

Concordia Lutheran Church

CHRISTOGRAM

Volume 1, Issue 7

January 2004

Thoughts from the Pastor



The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.
Proverbs 18:10

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

God's strength and wisdom be with you all as we journey together into a new year and as we continue our journey together in service to the Lord and in His Kingdom.

2004^e has begun. It seems like 2003 just got here. I guess the old adage about time passing by faster and faster the older you get is true. So here we are. The future is always a scary place. Not knowing what it holds gives us much uncertainty and causes us to pause before we move forward. But forward we must go. As part of the body of Christ in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, forward we must go in service to our Lord, in witness to the world of His grace and mercy shown in His Son and given through faith in His suffering, death, and resurrection on our behalf. All of this we know as truth, it is what the Word of God teaches us; but how it all plays out in our lives individually and together as Christians remains, in large part, a mystery. Therefore, know that the name we all bear 'Christian' is indeed a strong tower in our lives, that there we are safe, as God has come to us with salvation, peace, and strength so that the wisdom of His Word and the power of His Spirit may be that which we depend on throughout the year of our Lord 2004.

Yes there is mystery in the unknown; but there is also excitement. It is exciting to sit back and consider just what the Lord has in mind for us in 2004. It is exciting to know that He will use us to continue to spread the gospel message of grace, mercy and peace to the world through His Son Jesus Christ. It is exciting to know that our Lord and Savior is interceding for us in heaven as He is also continuing to prepare places for all of His own to spend eternity with Him. It is exciting to be part of the body of Christ in this place and to be part of His ministry here with you. God's blessings to you all in 2004.

In Christ's Service
Pastor Scott

Words from Ellie Bach

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our LORD."

Romans 8:38-39

Dear Friends,

January '04

What a great event in history we just celebrated! I think Christmas has to be one of my favorite times of year, simply because it is surrounded by so much joy and happiness. And you know, people are just in better moods around the holidays. ☺

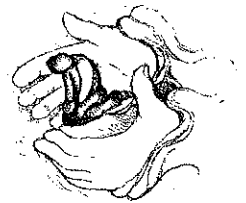
This month I want to talk about joy. I was thinking the other day about the word *melancholy*. What kind of word is that? It sounds like it should be some sort of fruit or something. Who thinks of things like that?! And what does it actually mean? So, I looked it up. I didn't find the culprit that invented it, but I did find a definition. Webster's Dictionary defines it as: *gloomy or sad*. Some of its synonyms are: *despondent, downhearted, pensive, and somber*. But some of its antonyms are: *happy, cheerful, and merry*. As I was pondering these words and how they fit in my life I was made aware again that sometimes the trials we go through in life try and rob us of our enjoyment of all that's going on. They try to steal away our joy. There have been several times in my life when I have been carrying around burdens that have caused me to lose sight of something very important: *Sin and sorrow and suffering can never take away the love of Jesus*. That is all I need to know. Even in times when my heart is heavy, underneath it all, there is always joy. There is laughter. There is friendship. There is Jesus. The weight of our burdens can never squash the foundation that was laid before we were born. The knowledge of the incomparable love of Jesus is enough to bring joy to my heart and a smile to my face even in the times of hardest trial.

I used to struggle with struggling. Funny sounding, I know. But I had a hard time feeling sad or broken hearted because I thought that with Jesus I should just be happy all the time. That's not what I'm saying today. What I want you to know is that when we are hurting, Jesus hurts with us. But even in the middle of the storm we can celebrate, because we know that we are loved by the One who matters most. Scott Kripayne, a contemporary Christian artist, has a song that says these words:

"Sometimes He calms the storm, with a whisper, 'Peace, be still.' He can settle any sea, but it doesn't mean He will. Sometimes He holds us close and lets the wind and waves go wild. Sometimes He calms the storm, and other times He calms His child."

What great words of comfort. God doesn't promise us a life that is easy. But He does promise us His presence.

So as you begin this New Year, whether you are ready and raring to go or carrying some burdens on your heart—begin it knowing that God is beside you every step of the way. If you're dancing with joy, know He's dancing with you. If life has got you feeling *melancholy*, know that the LORD is offering His arm to help you stand up and keep going. *God loves you more than you will ever know*. I pray that this year those words will carry you through it all. May God's peace reign in your heart as you dedicate another year to Him and His service. God's blessings to you all and Happy New Year!



"We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed... Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal."

2 Corinthians 4:8, 16-18

Ellie

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

Thoughts from an Elder

Happy New Year to every one of God's children at Concordia.

It seems appropriate to think about new beginnings. We all probably contemplate New Year's resolutions in one way or another this time of year.

One resolution that we all should consider for our list is building Love back into our lives. That's not to say we don't already have Love in our thoughts, words and deeds, but in this culture it's easy to lose or misplace Love in the business of life. It is so easy for satan to slide in the back door and start eroding the Love we cherish and abide by as Christians, replacing it with misunderstanding, selfishness, resentment, anger or many other negative destructive feelings and emotions. Keeping a Loving attitude requires some work as humans on this earth.

The Christmas season is such a good reminder every year to remember to rebuild that Love. Consider the great Love God had for us to send His Son to be our Savior, to show us the way, knowing the suffering Jesus would go through for us. What wonderful Love God has, to give us that gift. One of the things he asks is that we return, live by and extend that Love. It's a simple plan but hard to do with satan always there trying to put a wrench in the works. Thank Jesus every day for the Love and Forgiveness He shows us.

You have all probably received a letter from President Golter responding to his visit to our congregation. Proceeding with Love is the key of his message in moving forward to create an attractive and sustaining congregation. Love is the answer to success in these new beginnings.

With Love all things are possible. 1 Corinthians Chapter 13 sums it up very well if you want to give it a read. I pray your new year becomes an experience of the Love God intended.

In Christ's service,
Jake

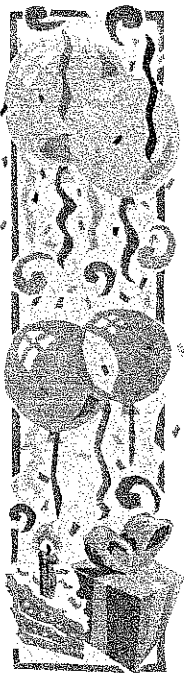
CONCERT OF PRAYER



January Concert of Prayer is on Friday the 9th from 4:30 - 6:00PM.

Come join us when you can. All are welcome 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 JANUARY CELEBRANTS



"Happy Birthday to....."

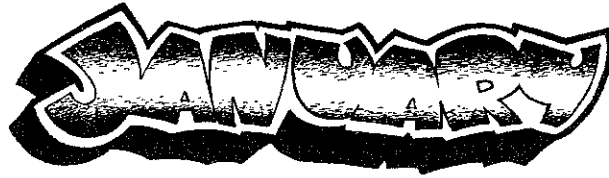
Jan 02 Carter Kounovsky
 Jan 06 Jordan Gorr
 Jan 08 Sara Lindsey
 Jan 09 Evan Hornstein
 Jan 10 Ben Siegel
 Jan 13 Tyler Scott
 Jan 14 Karen Burin
 Jan 16 Christian Hogrefe
 Jan 18 Samantha Smalley
 Jan 31 Jennifer Peterson
 Jan 31 John Peterson

"Happy Baptism Day to....."

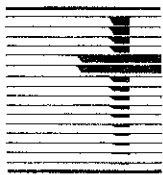
Jan 03 Raya Duryea
 Jan 03 Hope Scott
 Jan 03 Tyler Scott
 Jan 16 Laura Bradfield



YOUTH NEWS



Hello Youth Member and Happy New Year!



I hope this addition of our news letter finds you as excited about this upcoming year as I am. We have a ton of great activities planned for this coming year. I'm sure things will be busy with school and sports and things, but make sure to take time to be with God. He loves to have you around!

Before we get to the calendar, there are a few things to be noted:



- First, Josh and I will be continuing to do home visits starting in January. Since December is so busy we decided not to try and squeeze more time out of you. So, you will be receiving another phone call from me asking for a time when we can steal 20 min. from you. It goes by way fast and is very informal. Talk to your parents so they know we're coming. If you have a day or a specific time that you would rather us visit, feel free to call the church 879-0175 and let me know. We'll do our best to accommodate you.

- Second, our Bible study will be up and kicking again. We are starting right away on the 7th of January. Meet at church at 7:00pm and we will be finished at 8:30pm. In case you forgot what we are doing, we're studying "Case for Faith" by Lee Strobel. It's a great book that looks at the challenging questions in our faith. Come check it out!

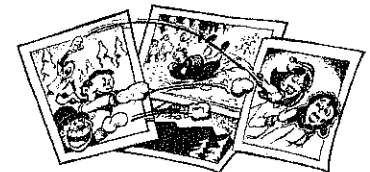


- And lastly, we are going to have a super bowl sub sandwich sale. We will need to take orders on Sundays during the month of January. Then super bowl Sunday we will come to church early in the morning to make the sandwiches fresh; then people can pick them up at church. (For the rest of the details, see the additional sheet.)



Okay, now on to the Calendar:

January 11th @ 2:00pm: Because of all the holidays, this is the only date you need to remember for the month of January. We are going sledding. Dress warm and be ready for a great time! Afterwards we'll have some hot chocolate to get warmed up.



Don't forget that every Sunday morning we meet at 9:30am in the youth room. We'd love to have you join us.



This month we celebrate Epiphany, when the wise men reached Jesus. I encourage you to be like them—seek the King. No matter what you are doing, do it to glorify God. Seek Him out every day; He's waiting for you. God's blessings to you all!

Eric

LWML (Women's Guild) News...

Attention, Women

January Meeting

LWML will meet at the home of Cindy Svendsen Tuesday January 20th at 7:00 PM. We will carpool from the church at 6:45 pm. Cindy's address is: 276 Harwig Circle.

Snowshoe Retreat

LWML will host an all day (9 am- 3 pm) retreat at the home of Lynn Worrell. The day will start with a Continental Breakfast followed by a Bible Study led by Janis Herbert, lunch and a snowshoe tour led by Lynn. For those who do not want to venture outside, games will be provided, by the fireside.

If you need snowshoes, please let Lynn know and she will provide them. 879-3932



Thank you to Tammy Ryan for hosting the Christmas Brunch.
Everyone had a wonderful time!

FOOTBALL FOOD

The youth group will be taking orders for sub-sandwiches each Sunday this month to get ready for the Super Bowl. 6 inch sandwiches are \$3.50 and 12 inch are \$6.00. We will also be selling bags of puppy chow. For those of you who don't know what that is, you'd better just buy some and try it out. J You can order any time this month, and preferably pay at the time of your order. Then on February 1st, you will be able to pick up your order between services—just in time for the big game! Please help support our youth group as they continue to raise money both for the trip to Orlando as well as the group in general. (For more details, see the display in the hallway.)



THANKS!

Epiphany Celebration

Sign up on the sheet in the foyer to join in the Epiphany celebration with a sleigh ride, dinner and music at the Sunset Ranch (directions on the sign up sheet). It will be on Saturday evening, January 10th at 6:30. Price will be \$30.00 per person. Sign up as soon as you can in order to reserve sleighs and dinner selections. If you have any questions, call the church office at 879-0175.

TOOLS FOR LIVING

LET GO AND LET GOD

(Twelve Step Slogan)

Some days we might ask ourselves, is it worth it?
We feel alone. No one seems to care.
Life seems hard. Recovery seems hard.

This is when we need to slow down and take
A look at what's going on. We're feeling
this way because we're off our recovery path.
We may be back into wanting people to see
things our way, or do things our way.
We want control.

Remember, all problems are not our problems.
All work is not our work. We can't have
everything the way we want it. But we can
do our part and let go of the rest.
Then we can feel better.

Man is that hard for me to do. To let go and let God! What me? Let someone else do for me? What? Someone else knows how to make something work better than I do? Control is what I know best as a recovering person. Why would I let go of that? Because, the only way to heal is to let God control, what happens in my life. I work at this day by day. When I succeed at this my life becomes simpler, and everyone around me is happier.

Yours in Him,

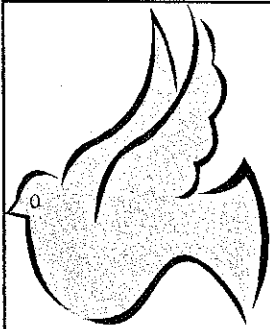
Becca Utu

Prayer for the Day

Dear God,

Help me remember my only work today is to do Your will for me. It is not my job to be YOU. Help me talk to others and deal with things that seem to pull me down.

Amen



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!



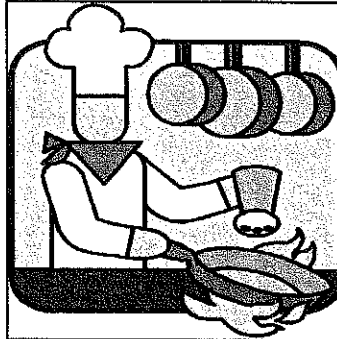
YOUTH GROUP

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



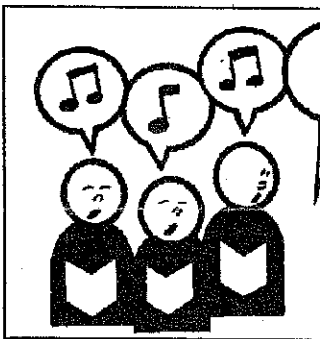
STEPHEN MINISTERS

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



Men's Breakfast

Saturday January 10th
7:00 - 8:15AM
in Fellowship Hall
Invite A Friend!



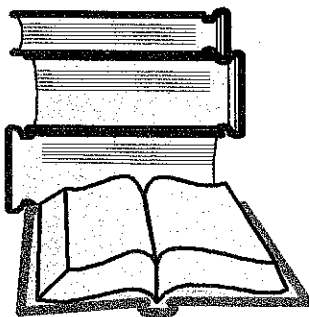
YOUTH CHOIR

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



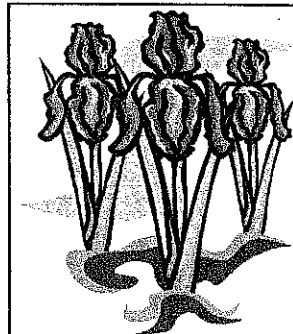
Wednesday Morning Women's Bible Study

9-10:30 AM
We're going snow shoeing at Linda White's on January 14th. Call for details. 879-0175



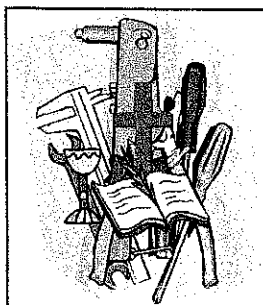
Small Group Bible Studies

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



LWML

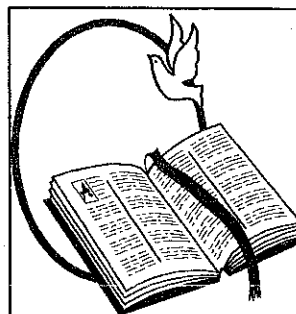
Will be meeting on January 20th. Watch for more information in the church bulletin.



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*

January 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Office Closed	2	3 Worship 5:30 PM
4 Worship - 8:00 AM Educ Hr - 9:30 AM Worship - 10:45 AM	5 Prayer Time 7:20-7:40 am Women's AA 7:00 PM	6 Trustees 5:15 PM Elders 6:00 PM	7 Women's Bible Study 9 AM Kid's Choir 3:30 pm Sr. High Bible Study 7 PM	8 Bells 7PM	9 Concert of Prayer 4:30-6:00 PM 	10 Men's Breakfast 7AM Journey Practice 10AM Worship 5:30 PM Epiphany Celebration 6:30
11 Worship - 8:00 AM Educ Hr - 9:30 AM Journey- 10:45 AM Sr. High Sledding 2PM	12 Prayer Time 7:20-7:40 am Women's AA 7 PM	13 Church Council 7PM	14 Women's Bible Study 9 AM Kid's Choir 3:30 pm Sr. High Bible Study 7 PM	15 Bells 7PM	16	17 Worship 5:30 PM
18 Worship - 8:00 AM Educ Hr - 9:30 AM Worship - 10:45 AM	19 Prayer Time 7:20-7:40 am Women's AA 7 PM	20 LWML 7:00 PM	21 Women's Bible Study 9 AM Kid's Choir 3:30 pm Sr. High Bible Study 7 PM	22 Outreach 5:15 pm Bells 7PM	23	24 Worship 5:30 PM
25 Worship - 8:00 AM Educ Hr - 9:30 AM Worship - 10:45 AM DWCC 1PM Jr. High Sledding 2 PM	26 Prayer Time 7:20-7:40 am Women's AA 7 PM Tools For Living 6PM	27 Board of Christian Ed 6 PM Youth Board 6:00 PM	28 Women's Bible Study 9 AM Kid's Choir 3:30 pm Sr. High Bible Study 7 PM	29 Bells 7PM	30	31 Worship 5:30 PM