

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 concordia@steamboatlutheran.org

Editors: Pastor Scott Herbert, Jean Smith, and Janis Herbert.

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

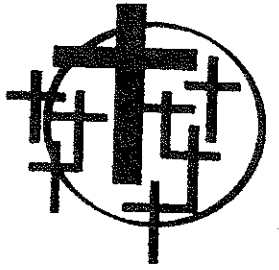
Sunday Worship: 8:00 and 10:45 AM **Education Hour:** 9:30 AM

Concordia Lutheran Church
755 Concordia Lane
Steamboat Springs, CO 80487

July 2002

Concordia Lutheran Church **CHRISTOGRAM**

CHRISTOGRAM



Concordia Lutheran Church

JULY 2002

*"Do you not know?
Have you not heard?"*

The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

Isaiah 40:28-31

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus,

Grace, mercy, and peace be with all of you in the Name that is above all names, the Name of our Lord and Savior; Jesus Christ. Amen

We are off and running. We have been together in ministry now for over three months and our faithful and loving Lord is showing us the way. Many things are happening, many new things are being discussed and planned for the future. One of the results of all this activity is that sometimes when you step back and take a look at the bigger picture, that picture can be quite overwhelming. The more we talk, the more we seek God's guidance in prayer and bible study, the more we recognize just how much needs be done both in God's Kingdom and in the world at large. Sometimes it can get scary and we ask how is it possible for all the work to be done here at Concordia. Take heart, as Isaiah reminds us; *"He (God) will not grow tired or weary."* One of the most comforting aspects of who God is is the fact that since he is not bound by time or space, He is not overcome by the seemingly awesomeness of the task ahead. Instead, He has all the power, all the resources, all the strength, all the wisdom, to get the job done. And the great blessing is that He doesn't hog all of this for Himself; He willingly and lovingly gives to us all that we need to get the job done as well. In Christ, our salvation is secure. In Christ, our future is assured. In Christ, our strength is renewed, our path is one of a soaring eagle, and the race we run will not tire us but will instead constantly invigorate and inspire us. Remember the story in last months *Christogram*, God gives us work to do according to how He has gifted us and according to the strength and power He gives to us. He doesn't expect us to do His job, just ours. The rest is up to Him. Just as Paul admitted that he was only to plant the seed and that Apollos was the one who watered the planted seed; God is the One who makes it grow. We are the seed planters and waterers. God is the Creator and Savior of the world. We need only bring the seed of God's Word. God WILL make it grow.

I praise God continuously for His blessing in allowing me to be part of your lives and ministry here in Steamboat. Let us remain in prayer for each other and for God's work in our midst as we seek and save the lost together. God's blessings.

In Christ's Service,
Pastor Scott

inside...

"Open Forum on Worship Concerns"

"The Calvin & Chapel Handbell Ringers Concert"

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

The recent death of the St. Louis Cardinals' pitcher, or perhaps the recent death of someone close to us, tends to create a different perspective for a short or long while depending on the impact of their lives upon us.

We think, when it is someone we know, of our loss or the immediate family. As we consider what has happened, we may consider the memories and the importance to us of the individual, as was done with Elaine Stroncek.

Do we then go to the next step and wonder whether our death would be considered with the same gravity? Will our absence be noted but then forgotten shortly after? Or, will our absence be a void where only time can smooth the rough edges?

It is easy to say my wife/husband or children would miss me, but what of those we encounter with less intimacy? What about co-workers, fellow Christians, even casual acquaintances? What would be their likely reaction if suddenly we were called Home?

Some people build monuments to themselves and may be remembered for what they achieved or may be totally forgotten! Some pass through, leaving virtually no impression, and are soon forgotten. Some think only of self and are remembered by those they pushed aside. Some are remembered by those whose lives they touched. They are remembered not for where they were headed, but by how they lived as they went.

Do the people we know see us and say, "He/she is a follower of Jesus!" Is it because of our actions? Or are we a follower of something else?

Only one life, t'will soon be past! Only what's done for Christ will last!

The term "carpe diem" has become popular and with good reason. "Seize the day", don't let it pass and not live it!

Perhaps for us it should be . . .

Carpe Diem A Christos!
Brian Weerts

"Showing Up" A word from the Parish Administrator

I recently watched a movie where a man (who became a reluctant little league coach) was transformed by the continual presence of his team members. Despite all the troubles stacked against the players in their personal lives, they never missed a practice. The coach tells them, after being encouraged by their constant presence, "The most important thing is showing up. I am amazed at your ability to show up."

I thought about that statement for a long time. We often become discouraged, cynical, resentful, bitter, frustrated and burned out because people *don't* show up. Perhaps you've directed a choir of three. Perhaps you've led a study that no one attended. Perhaps you've led a youth event where there was no one to lead. Wait a minute -- did I say *no one*? When did two or three or eight or nine become *no one*? And that is the crux of the matter. Jesus was always present with

whoever was there. Numbers were not the focus.

We can all become discouraged by what we may consider a "poor" response -- especially in a culture that often rates the success of a program or an event by numbers. We need to be careful not to weigh the effectiveness of our ministry on numbers alone. I have to constantly battle the little voice in my brain that says numbers are the main thing. I can spend more time worrying about the ones who *didn't* show up than being present with the ones who *did*. Something is very wrong with that attitude. Being focused and grateful for the people who do "show up" is a far better place to be. Perhaps that is why Jesus states so clearly to his disciples: "For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them." (Matthew 18:20)

Last weekend the Board of Youth sponsored a lock-in for kids in middle school. By the RSVP date I had only three

responses. I went round and round as to whether I should put time and effort into such a *small* response. I went ahead and seven kids showed up. We had a wonderful time and I was grateful to have had the opportunity to get acquainted with seven kids in a way that would not have been possible with twenty. Jesus was there too.

I am grateful for those who show up. Like the coach in the movie, *I am amazed* by the ability of some people to show up all the time. Their continual presence is always an encouragement. But no matter how many show up, we have been assured that Jesus will be present as well. Ministry *can* be done amongst two or three.

Thank God Jesus did not mandate us to get a quota of at least twenty people together before He found it worth His while to grace us with His presence.

I stand amazed at Jesus' ability to show up.

Simply Giving . . .



Simply Giving is an electronic funds transfer program sponsored by Lutheran Brotherhood. With this program you can arrange to have a set amount of money transferred from your checking or savings account to Concordia's account on a weekly, bi-monthly, or monthly schedule. The size and frequency of the transfer is up to you.

Simply Giving is not for everyone.

- If you attend worship services every week and are a well organized person, you already give a set amount. This program would probably seem unnecessary to you.
- If your personal situation allows you to make up for missed opportunities with no economic stress, *Simply Giving* may not appeal to you.
- If your income fluctuates widely during the year, *Simply Giving* may not work for you.

Simply Giving may be the plan for you if:

- You want to support the Lord's work at Concordia with consistent giving throughout the year.
- Job and family obligations keep you from attending worship services regularly and therefore losing giving opportunities.
- You reside elsewhere a significant part of the year.
- You are poorly organized and scatter-brained on Sunday morning (can't find check-book or spare cash).
- You have never had a consistent plan to support the Lord's work. Maybe it's time to start a plan through *Simply Giving*.

As Christians we give back to God a portion of the time, talent, and treasures He has given us to manage. We do this to fulfill the final mandate the Lord gave to the original disciples in Matthew 28:19, "Therefore, go make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."

No gift we could give would be large enough to pay for what we have received through faith alone; the forgiveness of our sins and eternal life. However, no gift is too small to help spread the Good News to the world. Let us all consider our gifts of time, talent and treasure, carefully and prayerfully.

You can pick up an information brochure for *Simply Giving* in the narthex or the church office.

In His Service,

Bill Baldwin
Stewardship

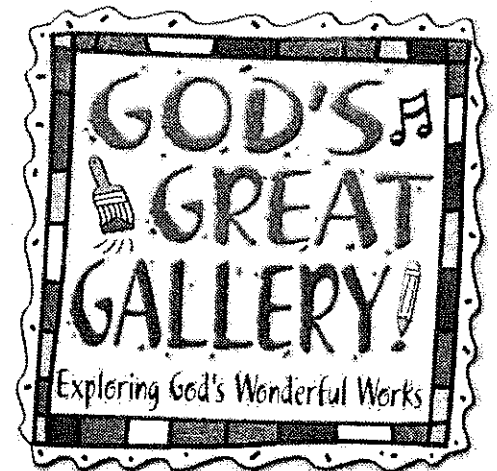
* T H A N K *
* Y O U *
* E l l y n *

Dear Friends of Concordia,

It has been a privilege to serve as the Sunday School Superintendent this last year! Thank you for the beautiful candle holder. I won't forget what time it is at our church for awhile...

God has blessed me here at Concordia! PRAISE HIM!!

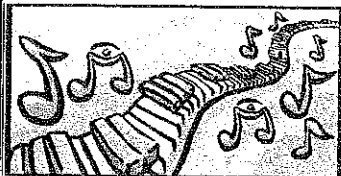
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Get Ready for Concordia's
Vacation Bible School!!
August 5-8 (Mon. thru Thurs)
9:00 to 11:30 AM
(Program is Thursday evening at 7:00 PM)

Pre-registration: Please fill out your child's name and phone number on the enclosed form and return to Concordia and place in Eilyn Myller's mailbox. The cost for VBS is \$5 per child. Any adults or youth able to volunteer a couple of hours during VBS, please call Eilyn Myller, 871-1860 or Belinda Hart, 879-7486.

Please welcome our new Office Administrator, Carolyn Sandstrom. Carolyn's first official day at work is Monday, July 15th. Please introduce yourself to her when you see her and make her feel welcome. Many thanks to Janis Herbert for helping out during our interim status in the office!!



CALLING ALL MUSICIANS!

CONSIDER THIS:

The Music Ministry at Concordia is in need of the following:

- A leader/director for JOURNEY
- A Choir director for the YOUTH CHOIR

If you have a love of music and a desire to see these ministries continue, please consider these areas! You don't need to be a professional - you just need to have a passion to provide leadership and to nurture these ministries. We also need:

- Accompanists for JOURNEY
- Substitute organists for SUNDAYS
- Singers and instrumentalists for choir & Journey

Scoop from the Sup . . .



Lessons from the Garden

"I come to the garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses, and the voice I hear falling on my ear the Son of God discloses...."

I have a sign that hangs on my porch from mid-May to October that reads, "Nothing bugs me when I am in my garden." This is a completely true statement. I love to dig in the dirt, and that is what I'd planned to do this year. When I started gardening around my home 3 years ago I didn't do the best job of soil preparation that I should have, so I decided this year I would do a little work in that area. I have added some top soil and 'organic' compost to our Colorado clay; WOW, it makes such a difference in the feel of the soil and how things grow when it is enriched.

"And He walks with me and He talks with me.."

As I was working the good stuff into my garden, I was reminded of how important soil preparation is in our spiritual lives. I thought about my role as a parent; preparing the soil of my children's lives is one of the most important jobs I've been given. In our culture we often spend a lot of time and money on planting seeds (and some times weeds) into the lives of our kids, and we forget about preparing the soil.

What is soil preparation in the life of Christian child? I think it is working in to the "clay" of their hearts the Word of God. It is the COMPOST of the spiritual life! So how do we do that? We as parents have to have enriched our own lives with it. I don't have devotions with my kids every day, but I have been blessed to have had the Word of God worked into my heart early on and throughout my life and can pull it out to share with them when teachable moments present themselves. I often say, "ya know, the Bible tell us....".

Is it easy to maintain our own soil? NO. But it is essential if we want to have a beautiful and healthy garden growing in our own lives as well as in our kids. Get involved in a small group Bible study, drop your kids at Sunday school (Sunday 9:20 AM) and head up to Adult Education, pick up your Bible at home and start reading!

... "And He tells me I am His own; And the JOY we share as we tarry there, None other has every known."

Dig in,
Ellyn

Soil Preparation/Dates to Remember:

Elementary Sunday School:

July 7 Popcorn and a Movie
"Bibleman: Defeating the Shadow of Doubt"

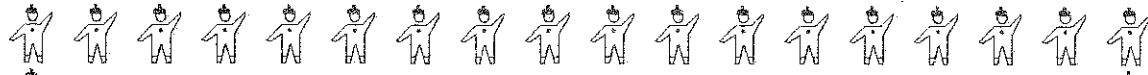
July 14, 21, 28 Faith, Fun and Food

- *Pastor Herbert is leading Adult Education throughout the summer.
- *Michelle Sprengle/Scott Myller - High School Youth - Youth Room
- *Janis Herbert - Middle School Youth - Confirmation Room

BOARD OF OUTREACH

The Board of Outreach and Assimilation is putting together a new program that will assure our congregation of having a smiling face or two at the front door of each service on Sunday mornings. We are still looking for some more couples to help with that program. Thanks to all those that have volunteered. Pastor Scott will be leading us in a training program on July 21st at 6:00 PM. Food and refreshment will be served so please come out and see how we can make our church feel more warm and friendly to our visitors and to our regulars as well.

We are also in the midst of brining on line a new attendance registration card that will really help us with our efforts in tracking our new visitors.



We're encouraging Small numbers

and a **large** response for a
"SMALL GROUP"
ministry in the fall.

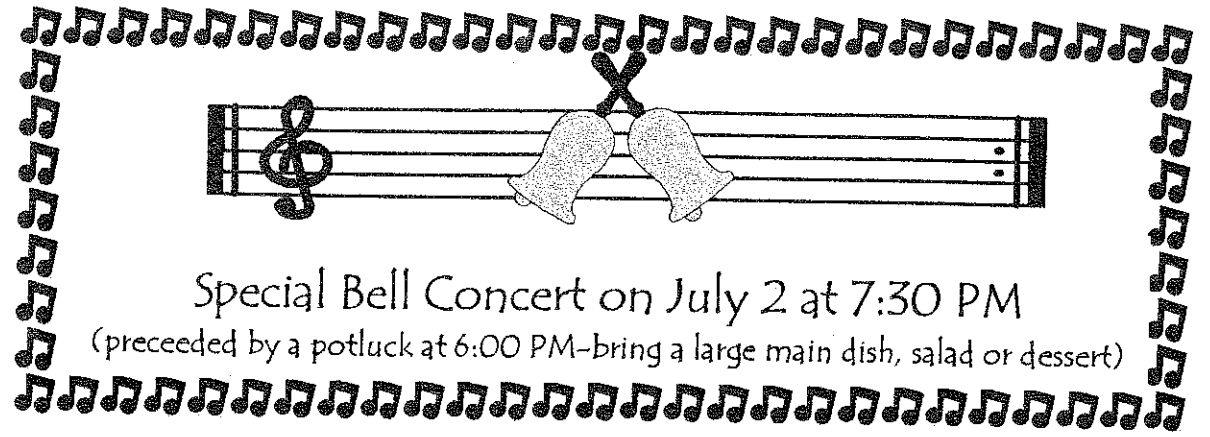
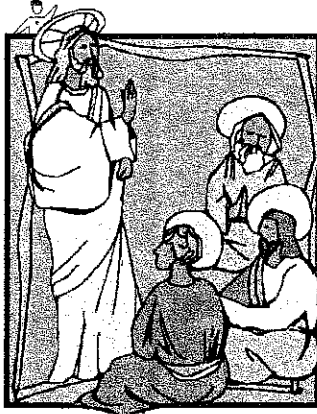
The Board of Education is intent on beginning a *small group* ministry at Concordia. It begins with small groups of 5-10 people doing a Bible Study together in someone's home (or at the church) that is facilitated by a group leader. Through outreach and invitation the one group can potentially split and grow into another small group. Small numbers allow for friendships and relationships to grow and prosper. The group members become a real support for your spiritual growth and can be an anchor in your day to day life.

We also need people who are willing to open up their homes to a small group ministry. Because of our desire to reach out, there is a special need for homes in outlying areas such as Stagecoach, Clark, Oak Creek, Hayden, Heritage Park and Steamboat II. Of course, we want homes within Steamboat as well!

If you have an interest or would be willing to open up your home, please fill out the information sheet in your mailbox and place it in the box in the narthex.

Even Jesus had a small group.

Questions or concerns? Contact anyone on the Board of Education: Elynn Myller, Debbie Scott, Jim or Michelle Sprengle, Pastor Scott or Janis Herbert and Gene or Bettiann Carrell.

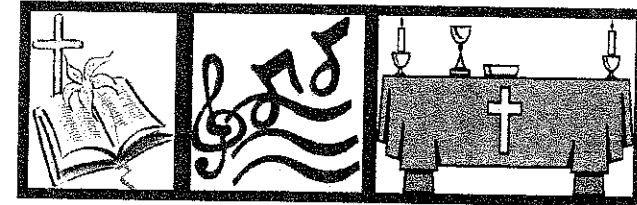


Special Bell Concert on July 2 at 7:30 PM
(preceded by a potluck at 6:00 PM—bring a large main dish, salad or dessert)

Open Forum on Worship Concerns

Sunday, July 7th during the Adult Education Hour

9:30-10:30 AM

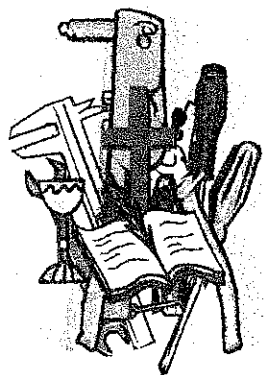


The Worship Committee will be facilitating a discussion to hear what your concerns or desires are for our worship services at Concordia Lutheran Church. More traditional? More Contemporary? What kind of music? What kind of environment?

Sound system? Paraments (altar cloths/banners)? Liturgy?

Come and be prepared to put in your two cents worth. We want to listen to what you have to say. Also, there will be a survey to fill out that Sunday and it will be made available through the month of July for those who cannot attend.

Do some individual soul searching: think about what makes worship meaningful for you and what detracts from a meaningful worship service.



TOOLS FOR LIVING

"The Power of Words"

Isn't it amazing the power of words? They can uplift, encourage or hurt and even devastate us. Often we are shocked when we hear ourselves say something and think, "Boy, that sounds just like my father or my mother." Words can stay with us. They can help to change us in positive ways as well as negative ways.

We use lots of phrases we don't even think about. Some are helpful encouragements, "Well, done" and some are put downs like "Well, that was stupid" or "Duh!" Some are helpful reminders. Words like, "Let go and let God", "First things first", and "There but for the grace of God..." are all common phrases that help us remember Whose we are and not to burden ourselves with the cares of this world.

All these phrases are common language that most of us use. But did you know that they are language of recovery? Yep, many of these were developed/used by AA and Alanon groups in order to help people remember what is really important and to refocus. And they are scriptural.

Do you ever find yourself stewing over a problem, trying to find an answer, losing sleep, getting tired and cross, when the best solution would be to do the foot work (your part) and then "Let go and let God". Scripture says, "Be still and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10

Have you ever thought, "This is too overwhelming, I don't know where to begin." And then slowed yourself down with "First things first". When life becomes chaotic, it is hard to prioritize, but remembering "First things first" can bring us back to the basics. Which of our more quiet needs might deserve our attention? Jesus told us our priorities should be "Love the Lord with all your heart... and love your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27 We can accept our limitations and make good, well thought out choices when we remember "First things first" - Love God, love ourselves, and others.

Loving ourselves and others means respecting Whose we are. For we are all God's creations and He loves us all. When other people's attitudes and actions bother us, we can remember that were it not for the grace of God, we could easily be in their shoes. Vindictiveness, vengeance, resentment, blame, and hard-heartedness do us far more harm than to anyone else. Jesus said, "If anyone of you is without sin, let him be the first to throw a stone." John. 8:7

Yes, we all use the language of recovery, because consciously or unconsciously we know that we are all recovering from the addiction we have to sin. So the next time you are feeling scattered, and preoccupied remember to take it "One day at a time". See Matt. 6:34

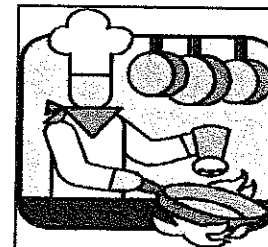
Lori Joens and Judy Plumb, TFL Committee



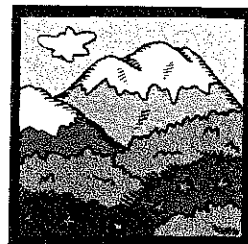
YOUTH GROUP

Join the Youth Bell Choir from New Jersey at the Strawberry Park Hot Springs:
Tues., July 2nd.

Meet at church at 1:30 PM. And please join us for the Potluck dinner at church at 6:00 PM. Get to know some kids from the coast: East meets West!
Special Bell Concert at 7:30 PM
Tuesday, July 2nd

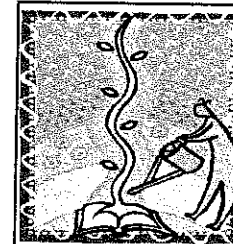


Men's Breakfast
Saturday
July 13th
7:00 - 8:15AM
in Fellowship Hall
Invite A Friend!

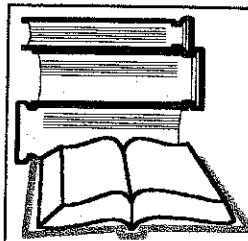


Recovery Room

5:30 PM Thursdays
in the Youth Room.

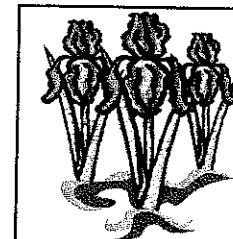


Thursday Morning Women's Bible Study
At 9:00 am in the Youth Room. Please join us!
(Childcare available)

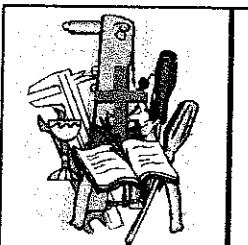


Discovery Bible Study

Meets every Wednesday
at 7:00 PM
in the Library



LWML
(Women's Guild)
Women's Guild does not meet during July & August. See you in September!



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

Next Meeting:
Wed., July 10th
6:00 PM



STEPHEN MINISTERS Thurs., July 11 at 8 PM

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



July 2002



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Women's AA-7 PM (No Crafts Tonight)	2 Outreach-5:15 PM (No Trustee/Fellowship) Potluck-6:00 PM Bell Choir Concert- 7:30 PM	3 Discovery-7:00 PM Choir-6:00 PM Pastor on vacation	4 4TH OF JULY No Women's Bible St No Choir Recovery 5:30 PM	5 Prayer Vigil 3:00 to 8:00 PM	6 Worship-5:30 PM
7 Worship-8:00 AM Worship-10:45 AM Worship Forum - 9:30 Educ Hr-9:30 AM	8 Women's AA-7 PM Craft Night-7 PM	9	10 Tools4Living-6 PM Discovery-7:00 PM Pastor at class	11 Women's Study-9 AM Recovery-5:30 PM Bells-6:30 PM Stephen Min-8:00 PM	12	13 Men's Breakfast-7 AM Worship-5:30 PM
14 Worship-8:00 AM Worship-10:45 AM Educ Hr-9:30 AM	15 Women's AA-7 PM Craft Night-7 PM	16	17 Discovery-7:00 PM Pastor at Class	18 Women's Study-9 AM Recovery-5:30 PM Bells-6:30 PM	19	20 Wedding-6:00 PM Worship-5:30 PM
21 Worship-8:00 AM Worship-10:45 AM Educ Hr-9:30 AM	22 Women's AA-7 PM Craft Night-7 PM	23 Staff Mtg-8:30 AM Board of Youth-7 PM	24 Discovery-7:00 PM	25 Women's Study-9 AM Recovery-5:30 PM	26	27 Worship-5:30 PM
28 Worship-8:00 AM Worship-10:45 AM Educ Hr-9:30 AM DWCC-1:00 PM	29 Womens AA-7 PM Craft Night-7 PM VBS Staff-7 PM	30 Staff Mtg-8:30 AM	31 Discovery-7:00 PM			