



CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH

755 Concordia Lane Steamboat Springs, Colorado 80487
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"Learning, Living, Sharing the Gospel"

August, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

"Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:13b-14

A few weeks ago, we used the illustration of a "rear view mirror and a windshield" to talk about how some things get us out of sync with time. When our "rear view mirror" gets too big...it gets hard for us to see out the "windshield" in our lives. I believe God wants us to live life looking out of the "windshield". The "rear view mirror" holds lessons and demonstrations of God's grace and blessing which give us the strength to trust Him in an unseen future as we step forward into each new day.

That's not only true for us as individuals; it can also be true for us as a congregation. It didn't take very long for me, when I first arrived at Concordia, to learn that as a congregation...Concordia had a huge "rear-view mirror" that made it a struggle to look out of its "windshield" toward the future. With such strong feelings about the past... the future was often discussed only from a viewpoint of either wanting to re-live past glories or not repeat past struggles.

I also found it interesting that, for the most part, the history of Concordia was very "Pastor-centered". When events from Concordia's past were shared with me, they were almost always dated by the Pastor at the time, rather than by a calendar. Leaders couldn't remember the year...but could remember the Pastor. Many times recalling a past event would begin with the phrase: "who was Pastor when we.....?"

In my prayers, God led me to realize that Concordia needed time to allow the "rear-view mirror" to shrink to a healthy size so that it could view life out of the "windshield" as it sought God's leading for the future. I told the leaders of the congregation that God would bring us to a time where our focus shifts from the past to looking at the present and contemplating the future.

I believe that God is bringing us to that time now. We have been truly blessed to be able to focus on God's grace, and to learn about His mission for the church at-large these past 3.5 years. What is exciting is that our conversations are no longer predominantly about past glories or struggles. We are beginning to live in sync with time. Some of the fruit of that can be seen in how we are sharing our blessings at record levels in mission. Now I hear more people starting to talk about what God has in mind for us in 2010 and beyond.

I am growing in a holy excitement for what is to come. The foundations on which Concordia is built – the Word of God and the Confessions – will never change! Our reading in the Bible this summer has clearly demonstrated what will happen if we ever let go of those things. Our challenge is to take the Word of God and to witness its truth in 2010 and beyond. Steamboat isn't the same as it was 10, 20, 30 or more years ago. Neither is the United States, or our world for that matter. The truth of God doesn't change...but the context in which we witness it does.

Starting this Fall, we are going to journey together as a people and ask God to lead us to His design for our ministry together. We are going to seek His will as we identify how He wants us to focus our ministry in 2010 and beyond. We will create a vision for our future together. We will work together to create a way of administering and governing our ministry so it will encourage people to grow in the use of their gifts. And I want each of you to come on the journey with us! You are critical because you are gifted by God and placed here by God to walk with us as we step into the world God calls us to witness His love to in the days to come!

You will hear more this Fall about the path we will follow as we all seek God's leading into our future. For now, I am asking you to begin to saturate your prayers with requests for God's blessing as we begin to step into our present and future together as His people! Concordia, you have such a tremendous heart...and I am filled with anticipation to see what that heart becomes!

Peace+
Pastor Dave





August Mission Happenings



- ◇ **August Concordia will be collecting goods to support the Lift-Up Food Bank Ministry**
- ◇ **Sunday, August 2nd Chris & youth from Sun Valley Youth Center share their ministry**
- ◇ **Sunday, August 9th SK8 Church will share their mission in the Yampa Valley**
- ◇ **Sunday, August 16th Charlie Parnell from Lift-Up will talk about the food bank ministry**
- ◇ **Sunday, August 23rd Worship in the Park with Concordia and other community Praise teams sharing music, lunch and games with the community**
- ◇ **Sunday, August 30th Pastor Mike Paulison with “The Experience” in Denver will be here to lead worship and share their mission.**

Concordia Members' Corner.....

Stewardship Meeting:

The next meeting will August 31st at 5:30pm.

Worship in the Park

**Sunday, August 23rd - 10am (one service)
West Lincoln Park (13th & Lincoln)**

Bring your lawn chairs or blanket and enjoy music by our praise team & Worship Service with Pastor Dave.

At lunchtime there will be a community/church barbecue and games. Join us for this fun time of fellowship.

Dinner Belles Ministry

Come join us for our August session! Make delicious, nutritious meals for less than eating out or buying groceries! Space is limited, so reserve your spot today! The August menu will be posted on the internet shortly.

Go to www.steamboatlutheran.org click on Ministries, then use the Dinner Belles link to get to the Dinner Belles information! If you have questions, please speak with Sherri or Clare.



Concordia's Annual Food Drive for Lift-Up of Routt County

This year's Lift-Up food drive is during the month of August. In the past, Concordia's participation in this food drive has been a big success. Your generosity has touched many lives in our community and your donations are very much appreciated.

You do make a difference in the lives of so many who are struggling just to feed themselves or their family. Food bags will be distributed in August.



Happy August Birthdays

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|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 8-3 Don Sherrod | 8-17 Graham Hogrefe |
| 8-7 Doug Warner | 8-17 Judi Williams |
| 8-9 David Kelley | 8-19 Stephanie Kammerer |
| 8-12 Marvin Lindsey | 8-20 Tucker Smalley |
| 8-12 Joni Moss | 8-25 Keenan Starbuck |
| 8-12 Matt Warner | 8-26 William McConnell |
| 8-14 Clint Hanson | 8-27 Carlyn Staudt |
| 8-16 Kelley Hanson | 8-28 Nathan Deepe |
| | 8-30 David Cropper |

Happy August Anniversary

- 8-5 Robert & Cindy Delvalle
- 8-8 Andy & Sandra Hogrefe
- 8-11 Cindy Klein