

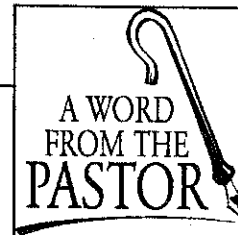
Concordia Lutheran Church

CHRISTOGRAM

Volume 1, Issue 7

December 2003

Thoughts from the Pastor



*The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham
So all the generations from Abraham to David were fourteen generations, and from
David to the deportation to Babylon were fourteen generations, and from the deportation to
Babylon to the Christ fourteen generations.* Matt. 1:1, 17 (ESV)

*Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age, being the son (as was supposed) of
Joseph the son of Enos, the son of Seth, the son of Adam, the son of God.*
Luke 3:23, 38 (ESV)

Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

In the November 19th Portals of Prayer daily devotion titled "Empty Promises" the author talks about the differences between the empty promises of human beings who are at times unable to keep the promises they make due to 'circumstances beyond our control' and the eternally fulfilled promises of the One who is in charge and command of all of creation, all of history and all of eternity. Herbert Hoover was unable to fulfill his 1928 campaign promise of "a chicken in every pot, a car in every garage" due to his inability to be in total control of the economic situation in this country and around the world. The God of all creation has made a promise to the world that salvation shall come through His Son who will be a descendant of king David, Abraham and Adam. Eternal life, the Word of God promises, is given to all by the grace of God through faith in this son of David and Son of God, Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

The genealogies of Matthew and Luke serve to remind us first of the promises God has made, second, and most important that God is faithful in fulfilling, completely by Himself, the promises He has made. During the midweek Advent services we will be looking at certain parts of the genealogies of our Savior in order to be blessed and uplifted by once again hearing of the promises of God fulfilled in His Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Come and be filled by the soup suppers and by the Word of God on Wednesday, December 3rd, 10th, and 17th and invite others to come and be fed as well so that as we once again behold our Lord on Christmas Day we may join together with Simeon in singing praise to God as he held the Christ child:

*Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen
your salvation that you have prepared before all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to
your people Israel.* Luke 2:29-32 (ESV)

Brothers and sisters in Christ; *Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he
is pleased.* Luke 2:14

In Christ's Service
Pastor Scott

Words from Ellie Bach

December, '03

The Perfect Gift

Let me just begin by saying that I don't think I'm a normal girl. **I hate shopping.** I would much rather know what I was looking for, where to get it, and where the exit is. I can maybe browse around for four or five minutes for nothing in particular, not four or five hours! So it is a good thing that with Christmas time comes Christmas spirit. I have a little more patience shopping for people that I care about, as opposed to shopping for something for myself. This is the only time that I can go shopping not knowing exactly what I was looking for and not lose my mind.

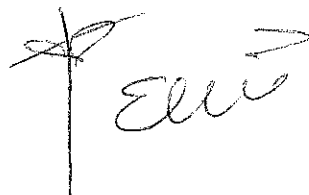
So you know how when you give someone a gift for Christmas or their birthday and they don't use it, or don't seem excited about it—that is way disappointing, right? I hate that feeling. It's hard enough to pick out a gift in the first place, but then when it is not received well, I feel even worse. I was thinking the other day about this and wondering if that's how God felt. He gave us the greatest gift we could ever receive; the greatest gift that ever existed and we were like, "Well, gee, thanks God." Sometimes it seems as if we realize the value and beauty of the gift of His son. But other times it's like an old toy that has worn out its usefulness. How sad.



But here's the kicker. Unlike us, God had the ability to see into the future and know what our response was going to be to this amazing gift. He knew that the Holy Spirit would work miracles in the hearts of some. And He knew that some would reject Him and turn away. But despite that knowledge, He sacrificed everything and gave us the gift anyway. What kind of amazing love is that? See, because if I was honest with myself, I know that I probably wouldn't have wasted my time. And I know that I wouldn't have wanted to sacrifice anything for someone who wouldn't be grateful—let alone my only Son. Knowing that God chose to do that for me anyway blows my mind away. I can't even begin to understand the kind of love He has for us. Perfect love...wow.



So this Christmas, while I'm trying to find the perfect gifts for my family and friends, I want to have in the back of my mind the perfect gift we've already received. I want to remember how much I am loved. And I want to encourage you this season to spend some time thinking about the great love it took for God to give us His only Son. And then think about the same love that held Jesus on the cross that Friday so long ago. May you be filled with joy and peace this Christmas because of this knowledge that someone loves you more than you'll ever be able to understand here on earth. Merry Christmas and God bless!



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

Dear Brothers and Sisters In Christ,

This week we are preparing for the State Semi Final football game against Florence. The Players and coaches are working together to attain a common goal, that is, playing for the State Championship next week.

What a difference a year makes! Last year's team was plagued with dissention, disharmony, disloyalty, and disunity. Players and coaches were selfish, thinking only for themselves and their individual needs. The football family was in disarray. By the Grace of God, we were able to turn the situation around.

This year's team is comprised of kids that genuinely like and respect one another. They have fun and are focused on attaining the goal of playing for the State title. They believe in the cliché:

T-TOGETHER
E-EVERYONE
A-ACHIEVES
M-MORE

Here at Concordia we have some of the same elements of last year's team. We need to turn things around. Scripture tells us how to do this. Psalm 133:1 says, "How good and how pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity," and 1 Corinthians 1:10 states, "I appeal to you brothers in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree one with another so that there may be no divisions among you and that you may be perfectly in mind and thought." Both of these scriptures express the same spiritual truth as John 17, where Jesus prayed that His followers would be established in love, holiness, and unity. He knew that the Holy Spirit could not operate among them if there were divisions based on sin and selfish ambitions.

Let the **TEAM** of Concordia unite in Christ and become one.

Yours In Christ, Bob Harris

CONCERT OF

December Concert of Prayer is on Friday the 5th from 4:30- 6:00PM. can. All are welcome

Come join us when you and encouraged to come together to pray for our church and our community and share any personal prayer requests. Church council will be here at 5:30 pm.

"HAPPY BIRTHDAY" TO OUR OCTOBER CELEBRANTS

"Happy Birthday
to....."

Dec 3 - Jordan Shackelford
Dec 3 - Jennifer Sharp
Dec 7 - Nocona Falk
Dec 20 - Ben Bradfield
Dec 21 - Raya Duryea
Dec 24 - Maegan Lokteff
Dec 24 - Erin Scheiwe
Dec 26 - Eryn Rinck
Dec 27 - Ellie Bach
Dec 28 - Rebecca Duryea
Dec 31 - LeAnn Wattles

"Happy Baptism Day
to....."

Dec 7 - Keenan Starbuck
Dec 7 - Leo Starbuck
Dec 7 - Mariah Starbuck
Dec 12 - Will Beurskens
Dec 18 - Cory McConnell
Dec 28 - Brian Aragon
Dec 28 - Jack Craig



YOUTH NEWS

Hello youth group!

Christmas is coming and we're ready—bring it on. This month we're doing things together. On December 21st both the JUNIOR HIGH and the SENIOR HIGH will be going *Christmas Caroling* at 4:30pm. We will meet at church at 4:15pm. After that, we are heading back to church for *pizza* and a *Christmas party*. The way it will work is this: first we will eat pizza and probably put on a Christmas movie. After that, each youth member will need to have brought a \$5 gift, wrapped and ready to give away. Then we will experience cut throat gift giving (which I will explain later). There will be great times had by all.



But before that, we are *baking cookies* to give to the people we carol to. We will probably be going to the shut-ins of the church as well as the nursing home. Depending on how long it takes, we will try to hit your houses or others here in town. Caroling is so much fun; it doesn't really even matter who we sing to. And the best part is, house all around will hear us and *that* is a great witnessing tool. So, meet on December 20th at 1:00pm to bake up a storm. Those of you who came to baking last time know how much fun is in store for us again.

This Christmas season, I want you all to take a minute to realize how unbelievably self-less God's gift of Jesus was for us. People sometimes think that Because Jesus was God that He had to stay on the cross, or that it was easier for Him. But let me tell you something—the only thing that held Him on that cross was His love for you and for me. So this season, take an extra minute to think about what we are celebrating, and thank God for His amazing love.

Before I end this letter, I just want to tell you all that my first few months here have been a blast. I love working with you guys—if you can call it work. And I'm looking forward to doing more things with you next year. God's blessings to all of you. And Merry Christmas! Peace in Him--

SENIOR HIGH: Due to Wednesday night Advent services we will resume Bible Study in January. The first one will be January 7th. We start at 7:00pm and finish at 8:30pm.

Attention Parents and Congregation Members:

The youth group would like to extend an invitation to everyone to come caroling with us on Dec. 21st. You can never have too many voices praising God. So if you would like to join us, meet at church at 4:15pm. We'd love to have ya!

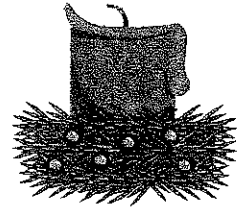
--The Youth Group



LWML (Women's Guild) News...

"Serving the Lord with Gladness"

Concordia Lutheran Women's Guild will host a Christmas Brunch for all ladies of our congregation, Saturday, December 6th at 10:00 AM. It will be at the home of Tammy Ryan 27434 Brandon Circle (Heritage Park). We will reveal our Secret Sisters (if you have one) at that time. Please call Tammy at 879-9813 if you can bring an egg dish, pastries, or fruit. Beverages and wonderful fellowship will be provided.



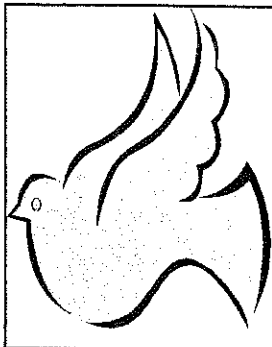
A special thank you to Judy Anderson for chairing the Christmas Cupboard and to all the talented ladies who worked so hard all year long on homespun gifts. Also many thanks to Dianne Weber, Sherry Kammerer, Janis Herbert, Linda White and Billee Harris and their crew for making thousands of delectable cookies. Thank you to Sue Krohn and Nancy Kounovsky for organizing the Specialty items and to Pam Patterson and the kitchen crew for a delicious brunch. God has truly blessed us with so many wonderful women in this congregation. All proceeds from the Christmas Cupboard will be donated to missions locally and world wide.



Just a Reminder:



Please do not leave Rummage at the church until our next sale in May. We don't have any storage space and will appreciate the donations in the Spring. Thank you for your cooperation and for all your great donations in October.



Confirmation

Is meeting on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am. 5/6 First year in the Chapel, 7/8 Second year in the old youth room!



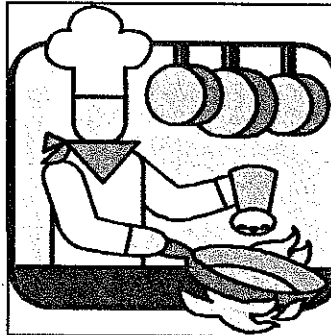
YOUTH GROUP

Meets every Sunday morning at 9:30 in the Youth Room. Come have a lot of fun with Ellie & Josh.



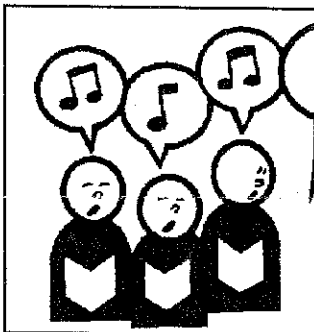
STEPHEN MINISTERS

“A friend who has developed gifts for bringing Christ’s healing to hurting places.”



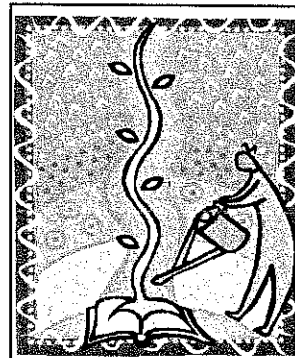
Men’s Breakfast

Saturday December 13, 7:00 - 8:15AM in Fellowship Hall Invite A Friend!



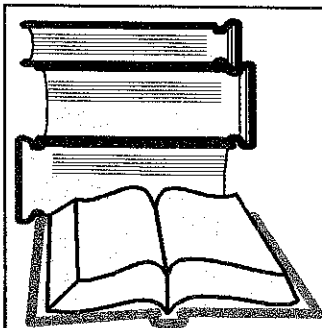
YOUTH CHOIR

Meets every Wednesday right after school from 3:30-4:30 pm. Join us for a lot of praise & fun!



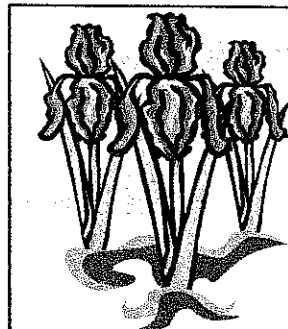
Wednesday Morning Women’s Bible Study

NEW DAY same time: 9-10:30 AM Come water your faith seeds. We’re finishing studying Romans & going to Hebrews.



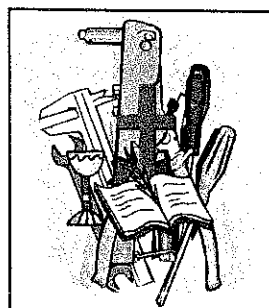
Small Group Bible Studies

are meeting at various homes. Check the board in the narthex for Bible study opportunities.



LWML

December 6th at 10 AM Christmas Brunch at Tammy Ryan's home. 27434 Brandon Circle (Heritage Park)



TOOLS FOR LIVING:

Ministry team for recovery, addiction & prevention

Next Meeting TBA



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Christianity 101 is meeting in the library. Our second Bible study is meeting in the Sanctuary. We’re studying Genesis. Come join us.

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.

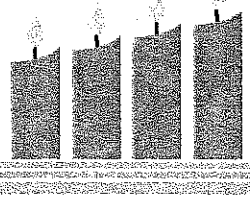
Saturday Worship: 5:30 PM

Sunday Worship: 8 & 10:45 AM **Education Hour:** 9:15 AM

Concordia Lutheran Church
755 Concordia Lane
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487



Dec 2003

Concordia Lutheran Church *CHRISTOGRAM*



December 2003



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Prayer Time 7:20-7:40 am Women's AA 7 PM	2 Worship Comm 4:30 pm Trustees 5:30 PM O & A 5:15 PM Elder's Meeting 6PM	3 Women's Bible Study 9 AM  Soup Supper 5:30PM Advent Service 7:00 PM	4 Choir 6 PM Bells 7PM	5 Concert of Prayer 4:30-6:00 PM 	6 Worship 5:30 PM
7 Worship - 8:00 AM Educ Hr - 9:30 AM Worship - 10:45 AM	8 Prayer Time 7:20-7:40 am Women's AA 7:00 PM	9 Church Council 7PM	10 Women's Bible Study 9 AM Soup Supper 5:30PM Advent Service 7:00 PM	11 Choir 6 PM Bells 7PM	12	13 Men's Breakfast 7AM Worship 5:30 PM
14 Worship - 8:00 AM Educ Hr - 9:30 AM CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS SERVICE- 10:45 AM	15 Prayer Time 7:20-7:40 am Women's AA 7 PM	16 Youth Board 6:00 PM LWML 7:00 PM	17 Women's Bible Study 9 AM Soup Supper 5:30PM Advent Service 7:00 PM	18 Choir 6 PM Bells 7PM	19	20 Jr. & Sr. High Youth Cookie Baking 1 PM Worship 5:30 PM
21 Worship - 8:00 AM Educ Hr - 9:30 AM Worship - 10:45 AM Jr. & Sr. High Youth Caroling & Christmas Party 4:15 PM	22 Prayer Time 7:20-7:40 am Women's AA 7 PM	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE Services: 5:30 PM 7:30 PM 10:00 PM (communion)	25 CHRISTMAS DAY Service at 10:00 AM (communion) CHRIST IS BORN!!!	26	27 Worship 5:30 PM
28 Worship - 8:00 AM Educ Hr - 9:30 AM Worship - 10:45 AM DWCC 1PM	29 Prayer Time 7:20-7:40 am Women's AA 7 PM	30 Board of Christian Ed 6 PM	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE			