

*The Christogram* is a monthly newsletter of Concordia Lutheran Church, Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Deadline for newsletter items is the fourth Sunday of each month. We welcome contributions of news items, art work, and other appropriate articles.

Editors: Pastor Cartwright, Marlys Cartwright, Jean Smith, and Cindy Svendsen

**The Weekly Bulletin** is printed on Thursday mornings. News items for the bulletin should be submitted by 9:00 am on Thursdays.

**Sunday Worship:** 8:00 and 10:30 AM **Education Hour:** 9:15 AM

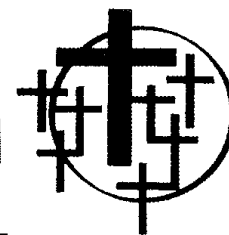
**Saturday Worship:** 5:30 PM

**Concordia Lutheran Church**  
**755 Concordia Lane**  
**PO Box 770428**  
**Steamboat Springs, CO 80477**

# CHRISTOGRAM

Concordia Lutheran Church

JANUARY, 2000



## A Note From the Pastor. . .

### GREETINGS IN THE NAME OF OUR ADVENT KING!

To the Members and Friends of Concordia:

*"Every good gift and perfect gift is from above and comes down from the Father of Lights, with whom there is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."*  
 (James 1:17)

January! We begin a New Year and Millennium together. Concordia Lutheran continues their walk together. 2000 is once again the year of opportunity and grace that God is giving to us! How will we do as we resolve to tackle the ministry challenges that are presently in front of us?

Have you ever heard of the word . . . Perihelion? Do you know what it means? Do you know when it occurs? Simply, perihelion is the point in the path of a planet or other celestial body that is nearest to the sun. This planet that we live on, created by the awesome and

powerful Word of God, reaches that point on January 1st. The Father of Lights has designed this planet to annually draw near to the sun. Our "perihelion" will usher us into the new year . . . 2000.

What better place to begin a year than near the SON. Every good and perfect gift comes from above. We have just been through a tremendous Advent/Christmas celebration. This season brought to us again the truth of God's light brought to a fallen and dark mankind. The Father of Lights has sent the light of the world, His only begotten Son.

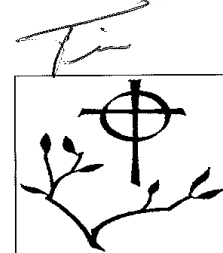
*What better place to begin a year than near the SON!*

We begin 2000 near the Son. We begin the year having received the powerful gift of God. We must be mindful of this gift each day of 2000. 2000 will be no different than previous years.

Some will graduate in 2000. Some will grieve. Some will plant and some will harvest. Some will be born and baptized. Some will die and enter His eternal rest. Many will experience marital harmony, others, discord. Some will laugh and some will be brought to tears. In the circumstances that come our way . . . remember our beginning point. God has sent His Son! We have experienced our "perihelion." That is not a variable that will change!

God's richest blessings in 2000,

Pastor Cartwright



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Concordia Lutheran Church **CHRISTOGRAM**

inside...

"Creator of the Stars"  
 "Upcoming Events"  
 "Thank You's"

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

Fellow Servants in Christ;

The hammer rang against the nail, piercing skin, cutting vessels. It rang against the nail piercing muscle and chipping bone. It rang against the nail, anchoring arm to rough-hewn wood. It rang. It rang. It rang.

This is a strange way to start a cheerful note at Christmas time. But the remembrance of the cross and Jesus' resurrection fulfills Christmas and brings the reason for Christmas. Jesus' death and resurrection fulfills Christmas in the understanding of John 3:16, *"For God so loved the world he gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him has everlasting life."* To truly see the love of the birth of Jesus, we have to also recognize the cross and the resurrection of our Lord first.

My prayer for the New Year is that each and everyone of us should sit at the foot of the Christ Child, our Emmanuel, our risen Lord. We do this by being in our closet in prayer with Him, in Bible studies, in fellowship and in Church Service. In that sitting, we learn of His love and forgiveness, and hopefully, take that message into our homes and into the streets.

Let the urgency of His second coming bring us to an urgency of spreading and sharing the word of Hope.

In His Service,  
Gene K. Carrell  
Elder

### Concordia's Epiphany Party - Saturday, January 8

*"Let's celebrate the appearing of God's gift to all nations. Jesus is God's only begotten Son, cherished and beloved from the beginning time. Jesus reveals to the Magi, to us, and to all peoples the very heart of God: a heart of pure, unspeakable love."* - Susan Briehl

#### Worship Service - 5:30 PM; Dinner - 6:30 PM

Menu: Prime Rib, Vegetarian Selection, or an option of pizza for the kids. Singles - \$8.00; Couples - \$15.00 and Families - \$20.00. Please let us know if you plan on attending so we can prepare accordingly. Tickets will be sold between the church services or call in your reservation to the church office at 879-0175 by January 6. All ages are welcome! Join your family of faith for this special evening.

### Creator of the Stars by Macrina Wiederkehr

God of Epiphanies You are the Great Star  
You have marked my path with light  
You have filled my sky with stars  
naming each star  
guiding it  
until it shines upon my heart  
awakening me to deeper seeing  
new revelations  
and brighter epiphanies

O infinite Star Giver

I now ask for wisdom and courage  
to follow these stars  
for their names are many  
and my heart is fearful.

They shine on me wherever I go:

The Star of Hope  
The Star of Mercy and Compassion  
The Star of Justice and Peace  
The Star of Tenderness and Love  
The Star of Suffering  
The Star of Joy

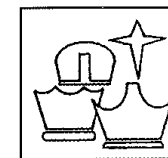
And every time I feel the shine  
I am called to follow it  
to sing it  
to live it  
all the way to the cross  
and beyond

O Creator of the Stars

You have become within me  
an unending Epiphany.

### EPIPHANY?

This festival, known in the West as "twelfth Day," closes the Christmas cycle. Its origin is to be found in the Eastern Church, which celebrates both the birth and the baptism of our Lord on this day which it calls the "Day of Lights." After the Western Church had chosen December 25th for its celebration of the Nativity, it stressed the visit of the Magi as the high point of the Festival of the Epiphany.



### EPIPHANY HISTORICAL PRAYER

*O God, who by the leading of a star did manifest Thy Only-begotten Son to the Gentiles (the wise men from the East): Mercifully grant, that we, who know You, now by faith, may after this life have the fruition of Your glorious presence; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.*

### LWML NEWS . . .



Mark your calendars for Women's Guild's "New Beginning Brunch," on Saturday, January 22nd from 10:00 AM to Noon in the Fellowship Hall. All women are invited. Each day is a new start, washed clean and forgiven. But maybe you're still carrying some old baggage, some regrets. Why not start the New Year, the new millenium, with a new spiritual beginning? Here's a chance to be encouraged in your faith. We look forward to seeing you all.

## THANK YOU'S

My Advent Season was particularly blessed this year in so many ways - I need to say thanks to some very special folks.

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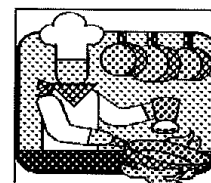
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Marlys



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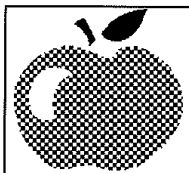
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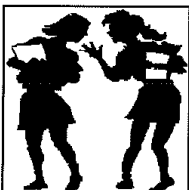
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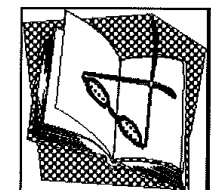
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Book: *The Red Tent*

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## A WORD FROM OUR PARISH ADMINISTRATOR . . .

by Jean Smith

What kind of family did you come from? I have friends who grew up in homes where they were physically abused. I had college friends who suffered intense neglect. Their childhoods were not favorable ones. I also had many friends who grew up in kind, loving, and supportive homes. I was fortunate to have loving parents and siblings who nurtured me. When I see all the brokenness in families - and even the seemingly solid one's suffer heartaches - I think of a family I know that anyone would long to be a part of.

This family gets together once a week. Not everyone is able to make it, because some of the kids have to be out of town or have to work - life has obligations - but the weekly gatherings are always in place. Sometimes they get together more often, sometimes for a special meal which the Dad always provides. This family is extremely diverse. All the children are adopted and come from many different backgrounds. In spite of the diversity they gather together in love and support. They're always welcome to bring home their friends, and so there is always someone new in their midst to welcome and to be brought into this loving fold. I was invited to one of these weekly gatherings about 7 years ago. The father always seems to have

room for one more and an endless supply of love.

Don't get me wrong. This family is far from perfect. Some of the kids have gotten into trouble along the way. Forgiveness is always present, however. They are a Christ-centered family, and they know about grace and mercy. Many of the kids are grown and have families of their own. Some are single. Some are divorced. Some are experiencing tragedy because of loss; others are widowed and are grieving the absence of loved ones.

These kids are not always happy - even though they have one another to lean on. They have disagreements, they argue, and sometimes they brood over failures for a very long time, but they continue to gather. They continue to be encouraged by the father, and the example of his love and compassion gives hope to everyone.



This family is your congregation at Concordia Lutheran Church. We are diverse. We are broken and burdened by many trials. We are joyful and jubilant. We are grieving. We gather together because of a Father's great and abiding love for us, and for his Son, Jesus Christ, who has saved us. What a wonderful family to be

adopted into! I love my family here. You are that family I long to be a part of - the one who encourages me when I am faltering, the family who loves me in spite of my faults and imperfections, the family who cares for me without conditions. We have had disagreements - but the Father's love binds us together as one family of faith. Thank you for welcoming me when I was invited to join you for the first time. Our God has blessed us with a wonderful family. We are the children of God.

When I encourage the family to gather for an event at Concordia - I mean to say, I encourage *the whole family* - 'Concordia's family' to come and gather together. The singles, the divorced, the children, the teens who come without parents, the widowed, the families with two parents and children, the people who are in recovery, the people who are joyful, the ones who are sorrowful - *All of you* are the diverse 'family' of Concordia. On January 8th, Concordia is having a special Epiphany celebration beginning with worship at 5:30 and a special dinner at 6:30. I would love to have our family gather together in friendship and as always, with Christ, our Savior, as our center. Your Father loves you and desires that you gather together. We need one another. I need this family, and this Father. Come home on the 8th if you can.

## DECEMBER STATISTICS

December Average Sunday Attendance	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	December Average Weekly Attendance
1991.....123	1991.....278	.....N/A	.....105
1992.....138	1992.....338	.....N/A	.....156
1993.....184	1993.....442	.....N/A	.....196
1994.....201	1994.....582	.....96	.....228
1995.....209	1995.....584	.....89	.....229
1996.....209	1996.....501	.....65	.....230
1997.....240	1997.....708	.....77	.....231
1998.....243	1998.....698	.....119	.....233
1999.....244	1999.....782	.....87	.....247
<b>Christmas Weekend, 1999</b>			
Fri, 12/24 - Sat, 12-25 - Sun, 12/26 .....999			
<b>December 1999 Sunday Attendance</b>			
Week #1.....130 (E).....125 (L).....40 (Sat).....295 (T)			
Week #2.....71 (E).....204 (L).....42 (Sat).....317 (T)			
Week #3.....96 (E).....113 (L).....38 (Sat).....247 (T)			
Week #4.....130 (One Service, Sunday, 12/26 ) .....130 (T)			

## ALL NEW FLOWER CHART



The Flower Chart for 2000 is up on the moveable bulletin board. Sign up early for the dates you would like to remember a birthday, anniversary or just a thank you to God for blessings received. The cost is \$12.50 per vase, payable to Concordia Lutheran Church. On the Sundays you provide flowers, you may take them home following the late service.

## "CONCORDIA COOKS!"

We still have a few of Concordia's newest publication available. The cost is \$12 - makes a great gift for a friend, relative, secret sister, birthday, etc. Available in the narthex or see Cindy in office.





# JANUARY

## 2000



**Tuesday Bible Study:** Meet and study the Word of God prior to work. This study begins at 6:30 am and is done promptly at 7:30 am. The format is one of discussion and reflection on God's Word. A good cup of coffee or tea is ready for you upon arrival. Give this study a try!

**Wednesday Discovery Bible Study:** This Wednesday evening study opportunity has been put into place for a midweek spot of spiritual refreshment. A person can come once a month, twice a month, or every week. It is a relaxed atmosphere for learning, discussion and fellowship. Please, come and enjoy some great "Discovery!"



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Wedding - 4 PM Worship 5:30 PM
2 Worship 8/10:30 AM Educ Hr - 9:15 AM	3 Playgroup - 1:00 PM at Jill Scully-664 Ruby Sq Outreach - 6:30 PM Womens AA - 7:00 PM	4 Staff Mtg, 8:30 - 9 AM Bible Study - 6:30 AM Elders - 7:00 PM	5 Prayer - 6:30 PM Discovery - 7:00 PM	6 Womens Study - 9 AM Choir - 6:00 PM Bells - 7:00 PM Recovery - 7:00 PM	7 Parent/Support Group - 6-8 PM	8 Worship - 5:30 PM Epiphany Party-6:30 pm-Fellowship Hall
9 Worship 8/10:30 AM Educ Hr - 9:15 AM New Members-9:15 am Confirmation - 4:30 pm Youth Group - 5:30 pm Parents/Teens- 5:30 pm Outreach - 4:00 pm Stephen's Min - 7:30 pm	10 Playgroup - 1:00 pm Womens AA - 7:00 pm Book Club - 7:00 pm	11 Staff Mtg, 8:30 - 9 A Bible Study - 6:30 AM Church Council-7:30 pm	12 Prayer - 6:30 PM Discovery - 7:00 PM	13 Vista Verde Ski Day - 9 am to 2:30 pm Choir - 6:00 PM Bells - 7:00 PM Recovery - 7:00 PM	14  St John's Youth Group	15 Men's Breakfast-7 AM Journey - 10 AM Worship - 5:30 PM  Ft Collins-----
16 Worship 8/10:30 AM Educ Hr - 9:15 AM New Members-9:15 am	17 Playgroup - 1:00 PM Womens AA - 7:00 PM	18 Staff Mtg, 8:30 - 9 AM Bible Study - 6:30 AM	19 Prayer - 6:30 PM Discovery - 7:00 PM	20 Womens Study - 9 AM Choir - 6:00 PM Bells - 7:00 PM Recovery - 7:00 PM	21	22 LWML Brunch, 10- noon, Fellowship Hall Worship - 5:30 PM
23 Worship 8/10:30 AM Educ Hr - 9:15 AM New Members-9:15 am ECC - 12:45 PM Confirmation - 12:45 pm Youth Group - 3:00 PM Stephen's Min-7:30 pm	24 Playgroup - 1:00 PM Womens AA - 7:00 PM Board of Educ Plan- ning - 7:00 PM	25 Staff Mtg, 8:30 - 9 AM Bible Study - 6:30 AM	26 Special Evening of Discovery Potluck - 6:00 pm Topic - 7:00 pm Prayer - 8:00 pm	27 Womens Study - 9 AM Choir - 6:00 PM Bells - 7:00 PM Recovery - 7:00 PM	28	29 Worship - 5:30 PM Annual Elder's Retreat 8:00 am to 8:00 pm
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**Friday Parent Support Group** (Usually the first Friday of each month from 6-8 PM.) Concordia Lutheran has a support group for Parents with young children 2nd grade to newborn. If you have older siblings they are welcome to come. This will provide a time for parents to make friendships within the church and the studies will help you find strength, direction and hope as you fulfill God's calling in your life as a parent. The evening begins with a simple potluck. After dinner, childcare will be provided and parents can get together for a video and discussion or a Bible study which focuses on parenting issues.

**Sunday Extended Care Center Worship (ECC)** On the fourth Sunday of each month our congregation is responsible for the care of the worship service at the ECC. The Pastor leads this service with congregational volunteers. There is a need to visit with the residents at the ECC. It is a great way to learn compassion and service. The residents always appreciate a kind contact from visitors.

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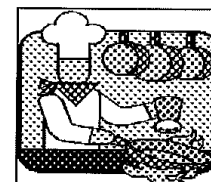
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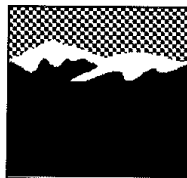
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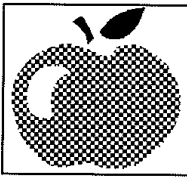
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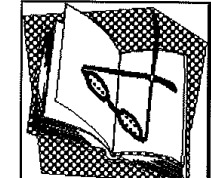
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## "CONCORDIA COOKS!"

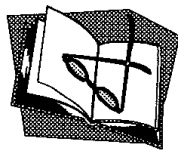
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*Correction to page 101, "Chicken Piccata" from Joanne Boomgarden -*

## UPCOMING EVENTS... NOT TO MISS...

### BOOK CLUB

will discuss the pro's and con's of *The Red Tent* on Monday, January 10th at the Church, 7:00 PM, in the 3rd/4th grade room. Everyone Welcome!



### Board of Education

#### Planning Night

Monday, January 24th, 7:00 PM

Please come if you would like to plan for special events in the New Year... marriage/parent education, recovery topics, VBS, Sunday School teacher workshops, Bible study opportunities. Call Marlys at 879-0175 if you're interested.



### Vista Verde Ski/Snowshoe Day, January 13, 2000

Meet at the church at 9:00 am - back to church by 2:45 pm. \$25 (cash or check to Vista Verde - includes gourmet lunch). New snowshoe trail to the lake! Sponsored by Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study - don't miss the fun!



## PARENTS OF TEENS FORUM

Group meets on Sunday, January 9th at 5:30 PM Dinner, then discussion in the chapel on "Deciding How to Parent." Being pro-active and reflective versus reactive. Great stuff - See you there!

### Murphy's Law for Parents:

*The tennis shoes you must replace today will go on sale next week.*

*The garbage truck will be two doors past your house when the argument over whose day it is to take out the trash ends.*

**New Stephen's Ministry Training**  
beginning Sunday,  
February 6th,  
7:00 to 9:00 PM  
Call Marlys, 879-0175

## Thoughts from the DCE - Marlys Cartwright

Questions kids (and adults) ask:  
*Do I Matter?*

As we begin a new year, I thought it would be good to consider a question posed not only by young people, but also by famous authors. Not long ago scientists told us that our sun is one of perhaps 500 billion stars in the Milky Way, a medium-sized galaxy among two hundred billion others, all swarming with stars. Not long ago, population experts told us that our world topped 6 billion people. Philip Yancey, author of "The Bible Jesus Read" puts the question this way, "Can one person among 6 billion, on a speck of a planet in a speck of a solar system in a mediocre clump of a galaxy really make a difference to the creator of the universe?"

The people of Isaiah's time were asking the same questions. People suffering through perhaps the lowest point in the entire Old Testament - Israel had been annihilated, it's holy city of Jerusalem profaned, Babylonian soldiers met no resistance as they entered the temple's inner sanctum, the Hebrews were shipped in chains to Babylon. In Isaiah 49:14 the Hebrews lamented, "The Lord has forsaken me, the Lord has forgotten me," and it is to these people that God makes a vow. "Can a mother forget the baby at her breast? Though she may forget

you, I WILL NOT forget you! See, I have engraved you on the palm of my hands."

Philip Yancey says this: In effect, God puts His reputation on the line. He will answer the people's bitter complaint with an act of boldness, imagination, and courage that none of them could have dreamed of. God agrees to join them on planet earth "to write himself on the pages of history."



*"I have engraved you on the palm of my hands"*

On Christmas Day, I read the Old Testament lesson from Isaiah, "Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Emmanuel, 'God with us.'" In effect, the holiday we just celebrated (Christmas) answers the question once and for all "Do we matter to God?"

Jesus said God is like a shepherd who leaves 99 sheep inside the fence to hunt frantically for the one stray. God loves people not as a race or a species or a gender, but rather just as you and I love them - one at a time. In His social

contacts, Jesus went out of His way to embrace the unloved and unworthy, the folks who matter little to the rest of society but matter infinitely to God. People with leprosy quarantined outside the city wall, Jesus touched, even as His disciples shrank back in disgust. A half-breed woman who had already gone through 5 husbands and was, no doubt, the center of the town's gossip industry, Jesus tapped as His first missionary. Another woman, Yancey writes, was too full of shame over her embarrassing condition to approach Jesus face to face, grabbed His robe, hoping He would not notice. He did notice. She learned, like so many other "nobodies" that you can't easily escape Jesus' gaze. We matter too much.

What the prophets spoke about, Jesus lived and fulfilled. "I have engraved you on the palm of my hands" God said in Isaiah's day. When God visited the earth in the form of a servant, he showed that the hand of God is not too big for the smallest person in the world. It is hand engraved with our individual names and engraved also with wounds, the cost to God of loving us so much.

Happy New Year!  
You matter!

*Marlys*



## A WORD FROM OUR PARISH ADMINISTRATOR . . .

by Jean Smith

What kind of family did you come from? I have friends who grew up in homes where they were physically abused. I had college friends who suffered intense neglect. Their childhoods were not favorable ones. I also had many friends who grew up in kind, loving, and supportive homes. I was fortunate to have loving parents and siblings who nurtured me. When I see all the brokenness in families - and even the seemingly solid one's suffer heartaches - I think of a family I know that anyone would long to be a part of.

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