A Seasonal Message From the President

May the blessings of Christmas fall like snow in your life—beautiful and plentiful. May the holidays truly be holy days in which love of God, family and friends are beautifully recognized and celebrated. Trees and travel, cookies and carols, gifts and good food enhance the days but may the heart of the matter remain God’s peace that goes beyond human traditions or time. I wish for each of you a very happy holiday, filled with meaningful relaxation and inspiring spiritual reflection. Please join in the prayer which provides the theme for our choral concert this year.

"Come, O long-expected Jesus, From our fears and sins release us. Joy of every longing heart. ... Now your gracious kingdom bring. Rule in all our hearts alone. Raise us to your glorious throne."

President Bob Holst

He Said

By Andrew J. Everard

A deep laugh poured the room as a grey-haired man, aged before his time sat in a worn out Lazy-boy chair. From appearance, he looked comfortable, but inside, he was a man struggling with certain shadows. He wore a pair of grey sweatpants, an old stretched-out undershirt and nothing on his cold feet, as his light green eyes watched the familiar i.e. set. Sure he looked comfortable, but inside, he was a man so happy and so great. So that one sad day, as silently as it came, so silently it took him away.

He would sit in his favorite chair every night trying to relax, but there was always something worrying him that couldn’t always be pushed back in his mind.

He was a very important man to his family, amongst his many friends, and business partners.
Lost and Found Rocks CSP Again

by Amy Klein

On Monday, December 4, the Concordia campus was once again blessed by the musical talents of guitarist Michael D. Bridges and pianist Geoff Klaas, which perform under the name Lost and Found. They rocked the chapel in a 90-minute concert. This alternative band may not be a household name, but those who have been lucky enough to hear them, love them. One college student, the friend of a Concordia student, flew in from Iowa just for the concert. Concordia is full of loyal fans, even geographers. It is a rare day when you can walk around campus and not see at least one "Stuckless," "Hearts on Fire" or "Oh Them Lions" T-shirts.

How can you explain their great popularity? Freshman Jen Dallinger said, "They really talk to you and they talk on your level." Pastor Coleman, a long-time friend of George and Michael, said "They're effective in communicating. They speak to people. People listen to what they say. And they have really cool hair," added sophomore Geoff Klaas. They are very good at getting the audience involved at their concerts. "A side effect of the Lost and Found concert is I'm very warm," said junior Don Mayo.

People often say to be funny by asking which one's lost and which one's found. As Michael explained during the concert, their name comes from the line "I once was lost but now I'm found" from the hymn Amazing Grace, and also from the fact that we're all lost and found at the same time. "We weren't always called Lost and Found," Michael said. "We used to periodically change our name so we'd get invited back to places." This was on their first tour, which their fans like to talk about. They rode their bicycles the entire way 8,500 miles, 270 concerts in 350 days. That's when we kind of started," Michael said during a pre-concert interview. "We played at little churches and then they'd call us back and ask us to play at their youth gatherings or (other venues)."

Michael said they don't like when people call them the "Christian music." "People are Christians; music isn't," he explained. "We play original music with lyrics informed by a relationship with God...Our favorite thing for people to say to us after a concert is 'I don't like Christian music, but I liked you guys.' We feel like we are serving a group of people who are not typically plugged into the industry of Christian music. We're not a part of that industry. We're a part of the Church."

By Timothy P. Lucht

Even though the holidays have not yet arrived, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I would also like to say to everyone has fun watching the Football games on New Year's eve and New Year's day.

As a former high school wrestler, this is the time of year my teammates and I could not wait for, because every year at the Blaine Sports Complex there is the Annual Christmas tournament which runs from December 15-17. My teammates and I made it an annual event to go to watch some of the best high school wrestlers in Minnesota, North and South Dakota, and California. There are 44 teams that compete not only for individual wrestler honors but also for the team title. The winners of the tournament have always gone on to gain high state rankings as well as the honor of being nationally ranked by the U.S. Wrestling Association.

My high school coaches would never enter my teammates and me into this tournament because it uses up 10 of the 30 matches allowed by the state high school league. The wrestlers in this tournament are dreaming of the same thing my teammates and I would always dream about and that is winning a major tournament, which was something we did on more than one occasion. If you are looking for something to do before the Christmas break, you should stop by the Blaine Sports Complex and check out some of the best high school wrestlers from around the nation.

By Special

Dawn Keim, senior

"My favorite memory is something I did with my youth group. We talked all the parents that we were going to do something special and we wanted them to ask all the godparents and grandparents and everyone who was important in the kids' lives to write a letter explaining how the gift had been a gift to them. We didn't tell the kids what we were doing. Then, two nights before Christmas, we had all the kids come to the church, and they were served a Christmas dinner. Then we went to the sanctuary where there was a wrapped box for each kid, each with his or her name on it, containing all the letters for them. Afterwards, all the kids said it was the best present they'd ever gotten.

Pastor Gerry Coleman