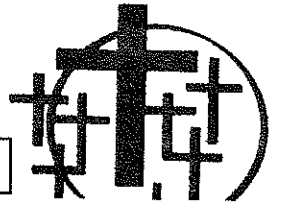


CHRISTOGRAM



Concordia Lutheran Church

JUNE 2002

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham from heaven a second time and said, "I swear by myself, declares the Lord, that because you have done this and have not withheld your son, your only son, I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed, because you have obeyed me."

Genesis 22:15-18

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

Abraham is held up throughout Scripture as the example of faithful obedience to God. It is his faithfulness that is rewarded by God and it is his obedience that is pointed to as the proof of his faithfulness. In the verses above, God rewards Abraham because Abraham believed in God and His promises. Even though God had told Abraham to sacrifice to Him his one and only son, Abraham still believed that God would fulfill His promise of making his descendants into a great nation that would possess the Promised Land. Abraham had no idea as to how, but he did not waver in his belief or in his obedience.

There is another story that brings this point home. It is one that you may have gotten through email or some other way; but it is worth sharing again.

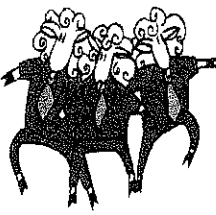
A man was sleeping at night in his cabin when suddenly his room filled with light, and God appeared. The Lord told the man he had work for him to do, and showed him a large rock in front of his cabin. The Lord explained that the man was to push against the rock with all his might. So, this the man did, day after day.

For many years he toiled from sunup to sundown, his shoulders set squarely against the cold, massive surface of the unmoving rock, pushing with all of his might. Each night the man returned to his cabin sore and worn out, feeling that his whole day had been spent in vain.

Since the man was showing discouragement, the Adversary (Satan) decided to enter the picture by placing thoughts into the weary mind: "You have been pushing against that rock for a long time, and it hasn't moved." Thus, he gave the man the impression that the task was impossible and that he was a failure. These thoughts discouraged and disheartened the man.

inside...


The rest of the article on the next page.




YOUTH GROUP
Sundays, May 5th and 26th from 5:30-7:00 PM
LateStart Breakfast-
May 8th at 9:00 AM
Senior Appreciation on May 26th!




Men's Breakfast
Saturday
May 11th
7:00 - 8:15AM
in Fellowship Hall
Invite A Friend!




Confirmation is on May 19th at the 10:30 Service. Reception will be between the services at 9:20 AM



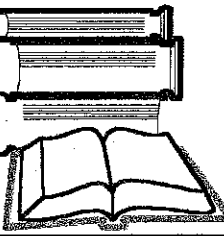
YOUTH CHOIR
Meets Wednesdays from 3:30 to 4:30 PM.
All 1-6 graders welcome!



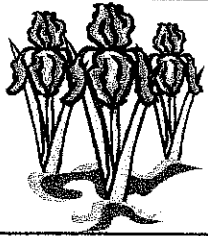
Recovery Room
5:30 PM Thursdays in the Youth Room.



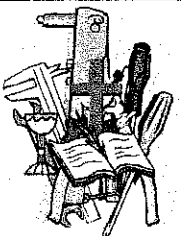
Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study
At 9:00 am in the Youth Room . Please join us!
(Childcare available)




Discovery Bible Study
Meets every Wednesday at 7:00 PM in the Library



LWML
(Women's Guild)
The May meeting is May 24th at 7 PM



TOOLS FOR LIVING:
(Ministry team for recovery, addiction & prevention)
Next Meeting:
Tuesday, May 7th
6:00 PM



STEPHEN MINISTERS
"A friend who has developed gifts for bringing Christ's healing to hurting places."
Meet: Wednesday,
May 1st, 8:00 PM

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

Satan said, "Why kill yourself over this? Just put in your time, giving just the minimum effort; and that will be good enough." That's what the weary man planned to do, but decided to make it a matter of prayer and to take his troubled thoughts to the Lord.

"Lord," he said, "I have labored long and hard in your service, putting all my strength to do that which you have asked. Yet, after all this time, I have not even budged that rock by half a millimeter. What is wrong? Why am I failing?"

The Lord responded compassionately, "My friend, when I asked you to serve Me and your accepted, I told you that your task was to push against the rock with all of your strength, which you have done. Never once did I mention to you that I expected you to move it. Your task was to push. And now you come to Me with your strength spent, thinking that you have failed. But, is that really so? Look at yourself. Your arms are strong and muscled, your back sinewy and brown, your hands are calloused from constant pressure, your legs have become massive and hard. Through opposition you have grown much, and your abilities now surpass that which you used to have. True, you haven't moved the rock. But your calling was to be obedient and to push and to exercise your faith and trust in My wisdom. That you have done. Now I, my friend, will move the rock."

At times, when we hear a word from God, we tend to use our own intellect to decipher what He wants, when actually what God wants is just a simple obedience and faith in Him. By all means, exercise the faith that moves mountains, but know that it is still God who moves the mountains.

When everything seems to go wrong . . . just P.U.S.H.

When the job gets you down . . . just P.U.S.H.

When people don't react the way you think they should . . . just P.U.S.H.

When your money is "gone" and the bills are due . . . just P.U.S.H.

When people just don't understand you . . . just P.U.S.H.

P = Pray

U = Until

S = Something

H = Happens

Just as Abraham and the man in the story were called to obediently do something that made no logical sense, we also are called to faithfully obey our Lord and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, witnessing to His promised salvation for all who believe, even when we cannot see the results. We are to remember that we are called simply to witness, it is God who saves.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, when the rejection of the world is getting you down, or when you are getting frustrated with church or with your brothers and sisters in Christ in general, or when you are getting discouraged because your work doesn't seem to be bearing any fruit . . . just P.U.S.H.

God's blessings and peace to you all.

Pastor Scott

It's a time of year that fosters thoughts about change. The change of seasons to spring. Cold to warm. Winter sports to summer sports. Moving snow to planting the garden. Getting outdoors instead of staying indoors so much. Graduation is a threshold of change for our Steamboat High School Seniors. They are about to step out into the uncertainties and responsibilities of a more complex world.

Change is a continuous occurrence in life. It can be subtle as in the aging process or it can be overwhelming like the collapse of the technology issues in the stock market. Fortunes and lifestyles were totally lost for some.

Change appears in all kinds of ways. Those of us with children experience a lot of change, sometimes on an hour-by-hour basis. The birth of a child is one of the most amazing, joyous, long-term life changing events a couple can experience. That starts the series of learning to talk, to walk, school, confirmation, learning to drive, graduation, marriage with all the challenges each of those experiences bring. After that comes the quiet and void of the empty nest.

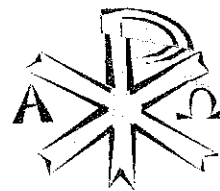
We can't ignore job changes, planned and unplanned, that throw obstacles into our path every day. We go on to face retirement and changing health. A death in our family drastically illustrates the finality of change and challenges our stamina and our faith. The void left by death's departure can be overwhelming.

Thank God he decided to answer our call and send Concordia Scott Herbert. We are all adjusting to having a full time pastor again. This is a good and welcome change for our church.

September 11th changed the civilized world. Terrorism is now an ever-present danger in our lives. Our confidence in the safety and strength of our country is shaken. The question of what changes the Muslim religion is going to cause in our future and that of our children is unsettling.

Issues in the world make change inevitable. Our expectations for stability in the endeavors we choose in life are usually in vain. We don't actually have much control over life's events. Being able to roll with the punches becomes a survival tool. Keeping a positive attitude can help us weather change. But the strength and freely given grace from our Lord and Savior is the tool that ultimately quiets and overcomes the turbulence of change.

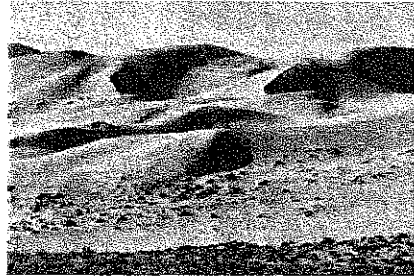
Though it is sometimes hard to view in this light, change can be an opportunity to be examples of true faith and Christianity. All of the changes in life are bearable when we take time to remember that Jesus loves us. Mathew 28:20 we are reminded that He will be with us always, until the end of the age. That is some big-time



Peace in Christ,
Jake

reinforcement in this changing world. God sent his son to show us how to live and demonstrate his unfailing love. God's love is one thing that is always the same. All of the changes and roadblocks in life are temporary. We can make bad choices and decisions that cause an abundance of difficulties in our earthly life but through his grace and forgiveness we can be assured that salvation is still within reach. He will always help us to come back to his shining light. He loves us that much. We just have to accept it. Accept the strength and power and infinity of his love. And salvation will be ours. And that never changes.

Drought . . . A word from the Parish Administrator



"Then he told them many things in parables, saying: "A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had not root. Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop - a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown." Matthew 13:3-8

There is a keen sense of the lack of moisture in Colorado this year. We are in for a drought, and some sections of Colorado are experiencing it now, or preparing for it. Even seeds planted in good soil can be affected by a drought. Dry times. Valley's of dry bones. How does one survive a drought?

I am in awe of those around me who have developed deep roots. Those that are able to not just survive dry times, but even encourage others in the midst of them. Elaine Stroncek was a woman of 'good soil.' The seeds which were planted in her developed deep roots. Those roots which were anchored on the promises of God carried not only her, but many of us through our individual dry times. We do not all have the deep roots of Elaine. We may experience a spiritual drought and be feeling scorched. But I have witnessed many who were encouraged by Elaine's strength and compassion. She was there to cast the Word and water the souls of many who were thirsting. She was a cultivator, a turner of the soil, a nurturer - a farmer who tended another kind of crop. I believe that she has produced a crop - a hundred, times what was sown.

I am so blessed to have known and been nurtured by Elaine Stroncek. She will be missed in so many ways. She wasn't called the "church lady" for nothing. But see what the Holy Spirit working through her has sown! A bounty of blessings that will continue to bless us. We will never see all the roots Elaine has strengthened over the years but those roots will continue to grow deep into the promises of God so that we may continue to do what we experienced affirmation in the promises of God; certainty in our salvation through Jesus' sacrifice for our sins; assurance that the Holy Spirit can transform our dry and parched soil into fertile ground; and always encouragement and gratitude. Of course Elaine was not perfect. The sinner was in that saint somewhere...but oh, what deep roots she had!

In strengthening the roots of others, we strengthen our own. Now we go on doing what God would have us do and pray that He bless us in the doing.

Scoop from the Sup . . .



Dear Soldiers,

What an awesome God, what an awesome ARMOR!

This month I would like to share with you an article that I received via e-mail from Phil Morgan. It writes on April 9, 2002; "Weary Soldier, Welcome Home" (The Inspiration Station - PnPMorgan@com)

I love to read in Ephesians 6 about putting on the "Full Armor of God" and nothing stirs my heart a rousing chorus of "Onward Christian Soldiers". It is true that although God has won the ultimate and final victory, we Christians are fighting the war. I had this image in my mind that on the final a strong Christian would boldly march up to the throne of God with shield glistening and sword high, then reverently bow on one knee before his high commander to receive his reward for faithful service. That image has changed the longer I've honestly served God and especially after the valleys and struggles we have endured in the past few years. The only soldier that stands tall with bright and shining armor is the one who has never been in the battle. The true soldiers and Christians that God uses mightily are those who are not afraid to get dirty, those who are willing to fight even though this may be their final encounter, Christians who are honored to die for the One who died for them. The Christians who are making a difference for God are threat to Satan, and they come head to head with his powerful forces of opposition. Being a Christian in this sinful world means we are soldiers fighting in enemy territory. We are at war, and war is serious business.

Now when I think about a faithful Christian approaching God's throne, I see a soldier who is bloody and bruised with armor dented and gashed from uncountable skirmishes. He doesn't bow, but falls at God's feet, every drop of strength and energy gone. Then comes my favorite part. I see God leaning down, unstrap the now unnecessary armor, and gently lift the faithful servant in His strong arms in a loving embrace...not as a General, but as a friend.. More than that, as a father. Then with a voice almost breaking with emotion, He whispers the words I long to someday hear, "Well done, good and faithful servant.. You have fought the good fight. Now rest, weary soldier...welcome home."

I thought this was fitting for the end of our year of boot camp in God's army. We are fitted with our armor, may we remember how it protects us and the love of the Commander and Chief!

In His Service,

Ellyn

PS - Welcome home Elaine, we'll miss you!! See ya soon!

DATES TO REMEMBER: Summer Sunday School

June 9 - Birthday Mission Project - for info contact MaryBeth Bradfield 879-4181

June 16, 23, 30 - Make a Joyful Noise with Jean Smith

TRUSTEE COMMITTEE

We held a brief meeting the first Tuesday of May with three present. We discussed the continuation of the parsonage remodel. Since the bathroom floor is so bad and we already have purchased a vanity for each bathroom, it is our suggestion to begin in August to repair these problems. We would once again call upon those wonderful helping hands to aid in this project. Those of you who cannot work physically on the project may contribute financially if you so choose. Even if you would consider purchasing 6 2x4's or a piece of flooring it would be a great help. All of the bathroom fixtures are purchased or will come from another source with the exception of faucets.

The next meeting will be held the first Tuesday in June.

Your Servant in Christ
Dave Anderson

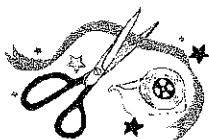
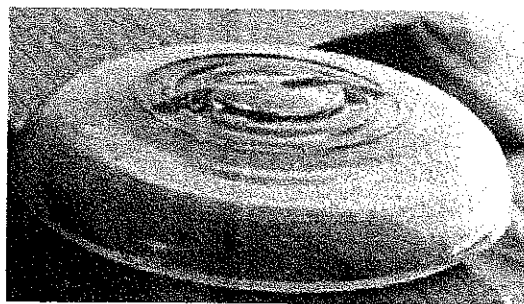
FELLOWSHIP

Plans are being made to have an adult game night and a singles night. Also there will be a summer picnic held in August and we welcome suggestions for place and theme.

Judy Anderson, Chair

CRAFT NIGHT

Our projects are coming along nicely. In fact we have 19 things in various stages of progression. We still need willing workers so please consider joining us each Monday evening at the church at 7:00. I need glass jar lids; the kind that fit on canning jars that was used for wire clamps. (See picture)



Crafting for Christ, Judy Anderson

Stephen Ministry

Dear Friends and Members of Concordia's Family,

We are so very grateful for each and every one of you. Having you continue to worship at Concordia has made the last year or so easier! You stayed, keeping our congregation together and continuing the ministry of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in the midst of change! As I watched the gathering of our congregation each week it reminded me of the Disciples and others who stayed to keep the family of Jesus together so many years ago. Just as a family is called together when there is trouble in the ranks, weakness in the group (such as not having a Head Honcho= Pastor), or confusion as to how to carry on, we at Concordia needed one another to stand firm on our foundation and carry on with His command to "spread the gospel though out the world".

Your Stephen Ministers meet monthly to discuss prayer concerns, needs of our congregational family and friends that have been brought to our attention and/or to assign a specific Stephen Minister to someone who has a need and has requested someone to talk to or is lonely and needs visitations regularly.

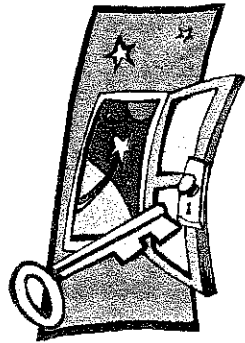
We continue to train with updated materials on how to listen without offering professional advice or trying to solve the problem or take care of the task. We are an arm of His Church and are there for each of you when you need to talk or need someone to care, even if it is for a brief moment in time or even longer is you so desire. We let you tell us what you need and for how long you need it.

Please call if you think this is something you would benefit from...we are here to be of service to you!

In His love,

Patti Mac Arthur on behalf of your Stephen Ministers

YOUTH HAPPENINGS



Attention all Middle School Kids!

If you are going into 6th, 7th or 8th grade join us for a Lock-In on Saturday, June 22nd. The fun will start at 5:00 PM and end with attending the 8:00 AM worship service together as a group. Get your rest! You will need all your energy for Saturday night! Call the office if you have questions!

COLLEGE AND CAREERS NIGHT

Back for the summer? Or maybe you never left. In any case, all college age kids are gathering at the Weber's on June 21st for a barbecue. BYO: friend, snacks and music. Burgers and Hotdogs will be provided. Reconnect with old friends. Make some new ones. (Webers live at 1769 Timothy Drive: 879-3863)

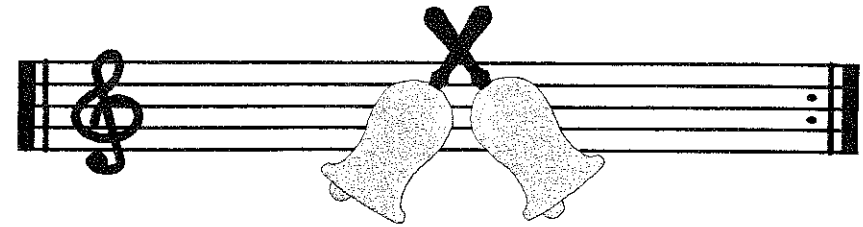
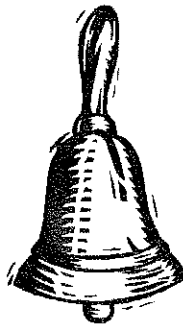


YOUTH GROUP (9-12)!

Shhhh! It's a secret! Something's happening on Sunday morning June 9th. A letter will be in the mail with more info for *your eyes only!*

AND THIS ISN'T A SECRET. . . . EAST MEETS WEST!

A youth bell choir from a Presbyterian church in New Jersey is coming to give us a concert of July 2nd. Pop tunes on bells? YES! Our youth will join them in the afternoon for some fun and then we are asking people to house them overnight.



Special Bell Concert on July 2 at 7:30 PM Mark your calendars now!

The *Calvin and Chapel Handbell Ringers* from First Presbyterian Church of Red Bank, New Jersey are coming to give us a free concert. They have played concerts in Switzerland, England, Japan, Korea, Australia, Vienna, etc... and the United States.

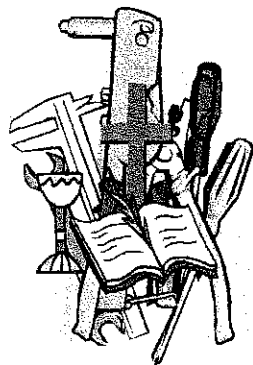
The *Calvin and Chapel Ringers* have established a national reputation and perform in concert throughout the year. They have presented Christmas concerts at the White House and rang at the Crystal Cathedral. They have played at St. Paul's Cathedral in London and Windsor Castle. I think it's great that they're going to play at Concordia Lutheran in Steamboat Springs! That will really put them on the map.

The twenty ringers, all high school students, perform on two sets of English handbells, a total of 125 tuned, bronze bells. Their programs include original compositions for handbells as well as arrangements of classical, popular music and hymns. The concerts are enjoyable for all age groups.

Judith Werner, Associate Director of Music, is the director of the Ringers. The group is one of six handbell choirs in the church's music program, which also includes seven choral groups.

We are still looking for a few good homes to house the ringers and their chaperones! Also, we would like a warm welcome with a good Lutheran potluck before their concert. If you can help out in any way, please talk to Jean Smith.

(See Youth Page for more info on our East meets West gathering.....)



TOOLS FOR LIVING

A look back. What have I learned?

Tools for Living ministry group has just celebrated their first birthday. It is appropriate to look back and ask what we have learned. And that is exactly what we will be doing as a group. But I thought I would share with you some of the things I have learned this year.

First of all, I learned I knew very little about addiction, and recovery and even less about prevention. To try to alleviate this ignorance we read numerous books such as "Let go, Let God", by John Keller, "Will Power's Not Enough" by Arnold Washton, and Donna Boundy, and *It will Never Happen To Me!* by Claudia Black. These are all powerful and informative books and useful for all to read. (We have extra copies in our library). But the one that made the most impacted on me was *Addiction and Grace* by Gerald G. May, M.D. In this book Dr. May explains the psychological and physiological aspects of addiction. He examines the "process of attachment" that lead to addiction. He points out that there are many types of addiction beside alcohol and drugs, such as work, sex, performance, responsibility, power, even intimacy. Our desire for something can become so strong that we travel from a simple attachment into a full-blown dependence or addiction or the big S word...SIN. So although we may not have an addiction to alcohol or drugs, the Bible tells us we have all sinned or become addicted or overly attached to something. That is, we want it or love it more than God.

But perhaps the most important thing I learned this year is that the steps to recovery as set forth by AA or Alanon are very scriptural and wonderful tools that when practiced can truly help me avoid/conquer the various "attachments/addictions/sin" in my life. I'd recommend the study of these steps for anyone.

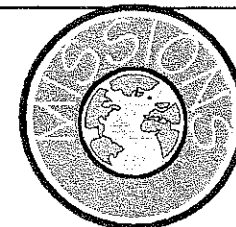
This year has been a real year of learning for me and I think for the whole team. As we begin the process of evaluating the past year and setting goals for the coming year, please pray that the Lord will help us develop a strong prevention ministry and to continue to find ways to reach out to those dealing with addiction and recovery issues.

One more thing, perhaps the Lord has been tugging at your heart to serve in this ministry. Please let me know if you have an interest. Also, if you or a loved one is dealing with an addiction the supportive and confidential Christian 12-step meeting called the Recovery Room meets every Thursday at 5:30 p.m. in the Youth Room. Come join us.

Sincerely,
Judy Plumb

LWML News (Women's Guild) ...

The Spring Rummage Sale was a success - we earned just short of \$2,000.00 for our mission projects. Thank you so much to every one who brought things in, sorted and stacked, cleaned up afterwards, and baked for the bake sale.



One of our favorite gatherings and definitely most delicious event is just tow weeks away - the annual Salad Supper. All women of Concordia are invited to join us on Tuesday, June 11th at 6:00 p.m. at Ellyn Myller's home at 652 Ruby Square. Please bring you favorite salad to share and join us for a wonderful evening of fellowship and dinner. (No regular business meeting will be held.) Please call Mary Beth Bradfield at 879-4181 if you'd like more information. This is the final get together before fall. LWML does not hold monthly meetings in July and August.

When we return in September, we will have a new slate of officers. They are as follows: Lyn Worrell - President, Diane Weber - Vice President, Tammy Ryan - Treasurer, Helen Berntson - Secretary, and Mary Beth Bradfield - Christian Live. Many thanks to Pam Patterson for her past two years of service as LWML President.

THERE HAS BEEN A TIME CHANGE FOR OUR WORSHIP SERVICES!!!












Beginning in June, Worship Services will be:

5:30 Saturday Evening

8:00 AM Sunday morning and

10:45 AM Sunday morning

Education Hour will be from 10:30-11:30 AM

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
JUNE 2002		 PRAISE BAND ON JUNE 23RD		WALK BY FAITH		1 Worship 5:30 PM
2 Worship-8:00AM Worship-10:45 AM Educ Hr-9:30 AM	3 Womens AA-7:00 PM Craft Night 7:00 PM 	4 Circuit Conference Trustees-5:15 PM Fellowship-7:00 PM Tools for Living 6 PM	5 Discovery 7:00 PM Stephen Ministry-8pm	6 Womens Study-9 AM Recovery-5:30 PM No Choir Bells-6:30 PM 	7 Prayer Vigil 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm 	8 Men's Breakfast  7AM Network 8 to Noon Worship 5:30 PM
9 Worship-8:00AM Worship-10:45 AM Educ Hr-9:30 AM	10 Womens AA-7:00 PM Craft Night 7:00 PM	11 LWML Salad Supper 	12 Discovery 7:00 PM	13 Womens Study-9 AM Recovery-5:30 PM No Choir Bells-6:30 PM 	14  Relay for Life	15 Network 8 to Noon Worship 5:30 PM Relay for Life
16 Worship-8:00AM Worship-10:45 AM Educ Hr-9:30 AM Youth Get- Together 5:30PM	17 Womens AA-7:00 PM Craft Night 7:00 PM	18 Staff Mtg-8:30 AM Church Council-7 PM	19 Discovery 7:00 PM	20 Womens Study-9 AM Recovery-5:30 PM No Choir	21 College & Career Get - Together 6:00 PM at the Weber's 	22 Worship 5:30 PM Middle School Lock In 
23 Praise Band at both- Worship-8:00AM & 10:45 AM Educ Hr-9:30 AM DWCC 1:00 PM	24 Craft Night 7:00 PM	25 Staff Mtg-8:30 AM Board of Ed 6:00 PM	26 Discovery 7:00 PM Pastor on vacation	27 Womens Study-9 AM Recovery-5:30 PM No Choir	28 Pastor on vacation	29 Worship 5:30 PM Pastor on vacation
30 Worship-8:00AM Worship-10:45 AM Educ Hr-9:30 AM			 PRAISE THE LORD!	MASTER, SAVIOR, FRIEND		