



# CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH

755 Concordia Lane Steamboat Springs, Colorado 80487  
970 879-0175

**"Learning, Living, Sharing the Gospel"**

**February, 2009**

Dear Brothers and Sisters In Christ,

It was early in 1945. As US forces pushed deep into Okinawa, they came across a village unlike any they had ever seen. Here at Shimabuku they were met and welcomed by two old men who invited the troops in as "fellow Christians".

Correspondent Clarence Hall described the village like this: "We'd seen other Okinawan villages, uniformly down at the heels and despairing. By contrast this one shone like a diamond in a dung heap. Everywhere we were greeted with smiles and dignified bows. Proudly the old men showed us their spotless homes, terraced fields, their storehouses and their prized sugar mill."

Searching for an answer as to why this one village was so different from all the rest, Hall uncovered an incredible story. Some 30 years before, an American missionary on his way to Japan had paused at Ahimabuku and stayed only long enough to make two converts and leave them a Japanese Bible. These new converts, who returned to their village with only the instructions to read the Bible and live by it, began sharing their new faith with their neighbors. Before long the whole town had accepted Christ and had been following the Bible for 30 years.

They adopted the 10 Commandments as their legal code and the Sermon on the Mount as their guide for social conduct. They taught the Word of God in their schools and their courts made decisions based on it. The result, Hall noted, was that there were no jails, no bars, no drunkenness, no divorce, and a high level of happiness.

After the war, Hall began to wonder what had happened to the little hamlet. 15 years later he returned to discover that while modern civilization had swallowed Okinawa, the spiritual influence of Shimabuku remained. On leaving the village, Hall's jeep driver said: "So this is what comes from a Bible and a couple of old guys who wanted to live the way it taught. Maybe we're using the wrong weapons to make this world over."

As you will see in greater detail when our Annual Report is published, 2008 was a banner year for missions at Concordia as we responded to the call of Jesus to "preach the good news to all creation." Mark 16:15

As we head into 2009, with all of its financial challenges, I pray we remember what power that Gospel holds as we continue together to bring it to the whole world!

Peace+  
Pastor Dave



## Thank You!

*Pastor Dave and Sherri McKnight and The Tarcha family would like to express our heart-felt thanks for the Epiphany gifts. We greatly appreciate your love, kindness and support and we feel so blessed to be here and to serve at Concordia.*



## Happy February Birthdays

2/6 Nina Hanson

2/17 Patrick Smith

2/13 Hope Scott

2/21 Ryan Hogrefe

2/15 Heather Carrell

2/21 Jackson McCreight

2/15 Jeremy Schumacher

2/24 Keith Zuehlke

2/17 Bettiann Carrell

2/27 Mariah Starbuck

# Lent 2009

- |                         |                                  |                |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|
| ◇ Soup Suppers:         | 2/25, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25, 4/1 | 5:30 - 6:30 pm |
| ◇ Ash Wednesday         | 2/25                             | 7pm            |
| ◇ Lent Worship Services | 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25, 4/1       | 7pm            |

## Concordia's Altar Guild Needs You!

If you have ever considered becoming a part of the Altar Guild Ministry, now is your opportunity! Pam Patterson is looking for helpers. You can team up or take your own month! Training will be provided. Please contact Pam if you are interested 879-3297.

## Mission Trip Opportunity

Do you have a heart for helping others? Would you like to make a difference in someone's life in service to our Lord?

There is a mission trip going to Denver Friday, February 20th. We will be working on finishing painting the Church School project started in December. Adults and Young adults are needed and welcome. Contact Gene Carrell or Ron Wentzel.

## Attention all teen girls!

Grab your girlfriends and sign up for the Revolve Tour. It is a ton of fun. Tickets are \$72. That includes lunch. The dates are February 20 and 21. We'll head down Friday afternoon and return Saturday evening. Give Rebecca a call at 879-6854 if you are interested. (If you can't afford \$72 us know.)

## LWML Happenings:

- ◇ **Next Meeting: Monday, February 23 at Susan Dreska's house. Please call the church for directions.**
- ◇ **A big THANK YOU for your support in 2008! We look forward to a great 2009!**

## Special guests:

Hawk Nelson, Natalie Grant, Group 1 Crew, Kristal Meyers,  
Chad Eastham, Jenna Lucado, Danielle Kimmey &  
Many More!

## The Concordia University Choir Will Perform at Concordia Lutheran Church

The Concordia University Choir from Irvine, CA is coming to Steamboat Springs on March 3-4, 2009. Ellie Bach, our former DCE, is a part of that choir. They will perform here at Concordia at 7:00pm on Wednesday, March 4. The 40 person choir will enjoy a "day off" from their tour on March 3.

## Concordia Members' Corner.....

**Men's Bible Breakfast is February 14th at 7am at the Egg & I. Join us for fellowship, study and food.**



Start cleaning out that guest bedroom because **we may be seeking housing for the choir.** Think of what a blessing it would be to have some of these students staying with you! More details will follow on housing needs.

## Concordia's Website .....

The address is: [www.steamboatlutheran.org](http://www.steamboatlutheran.org)



**Missed a Sunday? Do you want to hear the sermon? You can click on the sermon section and choose the audio sermon and listen to it at your computer! Also, find the latest news and events and the calendar which will keep you up-to-date on meetings and happenings!**