6-8 PM
 Begin with potluck
 Special time for kids
 Special topic for parents



Men's Breakfast
 February 13, 1999
 7 - 8:30 AM
 Bring a Friend!



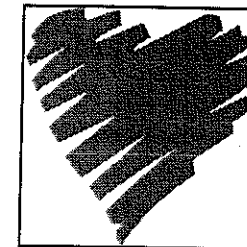
Discovery Bible Study
 Wednesdays - 7 PM
 at the Church
 (Childcare Provided)



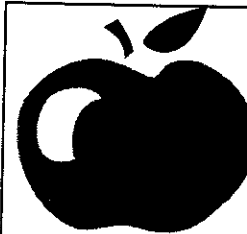
Tuesday Morning
 Bible Study
 at the Church
 6:30 - 7:30 AM
 Bring a Friend!



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!



LWML Meeting
 February 10, 1999
 7 PM at Mary Beth
 Bradfield's home, 285 Blue
 Sage Circle

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 and there are still some empty spaces. 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, 879-2442.

Tenants, Tidbits and Trails . . . the elder's report

*Greetings from the Board of Elders!
Grace and Peace.*

This is a new feature of the Christogram that we hope will be a ministry each month. It is our desire that we can keep the members informed of our actions.

I have arbitrarily called this feature "Tenants, tidbits and trails." Let me explain;

Tenants: that our actions be guided by the word of God, the doctrine of our church, the constitution and the mandates of our congregation.

Tidbits: These will be small pieces of information that may or may not be important.

Trails: This would be to define the leadership actions of the Board of Elders as it pertains to the ministry opportunities that God has given us the privilege to do.

This past month, the elders and Pastor Cartwright held a retreat. This was a unique and meaningful experience for all of us. We hope that it will be profitable as well. Our retreat started with a devotion and communion. Gene reminded us in his devotions that as we come to communion and partake of Christ's Body and Blood, we are indeed reaffirmed that God takes our sins and throws them over His shoulder, never to be remembered again. We are indeed restored and forgiven.

Pastor Tim led us in a Bible study based on Acts 16. This is, in part, an account of Paul's call to Macedonia or the "Macedonian Call." We reflected on what our personal Macedonia Call might be. I would encourage each of you to read the 16th chapter and to ponder what your Macedonian call might be. What is Concordia's Macedonian Call?

As we moved through our agenda for the day, every juncture was opened and closed with prayer. Our council asked us to come up with goals for 1999. We developed the following:

1. Reaffirm our constitutional guidelines.
2. Oversee the Stephens Ministry development.
3. Increase visibility in worship, program and print.
4. Staffing concerns
5. Development of elder pastoral care.

The day concluded as we shared dinner with our spouses. As we develop these goals over the course of time, we will keep you informed of these and other actions we take. We have set the first Tuesday of every month as our regular meeting date. We would encourage you to bring to our attention ministry opportunities, needs

and/or modes of action. Please feel free to contact any one of the Board.

| | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Gene Carrell | 879-3019 |
| Guy Wojtowicz | 870-2921 |
| Luther Berntson | 870-9675 |
| Albert Deepe | 276-4146 |
| Walt Taylor | 879-1081 |
| Mike Beurskens | 870-9720 |

We are all in joint ministry with Pastor Tim, our DCE, Marlys Cartwright and with one another, as we uphold and strengthen one another in our Christian faith.

Reflect, ponder and act on your Macedonian Call.

In Christ,

Luther Berntson



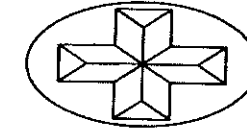
January Statistics

Average Sunday Worship

| | |
|-----------|-----|
| 1991..... | 138 |
| 1992..... | 110 |
| 1993..... | 180 |
| 1994..... | 183 |
| 1995..... | 179 |
| 1996..... | 181 |
| 1997..... | 195 |
| 1998..... | 196 |
| 1999..... | 207 |

January, 1999

| | | | |
|--------------|----------------------------------|--------------|-----|
| Week #1..... | 115 (E)..... | 122 (L)..... | 273 |
| Week #2..... | 100 (E)..... | 105 (L)..... | 205 |
| Week #3..... | 72 (E)..... | 70 (L)..... | 142 |
| Week #4..... | 101 (E)..... | 145 (L)..... | 246 |
| Week #5..... | (Not available at printing)..... | | |



Teen Drug Use Remains Level

Results of "Monitoring the Future," the annual survey of American youth, released in mid-December, show that the overall level of drug use by American teen-agers was unchanged in 1998. The survey, conducted annually since 1975, asked 50,000 American teens at 422 schools a variety of questions about drug use.

The results of the report paint a mildly optimistic picture. While the use of drugs by high school seniors was unchanged from last year, the number of 10th graders who said that they had used drugs in the last year dropped from 38.5% last year to 35% this year. Among 8th graders, drug use was also down slightly, from 23.6% to 21%.

Marijuana remains the most popular drug (excluding alcohol) among high school students. Forty percent of 10th graders said that they had

Please do these things for me . . .

Kids in a recent Gallup Youth Survey said the following things are somewhat to very important for parents to do for teenagers:

| | |
|---|-----|
| Teach them about sex..... | 86% |
| Give them a hug at least once a week..... | 80% |
| Help them with homework..... | 80% |
| Encourage them to bring friends home..... | 76% |
| Talk with their teachers regularly..... | 74% |
| Go to a worship service with them..... | 73% |
| Participate in school activities (PTA)..... | 66% |
| Have mom stay home instead or work..... | 34% |



Teen Troubleshooters

Have teenagers troubleshoot typical family aggravations? What a concept! But that's just what Joe Quattrini, an English teacher in New York, commissioned a fellow teacher's health class to do. Here are some typical aggravations and strategies kids came up with:

Aggravation: Kids fighting over what to watch on TV. **Solution:** Each week, kids reserve shows by writing their names next to them on the TV schedule.

Aggravation: Kids hogging the telephone. **Solution:** Set a timer for 20 minutes when someone makes or receives a call.

Aggravation: Fighting over who rides in the front seat. **Solution:** Have kids choose either odd or even numbered days of the month and sit in front on their days.

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!"



February 1999



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|--|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| | 1 Playgroup 10-12 AM Womens AA 7 PM Pastor's Day Off | 2 Bible Study 6:30 AM Elders Mtg - 7-9 PM | 3 Discovery 7 PM | 4 Womens Study 10AM Choir 6 PM Bells 7 PM Recovery 7 PM | 5 Parent-Support Group 6-8 PM | 6 Journey, 10-12 AM |
| 7 Worship 8/10:30 AM Education Hr 9:15 AM Confirmation 4:30 | 8 Playgroup 10-12 AM Womens AA 7 PM Pastor's Day Off | 9 Bible Study 6:30 AM Church Council 7:30 | 10 Discovery 7 PM LWML-7 PM at Mary Beth Bradford's Ministry | 11 Womens Study 10AM Choir 6 PM Bells 7 PM Recovery 7 PM | 12 | 13 Journey, 10-12 AM Men's Breakfast - 7 AM |
| 14 Worship 8/10:30 AM Education Hr 9:15 AM Confirmation 4:30-6 "Strengthen the Bond" 6-8 PM | 15 Playgroup 10-12 AM Womens AA 7 PM Pastor's Day Off | 16 Bible Study 6:30 AM | 17 Ash Wednesday Worship 7 PM Confirmation 7 PM | 18 Womens Study 10AM Choir 6 PM Bells 7 PM Recovery 7 PM Welch/Wenzel Wedding | 19 | 20 |
| 21 Worship 8/10:30 AM Education Hr 9:15 AM Care Team - 9:15 AM | 22 Playgroup 10-12 AM Womens AA 7 PM Pastor's Day Off | 23 Bible Study 6:30 AM | 24 Lenten Bible Study 7 PM | 25 Womens Study 10AM Choir 6 PM Bells 7 PM Recovery 7 PM | 26 | 27 |
| 28 Worship 8/10:30 AM Education Hr 9:15 AM ECC-12:45 Deadline for newsletter | | | | | | |

(Youth Group - To Be Announced)

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 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.

What's Happening

Concordia Care Teams:

Thank you, Thank you, Thankyou to all who participated in 1998 on your care team! It is wonderful to see so many different people helping to make our worship service happen.

In 1999 there will be a change. The December care team will split out among the other 11 teams and December will become an "all-church" care team. This will allow those of us who are around for the holidays to share in the opportunity to serve at the extra services and to welcome those who visit at Christmas.

If you need to switch to a different month than what you're currently in to facilitate your participation, please contact me before February 15th (871-1860).

I love the affirmation of faith that we see at our contemporary service where we say, "**By His life, His death and resurrection, I can know the true depth of human possibility, and experience the true joy of an abundant life. I believe that the Holy Spirit is present now and always, calling us to faith and empowering us for service. I believe that the community of believers called the church can experience the fullness of life through the Word, the Sacraments and all that we do.**"

Our service is our response of

gratitude for what Christ did for us. As we head into 1999, let us be full of gratitude and share our time and abilities with our community of faith.

With a full heart
serving Him,

Ellyn Myller
CCC Coordinator

Monday Morning Moms:

at Concordia

Want to know what's up? Come for a visit! Mondays, 10-12 AM. There is day care provided from 10:30 - 11:30 while the moms get to break away.

1st Monday - Chit-Chat/Craft

2nd Monday - Guest speaker

3rd Monday Parenting topic

4th Monday - Getting into God's Word

For more details, check out the revolving bulletin board in the narthex. Come and make some new friends for yourself and your kids - have a cup of coffee or tea and some *adult conversation*.

P.S. If you would like to be our "guest speaker" - share your wisdom on surviving motherhood or anything else - please call Ellyn Myller 871-1860. Also, if you would like to get to know some terrific kids by providing child care at the church, also call Ellyn.

Sympathy of Jesus

A drummer boy in Napoleon's army lost his footing and slipped into a chasm in the Alps as the army was marching. He was not seriously injured but was unable to extricate himself without help. He began to beat on his drums to attract attention. His comrades heard him, but they could not break rank without orders from the commander. Such orders never came. The drummer boy finally began beating out his own death march. Hardened soldiers could not keep from sobbing as they passed by, but Napoleon was not moved. He was too busy conquering the world to remember an insignificant boy who had been clumsy enough to lose his footing. Thank God, Jesus is not like that.

References: Matthew 15:21-28, Luke 8:43-48, Luke 13:11-15, Luke 18:35-43, Luke 19:5, Hebrews 4:15



Dear Friends,

Many miles separate us, but only physically; while love, spirit and good will tie us together. All this that you are doing is a kind deed toward us. We are in a stage of personal desolation and uncertain if we shall live in an uncertain future, full of disappointment and bitterness.

For good people, the world is small. You showed us that. You did not select us because of religion, nationality or race. Your heart and soul had only one desire; help those who are caught in a tragedy. We have faith in God because we are with Him always. We believe that one day we will live normally, have our home, food, freedom and meet all our needs through normal work.

You are people with much of God's love inside. . . We are grateful for everything you are doing to help us in these difficult moments.

Love from our family,
Vladimira Sposojevia

The above letter is from a Serbian refugee that bears testimony of how our gifts to Lutheran World Relief can help. Thank you.

Study:

Churchgoers Live Longer!

A major study of church attendance and mortality reveals people who attend church weekly live an average of seven years longer than people who never attend worship services.

That seven-year gap is the same as the difference in life expectancies between men and women and between blacks and whites. Among black people studied, the gulf was even wider, with the life expectancy at age 20 for those who regularly attend church being 60.1 more years (that is, living to age 80), compared with 46.4 more years (age 66) for those who never attend church.

The findings by sociologists Robert A. Hummer of the Population Research Center at the University of Texas at Austin, Christopher G. Ellison of the University of Texas, Richard G. Rogers of the University of Colorado at Boulder and Charles B. Nam of Florida State University were presented at the joint meeting of the Religious Research Association and the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion.

Several previous studies have uncovered a positive link between religion and physical and mental health. However, there has been little research on the national level into the relationship between religious experience and mortality.

News from the DCE - Marlys Cartwright

The season of Lent begins this month on the 17th of February - Ash Wednesday. Lent is always a time of renewed commitment to our life of faith and prayer as we reflect on Christ's passion and God's deep love for us. With that in mind, I have enclosed a brief Bible reading and prayer schedule suggestion for your personal and/or family devotion time this Lenten season.

Ash Wednesday
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21
Pray . . .

- for honest, selfless giving to the needy.
- for diligent prayer for those who don't know the Savior.

Lent 1
Matthew 4:1-11
Pray . . .

- for willingness to go wherever the Spirit leads us, even deserts.
- for generosity in sharing God's nourishing words of life.

Lent 2

John 4:5-26, 27-30, 39-42
Pray . . .

- to set aside all racial prejudices and discrimination.
- that sinners thirst for Christ's living water, eternal life.
- that we may simply share what we know, as did the woman.
- for all people to learn this man really is the Savior of the world.

Lent 3
John 9:1-41
Pray . . .

- that the light of the world may shine on people everywhere.
- to tell the one thing we do know: "I was blind but now I see."
- for the joy of seeing people grow in understanding Christ, as this man did.
- that those who think they see religious truth may see Christ and rejoice.

Lent 4
Matthew 20:17-28
Pray . . .

- thanking God for the Son

of Man who came to serve and ransom us.

- that our church may be exemplified by serving not lording.
- to be the greatest at serving and giving our lives for others.

May your Lenten season be blessed by Christ's presence in your life, by the awareness of the Father's love, and by the Holy Spirit's gift of a joyful walk of faith!

In Christ's Service,
Marlys

What are parents saying about this?
"A great night of encouragement"
"We use these new ideas every month"
"Our kids love to come, eat supper, and play"
"I feel renewed in my faith-and so glad God gives His love to families"
"I like the resources and friendships with other parents"

DON'T MISS PARENTS SUPPORT GROUP! (for parents with young children)
FRIDAY, FEB 5, 1999 6-8 PM
Potluck and Program
(Food-Fellowship-Fun)

LWML News . . .

A wonderful January meeting was held at Loretta Hammerslag's home. Among some of the topics were-getting ready to spend our money for missions, producing a church cook book for the Christmas Bazaar, and a special program about faith. The February meeting will be on Wednesday, February 10th (one week earlier due to Ash Wednesday) at 7:00 PM at Mary Beth Bradfield's home, 285 Blue Sage Circle. Carpool from the church at 6:45 PM.



"Strengthening The Bond"

an evening of dining, dancing & romance

Sunday, February 14, 1999
6:00 PM
at Concordia Lutheran Church

Menu:
Salad
Almond Crusted Chicken
Roasted New Potatoes
Vegetable
Dessert
Beverage

followed by
"Love Songs of the Decades"

Cost is \$10 per couple
(Tickets must be purchased by February 7th)
(Tickets available after each service from Scheiwe's, Svendsen's)

"HOLY LAND 2000"

David Freseman is coordinating a 10 day trip to the Holy Land that departs on February 5, 2000. Cost is \$2,098, which includes airfare, lodging, 2 meals daily, ground transportation and an inspirational biblical journey that lasts 10 days. If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Dave at 879-8192.

