

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 clc@snowcap.net.

Editors: Pastor Koenig, 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.

Saturday Worship: 5:30 PM

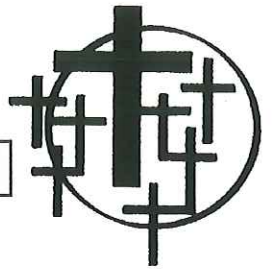
Sunday Worship: 8:00 and 10:30 AM **Education Hour:** 9:15 AM

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

CHRISTOGRAM

Concordia Lutheran Church

DECEMBER, 2001



"Fear not!" said the angels. They said it more than once. That is usually the first thing the angels say as they appear unexpectedly in unsuspecting people's lives. Like Mary, the Shepherds, Joseph...

My first thought has always been, "Sure, easy for you to say!" But for us mere mortals, it's a different matter. We aren't used to the sudden appearance of brightly shining creatures who bring some extraordinary piece of news. Not even Bible-type people were used to that.

But, with or without the shining presence of angels, God's Word to us is still, "Fear not!" Yes, there are those who hate America and civilization in general. Yes, there are those who know only a return to an ancient, oppressive pattern of life that never did work.

Love is always stronger than

hate! Light always chases the shadows of darkness. Hope always outlasts despair.

How I look forward to the celebration of Christmas this year! Not because it will be perfect. There will be the stresses and strains and pressures that too much expectation always brings.



But what I anticipate is how nothing that really matters to me, will have changed. The same songs will be sung that

have been sung for many, many years, by many generations of believers. We will think of others and remember them in small and greater ways. We will all look so lovely by the light of candles as we sing once more the words of "Silent Night." The greetings we give and receive will genuinely warm the heart and affirm for us how important other people are in our lives.

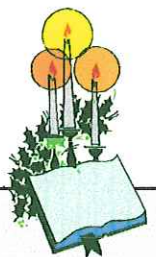
We will once again be so blessed and encouraged by the News that God still loves this planet into which He once sent His very own Son, as one of us. We will rejoice that we can "Call upon Him in the day of trouble. He will deliver us, and we will honor Him."

And we will honor Him. On our worship and in our Service, in our giving and in our sharing, in our singing and in our praise. We will honor Him who delivers in the day of trouble.

Ruth and I rejoice in the fellowship in Christ at Concordia and we are honored to serve among you.

Have a Blessed Christmas in Christ!

Pastor Wayne



inside...

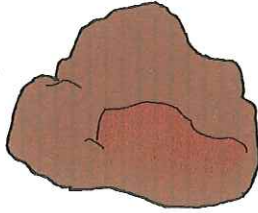
"Christmas Wishes"
 "All is Calm...All is Bright..."
 "What's NETWORK?"

December, 2001

Concordia Lutheran Church **CHRISTOGRAM**

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

"On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand – all other ground is sinking sand; all other ground is sinking sand." – "The Solid Rock," hymn by Edward Mote.



The Rock. Some might think of the professional wrestler with the acrobatic eyebrows. Some think of the action movie with a plot about Alcatraz. Others think of "a rock that makes them fall." Romans 9:33, or God's refuge for His people, Psalm 94:22. To me, the Rock is both Jesus Christ, and believing in Him as the foundation of the Church, Matt 16:18. During the time of Advent, I am constantly reminded that God the Father chose to be a part of humanity in an incredibly humble way. Ironically, Jesus Christ was the most powerful being to ever walk the earth, but lived in complete humility and obedience to His Father.

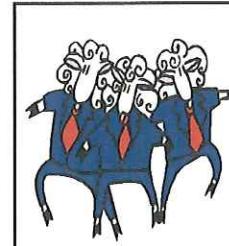
I once rented a home when I was in college that had no foundation. Some people in this community might have called it "affordable housing." It was built in the early 1900's, and the exterior walls were made from adobe style clay that was finished with a wood facade. These walls were between 18 – 24 inches thick! Upon moving in I noticed that the floor of the entire home was like a funhouse. It had all kinds of depressions and bulges where the earth had contracted and expanded. I learned that prior to my arrival the master bedroom had a three foot high bulge that required cutting out the floorboards and shoveling two yards of dirt out the window to level the floor! Although the house looked fine from the outside, it was actually in terrible shape on the inside. Without picking up the house and placing a foundation underneath, it will always be in upheaval.

The birth of our King, Jesus, lifts up believers and places a rock solid foundation under them. There are many, many people who look fine on the outside, but are in upheaval and broken on the inside. Let us all be mindful of the foundation that we can help someone else attain by a kind word, a caring gesture, or by living an example of freedom. From humble beginnings to the glory of sitting at the right hand of the Father, Jesus laid a perfect foundation for us all.



May God bless you and yours this holiday season,

Jim Sprengle

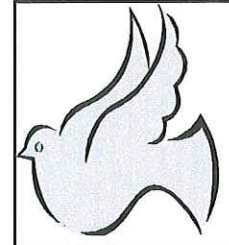


YOUTH GROUP

Meets every Sunday at 9:20 AM (SML-Sun morning live)
Events:
December 2nd 4:30 – 7:30 PM, bowling & Pisa's
December 15th 9:30 PM
Lock-in thru Sunday, 9 AM



Men's Breakfast
Saturday
December 8th
7:00 - 8:15 AM
in Fellowship Hall
Invite A Friend!



Confirmation

December 2nd-Dinner at Church, 6:00 PM

December 16th—Christmas Party



YOUTH CHOIR
"The Rock Slinger & His Greatest Hit"
Meets every Wednesday from 4:00 to 5:00 PM. All 2-6 graders welcome!

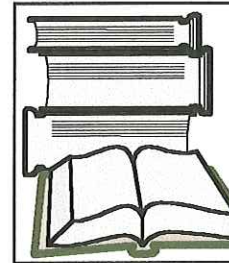


Recovery Room

Thursdays, 7:00 PM in the church library (Christian support open to anyone dealing with an addiction or an addicted person.)

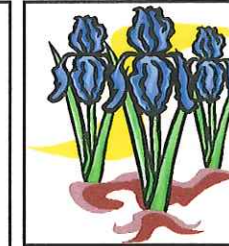


Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study
At 9:00 am in the Library. Please join us! Childcare available.
(12/13 at Elaine Stroncek's)
No Study-12/27

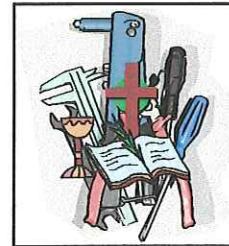


Discovery Bible Study Wednesday 7-8 PM in the library

No Discovery in December
Please come to Advent Services on Wednesdays

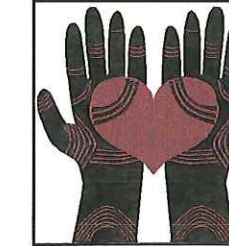


LWML
(Women's Guild)
The Christmas Brunch will be held at Dianne Weber's Home, 1769 Timothy Drive, on Saturday, December 8th at 9:00 AM. Secret Sisters revealed.



TOOLS FOR LIVING: (Ministry team for recovery, addiction & prevention)

Tuesday
December 4th
6:00 PM



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

Meeting:
Wednesday
December 5th, 8:00 PM

LCEF is from the Heart!

Galatians 6:10 "Do good to all, especially fellow believers."



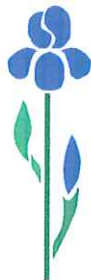
Joining in the ministry of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund allows you to earn competitive interest on your invested dollar, while it is being lent to Lutheran organizations and expanding God's kingdom. Contact Clair Erickson, our LCEF Representative, at 879-4419, for more information or call 1-800-843-5233.

"Faith comes from hearing the Word."
Romans 10:17
(Concordia's
Congregational
Theme, 2001)

NEW FLOWER CHART

The new Flower Chart for 2002 is up and posted in the entryway on the moveable bulletin board. Please take a moment to consider providing flowers for our Sunday services. This is a wonderful way to remember a special occasion, a birthday, an anniversary, or to just give thanks to God. Each vase is \$12.50 and may be taken home following the late service on Sunday morning. Place checks in the "Altar Flowers" box or give to Sherry Kammerer. Please sign up!

(Also, there are a few opening left in December.)



CAN YOU HELP?

During the month of December there is no specific Care Team in place for such duties as greeting, ushering, and reading. December requires many volunteers for the added services with Advent and Christmas Eve. Please take a moment to sign up on the chart above the coffee pot for the various duties. Thank you.



What's NETWORK?

NETWORK is an opportunity for you to discover the area of service that God has prepared for you to be a part of. Think that you have nothing to offer to the Church, your community, the world? THINK AGAIN!! God has given each of us a spiritual gift to build up the Church. Come and discover what the Bible says about the gifts, your gifts, and how they are to be used. Find out what you care about and what your most natural way of working with other people is.

We will be offering NETWORK next month on the following dates:

Saturday, January 5th, 8:00 AM to noon
Saturday, January 12th, 8:00 AM to noon

The workbook is \$10 (scholarships available)

If you need more information please contact Ellyn Myller, 871-1860.



Fear not, for Behold! A word from the Parish Administrator

"No news is good news." It's economy. Surely, *no news* was easy to buy into that kind of good news. But the angel thinking, especially after clearly states, "*Fear not, for* September 11th. Turn on the TV and witness wars and the latest anthrax victim. Listen to the radio and you hear reports of violence and starvation in Afghanistan. The newspapers are filled with headlines which, more often than not, reflects the worst in humanity. It



is no wonder we would sometimes rather not hear the news of the day. Should it come as a surprise that there is a cloud of fear and despair in our world? But the angel said, "*Fear not, for behold -*" Fear not. The angel of God calms the shepherds' fears and brings good news. Can this be? Even during Jesus' time, the concept of *good news* was hard to swallow. If you received news it was most likely going to be bad. Their land was also in the midst of war, terrorist attacks, fearful diseases and a struggling thief.

No. The angel only had good news. Fear not. Even in our cynical and skeptical culture, one cannot diminish this Gospel—this *good news* proclamation. In the midst of all the bad news in our troubled world, "fear not!" *Behold!*—focus your attention with wonder and with awe — on this *David, a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.* *good news of great joy* which will be for *all* the people: a Savior has been born who is Christ the Lord!

This is the good news which will shine throughout the ages. Jesus, and the light He brings, will not be dimmed by our darkness or our skepticism. During this Advent season, when bad news seems to prevail, remember the Gospel. Believe that news *can* be good. *Share it* with a troubled and cynical world.

Rejoice! Celebrate the good glad tidings the angel brought on that first Christmas morn—a word of *good news* that was meant for "all the people."

Scoop from the Sup . . .



Ellyn Myller

Dear Family and Friends,

WOW, another year has rolled around...isn't that how all Christmas letters begin?

We have had a great year in Sunday School experimenting with the Workshop Rotational Model (WORM). We did a little remodeling and the changes are proving to have been a good investment in thought and time.

Last year we spent time talking about those things that are very central to how we live out our faith and what we put our trust in. Do you remember what they were? Hmmm... When you don't know what the answer is, "Jesus" is still the answer to the question in Sunday School and those questions that pop up in our life everyday. We are grateful for the Bible, God's Word ("it's cool to know what's in the Bible"), that shows us who He is (Apostle's Creed) and how we are to live (Ten Commandments). God has given us our salvation through His Son Jesus Christ, we remember that when we think about our (Baptism). There was more...But those are enough to remember for now.

This year we have been putting on the "Full Armor of God." We need to be equipped to enter into the service of our Lord. Our kids are just beginning to get acquainted with the Word of God. It has been such a joy to see them grasp little things and to know that God will tend what we have faithfully put into the ground for Him to nourish.

I have had a great time being Deborah (Judges 4) from the Old Testament. Teaching in the "Time Machine" has given me the opportunity to reflect with gratitude on how God has been a part of history from the very ALPHA. He started it all!!! In spite of our willingness, He has made Himself available to us from the beginning. He had the plan to make it right between Him and us. He did that in sending His son to be born of a virgin in a little town called Bethlehem. He told us He would and He told us the rest of the story, too, even before it happened. For now, as we approach Christmas, let's just relish in the glory of His first coming and focus on being "Advent" people; People who are prepared and are preparing for His second coming!



Peace * Hope * Joy * and Grace to you all!!!
Ellyn Myller



Dates To Remember

December 2, 9, 16 CHRISTMAS REMEMBERED

Sunday School Classes will be working on their parts for the Christmas Program during the Sunday School hour.

December 16th—2:00 PM Children's Christmas Program

Reception to follow

December 23rd—Christmas Celebration, 9:20 AM, party-time for Jesus, crafts, & goodies

December 30th—No Sunday School

Please bring your children to worship on these days and be creative in the way you spend time as a family. You may even want to spend it with a family in your life who doesn't know about Jesus the way you do. Have them over for breakfast and bring 'em to Church with you. Put on your "Good News" shoes!

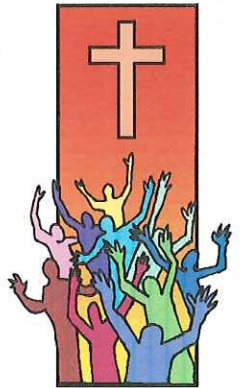
NOTES FROM AND TO THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS (All of US!!!)

A visit to the Church is always a pleasant learning experience. Have you been there lately? Upon entering the office, the first thing to look at is the back wall by the copy machine where all of the committees and work groups are listed—an awesome group of people giving their time and talents for Concordia. Next, on the wall facing Cindy's desk is the master calendar—it really shows you what is going on every day at Concordia—and that is a whole lot! That is also a whole lot of people and members who are sharing their talent and time with the rest of us in so many ways that benefit Concordia as a truly dedicated Christian Church. At every service announcements are made for Sunday School activities, Youth plans, Extended Care Services, Bible Studies, Recovery Meetings, Christmas Cantata Practices, Confirmation, LWML Activities, Men's Breakfasts, New Member Sessions and on and on—all reflecting the care, concern and love this congregation has for one another. This caring, this sharing is what stewardship is all about!

We continue to search for a new Pastor, but we should also continue to thank God for our "substitute," our interim Man of God, Pastor Wayne. He and Ruth have touched all of our lives as they have shared themselves with us.

As we enter the Advent Season filled with the wonder and joy of the birth of Jesus, take time to consider your part in the sharing and caring of Concordia. Mother Teresa once said, "Forgiveness sets you free, and life not lived for others is not a life." Take a look at that calendar and see if you have a place or two to fit in. You will feel much better for it!

In His Service, Bob Krohn and Bill Baldwin



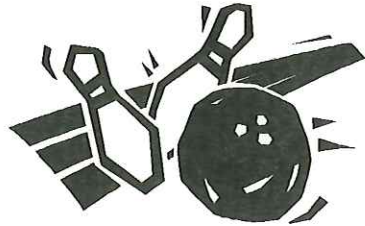
FREE CHRISTMAS DINNER

Sponsored by The Steamboat Springs Board of Realtors
Tuesday, December 25th from 2:30 to 6:30 PM
At the Community Center

Complimentary shuttle service courtesy of Alpine Taxi
(reservation required for taxi service, call 879-2800)
For information, call Chris Sachs, 879-8100

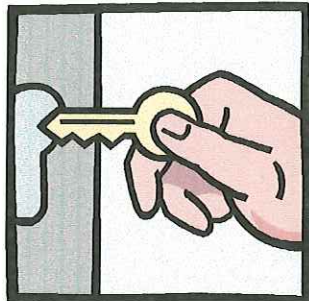


YOUTH NEWS!



Sunday, December 2nd: Bowling and Dinner at Pisa's!

Costs for bowling will be provided. Bring your own money for dinner at Pisas. Come to SnoBowl at 4:30 PM—Leave from Pisas at 7:30 PM. Bring a friend! Call Tina Tape if you need further information or trouble finding transportation: 879-7012.



A LOCK-IN on Saturday, December 15th 9:30 PM at Concordia.

We'll be staying and attending the 8:00 Sunday Service. No Sunday Morning Live on the 15th. You'll need to go home and get some rest!

SUNDAY MORNING LIVE is held in the Youth Room between the services. Food for the body and the soul! *Every Sunday* in December except for the 15th.

COMING JANUARY 13th: "YOUTH 2002"

A letter with details will be heading your way!
(6:00 to 8:00 PM) **Dinner is served!**



A Christmas Cantata

Written by:
Randy Vader, Jay Rouse, and Camp Kirkland

Sung by Concordia's Adult Choir

Wednesday
December 5th
7:00 PM

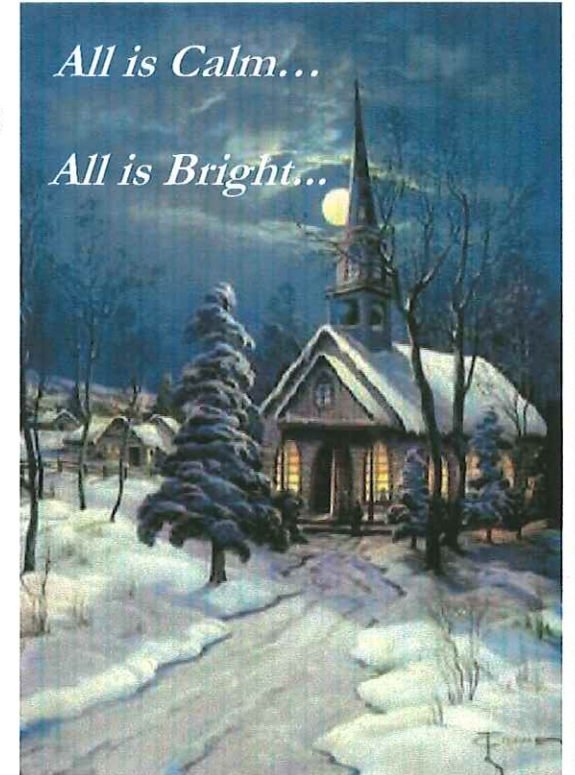
Wednesday
December 12th
7:00 PM

*"those that listen will hear...
those that look will see...
those that seek will find."*

Bring your family and friends to the soup supper at 5:30 PM and stay for a wonderful musical story about a promise fulfilled!

All is Calm...

All is Bright...



CONFIRMATION



DECEMBER 2ND—A 4-course dinner will be served at Church at 6:00 PM that will test your Biblical knowledge and your sense of adventure. We give the food a "different" name and you try to figure out what it is when you choose each course from the menu. Invite a friend!!

Servant event: Bring a small gift item/candy that's easy to mail in a padded envelope. After the dinner, we will package up some gifts/candy with notes of encouragement to send off to our college kids as they prepare for studies and finals.

A Christmas Party is in order and will be on Sunday, **December 16th!** Details and plans will be talked about on December 2nd. Bring your ideas and suggestions and we'll plan a great time!



TOOLS FOR LIVING

Freedom...



The late Janis Joplin would have us believe that "freedom is another word for nothing left to lose." Rather, freedom gives us the ability to choose, and choosing unwisely can lead to great loss. God has given us freedom in Christ to choose wisely.

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather serve one another in love." Galatians 5:1 and 13.

Some people are struggling with sin even though they have accepted Christ. By their actions they show that they have either not recognized, or forgotten His liberating work. Poor choices, addictions, destructive and self-centered behaviors are exhausting their spiritual and physical lives. Once we have accepted Christ as our Savior, the chains of sin no longer bind us. We are living in the freedom Christ has given us through grace.

I read a story about Harry Houdini, the great magician and escape artist. He had an open challenge for anyone who could come up with a place from which he could not escape. A sheriff offered his jail cell to see if Houdini could break out. Once locked inside, he used many lock-picking devices and other means of escape to no avail. After two hours of hard work, Houdini finally gave up. The sheriff gleefully walked up to the cell door and slid it open – it had never been locked!

Jesus Christ poured out his blood from the cross to set us free! The door has already been unlocked! Do we believe that, or are we struggling to open a door that was unlocked all along?

LWML News (Women's Guild)

The annual LWML Christmas Brunch will be held on Saturday, December 8th at 9:00 AM at Dianne Weber's home, 1769 Timothy Drive (Whistler Park area). This is always a wonderful holiday gathering and Secret Sisters will be revealed. Please bring a small exchange gift if you have a Secret Sister. All ladies are welcome!



A **HUGE** Thank You goes out to Judy Anderson and her crew for the hard work they put into this year's Christmas Cupboard! We raised close to \$6,000 and because of your efforts, our Guild will be able to continue supporting many missions worldwide. Also, special thanks to our Cookie Caper chief baker, Dana Tredway and to Ellyn Myller for organizing the specialty gift items.

If you're a new gal at Concordia Lutheran Church and want to know more about LWML (Women's Guild), please call Mary Beth Bradfield at 879-4181. We'd love to have you come to our Christmas Brunch!

CHRISTMAS WISHES

I am organizing the Christmas Wishes Program this year for our Church. This is the program sponsored by United Way where we are able to give gifts to local families who are in need. The Christmas Wishes Tree will be in the narthex decorated with gift tags. Please take a gift tag, purchase and wrap the gift, and attach the tag to the gift so I will know where it goes. Have all the gifts back at the Church by December 14th. I will be needing some help to put together the packages as well as delivering them to the families once we receive all the gifts. We will also be collecting non-perishable food items. If you can help in any way, please call me at 879-7486. Thank you for helping with this program.



In His Service,
Belinda Hart



Thank you to all the dedicated volunteers involved in the Fall Rummage Sale which raised \$2,490. Lutheran World Relief will receive \$450 of that and Lutheran Brotherhood matched an additional \$450 for a total of \$900 for World Relief. For all those who supported the event, **THANK YOU!**

Hank & Elaine Stroncek
Lutheran Brotherhood
Communicators



2001

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						1 Cantata Prac, 9-11 AM Worship-5:30 PM
2 Worship 8/10:30 AM Educ Hr-9:20 AM Confirmation Dinner-6 PM Youth Group-4:30 PM at bowling alley	3 Womens AA-7 PM	4 Tools4Living-6 PM Cantata Prac-7 PM Outreach-7 PM	5 Soup Supper-5:30 PM Youth Board-6 PM Advent Service-7 PM Stephen Min-8 PM	6 Womens Study-9 AM Choir-6:00 PM Bells-7:00 PM Recovery-7:00 PM	7 Staff Mtg-noon Bldg Use, 5-6 PM	8 Mens Breakfast-7 AM Pastor's Class-9 to 2 PM LWML-9 AM, D Weber Journey-11:30 AM Worship-5:30 PM
9 Worship 8/10:30 AM Educ Hr-9:20 AM	10 Womens AA-7 PM Cantata Prac-7 PM	11 Elders Mtg-5:30 PM Church Council-7 PM	12 Soup Supper-5:30 PM Advent Service-7 PM	13 Bldg Use, 8-8 PM Womens Study-9 AM Choir-6:00 PM Bells-7:00 PM Recovery-7:00 PM	14 Staff Mtg-noon	15 Worship-5:30 PM Youth Group-9:30 PM (lock-in)
16 Worship 8/10:30 AM Educ Hr-9:20 AM Christmas Program-2 PM Confirmation-Time TBA	17 Womens AA-7 PM	18	19 Soup Supper-5:30 PM Youth Board-6 PM Advent Service-7 PM	20 Womens Study-9 AM Choir-6:00 PM Bells-7:00 PM Recovery-7:00 PM Fellowship-7 PM	21 Staff Mtg-noon	22 Worship-5:30 PM
23 Worship 8/10:30 AM Educ Hr-9:20 AM No Sunday School DWCC-1:00 PM	24 CHRISTMAS EVE Worship- 5:30/7:30/10:00 PM	25 CHRISTMAS DAY Worship-10:00 AM	26	27 Recovery-7:00 PM	28 Staff Mtg-noon	29 Worship-5:30 PM
30 Worship 8/10:30 AM Educ Hr-9:20 AM No Sunday School	31 Womens AA-7 PM					