

*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, Jean Smith, 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.

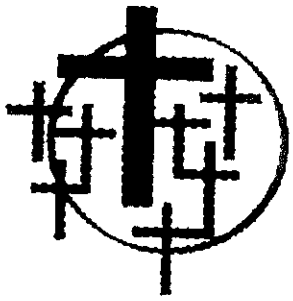
**Sunday Worship:** 8:00 and 10:30 AM **Education Hour:** 9:15 AM

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

# CHRISTOGRAM

Concordia Lutheran Church

OCTOBER, 1999



## A Note From the Pastor...

### *GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF OUR RISEN LORD!*

If you owned beachfront property within the boundaries of several Florida counties and you wanted to turn on an outside light at night...WATCH OUT...you could be fined \$500 a day and possibly face a jail sentence. Why, you ask? Simple! Artificial lights blind and disorient newly hatched baby turtles. The "real" light, the sun, guides the young to the sea. Artificial light gives the young turtles a false sense of daylight. The sea offers the young a chance at life in the open waters.

What artificial lights are blinding or disorienting you? Where are you struggling in life? Where are you heading in

this life? What does eternity have in store for you?

We have a "SON" that guides us. God's only

*To give light to those  
who sit in darkness*

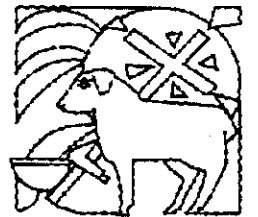
begotten Son gives light to guide the lost. Where sin and guilt from failure have darkened us, the light of forgiveness shines. Where the artificial light of this world tempts us into a false sense of security, there shines the light of God's gentle Word. Our light is not a false light in the middle of the night. Heaven is our eternal home. There the Son shines. The invitation is for us to learn about this "Son" shine. Walk in the marvelous light of God's

grace. Worship the light of the world with other Christians.

Concordia Lutheran Church seeks to serve this community with the hope of eternal life and light. That light is non other than Jesus.

In Christ,

Pastor Cartwright



OCTOBER, 1999

Concordia Lutheran Church **CHRISTOGRAM**

inside...

"Fall Retreat at Sky Valley Lodge"

"Parent To Parent"

"A Word from our Parish Administrator"

On October 24 the Epistle lesson is 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8, "So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the Gospel of God but also our own selves."

A story from "Word of Life," one of our new library resources, documents a story about a nursing home resident named Helen. As you read this think about these questions: Who has loved you, so that you felt your faith being nurtured? What strengthens us to love our neighbors as ourselves? If you were completely convinced that God actually loves others through you, how would it change your behavior this week?

Helen debated what to wear to breakfast, though she sensed the impatience of the aid at her side, the one who got her out of bed and dressed her every morning. In the dining room no one greeted her. Medicine failed to relieve her aching back. Feeling confined by her wheelchair, she brooded, "I'm sick, I'm crippled, I'm all used up. God, what am I still doing here?!"

God loved her, Helen knew that. But today that knowledge didn't help much. Overhearing her roommate laugh and embrace her daughter and grandson, Helen felt horrible. Resentful. She ached for laughter and hugs with loved ones now beyond reach... especially her late husband. Helen's longing for him

hung like a crushing weight in her chest.

After Bob died, Helen kept busy. Someone at church or in the neighborhood always needed a hand, and Helen was pleased to offer both of hers. Her friends and neighbors cherished her for her casseroles and encouraging notes. For years her pocket hankies dried the tears of neighborhood children - and sometimes their mothers.

After a silent lunch, Helen wheeled herself towards her room. On the way she noticed Myrtle in her wheelchair. Myrtle's face looked pale and drawn, as if she were in severe pain. Helen asked if she needed a nurse. Myrtle shook her head. Tears escaped down her wrinkled cheeks as she struggled to speak about the recent death of her sister. At first Helen listened only because it would have been rude to leave. But as Myrtle spoke of the memories and love she shared with her sister, a feeling of kinship stirred within Helen, followed by something more: the sensation of compassion. Absorbed in Myrtle's story, Helen hardly noticed the heaviness in her chest subside, and she completely forgot about her aching back. Once more she pulled the hanky from her pocket. She spoke simply, "Your sister and my Bob - I just know the Lord's holding them both. But they're in one hand and you and me, we're still in the Lord's other hand, and it sure feels like we're a long ways apart. But since the same Lord is holding

us all, we'll come out right in the end. You'll see.

Then, as if the antiseptic hallway had become sacred space, the women grew still. Slowly they began wheeling to their separate rooms when, on impulse, Helen murmured, "Supper tonight?" Glancing shyly over her shoulder, Myrtle replied, "Save me a place."

*Inspire us, O God, to love one another more fully. Tune our hearts to sense the impulse of your love. Give us the courage to act, the grace to risk mistakes, and the pleasure of feeling alive through your love. Bless our church, Concordia, as we seek to love each other as you have loved us. Amen*

"Love manifests its greatest power there where it overcomes the greatest separation."

Paul Tillich

The Stephen's Ministry is continuing to take shape - by January we hope to have a very intentional caring ministry as an extension of Concordia's caring congregation. Keep these Stephen's ministers in your prayers: Jan Fritz, Gene Carrell, Jean Smith, Mary Beth Bradford, Debbie Freseman and Marlys Cartwright.

Thank you!

*Marlys*

"Be still, and know that I am God." (Psalm 46:10)

It seems that I have been on a mission to reclaim my days of Sabbath. In the last few years my life has taken up a hectic and consuming pace. I have probably 4 or 5 books now "cluttering" my shelves on how to "simplify" and "unclutter" my life. Perhaps many of you are in the same boat. Where is the breathing room? I have tried to be more intentional about what the priorities are in my life. What is of the deepest importance to me? My spiritual life has certainly moved into the forefront and I am trying to learn 'to be still' and to recognize that God often comes to me in a whisper, in the quiet.

"The Gift of the Retreat Center" by Daehler talks about the importance of rest, renewal, and the spirit of hospitality in our lives. Part of my work, I hope, is to nurture the spirit of hospitality in our congregation and to encourage the strengthening of bonds between our family of faith and those that are new to Concordia. How is our church doing in the

area of hospitality? Jesus Christ practiced hospitality when he was willing to meet people where they were at in their life journeys- in their sorrow, their chaos, their confusion etc., and He offered His presence in a spirit of friendship. He did not meet them with an immediate agenda to convert but to prepare the soil of friendship so that the seeds of the good news of God's mercy, love and grace would be able to grow strong in their lives. He listened and He shared the hope of the Gospel.



A retreat center may not be practical for many of us. However, I have come to look at my worship life as a retreat. I find it very renewing to gather together on a Sunday and center my life on what is most important and of greatest value to me. It is in this worship setting that we can share this gift of hospitality with our family of faith and others. By hearing the familiar rhythm of confession and absolution, affirmations of faith and benedictions I am able to renew a

sense of purpose in my life and hope in a good and gracious God. Let us welcome people into our church as they are, and share with them what is of greatest value to us - a Savior, who gives us new life.

On Sundays I am able to retreat from the press of a culture which stresses self-sufficiency and advance in a spiritual life which affirms that God is indeed with us - that one does not live bereft of God's active presence. In the sacraments God comes to us with mercy and forgiveness. At the communion table God becomes tangible in our world. In our baptisms water and word affirm a sure promise of God's continual working in our lives. Be active in your worship life. As you start another week be encouraged by the words: "The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace."

*Jean Smith*

## Gifted, Growing, and Grace

As a congregation, we have been gifted in so many ways;

- \* We have been gifted with a new addition to our church. We stand back and say isn't it wonderful, beautiful, a miracle of sorts - but there is more than that.
- \* We have been gifted with generous people that are willing to share their possessions that made this possible, made it possible to enlarge our staff - but there is more than that.
- \* We have been gifted with people that make our church a family church - but there is more than that.
- \* We have been gifted with people that are generous in their caring - but there is more than that.
- \* We have been gifted with multi-talented people, each possessing individual gifts and willing to serve - but there is more than that.

Concordia has its roots on a focal point - that we might see Jesus. It has continued on that focal point throughout the years. That has to continue to be our focal point today and into the future - pointing to Jesus, focusing on Jesus, looking to Jesus. Jesus has to be our centerpiece. In Heb 12:2, we read, "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author, and the perfecter of our faith."

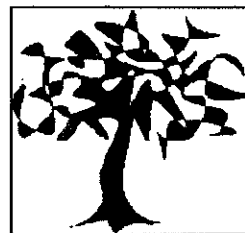
Walt Wangerin wrote in a recent article that at the center of our faith is Jesus. At the center of the Christian Church there can be nothing, nothing but Jesus, the Christ.

Our new addition to our church facility, our generous, friendly, talented, caring congregation has but one central mission; and that is to center on Jesus. Jesus said in John 15:5, "I am the vine, you are the branches." We are to grow out of Jesus - grow out of His grace, His perfect love, His divine and complete redemption - the author and perfecter of our faith. As we gear up for a new year, with new facilities, new programs, additional staff, new members, our outreach - let our focus be Jesus, in our congregational life and our personal life as well.

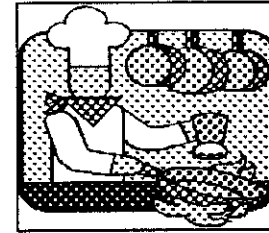
Let us pray for one another, whatever our position in the church or station in life may be, that all our acts be centered on the Lord Jesus Christ.



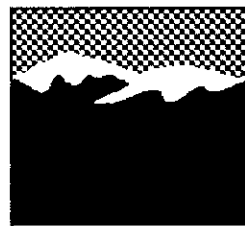
In Christ,  
Luther Berntson



Parent Support Group  
Friday, October 1, 1999  
6:00-8:00 PM  
Begin with a potluck  
Special time for kids  
Special topic for parents



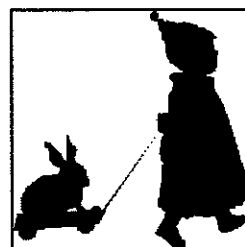
Men's Breakfast  
Saturday  
October 9, 1999  
7 - 8:30 AM  
Invite A Friend!



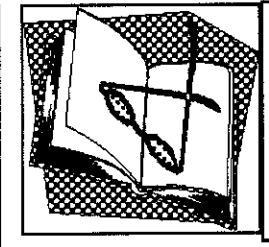
Discovery Bible Study  
Wednesdays - 7:00 PM  
at the Church  
(Childcare Provided)



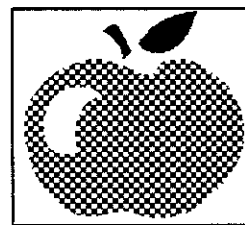
Tuesday Morning  
Bible Study  
at the Church  
6:30 - 7:30 AM  
Bring a Friend!



Monday Morning Moms  
10 - 12 AM  
Meet at the church  
(childcare provided)



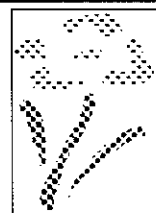
Thursday Morning  
Women's Bible Study  
10 AM at the church  
library  
(Childcare Provided)



Recovery Study  
Thursdays 7:00 PM  
at the Church  
Invite a Friend!

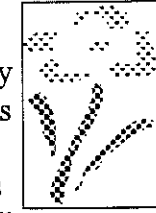


October LWML  
Wednesday, October 13th  
7:00 pm  
at Cindy Svendsen's  
671 Amethyst Drive



### LWML SUNDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1999

Our Concordia Women's Guild is part of the international society called the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML). This is the day set aside to celebrate the great blessing the Lord provides through these groups. There will be international displays about who we are and what we do. Coffee and refreshments will be served in the Fellowship Hall from 9:15 to 9:45 am. Please stay after the 8:00 am service or come early before the 10:30 am service and learn about Concordia's Women's Guild. All ushers, greeters, readers, and nursery care providers for this Sunday's services are members of our Women's Guild.



**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!"



# October 1999



<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
					1 Parent-Support Group 6-8 PM	2
3 Worship 8/10:30 AM Ed Hr & Conf - 9:15 AM LWML SUNDAY Youth Group - 5:30 PM Parents of Teens Forum-5:30 Stephen's Min - 7:00 PM	4 Playgroup - 10 AM Womens AA- 7 PM Outreach & Assim-6:30 PM Book Club - 7 PM	5 Bible Study - 6:30 AM Elder's Mtg - 7 PM	6 Discovery - 7 PM	7 Choir - 6 PM Bells - 7 PM Recovery - 7 PM	8  3 pm—Women's	9 Men's Breakfast-7 AM Journey - 10 AM  Retreat—3 pm
10 Worship 8/10:30 AM Educ Hr - 9:15 AM	11 Playgroup - 10 AM Womens AA - 7 PM	12 Bible Study - 6:30 AM Church Council - 7:30 pm	13 Discovery - 7 PM LWML - 7 PM at Cindy Svendsen's	14 Choir - 6 PM Bells - 7 PM Recovery - 7 pm	15	16 Journey - 10:00 am
17 Worship 8/10:30 AM Educ Hr - 9:15 AM VOTING ASSEMBLY Confirmation - 2:00 pm YG 50's Dinner-5:30 PM Stephen's Min-7 PM	18 Playgroup - 10 AM Womens AA - 7 PM	19 Bible Study - 6:30 AM	20 Discovery - 7 PM	21 Choir - 6 PM Bells - 7 PM Recovery - 7 PM	22	23 Sale—9 am - noon
24 Worship 8/10:30 AM Educ Hr - 9:15 AM Confirmation - 4:30 PM Stephen's Min-7 PM	25 Playgroup - 10 AM Womens AA - 7 PM	26 Bible Study - 6:30 AM	27 Discovery Potluck - 7 PM - Special Topic	28 Choir - 6 PM Bells - 7 PM Recovery - 7PM	29	30
31 Worship 8/10:30 AM Educ Hr - 9:15 AM Stephen's Min - 7 PM						

**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.

# The Gift of the Retreat Center

by Dwayne P Daehler

During my childhood years amidst the hills and dairy farms of northwestern Illinois, my family frequently went on Sunday afternoon drives. Usually my folks managed to make a drop-in visit somewhere along the way when we happened past the home of someone my parents knew.

So natural did such unscheduled visits seem that not once did I imagine they might be an imposition on the people we visited. Instead, our visits were welcomed as a favor and flavored with conversation, coffee and cookies. Those we visited were practiced in the art of welcoming the unannounced visitor.

It was many, many years later, in a mud-dung dwelling on the remote savannas of Tanzania's South Masailand, when I recognized the substance of those childhood Sunday visits. As a grandmotherly Massai woman poured boiled milk in my enamel cup and then prayed over her simple offering, I realized that those people my parents dropped in on were engaged in a most remarkable spiritual practice - hospitality.

When I thought of spiritual practices, I had

thought only of prayer, of Scripture reading, of meditation, of weekly worship. That hospitality might also be a spiritual practice did not occur to me. I made that oversight despite my familiarity with Jesus' own constant practice of hospitality - toward a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well and a tax collector in Jericho, toward sinners and social outcasts, toward lame and lepers, toward children and women. But I misunderstood His hospitality and presumed it had to do with a mission conversion, that Jesus had an "agenda" behind what he did. I have come to see Jesus' hospitality differently.

*Everyone needs places and spaces for hospitable welcome.*

It was Henri Nouwen, in his book *Reaching Out*, who changed my understanding of Jesus' hospitality as creation of free space for people, not with intent to change them but safe space in which change might take place. In other words, when hospitality is practiced well, it is free of expectations of the guest, empty of an agenda for his or her "own good," uncluttered by a web of opinions about what this person "really needs."

This means that at the heart of hospitality is the difficult but necessary discipline of self-emptying in character with Jesus' own self-emptying, about which Paul writes in Philippians: "Not counting equality with God something to be grasped,

(Jesus) emptied himself..." This self-emptying was at the heart of Jesus' ministry and was evident in His receptiveness to all kinds of people. He welcomed others without high and holy expectations or hidden agendas. In this free space Jesus created the ideal circumstances for God's transforming power to be at work with the consequence that people often experienced transformation in Jesus' presence. Zaccheus was a classic example.

In her book *Practicing Our Faith*, Dorothy Bass observes that there is a crisis of hospitality in our society. The sheer pressure of our busyness crowds hospitality out of our lives. For hospitality takes time and cannot be hurried to fit an urgent schedule.

This is the gift of a retreat center. Retreat centers are places where hospitality is a practiced exercise. They are places along the road of life where one can enter and be welcomed "as you are" without notions of how you ought to be. They offer conversation or silence, the cup of coffee or wine, the bread of life. In these places, in these free and open spaces, guests are often amazed at the transforming work God can do in them.



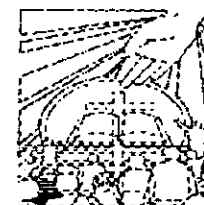
# SEPTEMBER STATISTICS

## September Average Sunday Attendance

1991.....	123
1992.....	163
1993.....	184
1994.....	228
1995.....	211
1996.....	212
1997.....	236
1998.....	239
1999.....	246

## September 1999 Sunday Attendance

Week #1.....	97 (E).....	138 (L).....	235 (T)
Week #2.....	105 (E).....	140 (L).....	245 (T)
Week #3.....	135 (E).....	144 (L).....	279 (T)
Week #4.....	103 (E).....	124 (L).....	227 (T)



## PARENT TO PARENT

We had an awesome discussion about values at our September Parent Support Group meeting. October's event for some of us was a field trip to the Sailor's Homecoming game, the rest of us hung out at the church and played table games.

We are having FUN and making connections! Please join us in November, the first Friday of the month, November 5, 1999 at church. Potluck at 6:00 pm, child care provided at 7:00 pm. We will be discussing "Traditions" and their importance to our identity.

## YOUTH NEWS . . .

### Youth Bible Class:

Thanks to Lynn Worrell and James Welch for their help with Your Bible Class on October 3rd.

### Youth Group Gathering:

Sloppy Joe's, chips, veggies and ice cream for teens and parents on Sunday, October 3rd at 5:30 PM. Don't miss out on this chance to plan the year - parents sign up for monthly meals.

### 50's Dinner & Dance:

Sunday, October 24th at 5:30 PM. This is a fund-raiser for the New Orleans gathering. The whole congregation is invited! Lots of fun! Keep an eye out for invitations in your mailbox.

Help Us furnish the Youth Room. Buy your \$6 collector's edition "God's Creation" calendar now. Great Christmas gifts!



### FALL RUMMAGE & BAKE SALE

The Women's Guild will sponsor their Fall Rummage and Bake Sale on Friday, October 22nd from 9:00am-5:00pm and Saturday, October 23rd from 9:00 am to noon. Donations will be accepted for both sales throughout the week of October 17th. We invite the congregation to bake for the sale. Proceeds will go toward the sister to sister program with a Papau, NewGuinea missionary. Baked goods will be priced and packaged on Thursday night, October 21st. Can you give an hour or two helping

downstairs in the church Fellowship Hall? Sorting - Monday, October 18th thru Thursday, October 21st, 6-9 pm. Cash Register - Friday, October 22nd, 9-5 pm. Clean-up - Saturday, October 23rd, 12-2 pm. A sign-up poster will be at church.

### READ THIS OR YOU'LL MISS OUT!

What is nursery care? Babysitting or ministry? It is ministry! It is an opportunity to "suffer the little children to come unto me." When we provide nursery care in our church it is our first opportunity to expose children to the love of God, even if it is only providing a safe place for babies and toddlers to be while their parents worship God. It is also ministry to the parents who have chosen to break away from the business of life to be restored in the word of God and sacraments.

We need YOU! We need more volunteers to share in this ministry. Please consider helping in the nursery, once a month, once a quarter, once a year! Contact Barb Gibson, 879-3714 or Ellyn Myller, 871-1860.

### NURSERY NEWS...

The nursery care is no longer a responsibility of the Care Teams.

Nursery care is also being provided during Sunday School, so that parents can attend their own Bible class.

We are asking that the nursery be reserved for children 3 years old and under. We do understand that there are some exceptions to be made. However, we want to encourage older children to attend worship with their parents.

Thank you to everyone who has donated items for the nursery. We are well stocked at this time. We are looking for one or two Pack-and-Play cribs that are in good condition.



## LWML Fall Retreat at Sky Valley Lodge - October 8th & 9th



Here's an opportunity to refresh and refocus before the busy holiday season. This year's retreat is entitled "Return to the Fountain" - renewed in your baptism, refreshed in your spirit, and restored for joyful service (Psalm 51:10-12). Presentations and devotions will be given by Jean Smith, Pam Parker and Ellyn Myller. Come away to the lovely setting at Sky Valley Lodge. You can check in anytime between 2:00 and 5:00 pm on Friday and enjoy a stroll or make a special craft item to take home. We'll sit down to a delicious dinner at 6:00 pm. The next morning, following a continental breakfast, we'll spend more time in His Word, in prayer and fellowship and then carpool to Dumont Lake for lunch and a hike and an inspirational closing (Dumont Lake is optional). You can plan on returning home around 3:00 pm on Saturday. Space is limited, so sign up early! The cost is \$45 and your friends are more than welcome to join us. Don't let the cost stop you from coming - scholarships are available - contact Marlys Cartwright or Judy Plumb.

### BOOK CLUB

Women and Men of all ages - welcome to a new ministry opportunity at Concordia. The 1st Monday of each month we will be meeting to discuss a favorite book - modern or classic. We hope this gives us a new avenue to ask faith questions and to deepen our Christian fellowship through the joy of literature. The initial Book Club night is Monday, October 4th at 7:00 pm. Bring an excerpt or two from a good book to discuss.

### PARENTS OF TEENAGERS FORUM

This is a new ministry at Concordia which will meet at the same time as Youth Group once a month at church. The first meeting will be Sunday, October 3rd at 5:30 in the Chapel. We will be using the video series *Parenting Adolescents*. Great chance to get encouragement and resources for this exciting time of life.

## "CONCORDIA COOKS!"

is the name of Concordia's new cookbook being published at this time. Arrival will be just in time for the "Concordia Christmas Cupboard" on Saturday, November 20, 1999. Be sure to attend this event in order to get the first copies of "Concordia Cooks" for Christmas gifts, birthdays, friends, family, secret sisters, etc. Look for the special display and taste samples of recipes from the book on this day.

