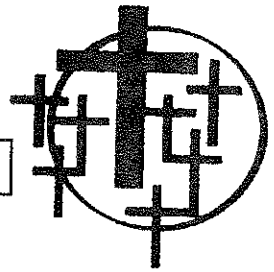


CHRISTOGRAM



Concordia Lutheran Church

JANUARY, 2002

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

OUT MY WINDOW - Reflections on a year gone by.

People do things like this as a year cycles to a close—they reflect about it.

I am sitting here at home in my office marveling at a view I never thought I would see. I see Rocky Mountain National Park about 30-40 miles away. I see snow-covered peaks and all the valleys and hills in between. It encourages my devotional attitude this morning and every morning since we moved here to what I call "Koenigs Mountain" (Koenigs' Berg auf Deutsch).

That view is a part of the surprise and change this past year has brought us.

Ruth and I didn't know we would spend almost every weekend with you folks at Concordia - surprise! But what a wonderful gift that has been for us. We love being with you - joining in work and worship with you.

You have been faithful folk. You hung in there all year during the call process. You heard 4 different pastors talk about how

they would love to come to Concordia and what a great congregation you are and how they found the decision so difficult to make, but in the end, felt they could best serve the Lord by staying where they were.

You have just hung in there and faithfully served the Lord, with the conviction that the Lord would send His chosen man at the right time. Perhaps it is this man - Pastor Herbert.

As I remember this past year, I think of an Elders Retreat in the deep snow of north Routt County, where I drove a snow machine for the first time, and watched Albert dig his machine out of a fresh spring. Elders have character and tenacity!

I remember a good Lent Season - Helen Sherrod's going home to claim the biggest blue ribbon she ever won. I remember a good Confirmation on May the 6th - a beautiful Cantata by the choir.

Ruth and I drove Kristen to New York City - in the Spring we flew

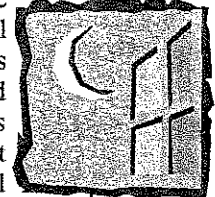
to visit her - we drove to a class reunion in St. Louis in early summer, and flew to see our son, Jeffrey in Thunder Bay, Ontario in August. On December 1 we moved up here.

On other days there were weddings, Baptisms, funerals, visits to homes and hospitals. It has been a God blessed year.

We were up here in Steamboat Springs with you on September 11th. As the tragic news unfolded before our eyes on the TV, we quickly made plans for a noon-time service of prayer and meditation. Many of you came. Others sat quietly in church during the afternoon - alone in your thoughts and prayers. As a nation we are still dealing with the effects of that terrible event. God will bring strength and value out of that awfulness - I now He will.

We will be with you yet for a time. We are grateful to the Lord for you - for safe travel - for a loaned 4-wheel drive car - and for your spirit and faith. God bless you in 2002!

Pastor Wayne



January, 2002

Concordia Lutheran Church **CHRISTOGRAM**

inside...

"God So Loved The World"
"Explain God"
"Count The Cost"

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

As we end the Christmas season, I'm hoping that everyone will have a happy and joyful 2002. We faced a lot of adversity in 2001, not just as a country, but as a congregation. We felt the pain and sorrow of the people victimized by terrorism. We struggled with financial burdens more so than in years' past. We also started to wonder if we would ever find the right pastor for this Church. Last year was difficult, but I want this new year to be different.

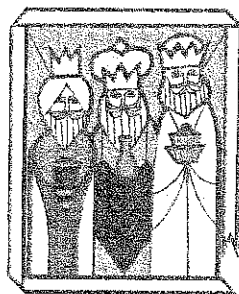
This year, I want Christmas everyday! I want to see people smiling and singing carols of the birth of our Savior. It brings joy to my heart to know that most people put other things on the backburner to celebrate the birthday of Jesus Christ. I'm not talking about buying presents everyday or decorating the house with ornaments—I'm talking about expressing your joy that Jesus is in your heart and has given His life so that you might live eternally. Christmas brings out the best in all, not just Christians, but everyone who celebrates the Christmas cheer.

The Christmas season reminds us of all that is right with God's creation. It floods our memories with people that we have loved and lost, knowing that we will see them again someday. It lifts us up to understand that we can overcome any adversity, and face the most difficult problems, knowing that God is by our side; by showing encouragement and generosity to others, and by performing deeds that bring out the true spirit of Christmas.

As we bring in the season of Epiphany, keep the spirit of Christmas in your heart. Let everyone know what Jesus has done for you. Sing Christmas carols in July, letting your heart be lifted of all that troubles you. Perform good deeds and encourage others when you can, because Christmas should be celebrated everyday!

Merry Christmas and May God Bless You,

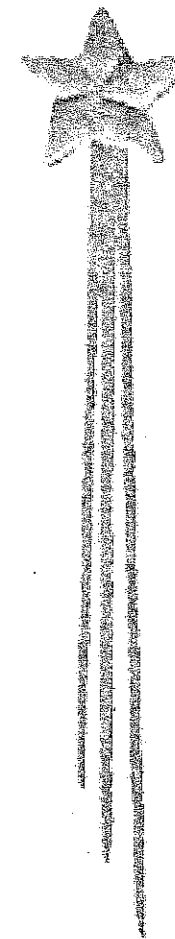
Guy Wojtowicz
Elder



GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

*The story of Jesus Christ is this:
The people of this earth waited for a Messiah . . . a Savior . . .
and only God would send a little baby king.
The child grew and began to question things as they were,
and the man moved through his days and through this world,
questioning the system of kings and priests in the marketplace.
He was called the New Creation
the New Covenant
the Son of God
who brought to all who listened
who saw
who understood
change and new life.
But kings and corporations and churches of this world
work very hard
to keep things as they are out into forever Amen.
And so they killed him:
he who said, Love on another,
he who said, Feed my sheep,
for they didn't want to share their bread and their wine.
Now the story should have ended there
except that the story has always been
that our God is the God of the covenant.
The Good News is that
in spite of our faithlessness
God is faithful
and Jesus Christ was resurrected,
for God so loved the world
that God gave his only begotten Son
that whoever believed
might have everlasting Life.
Listen, you who have ears to hear.
Listen, and sit down to bread and wine with strangers.
Feed his sheep. . . Love one another,
and claim new life in his name.*

From *Kneeling in Bethlehem* by Ann Weems



Scoop from the Sup . . .



Ellyn Myller

Have you opened up all of your Christmas presents?

God gave us "a gift"- FAITH

As "Lutherans" we talk about that gift being given in our baptism. At Christmas when we receive a gift, to benefit from the gift and give joy to the giver, we have to open it up!

Have you opened up "the gift"? Jesus said to twelve men, "Come follow me", they left everything and followed. (Matt. 4:18-20) That is what it means to open the gift.

Do you know how to use "the gift"? - It came with instructions - The Bible! We are all guilty of trying to put something together without reading the instruction manual. We would be much better off and further along in enjoying "the gift" if we would take the time to read the manual.

Are you growing in a relationship with God through conversation with Him - Prayer.

Are you growing in the knowledge of His written and living word, The Bible, through private and group study? Are you in fellowship with other believers? (Acts 2:42-47) These things encourage and strengthen "the gift". They are the add-ons that make "the gift" more fun!

Have you shared it with a friend? Sometimes it isn't easy to share...but this is "the gift" that was meant to be shared! It came with instructions to do that!

As we enter into a new year, it is a good time to take stock of how we are using "the gift" God gave us and what gift we each will bring to the Savior this year?

Keep on growing, Ellyn

Dates to Remember:

Children's Sunday School Ministry - January 6, 13, 20 - SHIELD OF FAITH
January 27 HELMET OF SALVATION

Adults - January will hold some special topics during the Sunday 9:20 AM Education Hour. These will highlight two outreach ministries currently in our church. OUTREACH is the ministry of the church! Come and get educated!

In February we will resume our new Sunday Morning Education hour format. The Board of Christian education accepts any suggestions and feedback you have - Please pass a note or speak with Ellyn Myller. Your spiritual growth is important to us!

FEBRUARY 7,8,9 Christian Ministry Conference in Denver more information available on the resource table in the narthex. If your interested in attending speak with Ellyn Myller free accommodations can be arranged. It's a "Thanksgiving" meal for the soul!

Stephen Ministry

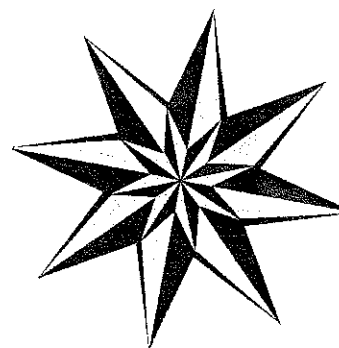
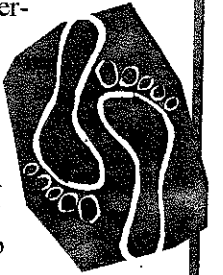
Happy New Year from the Stephen Ministry Team! Did I say "happy"? You know that it is God's desire for us to live happy and joyful lives. But sometimes we just don't feel that way. Are you feeling lonely or depressed after the loss of a loved one? Are you in a troubled marriage or are the kids' problems just more than you can deal with right now? Are you feeling blue but you're not quite sure why? Sometimes just talking about these feelings to another person may help. If you would like someone to talk with, someone to listen and pray with you, we're here to help. Simply call Jean Smith in the office and she will arrange to have you meet with a Stephen Minister. These calls and visits are totally confidential.

*When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
And through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned;
And the flame shall not consume you. Isaiah 43:2*

We are never promised freedom from flood and fire, from any kind of disaster, or freedom from death. What God is promising here is that we do not walk through these terrors alone and that, difficult as they are, they will not destroy us.

But, we have to act to take advantage of this promise.

Can we reach out our hand into the darkness, believing there is One there to sustain us, to help us through this terrible time? There is a saying that for every halting step we take toward God, God walks a thousand miles in blazing light to come to us.



Epiphany Celebration

Sunday, January 6, 2002

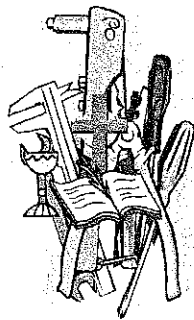
Worship—8:00 & 10:30 AM

The Christmas Cantata, "All is calm...All is bright..." will be presented at the 10:30 Service by Concordia's Adult and Youth Choirs.

Join us for an Epiphany Brunch in the Fellowship Hall at 11:30 (following the 10:30 service).

The community is invited—bring a friend!

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



TOOLS FOR LIVING

Secure in the abundance of God's grace in Christ, we are moved to help one another in our affliction, our distress, and in all kinds of brokenness. When our brokenness manifests itself in the form of addiction, whether chemical or behavioral, is when we can identify with the words of Jesus when He referred to people in need as "the least of these." We have all been there. More importantly, Jesus has been there before us and He knows our despair and turmoil. I think that Psalm 46 depicts the turmoil that often erupts within our soul. "Though our earth gives

way...though our mountains fall...though our waters roar and foam" within us, describes the battles that rages in our lives. The prophet Isaiah states in Isaiah 61:1 that the anointed one, Jesus, would bind up the broken-hearted. The Psalmist gives this affirmation in 46:9 when he writes, "He (God) causes wars to cease, our wars." In verse 11, he proclaims that "God is our refuge." This reflects God's abundant grace in Christ. To be sure, the battle goes on, but it is not our battle alone. God is on our side and by the sacrificial atonement of His Son Jesus on the cross, and His stepping forth out of the grave, seals the victory. It is not our sacrifice, but the sacrifice of Jesus that makes the difference. This action of God defines our ending. We often wish that we could go back and start over, but that is not possible. We have all gone in places that we wish we hadn't, in thought, word, and deed. Through the abundant grace of God in Christ, our journey is changed and directed. We don't have to get worse before we change. God doesn't shame us into change, but gently takes us where we are, one step at a time.

Jesus set the standard of servanthood. In His miraculous way of blessing us, He has designed us to serve one another. That is the purpose of our *Tools for Living* Program—to serve one another. Our community of faith can be secure in the abundance of God's grace in Christ to offer help, to give direction, to give support, and to lend a hand. In Psalm 23:5, we have evidence of this in these words; "you anoint my head with oil, my cup runs over." There is abundance. God doesn't ration out His grace but gives of it freely and it can reach into the dark and far corners of our life.

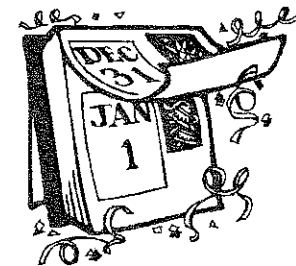
It is the abundant grace of God in Christ Jesus that is the foundation of our *Tools for Living* endeavor. God told Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you and it is sufficient for each one of us in our need." God, in His abundant grace, has given us many gifts in the form of people. He gives us people that are willing to use their gifts in the service of one another; people that share their gifts and insights in support groups, people that share their gifts of training in the giving of understanding and guidance in our behavior, people that are pastors and others in the faith community that guide, help, encourage, and pray with and for one another.

Yes, we are secure in the abundance of God's grace in Christ Jesus—therefore, we serve one another. If you have any concerns, please feel free to contact any member of the *Tools for Living* Team, or our Pastor.

Luther Berntson
Team Member

LWML News (Women's Guild)

Happy New Year from the Women's Guild! Does your New Year's Resolution include slowing down, and making time for God? Learning to fit prayer into a busy life is not easy. If you initiate a particular schedule or approach to prayer and don't master it within a short time, don't be drastically upset with yourself—or imagine that God is either. A good parent isn't upset with a toddler who falls and "fails" many times in learning to walk. The falls are necessary steps in learning to take real ones. God is your perfect Parent, who knows perfectly well that your falls and fumbings in prayer are simply steps in your progress toward deeper union with God.



Thank you to Dianne Weber for hosting the annual Christmas Brunch in her home on December 8th. Warm and wonderful food was served as we enjoyed a special Christmas story read by Billee Harris, and the Secret Sisters were revealed. (If you are interested in being a Secret Sister for 2002, contact Ann Gilbertson, 879-2377)

The January Women's Guild Get-Together will be on Tuesday evening, January 15th, at 7:00 PM at Tammy Ryan's home in Heritage Park (27434 Brandon Circle). We will carpool from the Church at 6:45 PM. We will continue our discussion of "Faith in the Fast Lane!"



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 next meeting!

(THIS ONE IS FABULOUS!!! It was written by an 8-year-old, Danny Dutton of Chula Vista, CA, for his third-grade homework assignment. The assignment was to "Explain God". Wonder if any of us could do as well?)

EXPLAIN GOD by Danny Dutton

One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grown-ups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way He doesn't have to take up His valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.

God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting His time by going over your Mom and Dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.

Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren't any who come to our church.

Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work like walking on water and performing miracles and people finally got tired of Him preaching to them and they crucified Him. But He was good and kind, like His Father and He told His Father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said "O.K."

His Dad (God) appreciated everything that He had done and all His hard work on earth so He told Him He didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So He did. And now He helps His Dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones He can take care of Himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important. You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.

You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God. Don't skip church to do something you think will be more fun like going to the beach. This is wrong. And besides the sun doesn't come out at the beach until noon anyway.

If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared in the dark or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids. But...you shouldn't just always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and He can take me back anytime He pleases. And...that's why I believe in God.



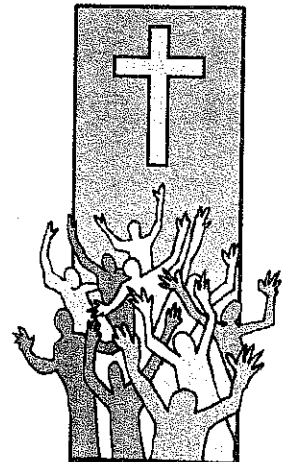
NOTES FROM AND TO THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS (THAT'S ALL OF US, FOLKS!!!)

"Count the cost..." Luke 14:25-33

We are all in the process of picking up our 2002 box of offering envelopes. Surely, none of you has had to ask for help in carrying it to the car or helping you place it in your home. It weighs only 6-1/2 ounces, but when you consider that box of envelopes and the coming year, you may begin to think, "WOW, this little box carries a lot of weight for me and for all of Concordia!"

With the passing of the 2002 budget, we have all assumed a 15% increase that the budget now reflects. Somehow, **we must all** consider how to give back to Concordia to balance that budget. Before you throw away your **2001** envelope box, you may want to see how many envelopes never made their way to the offering plate—that tell us why we are regularly behind budget each week! With the New Year comes resolutions, some made, some forgotten. Let's all pledge to ourselves to "count the cost"; the cost to keep the Church financially able to do its work each week and to "pay the price" for being active, caring Christians in Concordia's family. We anticipate the arrival of a new, full-time Pastor sometime in the near future. That also means a full-time salary, something we have not had to deal with for the past year-and-a-half. Increased programs and services, increased salaries and needs, are all part of the 15% increase in budget. At this glorious time of year, as we celebrate Christ's coming, let us all take time to seriously and prayerfully consider ways to fit the Church needs into our needs for the year ahead. "Count the cost, pay the price, and shoulder the cross," -the burden of that 6-1/2 ounce box of envelopes - for the future of Concordia. May your year be full of blessings in every way including our Church!

In His Service,
Bill and Bob
Stewardship





LCEF—What Is It?

The Lutheran Church Extension Fund us a unique savings program where Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod members can invest their funds and earn interest. In turn, these funds provide a source of low-cost loans for church sites and facilities. Visit with Clair Erickson, Concordia's LCEF Representative, 879-4419 or call 1-800-THE-LCEF (843-5233) and learn how your invested dollar makes a difference.

"Put on the Full Armor of God!"
Concordia's Theme, 2002

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 this month on the following dates: (this is a change from the December newsletter)

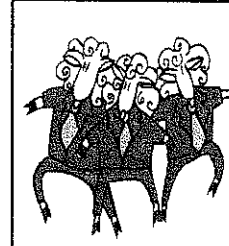
Saturday, January 12th, 8:00 AM to noon
Saturday, January 19th, 8:00 AM to noon

The workbook is \$10 (scholarships available)

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

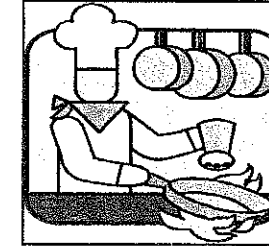
NEW FLOWER CHART

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!

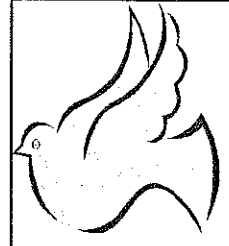


YOUTH GROUP

Meets every Sunday at 9:20 AM (SML-Sunday morning live!)



Men's Breakfast
Saturday
January 12th
7:00 - 8:15AM
in Fellowship Hall
Invite A Friend!



Confirmation

Meets every Sunday between services at 9:20 AM

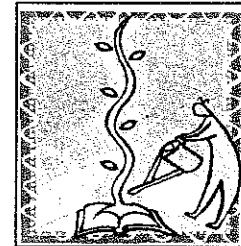


YOUTH CHOIR
"The Rock Slinger & His Greatest Hit"
Meets every Wednesday from 3:30 to 4:30 PM. All 2-6 graders welcome!

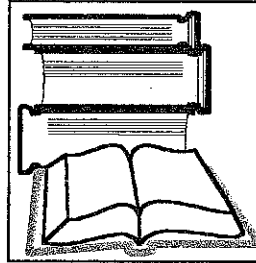


Recovery Room

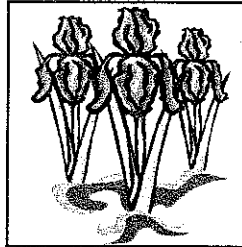
Thursdays, 7:00 PM in the church library (Christian support open to anyone dealing with an addiction or an addicted person.)



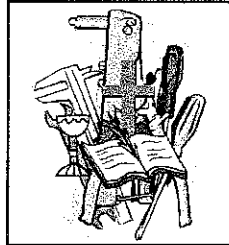
Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study
At 9:00 am in the Library. Please join us! (Childcare available)



Discovery Bible Study
Wednesday
7:00 to 8:00 PM
in the library

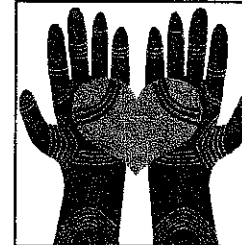


LWML
(Women's Guild)
The January meeting will be at Tammy Ryan's home (27434 Brandon Circle-Heritage Park). Carpool from Church at 6:45 PM



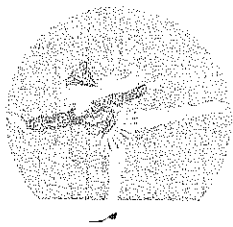
TOOLS FOR LIVING:
(Ministry team for recovery, addiction & prevention)

Nest Meeting—TBA

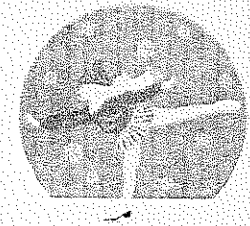


STEPHEN MINISTERS
"A friend who has developed gifts for bringing Christ's healing to hurting places."

Meeting:
Wednesday
January 2nd, 8:15 PM



January 2002



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 NEW YEAR'S DAY Trustee Mtg- 5:15 pm	2 Youth Board-6 PM Discovery-7:00 PM Stephen Min-8:15 PM	3 Womens Study-9 AM No Choir Bells-7:00 PM Recovery-7:00 PM	4 Staff Mtg-noon	5 Cantata Practice- 9 to 11 AM Worship-5:30 PM
6 Worship 8/10:30 AM Educ Hr-9:20 AM Cantata-10:30 AM Epiphany Brunch- 11:30 AM	7 Womens AA-7 PM	8 Elders Mtg-5:30 PM Church Council-7 PM Clark Study-7 PM	9 Discovery- 7:00 PM	10 Womens Study-9 AM Choir-6:00 PM Bells-7:00 PM Recovery-7:00 PM	11 Staff Mtg-noon Wedding-3:00 PM	12 Mens Breakfast-7 AM Network-8 to noon Journey-10 AM Worship-5:30 PM
13 Worship 8/10:30 AM Educ Hr-9:20 AM	14 Womens AA-7 PM	15 Clark Study-7 PM LWML-7 PM at Tammy Ryan's	16 Youth Board-6 PM Discovery- 7:00 PM	17 Womens Study-9 AM Choir-6:00 PM Bells-7:00 PM Recovery-7:00 PM	18 Staff Mtg-noon	19 Network-8 to noon Worship-5:30 PM
20 Worship 8/10:30 AM Educ Hr-9:20 AM	21 Womens AA-7 PM	22 Clark Study-7 PM	23 Discovery- 7:00 PM	24 Womens Study-9 AM Choir-6:00 PM Bells- 7:00 PM Recovery-7:00 PM	25 Staff Mtg-noon	26 Worship-5:30 PM
27 Worship 8/10:30 AM Educ Hr-9:20 AM DWCC-1:00 PM	28 Womens AA-7 PM	29 Clark Study-7 PM	30 Discovery-7:00 PM	31 Womens Study-9 AM Choir-6:00 PM Bells-7:00 PM Recovery-7:00 PM		