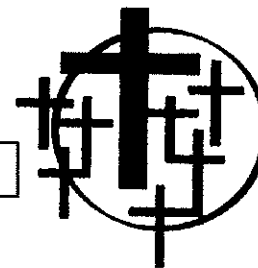


# CHRISTOGRAM



Concordia Lutheran Church

December, 2000

*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 Koenig, 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

## “No Festivity in Bethlehem”

**T**hat was the headline of an article I read in the local paper this morning. It went on to report that there would be no Christmas lights, or decorated tree in the town of Jesus' birth this year. There has been too much hostility between the Palestinians and Jews.

That strikes me as particularly poignant! No lights in the town of Jesus' birth, no “Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men” in the little village where once the Son of God lay humbly cradled in an animal manger!

We do have the ability to do that—to turn out the lights, shut Him out of our lives—He who is Lord of Lords and King of Kings. He has made himself that vulnerable, and also that available. He

comes with the offer of a Life and a Grace that can be refused.

But, how wonderful when it is received! What a marvelous Act of Love and Acceptance for our war weary world that God should come to us, clothed in our flesh, to bear our sins away to the cross, and open for us the way to everlasting life.



OK, so no lights this year in Bethlehem! *There will be lights* in my home and probably in most of yours. There will be the singing of some of the most wonderful music ever created. There will be candles burning and turkeys cooking and beautiful sights and sounds. Gifts will

be shared, and care and love expressed for others. We will gather for worship and attempt to express to God

how we marvel at his Gift of the Son of God in our own human flesh—available and vulnerable to all that the world is and does.

I am sorry for the good folk of Bethlehem that they will have no lights, and I pray God's Spirit will stir among them with Power and with Peace.

*There will be lights where I live* as I celebrate the most wondrous News of all of History, “To you is born in the City of David a Savior, Christ the Lord”.

Pastor Wayne Koenig

inside...

“Epiphany Party” - January 6, 2001  
“Pastor's Class”  
“Call Committee Update”

December, 2000

Concordia Lutheran Church **CHRISTOGRAM**

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

*Luke 2:1*

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world.

*Luke 2:4*

So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David.

*Luke 2:6-7*

While they were there the time came for a baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in clothes and placed in him a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

The scene in Bethlehem sounds like it was a regular town that was inundated with people. The Emperor's desire was to count heads, so anyone from the house and line of David were to travel to Bethlehem. Bethlehem turned into a mini-city. Perhaps Joseph forgot to call ahead to reserve a room with his Visa card. Mary, feeling birth pains, may have informed Joseph that it was time to get off the street. They found a barn and placed the newly born baby in a manger.

Now let's go to Steamboat during Christmas week, 2000. Instead of a decree to count heads, there was plenty of powder. Instead of traveling to Bethlehem via donkey, they flew to Steamboat on a Boeing 727. What if they couldn't find a place to stay in Steamboat 2000 because it was inundated with skiers and riders? Instead of a barn, maybe they would have found the back of a coffee shop. Instead of placing the newly born baby in a manger, they put him on a 50 pound bag of coffee.

An extraordinary event occurred at a very ordinary place. Let the beautiful carols you hear this month remind you of the birth of our Savior. Next time you pop into your favorite coffee shop, look behind the counter to see where they keep the bags of coffee.

In Christ,

Mike Beurskens  
Elder



## Singles' Christmas Party and Dinner: Saturday Dec. 16th



There will be a special gathering for singles on Saturday, December 16th at 6:00 PM at the home of Lynn Sorensen. Please join us for a fun evening of fellowship and dining. Please let the office know by Wednesday, December 13th, if you plan on attending (879-0175). Bring a friend if you like. A donation will be taken to cover the cost of the food. Call if you have any questions. (Unless you want to know the velocity of an unladen swallow. We don't know the answer to that one.)

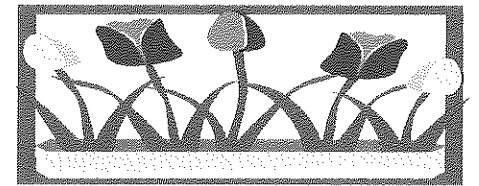
Directions to Lynn's home: Take 129 past the Steamboat airport 200 yards. Turn right on Trails Road and go exactly one mile to Lynn's home (white two story house with white lights). Every time you come to a fork in the road please stay to the right. Lynn's house will be the first home on the right.



## DINER'S CLUB



Diner's Club will be rotating groups in January. If you were not involved during the first four months and would like to be included, please call Kim Truong, 879-2481 or Kathy Bertrand, 870-8922 by December 19th. Members will be notified of their new group the first week of January.



## ALL NEW FLOWER CHART

The Flower Chart for 2000 is up on the moveable bulletin board. Sign up early for the dates you would like to remember a birthday, anniversary or just a thank you to God for blessings received. The cost is \$12.50 per vase, payable to Concordia Lutheran Church. On the Sundays you provide flowers, you may take them home following the late service.

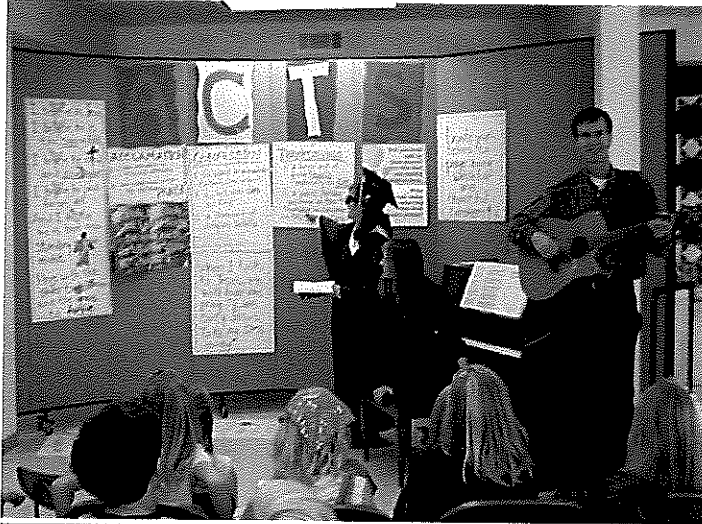
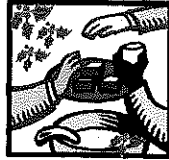


*Jesus is the Reason for the Season!*



## Christmas Cookie Exchange—Sat., December 16th

If you don't have time to bake a variety of cookies this Christmas come to the cookie exchange on Saturday, December 16th at 10 AM. It will be at Jean Smith's home (40519 Steamboat Drive). Bring four dozen cookies of one kind and leave with four dozen cookies of different kinds. Bring a friend and make some new ones. Enjoy some light breakfast fare and fellowship over a cup of Christmas tea or cider. Questions? Call the office at 879-0175.



### "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." Colossians 4:2

Ellyn Myller teaches the kids about the "acts" of prayer during the Sunday School's prayer rotation. Randy Myller and Rebecca Duryea assist with music. Belinda Hart uses her shepherding skills with Leslie Myller.

### ACTS:

#### Acclamation

- Praise

#### Confession

- To tell one's sins to God

#### Thanksgiving

- A formal act of giving thanks, especially to God.

#### Supplication

- To humbly ask for something

The current rotation during December is on the Christmas story and the birth of our Sav-



## "Advent Vision"

A word from your Parish Administrator

We often hear the phrase, "hindsight is 20/20 vision." We are able to see things in a clearer light because we know what the outcome has been. Usually we say it because there are regrets—a poor choice made affects a present difficulty. We wish we had the opportunity to go back and change decisions. As Easter people we live on the other side of Jesus birth, death and resurrection. We have a clearer vision of God's great love for us. We have the hindsight of God's fulfillment of redeeming his people through Jesus.

Our Advents are blessed with a sure vision of God's plan for us. We do not wait for the coming of the Messiah for the first time. We await the second coming of Christ. In other words, we have an insight that the chosen people of Israel did not have. The Jews awaited the first coming of the Messiah with great anticipation. Their expectations were dashed. The Messiah they were waiting for would have been a political figure, a leader who would overthrow the Romans; a man who would *put the Gentiles in their place* and for all and restore the Jews to a place of prestige and power. They did not long for

a Messiah whose kingdom would *not* be of this earth. It was very earthly things they had in mind. Instead, our Lord and Savior came into our world quietly. His birth was humble. His parents were nothing extraordinary. The news of his birth is first delivered to shepherds—a disdained and unworthy lot at that time in history. In time, Jesus own friends and relatives will question his mission and purpose.



It is hard for us to comprehend the wisdom of God in gifting us with His one and only son in such a way.

In the year 2000 we have Messiah hindsight. But that hindsight should also be our encouragement and enlightenment for our future vision and give us some clarity to our present graces. As Christians, what is in our grasp?

During this Advent season, as we wait for the *second* coming of Christ, we have the knowledge of this wonderful truth — that Jesus Christ *is our Lord and Savior* and that he came to

save us, forgive us, redeem us, love us, and stay with us. The blessings of this gift lasts us into an eternity. We have a *different* Advent vision blessing our lives than those who first encountered our Messiah.

This good news which came to shepherds needs to be spread to all people. The gentiles have been *put in a new place*—included and adopted into God's chosen family. The Romans have a place in that family. The Europeans, Indians and Americans have a place in that family. The disenfranchised, the poor in spirit, and the destitute of heart all have a place in God's family.

May this new church year bring you ever closer to the God who loves and saves you. May you have hands to clasp in this family of faith that will lift you up when you fall and hold you fast when you stumble. May we reach out our hands to those who don't have anyone to hold on to.

Let God's gift of love in the Christ child transform your hearts this year. God bless your Advent waiting. May it open your eyes to a clearer vision of us as God's *beloved* children.

## Epiphany Party January 6, 2001

Time: 6:30 PM  
 Tickets: \$10 for adults  
 \$ 5 for children 6-12 (5 & under-free)  
 Dinner: Beef or chicken, salad, rolls, dessert,  
 and beverages  
 Entertainment



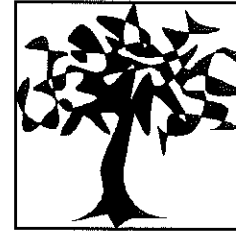
## CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Greetings in the Name of our Risen Lord and Savior!

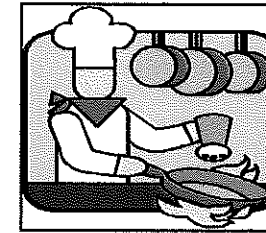
The Call Committee would like to thank each and everyone of you for remembering Concordia and the call process in your prayers. The committee would like you to know that we are diligently meeting, discussing, and praying over the call process. We have met once a week during October and November. It was a joy to start the process with over thirty names referred to us, but because of this overwhelming number, it has taken an extended period of time to consider each one. We are now concentrating on a group of approximately ten pastors. During the month of December we want to send the congregational profile, along with additional information on our congregation to some of these selected pastors. This will allow them to get an idea of what our congregation is about. We have to keep in mind that we need to be respectful of their time as we approach Christmas; we want to make sure that they have the time to devote attention to our congregational information. Having said this, the **earliest** the committee can see having a congregational meeting about extending a call would be after the first of the year.

As the Holy Spirit guides us in this exciting journey, please continue to remember Concordia, and also Pastor Wayne in your prayers.

Bart Kounovsky,  
 Call Committee



**Parents of Teens**  
 Will meet  
 Sunday, Dec 3rd, 4:30 PM  
 These sessions are lead by  
 Ruth Koenig, licensed family  
 therapist



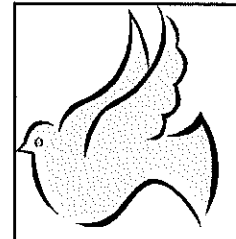
**Men's Breakfast**  
 Saturday  
 December 9, 2000  
 7:00 - 8:00AM  
 in Fellowship Hall  
 Invite A Friend!



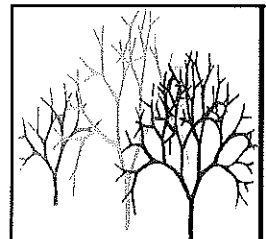
**YOUTH GROUP**  
 Will meet on Sundays,  
 December 3rd (at church)&  
 December 17th (at Walsh's)  
 at 4:30 PM.  
 (snacks provided)



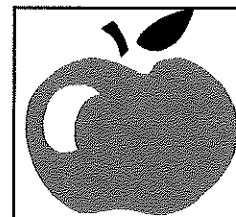
**Tuesday Morning  
 Bible Study**  
 at the Church (Fellowship  
 Hall) 6:30 - 7:30 AM  
 All are welcome!



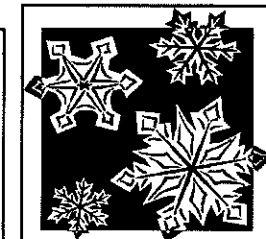
**Confirmation**  
 Will meet on Sundays,  
 December 3rd (at church)&  
 December 17th (at Smalley's)  
 at 4:30 PM.  
 (snacks provided)



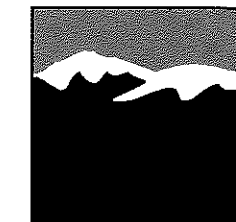
**Thursday Morning  
 Women's Bible Study:**  
 "Smart Choices: Making  
 Your Way Through Life"  
 9:00 AM in the church  
 library  
 (Childcare Provided)



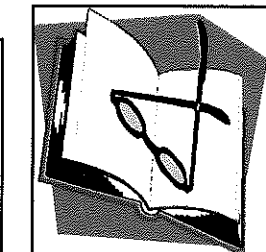
**Recovery Room**  
 Thursdays 7:00 PM  
 at the Church  
 in the Library



**LWML (Women's Guild)**  
 will meet on Saturday,  
 December 9th at 9:00 AM for  
 the "Christmas Brunch" at  
 Cindy Svendsen's, 671  
 Amethyst (extra parking at  
 church)



**Discovery Bible Study**  
 Wednesdays - 7:00 PM  
 at the Church  
 (3rd/4th grade classroom)  
 Prayers - 6:30 PM



**BOOK CLUB**  
 will not meet for the  
 month of December.

## SCOOP FROM THE SUP . . .

Luke 2:10-11  
*But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great JOY that will be for all people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord."*



My daughter Lesley has been asking me since August, "When can we get out our Christmas decorations?" Isn't it something how children anticipate Christmas. They love to bring in the beauty, the warm feelings of the season, and of course the presents!

Well, with so much time to be reminded of the upcoming day, I have made some special preparations for making the Advent season, I hope, FUN and meaningful. I have been crafting in my mind and scheduling them on my calendar opportunities to talk about the first Christmas. I find myself giggling with my own anticipation as I select stories to read and presents to give my children.

When I think about God's relationship with me, I often equate it to the relationship I have with my children. I like to imagine that God started planning the first Christmas the moment He sent Adam and Eve out of the Garden.

His heart full of love, couldn't keep Him from wanting to give us the best present ever, a Savior!

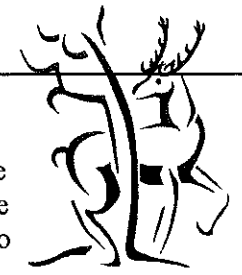
I bet that angel who was commissioned to bring the good news of great JOY, had been anticipating the first Christmas just like a child, asking God "When can we deliver the message that your "present" has come!"

Have you opened the gift that God sent so long ago. . . It's the best present you will ever be given.

Have a Christ filled Christmas,

Ellyn

## LWML (Women's Guild)

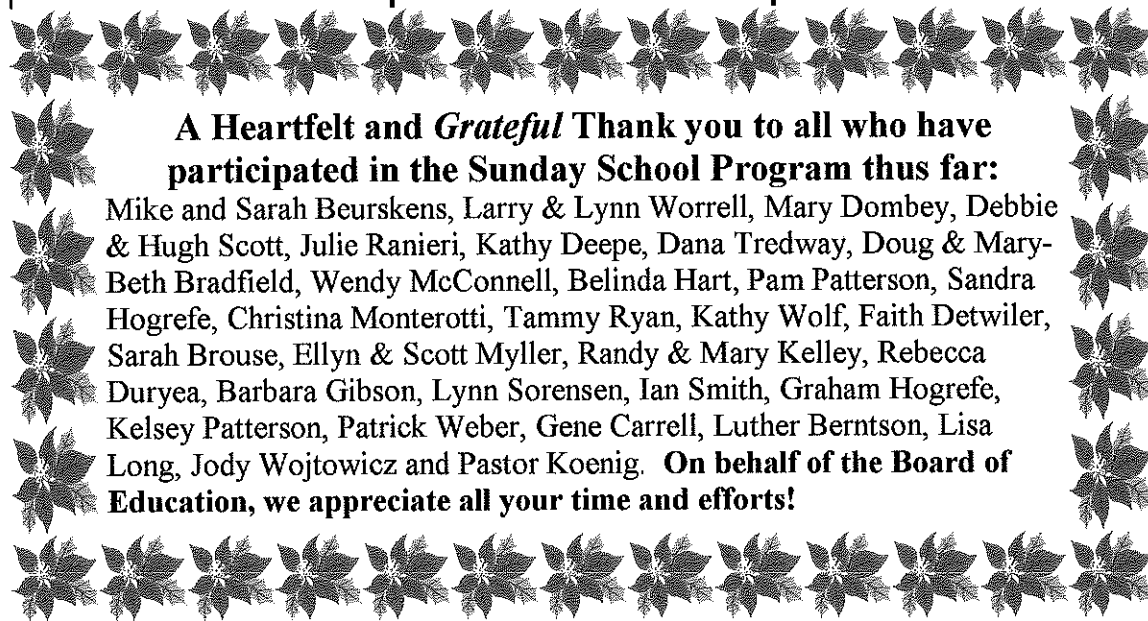


Concordia's Annual Christmas Cupboard was in November and was once again a wonderful event. Our hard working crafters and bakers helped raise over \$5,500 for our mission projects. There are still a few items left for sale downstairs in the fellowship hall - take a look if you haven't had a chance to yet.

At our November meeting we discussed how to keep Christ in Christmas. This is not necessarily an easy thing in today's world. Please take time this Christmas season to prepare for the coming of our Savior; observe Advent by coming to Advent services and using an Advent wreath at home; share the Christmas story with a child; join Jean Smith in her adult Christmas program; or talk to Ann Gilbertson about singing with the choir for Christmas. If you have someone that you'd like to share the true Christmas message with but are not quite sure how to approach the subject, Ellyn has some beautiful pamphlets called *In Search of the perfect Christmas*. You may want to include this with a baked good or small gift for that person.

The annual Christmas Brunch is coming on Saturday, December 9th from 9:00 to 11:00 AM at Cindy Svendsen's home, 671 Amethyst Dr. This Christmas gathering is a special time for the ladies of our church - please join us. Secret Sisters will be revealed at this time.

In closing, the ladies of LWML would like to wish each of you a very blessed and meaningful Christmas season.



### A Heartfelt and Grateful Thank you to all who have participated in the Sunday School Program thus far:

Mike and Sarah Beurskens, Larry & Lynn Worrell, Mary Dombey, Debbie & Hugh Scott, Julie Ranieri, Kathy Deepe, Dana Tredway, Doug & Mary-Beth Bradfield, Wendy McConnell, Belinda Hart, Pam Patterson, Sandra Hogrefe, Christina Monterotti, Tammy Ryan, Kathy Wolf, Faith Detwiler, Sarah Brouse, Ellyn & Scott Myller, Randy & Mary Kelley, Rebecca Duryea, Barbara Gibson, Lynn Sorensen, Ian Smith, Graham Hogrefe, Kelsey Patterson, Patrick Weber, Gene Carrell, Luther Berntson, Lisa Long, Jody Wojtowicz and Pastor Koenig. **On behalf of the Board of Education, we appreciate all your time and efforts!**

## Pastor's Class

Pastor Wayne is offering a new member's class on Saturday, December 9th from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM. Whether you are new to Christianity, new to the Lutheran expression of Christianity or already a member of Concordia congregation, you are encouraged to join us. Pizza will be provided for lunch. Call the office if you would like to attend (879-0175).



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Thank you to everyone who purchased Christmas wreaths from the Youth Group. This fund-raising event generated approximately \$1200 to help cover expenses for their trip to New Orleans in July, 2001. Watch for more fund-raising events at Concordia in the next several months. Concordia is sending **26 youth and 5 adults** to the National Youth Gathering!

# Calendar

Sheep Meet:  
Dec. 3 4:30 p.m. @ church

Dec. 17 4:30 p.m.  
Christmas Party  
@ Lauren Walsh's house

Fri. Jan. 5 after bb game  
Captive Free hosts  
5th Quarter!

Jan. 7 4:30 p.m. @ church

Jan. 21 Fundraiser: Pancake Brkfst @  
church (need volunteers!! Sign up on  
book in the Narthex)

Jan. 21 4:30 p.m. @ church

## CHRISTMAS PARTY



The Christmas Party will be at  
Lauren Walsh's house  
890 Hillside Ct. West  
Sunday, Dec. 17 @ 4:30 p.m.  
For directions call Lauren 879-  
7032.

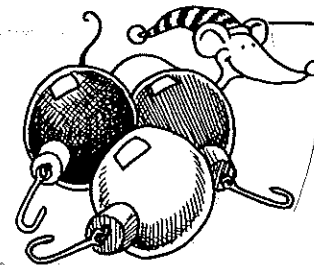
*as you requested...*

We will be doing a  
Secret Santa gift exchange  
for Christmas, as you requested,  
so at the next Sheep meeting,  
we'll draw names.



# Sheep News

December 2000



**FUNDRAISERS!**  
Your Ticket to  
New Orleans!

Sign up for fundraisers  
on book in the  
Narthex.

## Captive Free Kicks OFF NEW YEAR

First Ever...5th Quarter Event  
Hosted by Captive Free

The 5th Quarter is a youth event featuring  
games, mixers and a concert following the  
Steamboat Boys' Basketball Game Fri., Jan. 5. It  
is an AWESOME event.

We'll meet at the church @ 7 p.m.  
then walk over to the game (SB vs. Palisade)  
and cheer on the boys especially Danny We-  
ber, Jeff Aragon, Nick Monterotti.

After the game, we'll head back to the  
church for the 5th Quarter.

Watch for posters and newsletter articles  
for more information.

## Host Families

We need people to host a Captive Free  
member in their homes. There will be 4 men and  
3 women who need dinner and lodging Friday  
night, breakfast Saturday morning and a sack  
lunch to send them off. Captive Free members  
are so much fun to host. If anyone is interested,  
please contact Sarah Beurskens @ 870-9720.

Captive Free asks for an honorarium of  
\$275 to cover travel expenses and materials for  
the 5th Quarter. We are asking for donations to  
cover this. Please see Sarah Beurskens if you  
are interested.



## Lock In Fun

The mini lock-in at Peace  
Lutheran Church in Arvada was  
great. Five members of Concordia  
took part in the games such as  
Rearend Ball. After pizza and de-  
votions, it was Broomball time!  
Only one slight glitch in getting  
there: We left a van-load of youth  
back at the church without a  
driver. Oops! Sorry, Sarah! On  
Saturday we went shopping at the  
new mall Flatiron Crossing.  
Thanks to Peace Lutheran Youth  
and leaders for treating us so  
well!