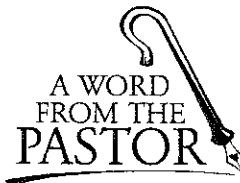


CHRISTOGRAM

Volume 2 Issue 3

March 2004

Thoughts from the Pastor



No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 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 creations, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:37-39

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 1:7b

In the epistle to the Romans, Saint Paul's primary purpose is to present the basic, unadulterated gospel, God's plan of salvation and righteousness through His Son Jesus Christ for all who believe in Him no matter what their heritage. Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ which absolutely nothing in this world or the next can sever from us. God's love is for the believer for all eternity. God's saving love given as He chooses, not as we desire. God making righteous according to His will, not ours.

In the movie *Bruce Almighty*, as the main character tries to do God's job in God's place, he decides he would say yes to every prayer and every desire of every human being. The result is utter chaos. Thanks be to God that He doesn't let us decide or that He doesn't consult us before proceeding with His job of being God. That is why there is order and peace that is ours no matter what appears to be the case in the world. That is why we can confidently live as servants of God and of each other, knowing that we simply serve the God who has first served us in the suffering, death and resurrection of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

As your journey through Lent continues, as the Word of God speaks clearly and decisively to your life, as you ponder with the Holy Spirit the direction for the future, remember: *In all things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.*

In Christ's Service
Pastor Scott

Words from Ellie Bach

REFLECT HIS GRACE

Dear Friends,

March '04

Have you ever been to one of those retreats or seminars where the speaker talks about how messed up they were in their past, and then about how God miraculously pulled them out of the pit they fell into? I have. They never cease to amaze me. I am frequently reminded of how God can save us from the biggest messes we get ourselves in. I'm so thankful for the way that God worked in their lives and for the testimony they have to share and reach others with. But I used to walk away a little discouraged because I don't have a story like that to witness with. I have had the blessing of being a Christian all my life. I grew up in a family that went to church every week and prayed before every meal. Maybe you did too...

But here's the deal: as effective and powerful as those testimonies are, we don't need a story of that magnitude to witness to God's amazing grace. The angry words I spoke last week were enough to nail Jesus to the cross. The resentment I felt this morning was enough to put a canyon between God and I that I couldn't possibly cross. The forgiveness Jesus offers to me after I've committed the same sin for the hundredth time is the most powerful testimony I can share.

No matter what your past looks like, or what you struggle with on a daily basis, God's forgiveness is for you. Christ's sacrifice allows us to step out from the guilt we hold onto and into the freedom of grace. Forget about the past—*"...as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us..."* God wants to use you just the way you are. Use this gift of grace as a testimony. Let your lives reflect this unconditional love God has for you. And live in the knowledge that nothing you could do or have done is enough to separate you from the One who gave His life for you.

"No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 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 8:37-39

LORD Jesus,

As we enter this season of lent, we are reminded of Your remarkable grace. We are undeserving and sometimes even ungrateful. But You love us just the same. LORD use our lives as a testimony to others of the greatness of Your love. Help us to be clean mirrors to reflect Your grace. Let people see beyond our human forms and see You. We offer ourselves to Your service. Thank You for loving us the way You do.

In Your name we pray,

Amen

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

Greetings and God's peace to all my brothers and sisters in Christ.

God has blessed us in uncountable ways, from the beauty of this land and the freedoms we enjoy here, to our families, friends, work, etc. Praise be to God!

At this point you are probably preparing for a pitch to give money to help us weather our financial crunch! Sorry, but even though I encouraged you to give the other Sunday, God is the one who needs to move people to give to the church, I don't really think I can. Besides, those who read this are the ones who are probably already giving.

Rather, my purpose is to touch on several other points of our faith.

Prayer that God's will be done.

Acceptance of God's will in our lives.

Giving our lives to God's will, not our will.

Before I began this letter I prayed God would guide my words and hand to his glory because I do not take my responsibility to my God or to this church lightly. In the same way we prayed for God to guide us in calling a pastor.

This is what Missouri Synod congregations consider an act of faith. We believe the Holy Spirit will guide the man He wants to be here to accept the call. If we don't this is only another job to be done.

The only way that calling can be challenged is for non-scriptural teaching or immoral behavior, otherwise we accept God's guiding. If we choose not to accept the pastor God has sent to us, then all of our other beliefs are suspect.

We are a Missouri Synod congregation, and although a few of its' practices may cause disagreement, our theology based on the in-errant scripture is sound. One thing to remember, this is not an emotional faith! We may have come to faith in Jesus because of emotional needs, Great! Or we may react to Jesus' love for us emotionally. Wonderful!!

But Jesus' death and resurrection are a fact! That God has called us to His Son to be saved is a fact!

Use that knowledge to guide your head and heart. Love those who are in this congregation, build up do not tear down. Our emotions can be used to give God glory or to glorify ourselves and our wants.

You may choose to pray that God would call Pastor Scott somewhere else. That is acceptable. But do not fall into the trap of believing you know better than God what is needed here and try to force Him out.

Believe it! God is guiding this congregation! God brought Pastor Scott to us and will take him somewhere else in His time, not ours.

Please, I pray work for God's will, not our own. It is our responsibility as Christians.

In His Peace,

Brian

CONCERT OF



March concert of prayer is on Friday the 5th from 4:30 - 6:00 PM. Come after school with your kids or join us when you can. All are welcome and encouraged to our church and our community and share any personal

come to together to pray for prayer requests. Church Council will be here at 5:30 pm.



Trustees: are seeking volunteers to clean the church. Please call Trish Hendricks at 870-6415 to sign up to help!!!!

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Igniting the World with Christ's Love!

Join us, as together with Lutherans around the World, praying to the Lord of the Harvest and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we work to:

Create a worldwide Lutheran mission movement dedicated to sharing the Good News of Jesus with 100 million unreached or uncommitted people.

Commit to the task of adding 1, 000 new LCMS congregations and preaching stations and work with our worldwide partners to add 3,000 in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

Add 4,000 trained Lutheran pastors and missionaries at home and around the world and equip 30,000 lay people for evangelistic outreach and church planting.

Work in Collaborative partnerships with LCMS members, congregations, districts, auxiliaries and mission societies to involve the whole church in missions through the seven mission responses: Go, Pray, Learn, Give, Tell, Send, and Celebrate.

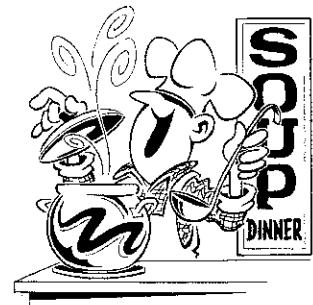
For help making a Gift, call Dan Bacon at 303-695-8001

Fellowship Committee

Join us each Wednesday in March at 5:30 pm for soup suppers preceding our Lenten worship services at 7PM. We can always use helping hands to clean up afterwards. Thanks for your help. And thanks to all the

“boards” who so graciously agreed to be in charge of their Wednesday.

In His Service,
Vicki & Paul Draper

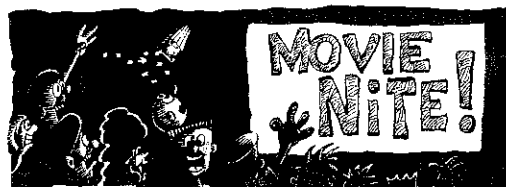


Youth CALENDAR



SENIOR HIGH

Sunday March 28: We're having a movie night!! Meet here at church @6:45pm with some friends. We'll just hang out, watch a movie, have a little Jesus time and head home. It'll be a great break from homework!



****The youth board is still working on a fundraiser for this month. More information will come soon. Watch your mail!****



As we have entered into the Lenten season, don't forget to take time to remember what it's all about. It's not about extra services on Wednesday, or who gives what up when. These next forty days are a time to think about what our LORD and Savior went through in our place. Take some time these next few weeks to thank Him for taking your place on the cross.



JUNIOR HIGH

March 5th-6th: We're having a lock-in! It starts at 7:00pm on Friday and goes until 8:30am Saturday morning. This is for all 6th-8th graders. Bring \$2.00 for pizza and your favorite snack. But most importantly, bring friends and be ready for games, movies, bible studies and a ton of fun!

FEARLESS LEADER



*****Ellie will be out of town on 03.14 and 03.21. If there is anyone interested and willing to lead the senior high youth those Sundays, please call her. Thanks!*****

February 7, 2004

Concordia Lutheran
755 Concordia Lane
Steamboat Springs, CO 80488

Dear Faithful Friends,

We want to thank you so much for your financial gift. There have been a number of unexpected expenses for us, and this gift came at a perfect time. We appreciate your support, and we pray regularly that God's blessings may be with Concordia.

My education is going very well, and I will fulfill my credit requirements in June. I am currently taking Greek and Hebrew, and they are both awesome. I will not say easy, but they are awesome for understanding the Word in a new way. If all goes well, I will graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Organizational Management, as well as meeting several pre-seminary requirements. We will move to St. Louis in July,, and our goal is to find housing on the seminary campus. The seminary has seen a huge increase for incoming students, and everyone in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod should be pleased with the numbers of men taking the call.

Michele and the girls are doing very well, and we are preparing for the move to St. Louis. Other than all of the "snow days" that the girls have had to take from school, this winter is going great. The past three weeks have been similar to Steamboat's weather with below zero nights and 2 to 3 feet of snow. People are just not used to this kind of weather around these parts!

Thanks again for your support, we appreciate you...

Your friends in Christ,

Jim, Michele, Morgan and Alexa Sprengle

PS—our address is listed below, get in touch with us anytime! I am working on updating our website, I had to learn a whole new software package after the old one quit working. Check www.sprengle.com now and then to see if it is updated.

450 South 6th Street #1
Seward, NE 68434
(402) 643-6078
JIM@SPRENGLE.COM

From the February 2004 Messenger Publication

A Word From The District President

by President Randall Golter

Critic or Paralytic

Mark 2:5-6, he said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven." Now some Of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts.

Critic or paralytic, which are you? Mark tells the story of those four fellows who knew their friend needed Jesus. They were so desperate that they were willing to interrupt Jesus' preaching by tearing a gaping hole in the roof to get their friend into His presence. Whatever the cost, it was worth it! Their Savior was doling out forgiveness, and that was what their friend desperately needed.

The Savior speaks, "My son, your sins are forgiven." Whether we like it or not, we are all paralytics. Our paralyzed-by-sin hearts and tongues are unable to love God and to speak well of our neighbor. So the Lord had someone carry us to His preaching, whether that was our parents to the Baptismal font or the invitation of a friend to attend a worship service.

But there were those who complained. "Who can forgive sins but God alone?" (v. 7). Of course, the critics were right. Only God can forgive, and it was God there in the flesh who was forgiving sin. Critics, however, get tripped up over their own pride because they are the only ones who know the right way. No one can tell them differently, not even God!

I write this column because we —God's workers— can get caught up with our ways as opposed to others' ways just as easily as people outside the church. We can get caught up with my way versus your way. We can get caught up with my way versus God's way. "Why do I have to deal with that person?" "I'm not going to!" "God, why did You place me here anyway!" "God, Your Word is too hard for me to believe on this point. I'll just ignore it!"

Yet, life lived as a paralytic is far better than life lived as a critic. A paralytic realizes that everyday —every situation and every person— is God's gift. Every place where He puts His workers is a Garden of Eden. Every jot and tittle of His Word is true and good no matter how reason rebels. Every task assigned by Him is for Him and given from a merciful heart so that we can serve Him by serving others.

We gladly confess that we are totally and completely at the mercy of God. We gladly confess that we are rich in sin and He in forgiveness. And therefore, the task He has given us to do and the people He has given us to serve, and the Word He has given us to believe, are viewed as pure privilege and gift. We are surprised not only at His forgiveness—"My son, you sins are forgiven"—but that He has called us to work in His vineyard. My, what a Lord!

Sunday School Happenings for Grades K-4

Our theme this year in SS is the Word of God. We had lessons from Old Testament before Christmas and now we will be learning from books in the New Testament. We started out in January by learning about the Beatitudes. We started learning about Jesus' great commandment this week: Love God, love your neighbor as yourself. (Matthew 22:34-40, Luke 10:25-28.) The kids are getting lots of practice looking up Bible verses and really enjoy reading for the class when they find a particular passage.

Sunday School Calendar for March through Easter:

March 7: More on the Acts of the Apostles

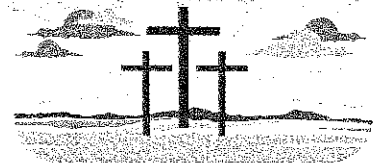
March 14: Craft: Created by the Spirit.

March 21: Holy Week Discussion

March 28: Holy Week

April 4: Palm Sunday & Confirmation Sunday . We'll still have Sunday School

April 11: **EASTER – NO SUNDAY SCHOOL**



LWML (Women's Guild) News...

Mark Your Calendars

Saturday March 20th – 9 AM— until we finish! Concordia's Women's Guild will be sponsoring a "Fellowship Paint Day" in the church fellowship hall. Anyone is welcome. Just bring your brush, roller, rollerpan, and drop cloth, Etc... Lunch and paint will be provided by the Women's Guild.

Should be fun!!!!

Any question? Call Dianne Weber 879-3863



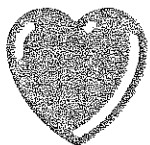
March Birthdays

- 1 — Liana Gregory
- 1 — Jim Schlaver
- 9 — Gene Carrell
- 11— Hannah McCreight
- 19— Grace Wilkie
- 20— Matthia Duryea
- 23— Lark Scov
- 25— Morgan Sprengle
- 29— Sarah Kammerer
- 30— Lance Vitek

March Anniversaries

- 12—Clint & Nina Hanson

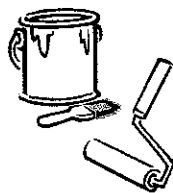
LWML (Women's Guild) News...



February is generally thought of as the "Love" month and our women of the LWML followed along with this theme as Sara Lindsey presented an Inspirational Moment on love. She emphasized God's love for us and in response to His love, that we love Him & that we love each other. We met at the Lindsey home with 10 women present.

We have two BIG events coming up that will require lots of willing workers and prayer partners. The first one is March 20th. The

LWML has chosen to give the fellowship hall at Concordia a "face lift" and we need all the possible help that day with painting and "sprucing up" that room and the kitchen. We will welcome any of the men that are willing to help us. We will start at 9 am and lunch will be provided.



The second event is the Rocky Mr. District Christian Growth Spring Workshop on May 1st. It is our turn to host this annual event and we will be working in March and April to ready for that day.

Call Lynn Worrell, our LWML president, if any of you would like to be on a committee or have any neat ideas. We'll have more about this in our April news.



Our regular monthly meeting will be at Shirley Zuehlke's home, 1203 Zephyr Trail on March 16th, 7 PM. As always, we will meet at the church to carpool at 6:45 PM.



TOOLS FOR LIVING

I Choose Self-Control

**I am a spiritual being...
After this body is dead, my spirit will soar.
I refuse to let what will rot, rule the eternal.**

**I choose self-control.
I will be drunk only by joy.
I will be impassioned only by my faith.
I will be influenced only by God.
I will be taught only by Christ.
I choose self-control.**

**Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness,
faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.**

**To these I commit my day.
If I succeed, I will give thanks.
If I fail, I will seek his grace.
And then, when this day is done,
I will place my head on my pillow
and rest.**

By Max Lucado

Grace For the Moment

I choose self-control...

I choose God...

I choose Jesus...

I choose the GRACE of God, for without it I would be worthless, hopeless, and abandoned. Thank you Lord!

I had just walked in the door from watching Passion with my husband. Rebecca from the church office was calling for a passage from T.F.L. for the newsletter. What better message to give all of God's people that suffer, the wonderful gift of God's Grace. A GIFT that we don't have to work for! A GIFT that ONE MAN sacrificed His life for. Freely given! WOW! I am over come with gratitude for that GIFT!

I weep knowing I don't deserve it, just as Pio and I wept during and at the end of watching Passion. All we can say, though it seem so little, is thank you Jesus.

In Him.

Becca Utu

For support of any kind involving additions please contact any of the following Tools for Living members.

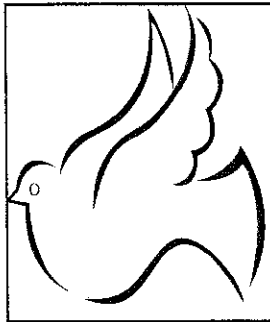
Lori Joens
879-7120

Karin Burin
879-7974

Helen Berntson
870-9675

Pastor Scott
879-0175

Becca Utu
879-1064



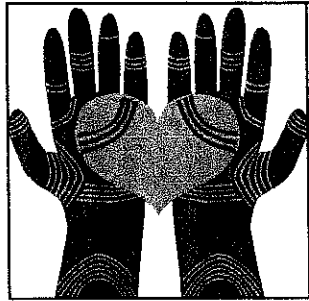
Confirmation

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!



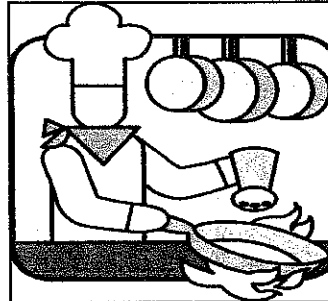
YOUTH GROUP

Meets every Sunday at 9:30 in the Youth Room. Come have some fun with Ellie!



STEPHEN MINISTERS

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



Men’s Breakfast

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



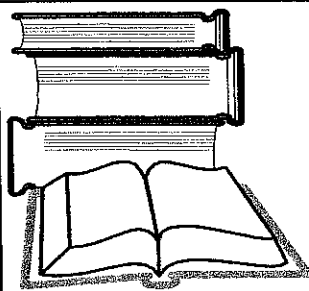
YOUTH CHOIR

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



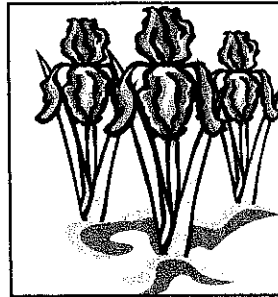
Wednesday Morning Women’s Bible Study

Meets every Wednesday morning 9-10:30 AM. Come water your faith seeds. We’re studying Hebrews.



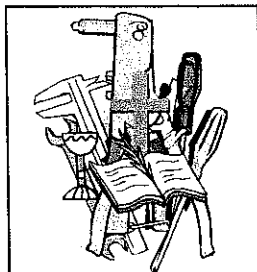
Small Group Bible Study

Small groups meet at the Scott’s & Bradfield’s on selected Mondays. Call the office for more details 879-0175.



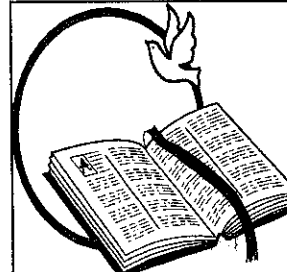
LWML

Our monthly meeting is Tuesday, March 15th at 7:00 PM. We’ll be at Sara Lindsey’s 2015 Bear Dr.



TOOLS FOR LIVING:

Ministry team for recovery, addiction & prevention Meeting March 3 @ 6PM



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Sunday morning 9:30. We meet 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: 8:00 and 10:45 AM **Education Hour:** 9:30 AM

Concordia Lutheran Church
755 Concordia Lane
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487

Mar 2004

Concordia Lutheran Church *CHRISTOGRAM*

March 2004

*Come & Pray for our Church
and our Community. Watch
God Work!*

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 Prayer Time 7:20-7:40 AM Women's AA 7PM	2 Trustees 5:15PM Elders 6:00 PM Worship Com 4:30PM	3 WBS- Women's Bible Study 9 AM TFL 6 PM LWML & WBS's Soup Supper 5:30 PM Service 7 PM	4 Choir 6 PM Bell Choir 7PM Outreach @ Assimil 5:15	5 Concert of Prayer 4:30- 6:00 PM	6 Journey prac- tice 10-noon Worship 5:30 PM
7 Worship-8:00AM Educ Hr -9:30AM Worship-10:45AM	8 Prayer Time 7:20-7:40 AM Women's AA 7PM	9 Church Council 7 PM	10 WBS-9 AM Council & Elders Soup Supper 5:30 PM Service 7 PM	11 Choir 6 PM Bell Choir 7PM	12	13 Men's Prayer 7am- Breakfast Journey prac- tice 10-noon Ellie on Vacation*** Pastor on Vacation
14 Worship-8:00AM Educ Hr -9:30AM Worship-10:45AM Journey Sunday Pastor on Vacation ***	15 Prayer Time 7:20-7:40 AM Women's AA 7PM Pastor on Vacation ***	16 Board of Youth 6 PM LWML 7PM Pastor on Vacation ***	17 WBS-9 AM Men's Prayer/ Basketball Group's Soup Supper 5:30 PM Service 7 PM Pastor on Vacation ***	18 Choir 6 PM Bell Choir 7PM Pastor on Vacation ***	19 ***	20 Worship 5:30 PM ***
21 Worship-8:00AM Educ Hr -9:30AM Worship-10:45AM ***	22 Prayer Time 7:20-7:40 AM Women's AA 7PM	23 Board of Ed. 8 PM	24 WBS-9 AM Youth & 2nd Year Confirmation's Soup Supper 5:30 PM Service 7 PM	25 Choir 6 PM Bell Choir 7PM	26	27 Worship 5:30
28 Worship-8:00AM Educ Hr -9:30AM Worship-10:45AM DWCC - 1 PM	29 Prayer Time 7:20-7:40 AM Women's AA 7PM	30	31 WBS-9 AM Sandra H., Pio U., Sherry & Greg K./ Congregation Help- ful Hand's Soup Supper 5:30 PM Service 7 PM		Ellie on vaca- tion indicated by ***	



**Concordia Lutheran
Church**

Praise God in Everything

Concordia Lutheran Church

755 Concordia Lane
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487

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E-mail: concordia@steamboatlutheran.org