



**CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**755 CONCORDIA LANE**  
**STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO 80487**  
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**"Learning, Living, Sharing the Gospel"**

**July, 2016**

#### COMING TOGETHER FOR THE SUMMER

Last month, I emphasized unity. This is important. Well, actually unity is critical and vital to anything and everything that Jesus wants to do through us. Listen to Jesus pray: "... *that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me*" (John 17:23). Jesus is clear; Christian unity is for a real purpose – so that the world may know the love of the Father.

In my work with congregations over the years, helping them to consider reasons why they are not growing as the LORD intends, I have noticed the utter lack of unity as a major cause. In some cases, I've observed what I call a "manufactured unity." This is where the people do everything they can to look united while holding the bitterness below the surface, keeping it secret as best they can. On rare occasions, I've experienced unity, real unity, observable unity, Holy Spirit-unity; a Christian community that had become "*perfectly one.*"

Such a community is contagious ... and dangerous! Contagious because every person longs for such a community that both receives and shares the love of God in both word and deed. Dangerous because this community attracts the attention of the evil one who works desperately to conquer it. Like a broken cup, a fractured congregation finds it difficult to receive the Water of Life and is unable to pour such Water out for others in a way they can receive.

As you can tell, I'm an advocate or and for congregational unity. One of my ministry-questions has long been: "how is such unity cultivated?"

I firmly believe that Jesus has given us the answer: "*I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me...*" (John 17:20-23).

Such unity ... the Holy Spirit sort of unity ... is cultivated *through* the Word of the Father given *through* the Son to the apostles and learned by us. All of us! From the youngest to the most experienced. This is what Jesus prayed for on the night he was betrayed ... and still prays! We are even privileged to join him in praying "Our Father, who art in the heavens ..."

For the summer months here in beautiful Steamboat Springs, let's give ourselves two opportunities for this Word of the Father to be learned among us. First, our adult Bible Study every Sunday is working together to move beyond studying about the earliest Christian community to learning the reasons why they were such an amazing community of believers. You can join us each week as we explore and apply the lessons of Acts.

Second, many of you have received copies of *Grace Upon Grace: Spirituality for Today* by John Kleinig. Continue reading and re-reading. We will gather at some point toward late summer to celebrate what we have all received: "*grace upon grace*" (John 1:16). It is my prayer that Jesus' High Priestly Prayer would be found among us.

Love ya'!

Pastor Craig



#### Happy July Birthdays

7-4	Greg Fritz	7-20	Garrett Anderson
7-5	Dale Mast	7-27	Andy Hogrefe
7-7	Jeanne Willman	7-27	Leon Vandahl
7-14	Elaina Vande Velde	7-28	Lara Craig
7-15	Robert Del Valle	7-31	Sherry Carrier
7-15	Debbie Kennedy		

#### Happy July Anniversary

7-8	Chris & Rebecca Duryea
7-12	Brian & Jerry Thornton
7-24	Jim & Judy Winter
7-29	Greg & Jan Fritz
7-29	Brad & Lara Craig

## Volunteers are Needed

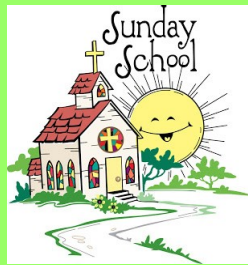
Please consider helping teach Sunday School. This is a great way to serve your Concordia Congregation AND Your Lord.

We only schedule you once a month and it is only for about one hour during the 10:30 service. No experience is necessary– we'll give you everything you need!

You will be blessed by these children and by our Lord for serving, I can attest to that!

Let Clare in the church office know if you are willing to serve!

Thank you in advance.



## Concordia Members' Corner.....

Men's Bible Breakfast is July 9th at 7am at the Egg & I. Join us for fellowship, study and food.

Sr. High Youth National Youth Gathering Trip: 7/15-7/20/16. Please keep the youth and chaperones in your prayers.

## Special Treat!!!

This Sunday, July 10th we will be blessed to have the Peace Lutheran Church Puppeteers here to perform during the late service!

Please join us for their special performance gift to our church!

## Memorial Service and Celebration of Life for Larry Marshall



**When: Saturday, July 9th– Noon**

*There will be a light lunch served following the services*

## 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!