

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.

Saturday Worship: 5:30 PM

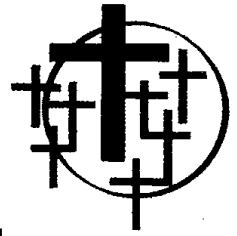
Sunday Worship: 8:00 and 10:30 AM **Education Hour:** 9:15 AM

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

CHRISTOGRAM

Concordia Lutheran Church

FEBRUARY, 2000



A Note From the Pastor...

GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF OUR LORD!

To the Members and Friends of Concordia:

Rev. Walt Wangrin writes a monthly article for "The Lutheran" magazine. He wrote the following words in a recent column:

"Yesterday, while Thanne and I were waiting at a traffic light, we watched a young boy cross in front of our car. A beautiful child, flush with the autumn wind, clearly happy, his head cast backward, whistling. Joy gave his step an enviable spring; I mean, I envied the sweet, easy snap to his knee-joints and wished I could dance the street at the crack of autumn, wished I were so young and blithe and free.

Suddenly this boy turned and looked directly at me through the windshield; and although he was a stranger, he smiled. Loveliness bloomed in his face, and he gave it to me as a bouquet. I received it

freely, and I grinned back. He greeted me, this boy - and youth and health and a genuine happiness became my own in that moment. Sheer gift. Pure kindness. No reward expected. None possible.

For I considered that I had just seen, at a crosswalk, at a city stoplight, in the face of a child, the grin of our glorious God.

Goodness! In that same moment, I began to contemplate the source of the habit of goodness. For I considered that I had just seen, at a crosswalk, at a city stoplight, in the face of a child, the grin of our glorious God."

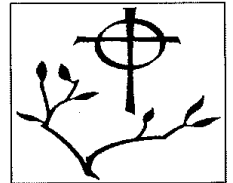
Our glorious God has grinned on our congregation here in Steamboat Springs for decades of ministry. The Word has been spoken here for nearly 75 years. Our gracious God keeps on smiling. The sacraments are administered.

Certainly, there have been moments and months of sorrow and struggle. Yet, that gracious God has never left or forsaken His people here in this place at Concordia.

In Christ,

Tim
 Pastor Cartwright

P.S. During the services on the first week of February, (5th/6th) I will be laying out a special "Vision and Commitments" sermon. It is a sort of annual "State of the Union (congregation)" presentation. Make an effort to attend.



FEBRUARY, 2000

Concordia Lutheran Church **CHRISTOGRAM**

inside...

"Positive Parenting"
 "Encourage One Another"
 "Thank You" from Lift - Up

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FEBRUARY, 2000

Concordia Lutheran Church **CHRISTOGRAM**

Vista Verde Ski & Snowshoe Day!

20 women from Concordia enjoyed a day of fun and Christian fellowship on January 13th.

Notice the 8 snow angels on Hinman Lake below . . .

LWML NEWS . . .

The Women's Guild kicked off the year 2000 with a wonderful "New Beginnings" Brunch. We discussed our past successful resolutions and were challenged to all take on the resolution of a healthy diet in this new century - a scriptural diet, that is. For just as we need daily food, we also need the word of God daily.

Secret Sisters were revealed and there were many surprises! If you would like to participate in the Secret Sisters program this year, please fill out the card in your mailbox and return to Cindy Svendsen. (you can get a card from Cindy if you don't have one) We pray for our secret sisters and remember them through the year with small gifts and words of encouragement and love - now, who couldn't use a little of that through out the year?

Also at our gathering, Ellyn Myller interviewed Julie Ranieri who had just returned from a 6-week stay with her family in a small village in Cost Rica. We learned how people there have very simple but meaningful lives. Many families live in homes with dirt floors and the children's only toys are sticks and stones. This was especially enlightening for Julie's 7-year-old daughter, Chloce. We prayed and will continue to pray for that small village in Cost Rica.

The next Women's Guild meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 16th at 7:00 PM at Debbie Scott's House, 1851 Hunter's Court. Come be refreshed with fellowship, devotion time and of course, a delicious dessert.



POSITIVE PARENTING

Help for Lutheran Moms and Dads

Godparents Until Jesus Comes

Recently I attended my niece's wedding. She married a wonderful young Jewish man. Because I was one of her Godparents, I was anticipating a worship service rich in religious tradition and practice.

I was surprised and disappointed. There was nothing in the service that connected to either Judaism or Christianity. The worship center was a former Lutheran Church building, but the cross and Bible had been covered up, and there were no Scripture readings nor hymns of faith. The music was all self-centered and the readings celebrated the works of "The Prophet" and William Shakespeare.

My empty heart quickly filled with guilt. The bride and groom had let the culture squeeze the faithful traditions out of them. What should have been a strength for their marriage was absent - by their choice! But I had let the culture squeeze the faithfulness out of my promise at her baptism in an LCMS parish 30 years ago. I had become a culturized Godparent.

Goparenting is not for tradition sake, nor limited to the brief period when a child is young. Rather it is a promise for life - until the day of Jesus Christ. As Godparents, we must continue to be faithful as we witness publicly, teach, guide and model the faith. I want to

remain connected with my niece and her new husband, and find ways to continue to share my faith with them.



How have you continued to serve as a faithful Godparent?

Family Activities

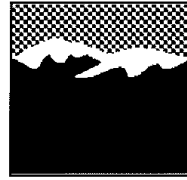
1. Call your Godchild(ren) every other month simply to listen to what is important in their lives. Remind them of your promise at their baptism. At the close of each phone call, share a prayer or blessing with your God children).
2. Once every three months call or write the parent(s) of your Godchild(ren). Discuss the spiritual needs of the child and how you could be most helpful.
3. Remember the Baptism Birthday of your Godchild by sending a card or letter to arrive on or before the baptismal anniversary. You may want to purchase a gift that nurtures faith at the appropriate age level of your God child.
4. Invite your Godchild to spend a week or two with you during the summer or other convenient time. Share faith stories, hopes, and dreams with each other.



Parent Support Group meets this month on Friday, February 4, 2000 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at the Beursken's, 640 Ruby Square (Potluck)



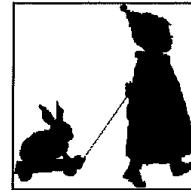
Men's Breakfast Saturday February 12, 2000 7 - 8:30 AM in Fellowship Hall Invite A Friend!



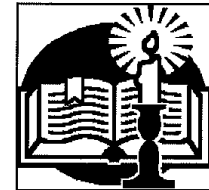
Discovery Bible Study Wednesdays - 7:00 PM at the Church (3rd/4th classroom) Prayer - 6:30 PM (Childcare Provided)



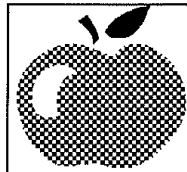
Tuesday Morning Bible Study at the Church (Fellowship Hall) 6:30 - 7:30 AM Bring a Friend!



Monday Mom's Playgroup 1:00 to 3:00 PM (new time!) Meet at Ellyn Myller's 652 Ruby Square (childcare provided)



Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study 9:00 AM at the church library (Childcare Provided)



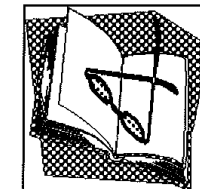
Recovery Study Thursdays 7:00 PM at the Church in the Library Invite a Friend!



The next LWML gathering will be February 16, 2000 at 7:00 PM at Debbie Scott's, 1851 Hunter's Court



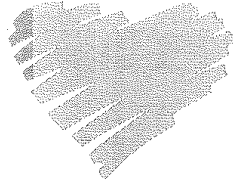
PARENTS OF TEENS Sunday, February 13, 2000 Meet at 5:30 PM for dinner followed by a special topic in the chapel - "Dealing with the Challenges of Parenting."



BOOK CLUB will meet at the Cartwright home, 579 Grand, on February 7th, at 7:00 PM Book: "Chasing Grace"

FEBRUARY

2000



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri

		1 Bible Study - 6:30 AM Staff Mtg - 8:30 AM	2 Prayer - 6:30 PM Discovery - 7:00 PM	3 Womens Study - 9 AM Choir - 6:00 PM Bells - 7:00 PM Recovery - 7:00 PM	4 Parent-Support Group 6:00 to 8:00 PM	5 District AA - noon to 5:00 PM Worship 5:30 PM
6 Worship 8/10:30 AM Educ Hr - 9:15 AM Outreach - 4:00 PM Confirmation-4:30 PM Stephen's Training - 4:00 to 7:00 PM	7 Playgroup - 1 PM at Ellyn's, 652 Ruby Sq Womens AA - 7:00 PM Book Club - 7:00 PM at Cartwright's, 579 Grand	8 Bible Study - 6:30 AM Staff Mtg - 8:30 AM Church Council - 7:30 PM	9 Prayer - 6:30 PM Discovery - 7:00 PM	10 Womens Study - 9 AM Choir - 6:00 PM Bells - 7:00 PM Recovery - 7:00 PM	11	12 Mens Breakfast - 7 AM Journey - 10 AM Worship - 5:30 PM
13 Worship 8/10:30 AM Educ Hr - 9:15 AM Confirmation 4:30 PM Youth Group - 5:30 PM Parents/Teens - 5:30 PM Stephens Min-7:30 PM	14 Playgroup - 1 PM at Ellyn's, 652 Ruby Sq Womens AA - 7:00 PM	15 Bible Study - 6:30 AM Staff Mtg - 8:30 AM	16 Prayer - 6:30 PM Discovery - 7:00 PM LWML - 7:00 PM at Debbie Scott's, 1851 Hunters Court	17 Womens Study - 9 AM Choir - 6:00 PM Bells - 7:00 PM Recovery - 7:00 PM	18 St John's Ski Goup	19 Worship - 5:30 PM Fort Collins
20 Worship 8/10:30 AM Educ Hr - 9:15 AM Confirmation - 4:30 PM	21 Playgroup - 1PM at Ellyn's, 652 Ruby Sq Womens AA - 7:00 PM	22 Bible Study - 6:30 AM Staff Mtg - 8:30 AM	23 Prayer - 6:30 PM Discovery - 7:00 PM	24 Womens Study - 9 AM Choir - 6:00 PM Bells - 7:00 PM Recovery - 7:00 PM	25	26 Worship - 5:30 PM
27 Worship 8/10:30 AM Educ Hr - 9:15 AM E.C.C. - 12:45 PM Stephens Min-7:30 PM	28 Playgroup - 1 PM at Ellyn's, 652 Ruby Sq Womens AA - 7:00 PM	29 Bible Study - 6:30 AM Staff Mtg - 8:30 AM	Mid Winter Break			

Tuesday Bible Study:
Meet and study the Word of God prior to work. This study begins at 6:30 am and is done promptly at 7:30 am. 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!"



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.

A WORD FROM OUR PARISH ADMINISTRATOR - Jean Smith

"It is your task as sponsors to confess with the whole church the faith in our God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, in whose name this child is to be baptized. After this child has been baptized you are at all times to remember him in your prayers, put him in mind of his Baptism, and, as much as in you lies, give your counsel and aid, especially if he should lose his parents, that he be brought up in the true knowledge and worship of God and be taught the Ten Commandments, the Creed, and the Lord's Prayer; and that, as he grows in years, you place in his hands the Holy Scriptures, bring him to the services of God's house, and provide for his further instruction in the Christian faith, that he come to the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood and thus, abiding in his baptismal grace and in communion with the Church, he may grow up to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of Jesus Christ.

This, then, you intend gladly and willingly to do?"

Intentions. It has been said that the road to Hell is paved with good intentions. There have been many times that I have fallen short of those things I intended to do, but never gave it the priority it deserved. How many people are consumed by guilt because they did not say what they 'intended' to before a loved one died? When a child, a teenager, or an adult is

baptized, God's intentions are very clear. His promises do not go by the wayside of good intentions. He promises to clothe this new child of God in righteousness, to cleanse this child of sin, to connect this child to a family of faith, and makes a covenant, a promise to be with this child always. As that child's family of faith, we are also called to be intentional in nurturing his/her faith. When Pastor Tim holds that infant before the congregation after it has been baptized and asks, "Is it your intention to see that Sunday School, VBS, Confirmation and Youth Groups are in place for this child?" We answer yes. When he asks, "Do you intend to support the parent's of this child that they may grow in their faith as well?" We say yes. Do we mean it? Are we intentional about doing this "faithful and loving work"?

Honestly, I have sometimes placed more priorities on my daughter's music lessons than her spiritual growth. We are intentional about their studies because we recognize the importance of diplomas and knowledge; we are intentional about encouraging them in sports because it builds many good qualities; we are supportive of drama because it builds wonderful skills. We understand the importance of building a good work ethic in our children. How supportive are we of their spiritual lives? I think we often assume that the 'church' will take care of that. But indeed, we are the church. If we don't all individu-

ally take an intentional role in supporting and encouraging the faith of others, and ourselves, our church as a whole will suffer. The youth are called to encourage and support as well. There is no age limit on being intentional about modeling a Christian life of nurture, compassion and love for your neighbor.

God blesses us eternally with the gift of baptism. Martin Luther has said, "Baptism is so full of comfort and grace that heaven and earth cannot comprehend it. It promises and brings the entire Christ! The blessings of baptism are boundless. No greater jewel can adorn our body and soul than baptism, for through it we obtain perfect holiness and salvation."

If we are not intentional about our relationships to one another and to our God, our relationships will break apart. If we are not intentional about the spiritual lives of God's baptized children, they will fail to be nurtured as they should. We entreat that God, in his grace, will fulfill what we are unable to do. But we must be intentional.

God's intentions are certain. Through His grace, and our Savior, Jesus Christ, we have been claimed, forgiven and saved. We are loved continually. Let us be intentional about sharing this Good News with others. Give your counsel and aid. We have so much to gain through this 'good and loving work.'

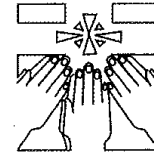
JANUARY STATISTICS

January Average Sunday Attendance

1991.....	138
1992.....	110
1993.....	179
1994.....	183
1995.....	179
1996.....	181
1997.....	195
1998.....	196
1999.....	205
2000.....	248

January 2000 Sunday Attendance

Week #1.....	30 (Sat).....	102 (E).....	100 (L).....	232 (T)
Week #2.....	87 (Sat).....	86 (E).....	81 (L).....	254 (T)
Week #3.....	35 (Sat).....	120 (E).....	92 (L).....	247 (T)
Week #4.....	41 (Sat).....	100 (E).....	118 (L).....	259 (T)
Week #5.....	(Not available at printing)			



January 14, 2000

Dear Friends of Concordia

Thank you so much for your recent donation of twenty-three (23) bags of groceries. Your spirit adds greatly to the success of our programs.

Because of such generosity, Lift-Up can continue to meet the needs of struggling individuals and families living and working in our community. The Board of Directors, volunteers and staff join me in expressing our gratitude to you for making a positive difference in the lives of people we serve.

Sincerely,

Jan Jacobs
Executive Director
Lift-Up Food Bank

Faith in Christ Makes More Sense of Life

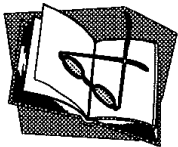
One rainy Sunday afternoon, a father was babysitting his children and had the task of keeping them entertained. He assigned specific tasks to each child. To keep his 10-year-old son busy, he had torn a full-page map of the United States out of a magazine, cut it into small pieces, and told his son to reassemble it as a jigsaw puzzle. To the father's amazement, his son presented him with the completed puzzle in just a few minutes. "How did you do it, son?" he asked. "It was easy," the boy replied. "At first, when I tried to fit together all those little lines and dots and the small print on the map, it looked like an impossible job. Then I saw part of a man's face on the back of one of the pieces. So I turned the pieces over, and when I got the man together, the United States took care of itself." The jigsaw puzzle of life makes sense and we get it all together when we live our life against the background of Christ. That is, faith in Christ as Redeemer and Lord makes all the pieces fit.



UPCOMING EVENTS . . . NOT TO MISS . . .

BOOK CLUB

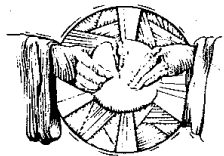
This month's Book Club will meet at the home of the Cartwright's, 579 Grand, on February 7th at 7:00 PM. Book of the month is "Chasing Grace."



PARENTS OF TEENS FORUM

Group meets on Sunday, February 13th at 5:30 PM Dinner, then discussion in the chapel on "Dealing with the Challenges of Parenting." Apostle Paul encourages us to ask God for what we need.

"I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty." John 6:35



CARE TEAM UPDATE . . .

This year's list of names for each Care Team is posted on the bulletin board above the coffee pot. Please take a look at this list and locate your name. If you would like to switch or have your name added, please contact Sandra Hogrefe 879-4884.

CONCORDIA'S STEPHEN MINISTRY

A Stephen Minister is . . .

- A Friend to be with when
 - you're lonely or depressed,
 - you're struggling with faith and trust
 - you're sad or grieving
 - you've lost a job, a friend, your health
- A Friend
 - who has developed gifts for bringing Christ's healing to hurting places.

New Stephen's Ministry Training -
beginning Sunday,
February 6th,
4:00 to 7:00 PM
This is the first in a series of
50+ hours of training.

Thoughts from the DCE - Marlys Cartwright

ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER

I Thessalonians 5:9-11
For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him. **THEREFORE, ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER AND BUILD EACH OTHER UP, AS IN FACT YOU ARE DOING.**

The entire Christian education and ministry theme for Concordia this year is based on this verse from Thessalonians. From nursery care to book club, Bible studies to family ministry, youth group to Sunday school, and everything in between will be tied together under this theme.

We will have six dramas and six library book and video displays throughout the year that will help us live out this message: Encourage One Another.

The following is an article by David L. Weatherford from Health Communications to encourage all of us to live above our fears in these challenging times. Be encouraged in Christ and let's find ways to encourage one another -

Marlys

What Should I Fear?

I used to live in perpetual fear of losing things I had, or never having the things I hoped to acquire.

What if I lose my hair?

What is I never get a big house?

What if I become overweight, out of shape or unattractive?

What if I lose my job?

What if I m disabled and cannot play ball with my child?

What if I get old and frail and have nothing to offer those around me?

But life teaches those who listen, and now I know:

If I lose my hair, I will be the best bald guy I can be, and I will be grateful that my head can still stimulate ideas, if not follicles.

A house does not make a happy person. The unhappy heart will not find contentment in a bigger house. The heart that is merry, however, will make any home a happy one.

If I spend more time developing my emotional, mental, and spiritual dimensions, rather than focusing solely on my physical self, I will be more beautiful with each passing day.

If I cannot work for wages, I will work for the Lord - and His benefits package is unmatched.

If I am physically unable to teach my child to throw a curve ball, I will have more time to teach him to handle the curves thrown by life, and this shall serve him better.

And if aging robs my strength, mental alertness and physical stamina, I will offer those around me the strength of my convictions, the depth of my love and the spiritual stamina of a soul that has been carefully shaped by the hard edges of a long life.

No matter what the losses or broken dreams may lie in my destiny, I will meet each challenge with dignity and resolve. For God has given me many gifts, and for each one that I may lose, I will find ten more that I never would have cultivated were the course of my life to always run smoothly.

And so, when I can no longer dance, I will sing joyfully; when I haven't the strength to sing, I will whistle with contentment; when my breath is shallow and weak, I will listen intently and shout love with my heart; and when death approaches, I will pray silently until I cannot pray. Then it will be time for me to go to the Lord. And what then should I fear?