

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.

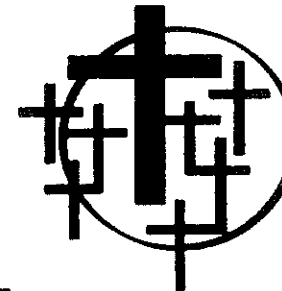
Editors: Pastor Cartwright, Marlys Cartwright and Cindy Svendsen

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

March, 1999

A Note From the Pastor...

Dear Members and Friends of Concordia;

"Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners . . . of whom I am the worst."
(I Timothy 1:15)

In one of England's famous churches a grave marker, written by the man who lies there, reads: "John Newton, once an infidel and libertine, a servant of slave trade in Africa, was by the rich mercy of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, preserved, restored, pardoned, and appointed to preach the faith he had long labored to destroy."

John Newton heard Christ's liberating words, "Be opened!" He gives testimony in his hymn, "Amazing Grace":

Amazing Grace! How sweet

the sound!

That saved a wretch like me!

I once was lost, but now am found,

Was blind, but now I see.

In order for the cross of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter to mean anything, we must see our own sin.

It is difficult to describe ourselves with words like *infidel, libertine, wretch*. We avoid characterizing ourselves with negative descriptions. Yet, we must comprehend the need to see our brokenness. We must see the need for a Savior. In order for the cross of Lent, Holy Week, and Easter to mean anything, we must see our own sin.

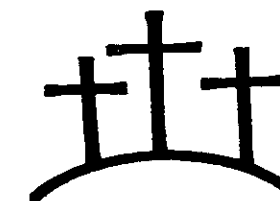
John Newton was involved in

the seduction of great wealth associated with the sale of human beings. He traded people like livestock. He was a successful, powerful, smart, astute businessman. He had no faith or belief in Jesus Christ. Yet, into the life of this man came God's grace. John Newton finished his life as a proclaimer of God's Word.

How about describing ourselves with words like *preserved, restored, and pardoned*.

In Christ,

Pastor Cartwright



March, 1999

Concordia Lutheran Church **CHRISTOGRAM**

inside...

"Tenets, Tidbits & Trails"
"Spring Plans"

"SPRING PLANS"

February 26, 1999

Dear Members and Friends of Concordia;

The months of March and April will be extremely busy here at Concordia! Please let me inform you of our Spring Plans.

SOUP SUPPERS!

March 3rd will be our last soup supper. We still have Lenten Bible studies and worship services on Wednesday evenings (7 pm), but the soup suppers will be cancelled due to the basement remodeling.

EASTER BREAKFAST!

Concordia will not be having an Easter breakfast this year due to our basement remodeling. Easter services will be held at 7:00, 8:30, and 10:30 am. These services will be here at the church.

MIDDLE SCHOOL WORSHIP!

Concordia will be moving to the Middle School for four Sundays. The four Sundays following Easter will be held at the Middle School. Those dates are April 11th, April 18th, April 25th, and May 2nd. We will be returning to the church on May 9th. We will be gathering for one service at 9:00 am on each of those Sundays.

SUNDAY SCHOOL SCHEDULE!

Concordia's Sunday School will take on a different shape when we move from our facility on April 5th. Special children's messages will be

incorporated into our Middle School events.

CONGREGATION WORKDAYS!

Our congregation will have a workday on March 6th from 9:00 to noon. We hope to move everything out of the basement so that work can progress rapidly downstairs. This workday is for any and all. The more that show up, the quicker the work can be done. Also, we are planning to have a work party to remove old floor coverings. A major workday to demolish the upstairs sanctuary walls will take place following Easter. Each of these days can save us substantial dollars.

JUNIOR HIGH CONFIRMATION!

Confirmation is scheduled for April 18th. It may be that The Confirmation will be held at the Middle School this year. If we have Confirmation at the Middle School, that service will be at 9:00 am. I am thankful for such a good facility as the Middle School Cafetorium for our upcoming services.

VOTING ASSEMBLY!

Concordia's next voting assembly will take place on April 11th at 10:00 am following our service at the Middle School. We will be making some very important

decisions. At that meeting we will be trying to decide how we will be finishing the financing of our project. We may need to consider a bridge loan based on our Grace Overflowing Campaign pledges. That may require perhaps a \$75,000 to \$100,000 loan. If we generated the above amount in gifts between now and June we could avoid the need to seek a possible loan. The good news is the above figure is all we will need to complete our project. Who would have thought that one year ago we would be so close to paying for this 5,000 sq. ft. addition. Let us thank God for this effort.

I am very excited to see such progress being made with our project. We have been through a very busy, and in many respects, a very hard year here at Concordia. We have been tested and tried. It is never easy to take on such a big challenge. I think that we need to gather our resources during the next three months in order to complete this project.

We need to be flexible with one another in the coming weeks. We must realize that in order to finish the work in front of us, we must make some sacrifices and adjustments. I thank God for all the fine efforts of the members of Concordia.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Cartwright

What's Been Happening at Concordia?

YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group received synodical recognition for their \$1,000 gift to Disaster Relief. WAY TO GO!



Atlanta Dessert Theatre presented by the Youth - especially for those Youth who would like to attend New Orleans in 2002!

STRENGTHENING THE BOND



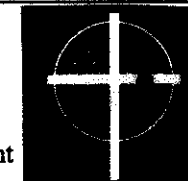
An enormous success on February 14th! With the leadership and help of Svendsen's Scheiwe's, Boomgarden's, Truong's and Bradfield's, we had a BIG turn-out for a delicious candlelight dinner and dance. Thanks for that special investment in our Concordia marriages!

STEPHEN'S MINISTRY

Marlys Cartwright and Jan Fritz are now certified Stephen's leaders - prepared to train Stephen's Ministers for our congregation. There's much work to be done this year in education, recruitment and training. Our goal is to have our first commissioned Stephen Ministers on board by January, 2000, after 50 hours of training. Consider this opportunity to serve.

VOLUNTEER SUNDAY

April 11, 1999
We will honor the volunteers in our congregation this Sunday. We are grateful for all the faithful



volunteers in this place, whether Altar Guild, Care Team Ministry, ECC, Music Ministry, VBS Teachers, Church Building Volunteers, LWML, Child Care, etc. Don't miss this Sunday for special recognition of our volunteers!



LWML News . . .

A small, but hearty group of ladies braved the snowstorm to attend the February LWML meeting graciously held at MaryBeth Bradfield's home. The program, given by Barb Gibson covered the "Gift of Service". The proposed mission projects were presented. This was tabled until the March meeting and therefore, it will be voted on at the April meeting. Due to the Wednesday Lenten services, the March meeting will be moved to TUESDAY, March 16th at 7:00 PM at Helen Berntson's home, 30 Alpine Drive. Carpool from the church at 6:45 PM.



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

Dear Friends of Concordia;

The elders had a hard time deciding who should write the monthly newsletter. I suggested the elder-of-the-month should do it. I was the elder-of-the-month!

The excitement within this group is made possible by the wonderful people outside it. We are encouraged and strengthened, not only by the love of God and knowing that Jesus Christ is our Savior, but also by the actions and commitments of the people at Concordia. You have cared for the needs of the church and community, and for this we applaud you.

Pastor Tim is always looking for ways to reach out and connect with the people. Pastor has prepared a packet of five letters that will go out to our college students before Easter. We are also sending cards out to people who need words of encouragement and strength. Visitations will be made to those who are unable to make it to worship. We, as elders, have reaffirmed our commitments based on the constitutional guidelines, hoping to better the church and community at the same time.

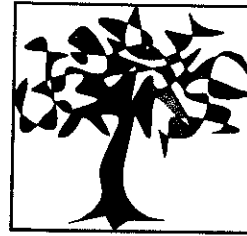
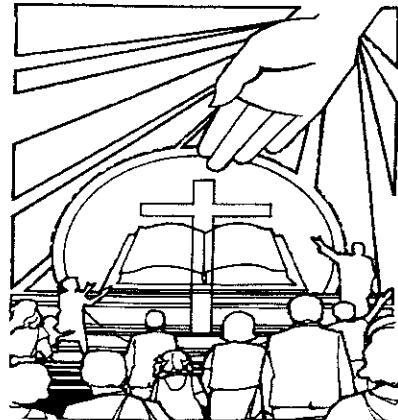
The elders will be overseeing the Stephen's Ministry, knowing that it's in the capable hands of Marlys Cartwright

and Jan Fritz. This ministry should enable the church to be more effective in reaching people in need. We should have more information for you in the months ahead.

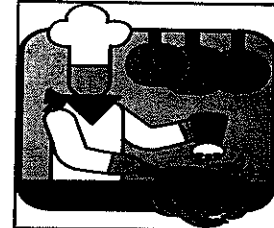
The elders are researching the concerns of staffing. With the increase in members and additional functions at the church, the need for the right personnel is being studied. Within the next couple of months, we will give our recommendations to the Church Council.

Go in peace and serve the Lord.

Guy Wojtowicz, Elder



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



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



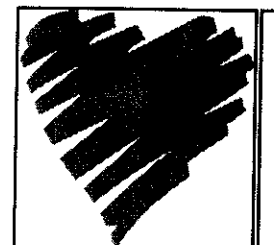
Discovery Bible Study
Wednesdays - 7 PM
at the Church
(Childcare Provided)



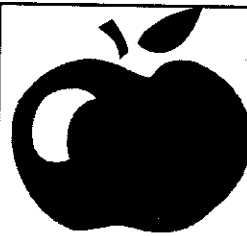
Tuesday Morning
Bible Study
at the Church
6:30 - 7:30 AM
Bring a Friend!



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
Tuesday
March 16, 1999
7 PM
at Helen Berntson's home
30 Alpine Drive

Congregational Dessert Theatre

Come to the church Sunday Night, March 7, 1999 at 7:00 PM
for a Youth presentation

"Reviewing the Atlanta Youth Gathering"

It's our way of saying

THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU!!

who helped make it happen!

Hope to see you there!

- Concordia Youth Group-



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!"



March 1999



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Playgroup 10 AM Womens AA 7 PM	2 Bible Study 6:30 AM Elders Mtg - 7-9 PM Wedding - 11 AM	3 Soup Supper 5:30 PM Lent Worship 7 PM	4 Womens Study 10 AM Choir 6 PM Bells 7 PM Recovery 7 PM	5 Parent/Support Group 6-8 PM	6 Journey 10-12 AM Workday 9:00 -noon
7 Worship 8/10:30 AM Ed Hr 9:15 AM Confirmation 9:15 AM Dessert Theatre-7 PM	8 Playgroup 10 AM Womens AA 7 PM Girl Scouts-3:30 PM	9 Bible Study 6:30 AM Church Council 7:30	10 Lent Discovery Bible Study 7 PM	11 Womens Study 10 AM Choir 6 PM Bells 7 PM Recovery 7 PM	12	13 Mens Breakfast 7 AM Journey 10-12 AM
14 Worship 8/10:30 AM Ed Hr 9:15 AM	15 Playgroup 10 AM Womens AA -7 PM	16 Bible Study 6:30 AM LWML - 7 PM, at Helen Berntson's	17 Lent Worship 7 PM	18 Womens Study 10 AM Choir 6 PM Bells 7 PM Recovery 7 PM	19	20
21 Worship 8/10:30 AM Ed Hr 9:15 AM Care Team Mtg 9:15 Confirmation 4:30 PM	22 Playgroup 10 AM Womens AA-7 PM Girl Scouts-3:30 PM	23 Bible Study 6:30 AM	24 Lent Discovery Bible Study 7 PM	25 Womens Study 10 AM Choir 6 PM Bells 7 PM Recovery 7 PM	26	27
28 PALM SUNDAY Worship 8/10:30 AM Ed Hr 9:15 AM ECC - 12:45 PM Confirmation-4:30 PM	29 PLaygroup 10 AM Womens AA-7 PM	30 Bible Study 6:30 AM	31			

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.

“Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that you hand is leading us and you love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.”

The first time I read this prayer was in Holden Village, Washington where I worked, the summer I was 23.

It was at a crossroads in my life - and the prayer had great encouragement for me.

The truth is that we are like Abraham and Sarah, living and walking by faith. Some transitions in our lives are planned, i.e., a new church building, a daughter embarking on college. Some transitions are unplanned, i.e., illness, heartaches of one sort or

another.

The core of this prayer is that our courage comes NOT from closing our eyes to reality, NOT from the illusion that we know all the answers, but from the truth that not a day goes by without the profound and outrageously huge love of God supporting us.

How do I know this? In God’s Word I discover the truth - Romans 8:32 - “He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all - how will He not also, along with Him, graciously give us all that we need.”

Rest in this Promise, not only this Lenten season - but each day of your life’s journey.



Comments on Lively Churches

A LIVELY church has parking problems; a dead church doesn’t

A LIVELY church has lots of “noisy” children and young people; a dead church is fairly quiet.

A LIVELY church often changes the way things are done; a dead church doesn’t have to.

A LIVELY church often asks for more program and mission money; a dead church has plenty of money for what it does.

A LIVELY church asks people to open up and risk involvement; a dead church plays it safe and never risks.

A LIVELY church sees challenges and opportunities; a dead church sees problems and dangers.

A LIVELY church apologizes, forgives and seeks forgiveness; a dead church never makes mistakes.

A LIVELY church uses its traditions and facilities to serve people; a dead church uses people to preserve facilities and traditions.

A LIVELY church is filled with committed givers; a dead church is filled with tipsters.

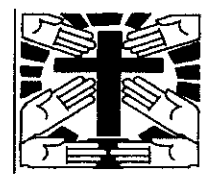
Now then, what about our church?

February Statistics

Average Sunday Worship

1991.....	124
1992.....	111
1993.....	186
1994.....	190
1995.....	204
1996.....	191
1997.....	220
1998.....	238
1999.....	226

Week #1.....	133 (E).....	84 (L).....	217
Week #2.....	112 (E).....	160 (L).....	272
Week #3.....	84 (E).....	91 (L).....	175
Week #4.....	94 (E).....	143 (L).....	237
Ash Wednesday Attendance.....	120		



BIBLE STUDIES

Sunday Morning adult Bible class through March will be covering the topic: Christian Caregiving: A Way of Life

What difference does my Christianity make in the caring and relating that I do?

Chapters we cover are:

1. Christians are responsible for care. God is responsible for cure.
2. God, the wounded healer, you and me.
3. Why care? Touching spiritual depths.
4. Ministering to the whole person.

* * * * *

Thursday morning Bible study will begin a course in March entitled Men and Women, Building Communication

Study begins at 10:00 am at Mary Dombey’s home (next to Spring Creek) ending at 11:30

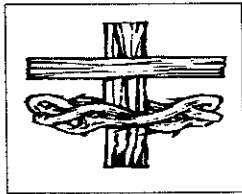
* * * * *

Don’t miss these opportunities to nurture the marvelous gift of faith God has given.

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
March 24th.....	Lenten Bible Study - 7 PM
April 1st.....	Maundy Thursday, Worship - 7 PM (communion)
April 2nd.....	Good Friday, Worship - 7 PM
April 4th	Easter Sunrise Service - 7 AM (communion) Easter Early Service - 8:30 AM Easter Late Service - 10:30 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.



Why?

On the street I saw a small girl cold and shivering in a thin dress, with little hope of a decent meal. I became angry and said to God: "Why did you permit this? Why don't you do something about it?"

For awhile, God said nothing. That night he replied, quite suddenly: "I certainly did something about it. I made you."

-Author Unknown-

Who Am I?

	I am accepted . . .
John 1:12	I am God's child.
John 15:15	I am Christ's friend.
Romans 5:1	I have been justified
I Cor 6:17	I am united with the Lord, and I am one spirit with Him.
I Cor 6:19	I have been bought with a price. I belong to God.
I Cor 12:27	I am a member of Christ's body.
Eph 1:1	I am a saint.
Eph 1:5	I have been adopted as God's child.
Eph 2:18	I have direct access to God through the Holy Spirit.
Col 1:14	I have been redeemed and forgiven of all my sins.
Col 2:10	I am complete in Christ.

Who Am I?

	I am secure . . .
Romans 8:12	I am free forever from condemnation.
Romans 8:28	I am assured that all things work together for good.
Romans 8:31	I am free from any condemning charges against me.
Romans 8:35	I cannot be separated from the love of God.
II Cor 1: 21	I have been established, anointed, and sealed by God
Col 3:3	I am hidden with Christ in God.
Phil 1:6	I am confident that the good work that God has begun in me will be perfected.
Phil 3:20	I am a citizen of heaven.
II Tim 1:7	I have not been given a spirit of fear but of power, love and a sound mind.
Heb 4:16	I can find grace and mercy in time of need.
I John 5:18	I am born of God, and the evil one cannot touch me.

Who Am I?

	I am significant . . .
Matt 5:13, 14	I am the salt and light of the earth.
John 15:1,5	I am a branch of the true vine, a channel of His life.
John 15:16	I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit.
Acts 1:8	I am a personal witness of Christ's.
I Cor 3:16	I am God's temple.
II Cor 5:17	I am a minister of reconciliation for God.
II Cor 6:1	I am God's co-worker. (I Cor 3:9)
Eph 2:6	I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realm.
Eph 2:10	I am God's workmanship.
Eph 3:12	I may approach God with freedom and confidence.
Phil 4:13	I can do all things though Christ who strengthens me.

BETTER WITH AGE

A little girl climbed into the lap of her grandfather and studied his white balding head. She ran her fingers along the deep wrinkles road-mapping his face and neck. "Did God make you?" she asked. "Yes" "Did God make me, too?" she wondered. "Yes," he replied. "Well," she shrugged, "don't you think he's doing a better job now than he used to?"

-Steve Goodier-