

The Christogram is a monthly newsletter of Concordia Lutheran Church, Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Deadline for newsletter items is the third Sunday of each month. We welcome contributions of news items, art work, and other appropriate articles. You can email us your contribution at concordia@steamboatlutheran.org

Editors: Pastor Scott Herbert and Rebecca Duryea

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

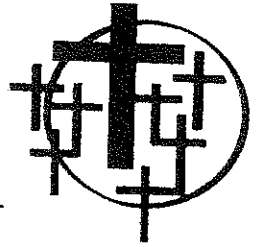
Sunday Worship: 8:00 and 10:45 AM **Education Hour:** 9:30 AM

Concordia Lutheran Church
755 Concordia Lane
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487

Dec 2002

Concordia Lutheran Church **CHRISTOGRAM**

CHRISTOGRAM



Concordia Lutheran Church

DECEMBER 2002

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

"How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?"

*The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the Holy One to be born will be called the Son of God. Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be barren is in her sixth month. **FOR NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD.**"*

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.

Luke 1:26-38

Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

At this time of year it becomes somewhat difficult to decide what to write about without sounding redundant. Yet, at the same time, the message of the angel to Mary and to us announcing the birth of the Savior of the world must never become redundant or old. Therefore, let the words of Luke resound in your hearts and minds during the coming month. Let the fulfilled promise bring joy to your heart and peace to your mind during the hectic activities of the Christmas season. Let the angel's words, "*For nothing is impossible with God*" bring to you comfort whenever the hustle and bustle gets you down. Allow God to strengthen you with the fact that the same Holy Spirit who came upon Mary has also come upon all of us in salvation. Allow yourself to be humble before God in the same way Mary was by saying, "*I am the Lord's servant.*" And let all sing along with the great company of heaven in praise to God:

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom He is pleased."

Amen

inside...

- Children's Christmas Service December 15th 8:00 AM
- Prayer Vigil December 6th / New Diner's Club page 5

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

Peace, Mercy and Grace to all through the Love of Jesus Christ:

One week ago, this last Sunday, an employee of mine decided to end his life. At the age of nineteen-he felt it was time to unite himself with his brother who decided to end his life several years before. I'm struggling with the right words to express my feelings and put some sense to this senseless end. We all grieve in different ways and sometimes we feel that nothing can be done to comfort us or relieve the pain that we feel.

In order for us to survive in times of pain and suffering, we need a strong foundation built on the Love of Jesus Christ. T (my employee's preferred name) left his parents' home at sixteen with no foundation in himself or God. He left without the chance of being a child. We, as parents must nurture our children, give them the necessities of life and the promise of eternal salvation. That is the foundation that we must build their lives on. If we give them none of this, what do they have to survive on? Every time that we introduce God into our children's lives, we add another block to their foundation. Every time that we allow our children to involve themselves in church activities, we add another block to their foundation. If we show our love for them and God, we add still another. The stronger the foundation is under our children, the more resistant they are to the perils that confront us in our lives.

I'm still struggling with the right words of comfort, but having the love of Jesus in my heart makes it easier to deal with the pain. Hang on to your children as long as you can. Love them with all your heart, just like Jesus does for all of us. Be with them in their time of need, listen to them and be supportive. Build the foundation underneath them as they are growing up, so when the time comes for them to be adults-they are. Bring Jesus into their lives whenever you can, for he is the cornerstone of our foundation.

Blessings to all,

Guy Wojtowicz

P.S. I can't thank you all enough for giving me the opportunity to be an elder. It has opened my eyes to the love that is inside this church and how wonderful it is to have partners in Christ around you. And a special thanks to Pastor Scott for the guidance he gave to some of my employees, it took away a lot of the pain that they were feeling.

Scoop from the Sup . . .



Eilyn Myller

Advent is here, and Christmas is just around the corner!!

Advent is a time to prepare to remember Christ's coming...so this year I decided to prepare to prepare and did an Advent devotional through out November, 'cause who has time to prepare in December??

It has been a rewarding time of reflection.

There are several verses in the Bible that tell us that God is always preparing for us...

"...the worlds were prepared by the Word of God," Hebrews 11:3

"...[He] prepares a table for me, in the presence of my enemies;" Psalm 23:5

"...[Jesus said] I go to prepare a place for you." John 14:2

I know that there is nothing that we must do to be saved, but come and "believe on the one whom the Father sent." John 6:29 Yet once we believe, we are his followers, followers of His example, a God who is always preparing.

How can we be prepared? Through studying His word, prayer, fellowship with other believers, and keeping watch for how He works in our lives and through us as people come across our paths who need to here the message of the angels,

"..Today in the City of David the Savior has been born!"

Jesus said, "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to myself; that where I am, there you may be also." John 14:3

What a great day that will be!!! Be prepared for that day and be prepared to share. There are many people at this time of year who are open to an invitation to come to a Christmas program or service. Let's get out there and invite them to meet our Savior, celebrate His birth and know Him for a life-time that never ends.

Have a very Merry PREPARED Christmas!

In JOY,

(cont. on next page)

Dates to remember:

- December 1 - Group Sunday School
Ministry Board of Outreach to visit
- December 8 - Christmas Lesson
- **December 14 - Christmas program rehearsal 3-5 p.m.
- December 15 - Children's Christmas Program (Early Service)
All church reception during Sunday school hour
- December 22 - Christmas Craft
- December 29 - Group Sunday School
Tools for Living

Call Ellyn if you can help with the set up or clean up for the reception on December 15th.

LWML (Women's Guild)

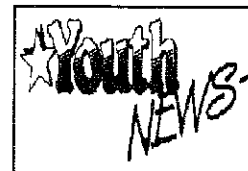
The December LWML Brunch will be on Sat., Dec. 7th at 9:00 a.m. at Tammy Ryan's home in Christian Heritage Park. (27434 Brandon Circle). This is an especially fun get together. We will have a wonderful brunch and a special Christmas story reading by Ann Gilbertson. All women of Concordia are invited to attend. **SECRET SISTERS** will be revealed at this get together - *please bring a Christmas gift for your sister.*

A huge thank you goes out to **Judy Anderson** and her crafters for their hard work on this year's CHRISTMAS CUPBOARD. It was a big success and we will be able to continue supporting our many missions with the money raised. Thanks also to the cookie bakers, and those who made specialty gifts and worked on the book fair.

DINERS' CLUB NOTICE (Jan-April, 2003)

It's time to organize another quarterly Diners' Club grouping. Anyone interested in joining this Fellowship night, please contact Sue Dreska, either by email (SEDreski@aol.com) or phone (879-4273), prior to Dec. 15 so we can begin right after the holiday season. If you are no longer interested in remaining in Diners' Club, please contact Susan to delete your name from listing. If your group hasn't met during this last session (Sept. - Dec.), please also advise Susan. Bon Appetite!!

Thanks!
Susan



The Youth Group went shopping for Lift-up on November 10th. They had raised \$320 at the car wash and Thrivent Financial gave them matching funds of \$300 so they were able to buy \$620 of groceries for Lift-up.

A huge THANK YOU to the Herbert's for the wonderful dinner and fellowship in November.

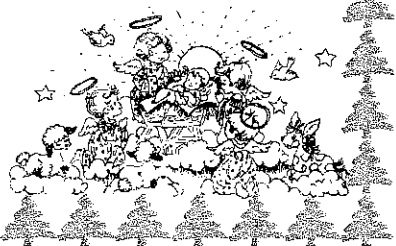
Don't forget the late start breakfast on December 11th. Guy makes a mean breakfast. Don't miss out.

CRAFT NITE AT CONCORDIA

Thank you so much to all of you who did so much to make our Christmas Cupboard crafts so successful. A special thank you to those of you who were so faithful in showing up week after week. It just wouldn't have happened without you.

God has graced us with a variety of talents and gifts. It is "by the toil of faithful workers" that God's purpose is fulfilled in the world. That's quite a calling. There may be some in the church that don't recognize the importance of this event that the LWML hosts each year, but the funds we raise are put to such good use, so therefore we must continue.

Thanks once again, and we'll see you crafters in March!
Judy Anderson







Linda White has graciously volunteered to organize our church library. If you are interested in helping her organize please call her at 871-1937 evenings.



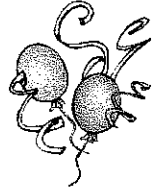
The Miracle of Christmas

December 2002




| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|---|---|--------------------------------|--|
| 1 Worship-8:00 AM Educ Hr-9:30 AM Worship-10:45 AM Confirmation 4-5:30 PM  | 2 Women's AA-7 PM | 3 Circuit Pastors Meeting 10 AM-3PM Youth Choir 3:30PM Trustees 5:15 PM Elders 6PM/AlAteen 6PM Fellowship 7PM | 4 Soup Supper 5:30 PM Advent Worship 7 PM | 5 Women's Bible Study 9AM  Choir 6 PM Bells 7PM Stephen Ministry 8PM | 6 Prayer Vigil 5-8PM | 7 New Member Class 8:30 - 3PM Journey 10-noon Worship 5:30 PM |
| 8 Worship-8:00 AM Educ Hr-9:30 AM Worship-10:45 AM Confirmation 4-5:30 PM  | 9 Pizza With Pastor 6:30-8:00PM Women's AA-7 PM | 10 Youth Choir 3:30 PM Al-Ateen 6:00PM Church Council 7PM | 11 Late Start Breakfast 9AM Soup Supper 5:30 PM Advent Worship 7 PM | 12 Women's Bible Study 9AM Choir 6 PM Bells 7PM | 13 | 14 Men's Breakfast 7 AM Sunday School Service Practice 3-5 PM Worship 5:30 PM |
| 15 Worship-8:00 AM S.S. Christmas Service Reception in FH 9:30AM Worship-10:45 AM Confirmation 4-5:30 PM | 16 Women's AA-7 PM | 17 Youth Choir 3:30 PM Al-Ateen 6:00PM | 18 Soup Supper 5:30 PM Advent Worship 7 PM | 19 Women's Bible Study 9AM Choir 6 PM Bells 7PM | 20 | 21 Worship 5:30 PM |
| 22 Worship-8:00 AM Educ Hr-9:30 AM Worship-10:45 AM DWCC - 1:00 PM  | 23 Tools for Living 6PM Women's AA-7 PM | 24 Christmas Eve Services 5:30 7:30 & 10 PM | 25 Christmas Day Worship 10:00 AM | 26 | 27 | 28 Worship 5:30 PM |
| 29 Worship-8:00 AM Educ Hr-9:30 AM Worship-10:45 AM | 30 Women's AA-7 PM | 31 New Year's Eve Family Game Night & Service to ring in the New Year | <h1>JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON</h1> | | | |

December Birthdays
 Happy Birthday to these December birthday celebrants:



7 - Nocona Falk
 20-Ben Bradfield
 21-Raya Duryea
 23-Antonio Ranieri
 24-Erin Scheiwe
 26-Eryn Rinck



Baptism Birthdays

7 - Leo Starbuck
 7 - Keenan Starbuck
 7 - Mariah Starbuck
 8 - Zachary Wojtowicz
 12-Will Beurskens
 18-Cory McConnell
 24-John Hannaway
 27-Kasey Kirdendall
 28-Brian Aragon
 28-Jack Craig

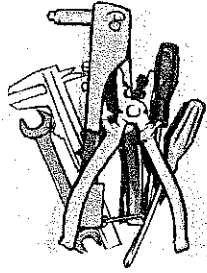
Do you have a birthday in December but you're not on the list? Please call the office and let us know. We'd love to say Happy Birthday to all our members.

TRUSTEE COMMITTEE

No meeting was held for November, but there are a couple things that we would like to bring to your attention. Lee Ladyga will be stripping the waxing the floor on Friday, November 22, so please take care of our new clean floors so this can last longer for us. The kitchen needs extra attention and needs to be cleaned up after each event that is held.

Also, please consider helping finish up with the bathroom remodel job for the parsonage. We would like to finish up that project and need help with funds and volunteers.

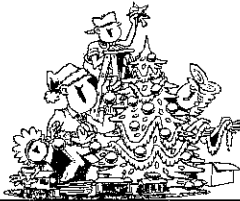
Respectfully submitted,
Dave Anderson



FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

There was no meeting held this month, but we would like to remind you that there are Concordia Soup Suppers coming up and hope you attend. The first one is the eve of Thanksgiving, November 27, that the Greeters Group will be serving. There are also suppers planned for December 4, 11, and 18th. Please plan to come and share in that fellowship and good food.

See you at the Soup Suppers,
Judy Anderson



December Prayer Vigil Friday the 6th from 5-8 PM

"A family who prays together stays together." Join your family of faith here at Concordia for our monthly prayer vigil. It will begin at 5 PM with the Ministry Boards coming together at 6 PM to pray for all the different ministries. From 7:00 - 8:00 PM there will be elders here to pray with anyone who would like to pray for healing - spiritual, physical or emotional.



Debbie Freseman had her bone marrow transplant on Tuesday November 26. Keep them in your prayers.

Be sure and visit their web page where updates are being posted on Debbie's condition. <http://geocities.com/dfreseman> You can sign their guest book to let them know your thinking about them. Their mailing address for cards etc. is: 139 26th Ave East Seattle, WA 98112

Al-Ateen? What's Al-Ateen?

Al-Ateen is a group that has been started much like AA and Al-Anon. This group is focused on young people and teenagers, 6-19 years of age, who are trying to cope with the effects of having someone in their lives that is dealing with an addiction to alcohol - it might be a parent, a sibling, any relative or a friend. The group will be meeting on Tuesdays, starting on November 5th at 6 pm in the youth room here at Concordia.

Flower Chart

The new flower chart for 2003 is up on the moveable bulletin board in the entryway. It's a wonderful way to remember someone's birthday or special occasion. Cost is \$12.50 and you can take them home after the late service. Sign up today.



The Plant Pro Sue Bockelman

The church office received a letter from Sue, who is a Christian here in the Yampa Valley. She is selling Christmas Decorations. (ie. wreaths, boughs, pine cones, poinsettias, cactus, etc.) If you would like to see what she has available let me know. I can put a copy in your box, or stop in the office and take a look.



"They gave to anyone as he had need." Acts 2:45



The Christmas Wishes Tree is up in the Narthex. If you would like to participate, please take a gift tag, buy the item on the tag, wrap it, put the tag on the gift, and return it to the church. Please have all gifts to the church by Dec. 15. The families are also in need of non-perishable food items. There is a tub by the tree for those. I will also need help with delivery on Dec. 21st. If you have any questions call Belinda Hart 879-7486. Thanks to all for your generosity!



TOOLS FOR LIVING

Step 2

Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity.

Step 2 is a logical outgrowth of Step 1 because, if in Step 1, we have admitted our own powerlessness, then the next step is to seek a new source of strength or power to take charge for us and make us sane (well and whole). For some people, spiritual conversion is dramatic as it was for the apostle Paul on the road to Damascus (Acts 9). For most, however, it is very gradual. As one grows and matures emotionally, one also grows spiritually.

Before we can welcome in a new Power to restore us to wellness, we will probably have to engage in some emotional and spiritual "housecleaning":

- 1) We must bring into abstinence or balance all the addictive agents through which we have sought to meet our deepest needs. Money, sex, career, chemicals, anything and everything about which we have become excessive, must be put into proper perspective--not lifted onto a pedestal to be worshiped.
- 2) We must transcend the god of reason if we have been worshipping God through an exclusively intellectual approach.
- 3) We must renounce the tendency to play God ourselves. We must grow Beyond selfishness, narcissism, and grandiosity.
- 4) We must also renounce putting other people or human institutions in the roles of gods.

Not only must we be rid of false gods, if we are looking to the Judo-Christian God as our higher Power, but we may also need to overcome old sources of bitterness toward Him:

- 1) We may have identified God with an abusive parent.
- 2) We may have had negative experiences with the church (hypocrisy, bigotry, condemnation).
- 3) We may be struggling with a sense that God has failed us--that He has allowed us to become codependent.
- 4) We may be angry that God has not instantaneously healed us of our addictive illness.

If we really want to fill the void, if we really want to break down the barriers hindering our progress, we need to turn to the ultimate source of God's Word and discover what the Scriptures have to tell us. We will learn more about God, we will draw closer to Him, and we will discover more about His will for us.

To help you understand what the Scriptures say about God's power to restore us to wholeness, see the recovery meditations on the following passages:

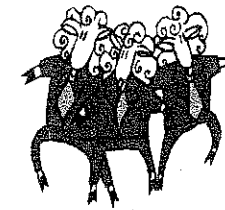
Matthew 12:18-21 Mark 9:23,24 Luke 13:10-13 John 6:63 Psalm 142

Taken from Serenity A Companion for the Twelve Step Recovery
Dr. Robert Hemfelt & Dr. Richard Fowler



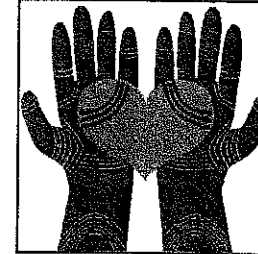
Confirmation

Meets on Sundays in
December 4:00-5:30
PM



YOUTH GROUP

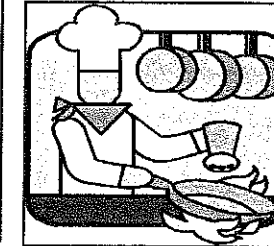
Meets every Sunday at
9:30 in the Youth Room
Late start Breakfast
December 11 at 9AM



STEPHEN MINISTERS

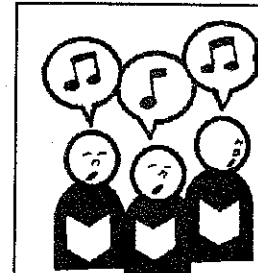
"A friend who has developed gifts for bringing Christ's healing to hurting places."

Monthly meeting
December 5 at 8 PM



Men's Breakfast

Saturday
December 14
7:00 - 8:30AM
in Fellowship Hall
Invite A Friend!



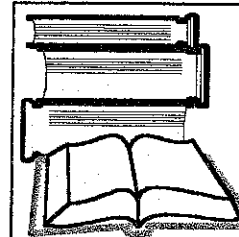
YOUTH CHOIR

Meets on Wednesdays
after school from
3:30 to 4:30PM.
Come sing with us.



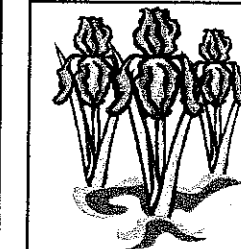
Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study

Meets every Thursday
morning 9-10:30 AM
Come water your faith
seeds.



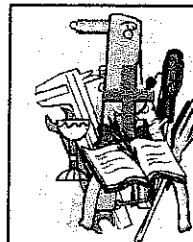
Discovery Bible Study

No Discovery in
December Please come
to Advent Services on
Wednesdays



LWML

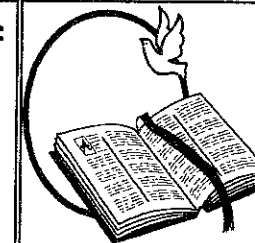
The Christmas Brunch will
be on December 7th
9:00AM at Tammy Ryan's
home
27434 Brandon Circle.
Secret Sisters revealed.



TOOLS FOR LIVING:

Ministry team for recovery,
addiction & prevention

Monthly meeting on
November 25th 6-7 PM



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Sunday Mornings 9:30 in
the Chapel.
We're studying Mark.
Come join us.

