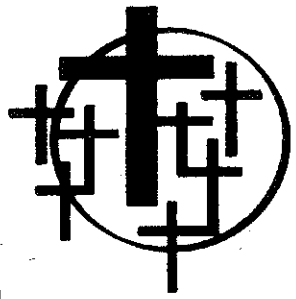


# CHRISTOGRAM



Concordia Lutheran Church

April, 1999

*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

## A Note From the Pastor...

TO THE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF CONCORDIA,  
GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF THE RISEN CHRIST!

I have a sister living in the Salt Lake City area. She does not belong to the Christian faith. She prays. She worships. She lives a good life. She also claims that miracles are a regular part of her life. Her daughter participates in a local city drama group. Opening night came for the production. The lead female actress was stricken with acute appendicitis. My sisters' daughter was the best friend of the soon to be "fill-in" actress. A leader from the church came and prayed prior to the performance. As a result of

that prayer and blessing, a flawless performance resulted. All rejoiced and thanked god. "It was a miracle," she said. "This demonstrates that our god is 'the' god."

*"It is my firm belief that we are unaware of all the miracles that go on around us each day".*

Islam claims miracles in the name of their god. Israel claims that the "Six-Day" war was a miracle of their god. Christians as well as non-Christians (and there are but two categories) experience miracle after miracle. Each religious system claims their own god as the reason that miracles occur. It even gets so

ridiculous that people claim that it is their "faith" in their gods that bring about miracles. People often sound as if they control their god by their faith. One could say that if you twist your god's arm enough "it" will give you a miracle.

Consider, if you will, the miracles that apparently do not happen. Two Christians leave for separate vacations. Both pray specifically for a safe journey. Both are active and alive Christians. One enjoys a safe trip. The other is killed in a freeway accident seven miles from home. One claims a miracle, the other is no longer claiming a thing. Why didn't God give two miracles?

(cont'd on next page)

April, 1999

Concordia Lutheran Church **CHRISTOGRAM**

inside...

"Too Much TV!"

"Time For Practice"

"Tenets, Tidbits & Trails"

It is my firm belief that we are unaware of all the miracles that go on around us each day. We are unable to live, breath and have our being without miracles. These are the hidden variety. Consider the beat of the heart. Consider the rising sun. Consider the conception of a child. Consider the spotted fawn laying silent on the forest floor. Consider life!

The hidden miracles and the "apparently" missing miracles that did not happen, as well as the miracles of other gods, make me ask some serious questions regarding miracles in general. They make me wonder about the miracles of our Lord.

Jesus' miracles were to demonstrate his love for fallen mankind. They demonstrated his "Diety", his "Godness." Jesus fed the hungry because of his love. Jesus healed the sick because of love and the need to demonstrate that he was God. Jesus calmed the storm because he was

demonstrating his power.



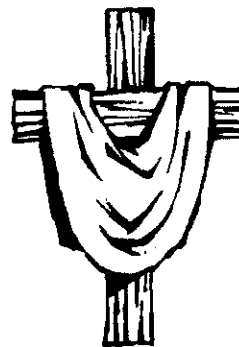
Jesus' greatest miracle was to march up the rocky Calvary road. It was there he was spit upon, spiked, thorned, fisted, beat, speared, mocked and died. Jesus, as miraculous as it sounds, became sin! That was the greatest miracle . . . except one. The resurrection!

The resurrection miracle is the sustaining miracle. It is the point where the miracle of faith has its beginning point. Faith, to believe that Jesus is the Savior, is the miracle that God gives to us. It is the miracle of faith that sustains us when we live unaware of all the miracles that surround us each day. It is the miracle of "resurrection" faith that sustains us when "apparently" miracles do not happen.

The miracles that we are aware of are God's gift to us. The miracle, as well as the awareness of the miracle, God gives to enliven the miracle of faith. They are not the foundation of faith. The foundation of faith is Jesus. The foundation of faith is the life, death and resurrection of our Lord! Forgiveness is "the" miracle from where all miracles flow.

Miraculously Yours,

Pastor Cartwright



## March Statistics

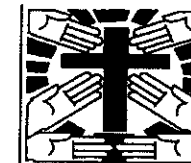
### March Average Sunday Attendance

*1991.....	155 (Easter)
1992.....	113
1993.....	180
1994.....	199
1995.....	194
1996.....	215
*1997.....	339 (Easter)
1998.....	249
1999.....	231

\*Easter Sunday came during  
March of these years.

### July 1998 Sunday Attendance

Week #1.....	135 (E)	122 (L).....	257
Week #2.....	114 (E)	126 (L).....	240
Week #3.....	114 (E)	93 (L).....	203
Week #4.....	125 (E)	97 (L).....	222



## Joyous Easter from the Cartwrights!

On March 29, 1999 Tim's dad's funeral text was Psalm 118:24, "This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it."

"This is God's day," the psalmist says. It is the day God made, a day Christ's death has redeemed. Rejoicing in the midst of this world is always joy "in spite of" something, joy is a "defiant nevertheless" thrown in the face of bitterness and despair.

Therefore, in this time of personal loss, we say thank you to all the "Joy-carriers". Thank you for being "Easter people" here at Concordia. Your presence and your comfort have been a strength to us - and we thank you!

He Is Risen Indeed!

The Cartwright's

## News from the DCE - Marlys Cartwright

### -A Word on Confirmation-



Many years ago Martin Luther said, "I am baptized." Not, I was baptized... or, I have been baptized. Baptism has everything to do with who I am today, who we are, how we are, and whose we are.

It is the final confirmation day in the Cartwright household. As I celebrate with Kelly and her classmates, I remember the cross marked on her forehead and heart identifying her as one redeemed by Christ, the crucified. She now belongs to more than our family.

Why is baptism so important to me? I believe it is God claiming us and giving us New Life each day. The sign of the cross on our heads and hearts is a family emblem in a confusing world. It is God's "Yes" to

us... "Yes, you are forgiven! Yes, you are loved! Yes, I have conquered sin, death and Satan!" On this Confirmation Day it is yet another opportunity to embrace all that God has given us - and build a life on His love and mercy - to serve Him each day.

In the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, through faith, we see more than a little water... we see God's faithful promises each day. In the Lord's Supper we see more than a little bread and a little wine, we see a feast of mercy, forgiveness and love.

In Confirmation, we are invited to see farther than eyes can see. We see the Living God, who gives us His Living Word and says "Build your life upon my promises because everything else will crumble, but I will never leave you, nor forsake you."

So my prayer this Confirmation Day for Kelly and her friends:

"God give them Grace to live unafraid.

Give them strength to stand tall, when others would bring them down.

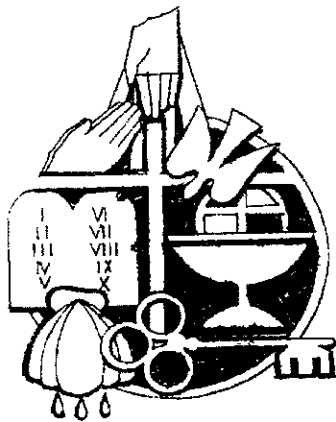
Give them joy that comes from knowing they are Your loved children.

Keep them, Lord, as you have kept us, in good days and bad, So that they might live with a passion to love you as you have loved each one.

In Jesus' Name  
Amen.

Congratulations Confirmands  
on April 18th! -Marlys

Marlys



## Too Much TV!!

values.

The good news, he says, is the growing awareness of television's influence among members of religious organizations. And according to this psychologist, who spends a quarter of his time speaking to groups nationwide, "the denomination responding most strongly to this issue is the Lutheran church." Walsh spoke most recently to people attending a community-building workshop at Minneapolis' Holy Trinity Lutheran Church.

Here are a few TV control tips:

### **Remove televisions from childrens bedrooms.**

Almost 60% of school-age kids have televisions in their bedrooms, Walsh says. Confine television to family spaces so parents can more easily monitor kids' use.

### **Set up ground rules.**

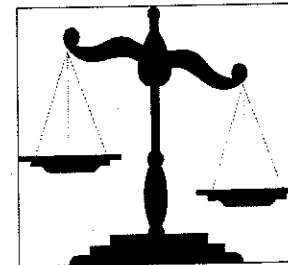
Establish and enforce TV guidelines for amount and content allowed. Walsh suggests that children under 3 watch no more than three

hours per week and those older than 3, no more than 90 minutes per day.

**Ban television during mealtimes.** Two-thirds of families have the set on during at least one meal a day, Walsh says, thereby undercutting one of the few occasions they share as a family.

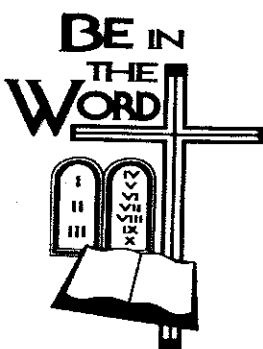
**Look at your own TV use.** "The example we set is more powerful than any preaching we do," he says.

(*Good Shepherd Magazine*, Spring 1996)



**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 pot 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!"



# April 1999



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 MAUNDY THURSDAY Worship 7 PM Bells - 8 PM	2 GOOD FRIDAY Worship 7 PM  —————Concert of Prayer—————	3
4 EASTER SUNDAY Worship 7/8:30/10:30	5 Playgroup - 10 AM Womens AA - 7 PM Girl Scouts - 3:30 PM	6 Bible Study - 6:30 AM Elders - 7 PM Church Council - 7:30 PM	7 Discovery - 7 PM	8 Womens Study - 10 AM Choir - 6 PM Bells - 7 PM Recovery - 7 PM	9 Parent Support Group 6-8 PM at Health & Rec	10 Mens Breakfast - 7 AM Journey - 10 AM
11 Worship - 9:00 AM at Middle School Voters Assembly-10AM Confirmation - 4:30 Youth Group - 6 PM	12 Playgroup - 10 AM Womens AA - 7 pm	13 Bible Study - 6:30 AM	14 Discovery - 7 PM	15 Womens Study - 10 AM Choir - 6 PM Bells - 7 PM Recovery - 7 PM	16	17
18 Worship - 9:00 AM at Middle School Confirmation Sunday Care Team Meeting- 10:15AM	19 Playgroup - 10 AM Womens AA - 7 PM Girl Scouts - 3:30 PM	20 Bible Study - 6:30 AM	21 Discovery - 7 PM LWML - 7 PM @ Joanne Boomgarden	22 Womens Study - 10 AM Choir - 6 PM Bells - 7 PM Recovery - 7 PM	23	24
25 Worship - 9:00 AM at Middle School ECC - 12:45 PM	26 Playgroup - 10 AM Womens AA - 7 PM	27 Bible Study - 6:30 AM	28 Discovery - 7 PM	29 Womens Study - 10 AM Choir - 6 PM Bells - 7 PM Recovery - 7 PM	30	

**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.

# TIME FOR PRACTICE . . .



check on each other for this one. Do you hear your spouse, children, parents, siblings, admit they are sinners - right out in front of God and everybody? Practice that one till you get it right. If you can do it in church, you will be able to do it at home after you brought home a bad attitude that infected the whole family. If you listen to the other sinners in your family come clean during worship, you'll be able to get the message when they mumble their "I'm sorrys" at home or show it by doing something nice for you.

Then comes the part about being forgiven. When you hear the message of forgiveness, imagine Jesus on the cross and hear Him say, "Trust me on this one." Then remember that He forgives the others in your family by the same illogical love. Trust Him on that one. Practice believing that what was the whole damned family is now the whole forgiven family.

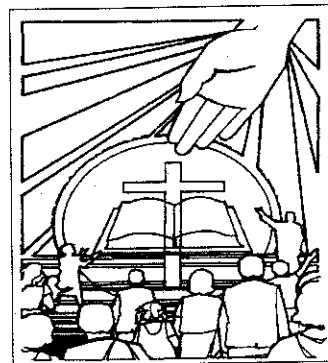
In the worship service you learn how to praise God just because he is God. He may not do everything the way you want him to, but he loves you and knows what is best, so you can be glad that he is your God. You've got to translate this idea when you take it home because the members of your family aren't perfect like God. I mean they can't even come close, but they are the best you've got; so make the best of it

- and hope they do the same for you. Learn how to praise them for being who they are and help them live up to the praise they get.

In the worship service you learn how to say, "thank you," how to ask for help for yourself and others. You learn how to give. (Dig into your own pocket when the plate comes by.) When you worship, you learn how to listen and to learn. You learn to think about others because some of the music or something else they do may not be your thing, but you can learn to enjoy someone else enjoying what doesn't ring your bell.

Finally, learn how to let God bless you so you can let others bless you too and so you too can give a blessing when it's needed.

(*Good Shepherd Magazine*, Spring, 1996)



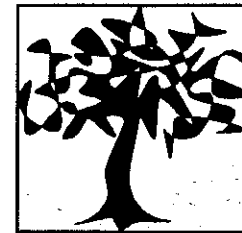
Think of how much time your family spends practicing for something. Perhaps you started with a wedding rehearsal. Then Lamaze classes as you practiced for births. Then you are on a roll: ball practice, piano practice, school program practice, graduation practice and soon you'll be back where you started with a wedding rehearsal.

May I suggest one more practice session for your family?

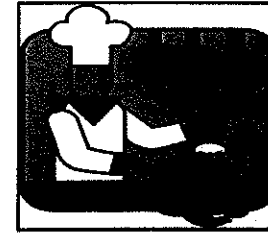
As your family gets ready for church, remind everyone that going to church is practice for the rest of the week.

The worship gets going with "In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." That's saying, "Good morning, God." We know who God is, and he knows who we are; so we say "Hi!" to him. For the next six days, members of the family will know they should say, "Good morning" to each other. Too often people treat family members like snakes with infectious diseases and save smiles and cheery "Good mornings" for the bus driver or strangers on the street. Christian worship gets you into the habit of knowing how to greet someone you love.

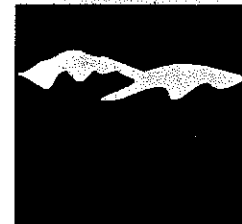
Next you get a chance to confess your sins. Family members should sit together to



Parent Support Group  
April 9, 1999  
6-8 PM  
Begin with potluck  
Special time for kids  
Special topic for parents



Men's Breakfast  
Saturday  
April 10, 1999  
7 - 8:30 AM  
Bring a Friend!



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



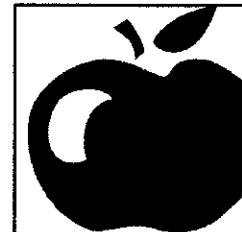
Tuesday Morning  
Bible Study  
at the Church  
6:30 - 7:30 AM  
Bring a Friend!



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  
Wednesday  
April 21, 1999  
7 PM  
at Joanne Boomgarden's  
40410 Yampa Drive

## Dates To Remember

Youth & Honor Volunteers Sunday, April 11th

Parent Support Group, Friday, April 9th - all those who would like to join us for pizza and swimming with their families on Friday, April 9th at the Health & Rec from 6-7:30 pm, please call Rebecca Duryea, 879-6854. (Donation for pizza plus the cost of swimming required)

# Tenets, Tidbits and Trails . . . the Elder's report

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

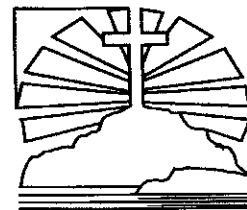
As the eventual completion of our facility expansion project draws nearer, we can be thankful for the miraculous ways in which God has provided for its continued progress. We may also feel troubled by disruptions in traditionally scheduled events and even displaced to another location to gather for worship.

Just as in our daily lives, where joys are often accompanied by difficulties, we can encourage one another to *"fix our eyes, not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."* (II Corinthians 4:18)

If we keep our vision fixed on the goal of being better able to proclaim God's love to our community and to one another, we'll be back to our "sanctuary" before we know it.

Humbly, in Christ,

Albert Deepe, Elder



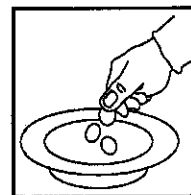
## LWML News . . .

Seventeen ladies met at the home of Helen Berntson on March 16th. They voted to disperse \$9,100 to missions throughout the world and locally. A committee is in place to begin work on publishing a cookbook for Concordia. All members of the congregation are invited to submit recipes. Ellyn Myller gave a wonderful presentation on "Gifted by God - Passion in Service of the Church." There will be no spring rummage sale this year due to the construction in the basement. The newspaper would be notified to help avoid rummage appearing on our doorstep! The next meeting will be on April 21st at Joanne Boomgarden's home, 40410 Yampa Drive.



## SPECIAL DONATIONS

It is the policy of Concordia Lutheran Church to give 10% of all bequests and special undesignated gifts (all funds received in the collection plate are assumed to be designated funds) to a worthy mission or synod need unless the donor's will makes a specific designation for its use or directs that it is to be used exclusively for Concordia's ministry. The recipient of this donation is to be determined by the Voters Assembly. This policy is to be printed each year in the March issue of the church newsletter and distributed to all new members upon joining Concordia.



## Thank you to this year's Confirmation Sponsors!

Thorvilson's, Mary Dombey, Pam Patterson, Loretta Hammerslag, Berntson's, Cindy Svendsen, Joanne Boomgarden, Starbuck's, James Welch, Cindy Klein, Freseman's, Judy Plumb, Rebecca Duryea, Jane Hallman, Patti Duryea, Tredway's, Cartwright's, Gene Carrell, Bette Vandahl, Kathy Deepe, Jean Smith, Jerry Thornton and Terry Denton!

## What To Say . . .

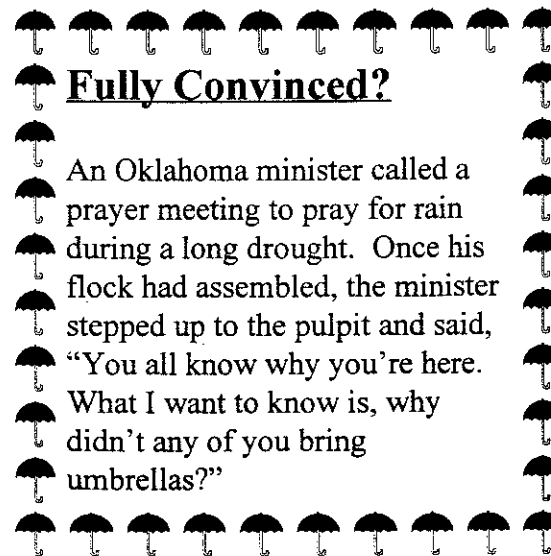
Here are five simple things to tell someone who is living with domestic violence:

- You don't deserve to be abused.
- I am afraid for your safety.
- I am afraid for the safety of your children.
- The violence will only get worse.
- There are people to help you when you are ready.

Here are five things to say to someone who is abusing a family member:

- You are destroying your family.
- You are responsible for your abusive behavior.
- You are committing a crime.
- You are risking arrest, jail, fines, loss of job, etc.
- Help is available to learn nonviolent ways of interacting.

Source: *Domestic Peace*, Tacoma WA



## Fully Convinced?

An Oklahoma minister called a prayer meeting to pray for rain during a long drought. Once his flock had assembled, the minister stepped up to the pulpit and said, "You all know why you're here. What I want to know is, why didn't any of you bring umbrellas?"