

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

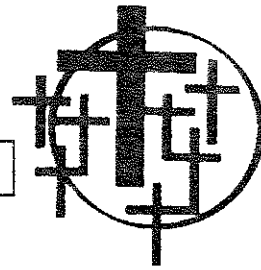
The Weekly Bulletin is printed on Thursday mornings. News items for the bulletin should be submitted by 9:00 am on Thursdays.

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

MARCH, 2002

How People Get "Stuck Together" . . .

Ruth and I have had many opportunities to reflect on our experience of coming to Concordia in Steamboat Springs over the last 19 months.

We always talk about how the people of Concordia have come to mean so much to us.

As I reflect on that, I wonder what's the "glue" that gets people to mean a lot to us???

Well, doing significant things together is a part of that. People just being "nice people" helps out a lot. There are certainly a lot of that type of people at Concordia.

But I think the most significant "binding" power is knowing God's love through Christ. I think all of our significant relationships are made more sure and more lasting when they have the love of God through Christ as a main ingredient.

Our marriage gets strengthened in Christ. Sure there are other bonds that enrich a marriage; understanding, faithfulness, romance, parenthood, all are

significant parts of a marriage, but it is all enriched and firmed up through sharing God's love that comes to us in Christ - undeserved and always available. Marvelous!

We will always think of this great bunch of people up in Steamboat Springs with whom we are one in Christ. That's a bond that lasts forever! How great!

I also think so frequently of your generosity over the past months.

- I am wearing a new purple stole for Lent and I don't know who paid for it. I got it from the same place you ordered the green stole. You paid for that one, but I don't know who paid for the purple one. Thank you, you secret person, you!

- And thank you again for that Celebration of my 40th year since Ordination. That was so thoughtful and a really fun event, with a friend preaching, a marvelous reception, goofy skits, a poem by Ruth, and nice gifts. That book was just wonderful. Thanks again.

- An then there is the car we

have been driving for 6 months through the generosity of Bob and Sue Krohn. The 4x4 contributes to our security over the mountain roads and we appreciate the loan very much.

- You have invited us into your homes and into your lives. You have been a surprise gift that came into our "retirement."

We are confident that Pastor Scott and Janis will also build a strong and caring relationship with you in the months and years to come. We praise God for this new bond that you all will be building together.

We are grateful to our Lord for you. As Paul once said, *"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now."* Phil 1:3-4

Pastor Wayne and Ruth



March, 2002

Concordia Lutheran Church **CHRISTOGRAM**

inside...

"From Texas to Colorado"
"Nursery Needs You!"
"Ways To Humble Yourself"

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

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Most Christians would agree that the single most important act that we can do on behalf of the church is to pray. Revelations and psalms tell us that our prayers act as "incense before His throne." But is there sometimes another step we can take, after prayer? This question has plagued me as an elder for sometime. Is there some action that could/should follow prayer?

Sometimes I find myself guilty of not taking full advantage of the opportunities to serve the many needs of our spiritual family. Yes, I may pray, but is there action that could easily be taken afterwards that I neglect?

Scripture presents many examples of people carrying out His will, becoming "doers" of the Word. As Isaiah 6:8 asks, "Whom shall I send?" Then the answer, "Here I am; send me!" Of all the accounts of God using His people, this passage remains my favorite.

When praying for someone not saved, do we take that next step and share the Gospel with them? When praying for someone going through a difficult time, do we call, make a meal, send a card, offer to babysit, etc.?

Prayer is wonderful and powerful, no doubt about it. But to act on that, binds our spiritual family together in servitude at its best.

My personal prayer and my prayer for our church is that during our personal time with God, not only do we converse with God, but we wait that personal communion back from Him when we make the statement, "Here am I Lord; send me!"

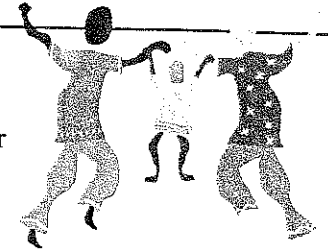


"Here am I, Lord. Send Me!"

In Christ,

Gene Carrell

NURSERY NEEDS YOU!!!



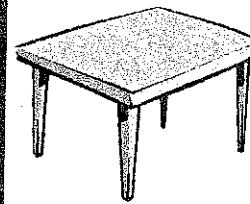
There are a handful of people who regularly aid in the care of our youngest children (newborns to 3 years old) and we are most grateful for them. But we need more willing hands and laps. March is an important month with the installation of a new pastor, Palm Sunday, and Easter services. It is not fair to our caregiver, Anya Smith, nor safe for our children to have the nursery understaffed. But, if we do not have enough help, Anya has been instructed to limit the number of children that can be left in the nursery. Please consider how you might be able to help.

Each Sunday we need a helper during the Sunday School hour (9:15 to 10:15 AM) and a helper during the late service (10:30 to 11:30 AM). We do not staff the nursery for early service or for the Saturday night service, so if you don't want to miss worship service, you can attend one of those and still help in the nursery!

There will be a sign-up sheet on the table in the back of the narthex. These are precious children, fun to be with, and it is only one hour out of your month.

P.S. We welcome male helpers, too, and remember, if you can't help in March, there's always April or May.

A Reminder to Parents . . .



The Lego table in the nursery is broken. We suspect that this happened because older children, too large for the equipment, have been left unattended in the nursery. Please know where your children are and instruct them not to play in the nursery. This room should be reserved for infants and toddlers, and only then with supervision. We need to be good stewards of our equipment and facility. Your help in this matter would be most appreciated.

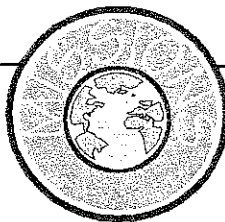
Also, the Cry Room at the back of the Sanctuary is for crying babies and fidgety children who are accompanied by an adult, or when a mother needs to nurse. It is not intended for the use of unattended, older children.

LWML News (Women's Guild) ...

The March Women's Guild Get-Together will be on Tuesday, March 19th at 7:00 PM at Debbie Scott's home, 1851 Hunter's Court. We will carpool from Church at 6:45 PM. The Mission Committee will present their proposal for this year's donations to missions. A vote will take place at the April meeting. Also, a date will be selected for the Spring Rummage Sale.

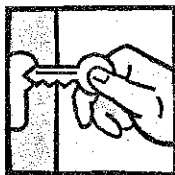
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If you're a new to Concordia and/or just want to know more about LWML (Women's Guild), please call Mary Beth Bradfield at 879-4181. We'd love to have you come to our next meeting!

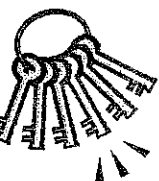


YOUTH GROUP: Coming Saturday, March 2nd at 9 PM -

A LOCK-IN!

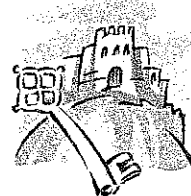


Not a lock-in where
you throw away the



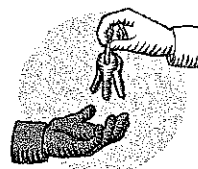
BUT, a lock-in where you are given

the

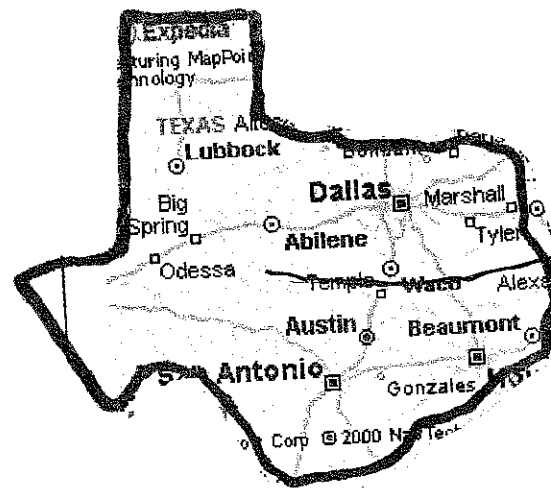


Bring a sleeping bag, pillow and a snack to share with the group. We'll go to the 8 AM service together, and then, you will be set free, but not for the first time. Please call the office by Friday, March 1st, to sign up.

Join us for a Lenten journey next
Saturday night!



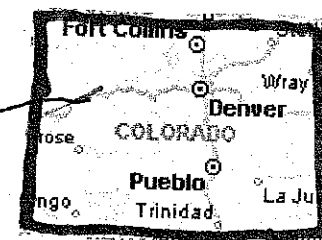
From Texas to Colorado



Pastor Scott Herbert and Janis will be loading all their belongings onto a moving van on February 26th & 27th. Their last Sunday with Christ Lutheran in Amarillo, TX will be Sunday, March 3rd. They then will head to Steamboat, arriving on the 4th or 5th to unload the moving van. Pastor Scott's first day at Concordia will be Monday, March 11th. Janis will return to Amarillo where she will

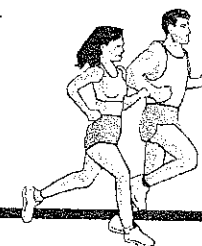


continue to work until the March 29th. Although, she and 5 of their children will all be here for the Installation Service on March 17th at 4:00 PM. Everyone is invited to the Installation Service at 4:00 PM, followed by a dinner celebrating our new Pastor and family.



Relay for Life

Mark your calendars! Concordia's 3rd annual "Relay For Life," 2002 will be held in Fort Collins on June 14th & 15th, 2002. This is an 18-hour relay to raise money for cancer research, cures, and to celebrate all who have survived this terrible disease. There will be more information available to you in the very near future. Please contact Tina Tape, 879-7012 with any questions. If the date works out for you, and you know you would like to participate in the relay, please let Tina know. This has been a wonderfully moving experience for all who have been a part of it in the past. Last year, Concordia had 23 participants and for the second year in a row, won the relay itself! This is great cause and one in which we all benefit. Hope to see you in Fort Collins! (definition of "relay" - walk, run, skip, hop, jump, or crawl, we do not discriminate.)





March 2002



Sun

Mon

Tue

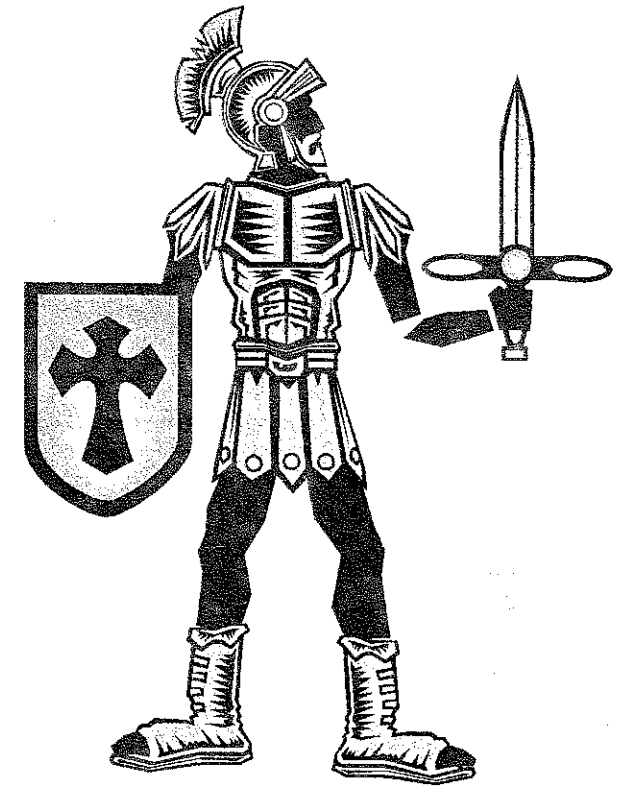
Wed

Thu

Fri

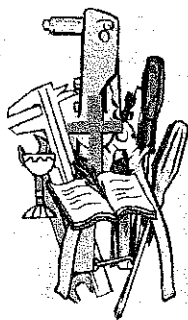
Sat

					1 Staff Mtg-noon	2 Network-8 to noon Worship-5:30 PM Youth Lock-In-9 PM
3 Worship-8/10:30 AM Educ Hr-9:20 AM Appreciation Potluck- 11:30 AM	4 Womens AA-7 PM	5 Trustees -5:15 PM Tool 4 Living-6:30 Tue Bible Study-7 PM Fellowship-7 PM Elders - 7:00 PM	6 Youth Choir-3:30 PM Conf make-up-5 PM Soup Supper-5:30 PM Worship-7:00 PM Stephen Min-8:15 PM	7 Womens Study-9 AM Choir-6:00 PM Bells-7:00 PM Recovery-5:30 PM	8 Staff Mtg- noon	9 Mens Breakfast-7 AM Network-8 to noon Worship-5:30 PM
10 Worship-8/10:30 AM Educ Hr-9:20 AM Youth Cantata-10:30	11 Womens AA-7 PM	12 Tue Bible Study-7 PM Church Council-7 PM Church Dir-7 PM	13 Youth Choir-3:30 PM Conf make-up-5 PM Worship-7:00 PM	14 Womens Study-9 AM Choir-6:00 PM Bells-7:00 PM Recovery-5:30 PM	15 Staff Mtg-noon	16 Worship-5:30 PM Journey-10:00 AM Choir-?
17 Worship-8/10:30 AM Educ Hr-9:20 AM Installation-4:00 PM	18 Womens AA-7 PM	19 Tue Bible Study-7 PM LWML-7:00 PM at Debbie Scott's	20 Youth Choir-3:30 PM Conf make-up-5 PM Soup Supper-5:30 PM Worship-7:00 PM	21 Womens Study-9 AM Choir-6:00 PM Bells-7:00 PM Recovery-5:30 PM	22 Staff Mtg-noon "Concert of Prayer" (noon to midnight)	23 Worship-5:30 PM
24 PALM SUNDAY Worship-8/10:30 AM Educ Hr-9:20 AM No Sunday School DWCC-1:00 PM	25 Womens AA-7 PM	26 Tue Bible Study-7 PM Bd of Education-7 PM Bd of Youth-7 PM	27 Youth Choir-3:30 PM	28 MAUNDY THURSDAY Womens Study-9 AM Worship-7:00 PM Recovery-5:30 PM Seder-5:30 PM	29 GOOD FRIDAY Staff Mtg-noon Worship 7:00 PM	30 Choir-10 AM Worship-5:30 PM
31 EASTER Worship-6:30/8/10:30						



"PUT ON THE
FULL ARMOR
OF GOD!"

Concordia's theme
2002



TOOLS FOR LIVING

WAYS TO HUMBLE YOURSELF by Alfred Ells, M.C.

- **Routinely confess your sin to God. (Luke 18:9-14)** All of us sin and fall short of the glory of God. However, too few of us have a routine practice of rigorous self-honesty examination. Weekly, even daily, review of our heart and behavior, coupled with confession to God, is an essential practice of humility.
- **Acknowledge your sin to others. (James 3:2, James 5:16)** Humility before God is not complete unless there is also humility before man. A true test of our willingness to humble ourselves is being willing to share with others the weaknesses we confess to God. Wisdom, however, dictates that we do so with others that we trust.
- **Take wrong patiently. (1 Peter 3:8-17)** When something is unjust I want to react and rectify it. However, patiently responding to the unjust accusations and actions of others demonstrates our strength of godly character and provides an opportunity to put on humility.
- **Receive correction and feedback from others graciously. (Proverbs 10:17, 12:1)** In the Phoenix area, a local East valley pastor was noted for graciously receiving any negative feedback or correction offered. He would simply say "thank you for caring enough to share that with me, I will pray about it and get back to you." Look for the kernel of truth in what people offer you, even if it comes from a dubious source. Always pray, "Lord, what are you trying to show me through this?"
- **Accept a lowly place. (Proverbs 25:6,7)** If you find yourself wanting to sit at the head table, wanting others to recognize your contribution or become offended when others are honored or chosen, then pride is present. Purpose to support others being recognized, rather than you.
- **Choose to serve others. (Philippians 1:1, 2 Corinthians 4:5, Matthew 23:11)** When we serve others, we are serving God's purposes in their lives. Doing so reduces our focus on ourselves and builds the Kingdom of God instead of the Kingdom of self.
- **Cultivate a grateful heart. (1 Thessalonians 5:18)** The more we develop an attitude of gratitude for the gift of salvation and life He has given us, the more true our perspective of self. A grateful heart is a humble heart.
- **Purpose to speak well of others. (Ephesians 4:31-32)** Saying negative things about others puts them "one down" and us "one up"...a form of pride. Speaking well of others edifies them and builds them up instead of us. Make sure, however, that what you say is not intended as flattery.
- **Treat pride as a condition that always necessitates embracing the cross. (Luke 9:23)** It is our nature to be proud and it is God's nature in us that brings humility. Committing to a daily dying to self and living through Him is the foundation for true humility.

"Wilderness Survival"

A word from your Parish Administrator

"Do you have any idea
where you're going?"
- God

"How often they rebelled against him in the desert and grieved him in the wasteland! Again and again they put God to the test: they vexed the Holy One of Israel. They did not remember his power -- the day he redeemed them from the oppressor, the day he displayed his miraculous signs in Egypt." Psalm 78:40-43

This past week Steamboat Springs hosted 700 doctors from around the country who came to the Wilderness Medical Conference. The weeklong seminar included instruction on how to survive in the wilderness. Perhaps that is a skill we could all use some instruction in. People who grow up in Colorado don't take the wilderness for granted when they venture into the great outdoors. They have learned to prepare for the elements. But there is another wilderness that is not of a physical nature. Sometimes we need to learn how to survive in an emotional and/or spiritual wilderness. How does one prepare for that? When you're making your way through life's deserts and wastelands of uncharted territory --how are your survival skills? How do you find your way?

The Israelites had 40 years in the desert to learn their survival skills. Over time they learned where their sole survival came from. God. Often they failed to remember who had redeemed them. In their complaining and fear of the unknown, they forgot to survive by the words of one who had never failed them -- their God.

There is a billboard sign that says: **"Do you have any idea where you're going?" -- God**
It's intriguing to me that the question is coming from God. I can well imagine the Israelites complaining to Moses, "do you have any idea where you're going?" as they wandered in the desert. I have asked the question myself of someone who won't ask for directions. My kids have said to me on more than one occasion, "do you have *any* idea where you're going?" I must admit, that sometimes I have utterly lost my way.

Lent is an appropriate time for us to think about our sense of direction. Think about the 40 days of Lent as a wilderness survival seminar for the soul. Where do we look for guidance? Where is the roadmap that leads us into the promised land? There are many times when I try, perhaps, even *prefer*, to navigate the wilderness in my life by my own instincts and my own personal survival skills. But they fall short. When life is stripped down to the bones what is of real necessity? What are the priorities? Who will save me from the desert experiences of life? It is important that I focus on the power of God. It is important for me to remember the salvation stories of God who continually redeems his people and brings living water into the desert. It is God on whom I need to depend for my very life. When I rebel and grieve my desert experiences, it is time for me to remember some vital survival skills and refocus my attention on God. During this Lenten season take time to "remember his power--the day he redeemed them from the oppressor, the day he displayed his miraculous signs in Egypt." Remember Who saves you from the wasteland of sin and ushers you into the promised land --your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Scoop from the Sup . . .



Ellyn Myller

Did you know that the kids (4-10 yrs olds) in our Sunday school ministry are getting a new generational name? They are most likely going to be dubbed the "NET GENERATION". This generation will grow-up on the computer!! Let me share some of the information that I got at the Colorado Christian Ministries Convention about these kids.

These kids are being raised in a culture with disappearing moral values, rising violence, rapid change, a devaluation of life, a disappearing family structure and they are permeated with media. By the time that they graduate from high school they will have spent more time in front of a TV then in the classroom. The average family will have watched 7 hours of TV a day and 57% of those shows will contain violence. Our kids will witness 200,000 acts of violence by the time they reach 18, and 73% of the perpetrators in those scenes of violence will go unpunished.

These kids will suffer from obesity due to "pushing around a mouse", rather than playing outside. They will want to make a marriage work, but will have lacked good role models. They will deal with questions that we haven't even thought of, and be catered to by the world. They will make 250 trips to the mall/market per year - let's remember, there are only 365 days/year!

WOW - Have we got our work cut out for us! It was said at this workshop, "Maybe they should be called NETLESS, because they haven't much to count on." Much of what they will be exposed to and have to face will cause them to be fearful and not able to trust.

This is where the GOSPEL, GOOD NEWS, the HOPE that we have in Jesus Christ and His redeeming work on the cross can make a difference! Our Kids were of such great value that Jesus gave His life for them, so that they could have life and have it to the full. Now I'm not talking about stuff and entertaining experiences...and all those things that the world puts great value on; I'm talking about a life filled with faith, hope and love!

There is a lot of subtle and not so subtle stuff out there undermining what we want to teach our kids about what is important, how to behave, and what to believe. We need to make sure that our lives reflect the image we want to bear and as a Christian that should be the image of Christ. Because we are Christians we should be different, not out of the world, definitely in it, but different because we belong to Christ!

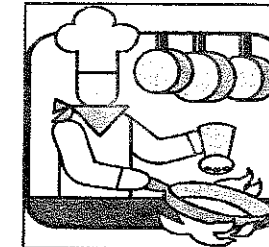
Fellow parents, we need to pray for each other and our kids! Take some special time before we celebrate Easter to ask God for a closer walk with Him for yourself and wisdom to raise your kids. Thank Him for your children and bless them with the good news.

Trusting in Jesus, Ellyn

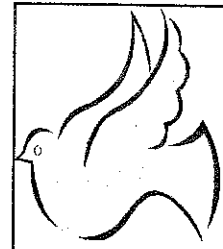


YOUTH GROUP

Meets every Sunday at 9:20 AM (SML-Sunday morning live!)
Youth Lock-In, March 2nd, 9:00 PM



Men's Breakfast
Saturday
March 9th
7:00 - 8:15 AM
in Fellowship Hall
Invite A Friend!



Confirmation

Meets every Sunday between services at 9:20 AM
(make-up class on Wednesdays, 5:00 PM)

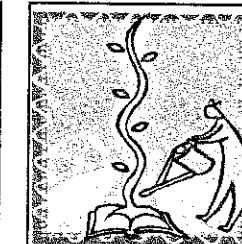


YOUTH CHOIR
"The Rock Slinger & His Greatest Hit"
Meets every Wednesday from 3:30 to 4:30 PM. All 2-6 graders welcome!

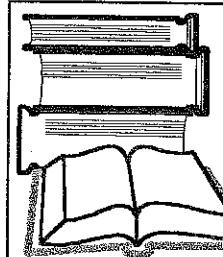


Recovery Room

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

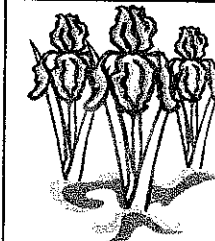


Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study
At 9:00 am in the Library. Please join us! (Childcare available)

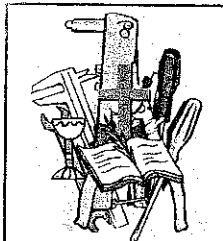


Discovery Bible Study

will not meet during March due to Lenten Services each Wednesday at 7:00 PM



LWML
(Women's Guild)
The March meeting will be on March 19th at 7:00 PM at Debbie Scott's home (1851 Hunter's Court). carpool from church-6:45 pm



TOOLS FOR LIVING:

(Ministry team for recovery, addiction & prevention)
Next Meeting:
March 5th
6:30 PM



STEPHEN MINISTERS

"A friend who has developed gifts for bringing Christ's healing to hurting places."
Meet: Wednesday, March 6th, 8:15 PM

Stewardship

ONE OF MY FAVORITE COMIC STRIPS WAS "THE BORN LOSER." One Sunday edition showed the strips primary character, Brutus Thornapple, trudging down the street on a winter day wearing a weary and depressed expression.

The successive frames of the cartoon let the reader in on the following thoughts going through Brutus' mind:

I don't get it...I just don't get it...If I try to earn more money, I'm called a money-grubber...If I keep it I'm a hoarder. On the other hand, if I spend it, I don't have the sense to save it...and if I do save it, I'm a pinch-penny! If I don't accumulate lots, I have no savvy...If I don't try to get more, I have no ambition. If I'm lucky enough to fall into a bundle, I'm a leech...and after a lifetime of saving a few bucks for my old age, I'm a poor slob who never knew the joys of living.

Finally, Brutus arrives at his destination, the local pub. He says to the bartender, "Draw me a cool one, Wally." Then, in the final frame, we see Brutus perched on a bar stool thinking, "Come to think of it, if I stop off for a quick one to relax and forget all that palaver, I'm a lush!"

Poor old Brutus. He just can't win. I guess that's why he's called "The Born Loser." Brutus identified several possible relationships with money – money-grubber, hoarder, spendthrift, pinch-penny, leech, and so forth. But

he missed one very important one, that of *giver*.

The essence of Brutus brooding was that each of the money/person connections he thought of all led to dead ends. Perhaps he was exaggerating some of those money related activities (saving for old age doesn't necessarily make a person a "poor slob who never knew the joys of living"), but essentially Brutus was right; investing too much of ourselves in an alliance with money is a

JESUS CALLS US AS HIS DISCIPLES

Jesus calls us, as His disciples, to live a Christian way of life — of which stewardship is a central part. Stewardship is a reflection of our faith, a faith which touches our lives and calls each of us to respond generously with a planned, proportionate, sacrificial gift to God.



dead end. That was certainly what Jesus told the rich young ruler: "You lack one

(Continued on page 4)

GIVING THIS LENT AND EVERY SEASON

God has given each of us, in varying amounts, his gifts of time, talents and treasure. We are stewards, or caretakers, of these gifts and have a responsibility to use them to help build up the kingdom of God, to build a better world and a better Church.

By sacrificial giving, we give back to God a share of the treasures we have received, thereby helping to build up the Church and to aid the suffering and needy of the world.

The amount of sacrifice

We all know that it is easy to give when that which we give has no importance or value to us. God knows the real value of our gift because he knows the amount of sacrifice that is behind each gift. The rich man may give a large sum of money, but his gift represents no sacrifice to him. God may better cherish the meager gift of a poor man. True stewardship means sacrificial giving.

It's not easy

Not everyone will find sacrificial giving easy. It can require much pulling back from your other expenditures. It is an easy way to become a better Christian.

Our security

Our gift becomes sacrificial when it comes from our substance rather than our abundance. When we give of our "first fruits" and not the leftovers, we are saying, in essence, that our security lies not in our material resources but in God. ■

A GREAT TEAM IF PLAYERS TOGETHER GIVE THEIR BEST



Twelve-year old Daniel is an excellent soccer player. His brother, nine-year old Andrew, is progressing well in playing this sport. Recently, after Andrew played a great game, his brother complimented him on his many good moves, his passes, the goals he made. The list of positive accomplishments was an honest evaluation from Daniel. Andrew listened quietly and thoughtfully. Then he said, "You know if they cloned me ten times I'd make a great team."

Andrew has learned something about soccer. He knew he had played his best. He had put forth all the effort his mind and his skinny little body could offer. But he also has learned about giving and about team work. A great game is accomplished by giving your best. A great team is made up of players who together will give their very best.

The same is true of our gifts to God. Whether it's our time, our talents, or our treasure, we want to offer God our very best. And when all of us offer God our very best, we make a great team of Christians, who are, as saint Paul says in Philippians 3:14, "pressing on toward the goal or the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ, Jesus." ■

RESPOND TO OTHERS' NEEDS

Almsgiving comes from the root word meaning mercy-giving. It means not only the giving of my resources to others, of recognizing and responding to the needs of others. It also means the sharing of my time, to be available, a gift of my talents. Almsgiving calls us to see each other as brother and sisters, to serving our church and others. Lent invites us to live with what we really do need and to share the rest.

THE PRIVILEGE OF PARTNERSHIP WITH GOD

An article in Forbes magazine told of a Florida business executive who decided several years ago to go into partnership with God. The realtors of Keyes Company agreed with the executive and introduced the tithing system into their business. They wanted to acknowledge God's ownership and give 10 percent of the firm's profits to the church.

Each succeeding year, the company showed an increase in business and profits, and eventually the firm became one of the largest realtors in Florida. Today, many companies are giving back in ways that are changing society.

We are co-workers

Yet there are people in our society that provide abundantly for themselves but give little or no thought to the needs of the Lord's cause. They fail to realize that one reason God formulated the plan of enlisting us as his co-workers is so we might not lose the blessings of benevolence.

God knew that people would be happier taking part in His great work, God has chosen to channel His divine gifts through human beings. He has appointed us to help our fellow men and women. God tests us here with temporal possessions, and in using them we can be remembered as faithful stewards and partners in his great "firm." ■

SOMEDAY IS NEVER PART OF ANY WEEK

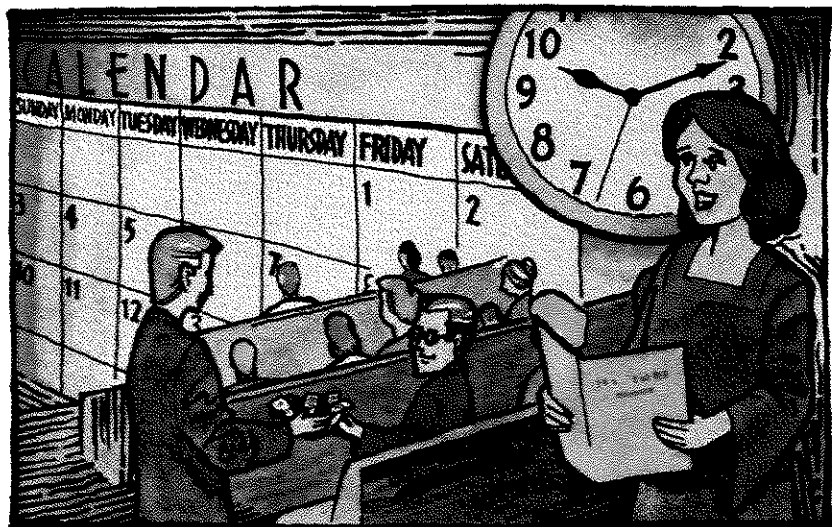
Most people live on an eight day week – not a seven day week.

They have Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Someday.

It often seems that some of the most important things in life are reserved for Someday. Someday we will visit our sick friend. Someday we will consider what gift of time and abilities we ought to make to God's work. Someday we will volunteer to sing in the choir, be an usher or serve

SHAKE THE DUST OFF THAT OLD CLICHE

"Time is money" is an old cliché, and you may find it is true. The stewardship of service is at least as important as checkbook stewardship, but sometimes it is easier to write a check than to take the trouble to explore what you can do with your "hidden assets" – your skills and talents.



on a church committee.

The grand tragedy of life is that Someday is never part of any week. Someday never comes! Because Someday never comes, many of the important things in our churches never get done.

The work of God must never be a Someday project. Now is the time to make your commitment to the work of Christ. What gift of time and talent will you make to see that Christ's work is done on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday during all of 2002? ■

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thing; go, sell what you have, and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven." (Mark 10:21). The one money relationship that young man had not explored was that of **giver**, and that was the only one that would lead to "treasure in heaven."



There is an absolute correlation between what we give and what we receive. There is the story of a monastery in Austria which once had great wealth. It remained prosperous as long as it was charitable to the poor. Eventually, however, the residents of the monastery stopped giving and the prosperity ceased.

One day, a poor man went to the

door of this place seeking aid, which was denied him. When he asked why, the keeper of the gate told him that the monastery was itself impoverished.

The monk told the poor man a parable. He said that the monastery once had two brethren, one named DATE (gave) and one named DABITUR (it shall be given to you.) DATE, he said, had been thrust out of the monastery; DABITUR then left of his own accord.

Part of the Christian message is that God has removed the dead ends. Easter, for example, affirms the reality that death is not an end, but a beginning of life without end.

The Christian way of living too, is a way that leads us on paths which do not end in impasses, but enhance our ongoing life in Christ.

Giving, sharing that which we have with others, is the best of all possible relationships with money. DATE and DABITUR are intimately related. When we take care of DATE, DABITUR takes care of us. Giving is one of the things which keeps us from being born losers at dead ends.

Come to think of it, the Christian faith includes the assurance that in ultimate terms, we are all born to win. It's just that when we fail to give, it becomes awfully easy to lose our way. Giving is one of the activities that sends us in the right direction. ■

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