

FEBRUARY 2010

SHEPHERD OF THE VALLEY NEWSLETTER

Volume I, Issue I

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS...Submitted by Kristi Ray

Shepherd's Office Hours;
Mon-Thurs 9:00—2:00

Pastor Randy's Office
Hours;
Tues-Fri 8:00 -12:00
(by appt after 12:00)

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Christian preschool &
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Inside this issue:

<i>Pastor's Page</i>	2
<i>President's Report</i>	3
<i>Presidents Report contd.</i>	4
<i>Social Concerns Eoj and Mij</i>	5
<i>Around the Parish</i>	6
<i>Altar Guild Jacob Tabor</i>	7
<i>Twitter</i>	8
<i>Building Committee Haiti Relief</i>	9
<i>Souper Bowl Kids of the Kingdom</i>	10
<i>Parish Nurse</i>	11
<i>Stewardship</i>	12
<i>Birthdays Anniversaries</i>	13
<i>Calendar</i>	14

December If you have not heard, we did have a Christmas play in December! About twenty children participated, all smartly dressed out in new and altered costumes this year. Thanks to our SOV tailors, Beth Kight, Betty Stoltenburg, Peggy Vermaas, Ann Smith and Susan Vignolo. The play went very well—these children are pros!!! Fun was had by all involved, even after the play as children and adults alike lingered for snack and fellowship. We thank Kristi Ray for directing the play again this year. We also thank all the children, teachers, and parents for your enthusiasm and support. Lastly, thank you to everyone who helped with snacks and clean-up. You are all special!

January We are continuing the New Year in the Seasons of the Spirit curriculum, coming into the season after epiphany. In this season, we are learning about Jesus' life and work. In the week of January 17, we heard the story of Jesus turning water into wine from **John 2: 1-11**. By providing hospitality for the wedding guests, Jesus demonstrated that God's love never runs out. Here are some of the answers the K-4 grade school children gave to the question of how we can share God's love at home, school, church and play:

- show a new person ways to get around;
- say "hi" to a new person;
- help someone up when they fall down;
- help someone with math and spelling;
- help by sharing;
- care for the pets when the owners are on vacation; and
- talk to a friend about paying for the candy bar at the store.

The children are learning so much about God's love for them and their neighbors. Please keep us in your prayers as we continue into the New Year. We hope you all had a nice break and see you downstairs.

Coming soon, we will have bowling for kids Pre-k thru sixth with parents Feb 21, 2010 at local lanes Sunday after second service. More information will come as details are finalized.



PASTOR'S PAGE

"May peace be to this house and to all who enter here. By wisdom a house is built and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures." Proverbs 24:3-4

20+CMB+10. Have you noticed that inscription over the door entering our sanctuary? It has been up there since the Epiphany of Our Lord (January 6th). What it means exactly has been explained to some, but not all have heard it. So, here it is. The numbers are the year we are in. Those are not plus signs but crosses. The letters stand for the Latin blessing "*Christe mansionem benedicat*", which is translated, "*Christ bless this house*", or for some the letters stand for the legendary names of the wisemen (Caspar, Melchior and Balthasar).

It is something we might do for all our individual homes. It is something we have done for our house of worship. This building, where the community of faith known as Shepherd of the Valley enters the year aware of the blessing of the Christ in our lives, and through all that we do here.

It is a blessing for our worship in all its forms. A blessing for our singing, laughter, eating together (all sorts of meals). A blessing for all who enter the doors of this place, for the kids of our Sunday school and KOK, for visitors and long time members, for those who pick up food baskets and those who seek spiritual nourishment.

Those words from Proverbs speak to what we seek, and what we are called to, as we pray for this blessing over us. There is "peace...wisdom...understanding...knowledge" and my personal favorite, "rare and beautiful treasures".

Believe it or not we are those "rare and beautiful treasures". The Christ came to be a blessing to the home that is our lives. There are grand challenges and possibilities that lie before us to be sure. May we meet them with "peace, wisdom, understanding and knowledge" as the "beautiful treasures" that we are, blessed by the Christ. May He indeed build a home in our hearts.

In Christ,
Pastor Randy

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Submitted by Peggy Jo Vermaas

WORKING A LONG SHOT The parable goes like this A farmer had an old mule who for many years had been a good and faithful servant. One morning as the farmer began his chores, he heard the mule braying and went to investigate. He located the mule who had fallen into a dry well and was standing at the bottom of the well braying - calling for help. The farmer carefully assessed the situation and, after much troubled thought and prayer, realized that he could not retrieve the mule from the well . . . the best he could do was to put the mule out of his misery. So, the farmer began to shovel dirt into the well to bury the mule. When the first shovels of dirt hit the back of the mule, he became hysterical and began to shake uncontrollably. The dirt fell from his back and landed onto the ground below. Soon the mule realized that he could shake off the dirt and step up. And so he did. With every shovel full he shook it off and stepped up . . . shake it off and step up . . . shake it off and step up. He repeated the words to himself for encouragement . . . no matter how painful the stepping up. In time the old mule stepped from the well, battered, exhausted, but triumphant. What seemed would bury him actually blessed him . . . all because of the manner in which he handled his adversity. The adversities in life . . . things that appear to have a long shot at success . . . have the potential to benefit and bless us. As we approach all of our planning . . . our Missions, our budgets, our Capital Improvements, our Capital Campaign all are our blessings. Faith, prayer, forgiveness, praise, and hope are all ways we "shake it off and step up". Think about this as we move forward.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS: Due to the timing of our January Newsletter and our collection for staff gifts, this is the first opportunity to provide this information. Using contributions we purchased two nights at the beach and a gift card for our Pastor; gift cards for our paid staff, for our lawyer (who is working on the easement issues), our contractor (who installed our new deck), and holiday flowers for our decorator, Helen Ohm.

INTEGRATING PAST PLANS: The Council has reviewed past plans and is bringing back what appears to be the most relevant parts of those previous plans and integrating those ideas into our current goals. A first step in this process is called the Focus Items for 2010. It is a short 1.5 pages document. This will be an evolving



COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED...

process. Ask for a copy of the document if you are interested. More to come.

FUNDRAISING AND FUN RAISING: At the last Council meeting we received a suggestion that an Ad Hoc Fund Raising Committee be formed to develop strategies to expand our outreach into the community while also offering an opportunity for community dollars to come to SOV. If you have an interest in serving Shepherd in this way, let us know. The first meeting will be at held on Thursday 2/11 from 11 am until 12:30. Soup and bread lunch will be provided. We will start with ideas and see where the spirit takes us. Is God calling you??

VOLUNTEERS TO ACTION: If you are one of the 71 people who provided us with talent forms and have not received a call, I encourage you to pick up the phone and initiate your volunteer gift to SOV. Because we are an all volunteer organization, lots of things we wish we would get done don't necessarily get done!!! As you look around SOV you can see the jobs that need attention. The committee's are printed in our bulletins. Decide what you are interested in and make a call or connect with a committee member while at church. Don't sit back and wait for a call. Chase the job!!! Make it happen!!!

BUILDING REPAIR LOAN: We expect to soon be completing the loan to pay for the building repairs associated with the deck replacement. More generous contributions have been received so the loan amount will be approximately \$9,000. A member has graciously offered SOV a no interest loan for the full amount. We are very blessed!

BUILDING ASSESSMENT, SECURITY ASSESSMENT AND CAPITAL REPAIRS: Property Management submitted a report of the Capital Repairs needed for our exiting building. The committee will be prioritizing these needs and getting more numbers around costs. The security assessment was completed and Property Management will be looking at the next best steps in our security plan. Now is the time to address how to fund these big projects that are not related to new construction but need to be done to maintain our building and programs. This will be a new journey for us. I believe we are ready for this next step.

We are building on Christ our foundation.

SOCIAL CONCERNS... BY LARINA HOFFBECK

Social Concerns had a busy year in 2009. In the Spring, we assembled and shipped 14 health kits to Lutheran World Relief and Sandeep took Christian children's books and funds for food for orphans and a senior home to India. In June, Larina stepped into the chairperson position relieving Mert after 29 years of faithful service in that spot. In the Summer, we contributed funds to Care to Share's and LoveInc.'s backpack programs. We also had 11 volunteers who helped out before and during LoveInc.'s event. Last Fall, we had 37 volunteers who helped distribute Thanksgiving baskets to 58 families and we moved Shepherd's Storehouse upstairs and inside. For Christmas, we collected funds and wish-list items for the Portland VA Medical center. We also continued our ongoing mission of helping refugees who have moved to our area and distributed 113 emergency food baskets through our regular weekly and monthly operation. I would personally like to thank our committee members Mert Warneking, Sandeep and Kranthi Jonnakuti, Christine Edgar, KarYn Kohler, Mark Branes and Julie Zetterberg for serving this year, all the people who contributed funds, food, and other items for the Storehouse and other projects, the volunteers who helped with the Thanksgiving baskets and Backpack event everyone who helped make Shepherd's Storehouse's move possible, Light of Life Lutheran church for their support of Shepherd's Storehouse, and especially Mert for her tireless service for so many years. (Well, she may have been getting a little tired there after 25 years or so.)

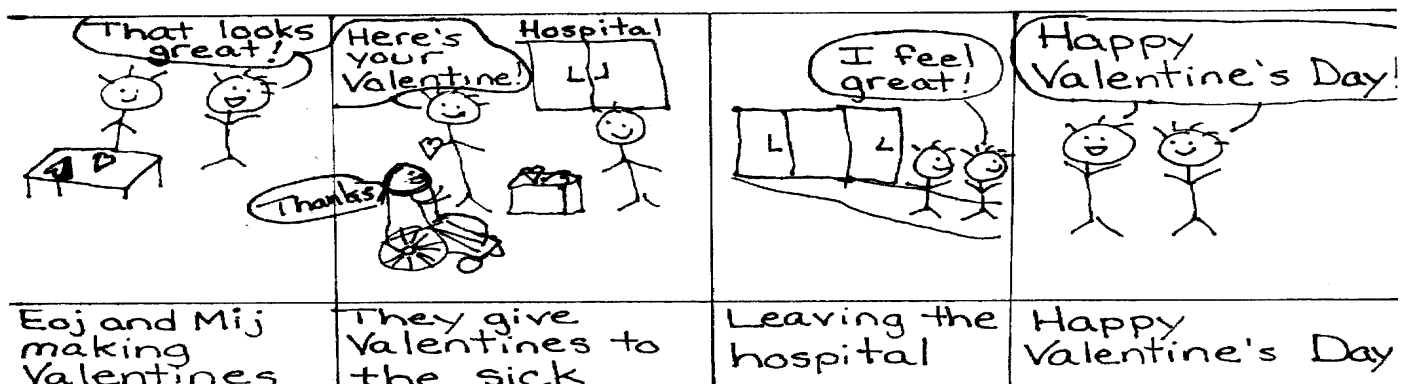


For 2010, we look forward to continuing with most of our usual outreach and the possibility of expanding Shepherd's Storehouse hours, welcoming the Oregon Food Bank's Washington County facility to the corner of 173rd and Cornell this summer, and searching out more opportunities for the members of our congregation to serve God's people. We are always open to suggestions on new places to serve and would enthusiastically welcome anyone who would like to join our committee.

Blessings for 2010!

-Larina Hoffbeck

Eoj and Mij Make Valentines - by Katrina, Carmen and Mallory



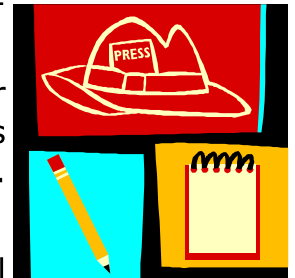
AROUND THE PARISH...by Ann Smith

Bible Study: Its growing! We had 15 members the first Wednesday in January. We are working our way through Matthew, The book of Matthew has been a real challenge to understand. All are welcome to join this fun group of people. NO reservations are necessary. Still No Homework—Pastor Randy is doing a great job.

Rebecca Circle: Brown bag lunch time; we had lots of suggestions for the future - 1. Valley Times newspaper, do they have a free advertisement offer for Christmas and Easter worship services? 2. How about sending a postcard to the person whom we pray for? 3. Verna Wik is going to check into free dental van—mission; to help those who need dental work but cannot afford it. 4. The ladies will continue to clean until council or congregation decides how we will operate. 5. Back to cleaning chairs. 6. How about being Greeters on Sunday? 7. Christmas banner, baby Jesus looks like an egg, can we fix it?

Christmas Decorations: Were taken down and stored away on Thursday January 7th. Thank you Larry & Bruce Gilbertson, Rudy Wagenmann, Dick Kuykendall, Peggy Vermaas, Ann Smith, Patricia Nelson and Beth Kight. It took 1 1/2 hours I think that is record time.

Kiosk: Have you taken the time to look at the Kiosk? Trevor McDonald has been updating the calendar of events monthly. It is really great and very informative too. Just plain old fun to watch. Pretty smart kids we have here. Thank you Trevor!



Correct Address: Do we have your most current address and email address? If not please forward it to secretarysov@gmail.com. Our new directory will be coming soon.

Helen Jean Tegner: January 3, 2010 Helen Jean returned to SOV from her son's home in California. After a visit to the re-hab unit because of a broken bone she told us how much she had enjoyed hearing from her friends at SOV how it made a very difficult time bearable. So now we have 'wonder woman' back with us.

Kudos to Charlene Kuykendall!

Charlene has coordinated the SOV Women's dinners for some time but she deserves an award for how the December dinner turned out. We went to the Embassy Suites at Washington Square as we have for the last couple years. They have a very nice, small, well decorated dining room which we used. But this year the service was awful! Charlene started an exchange of phone calls and emails with the dining room management and the hotel management about how the evening worked out. Due to her persistence (and the hotel's embarrassment), the hotel sent the church a check for \$400. The money will be divided between the confirmation class, the deck project, and improvement projects associated with the recent interior painting.

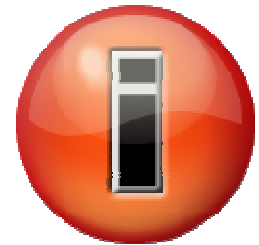
Thank you Charlene for your persistence.

Around the parish continued...

Ladies Dinner: Will meet on the second Tuesday of the month. This way all the ladies can join in. We had 14 ladies join us at Buggattis . We welcomed Dorothy Kennedy joining us for the first time. Dorothy moved her from New Jersey. Welcome Dorothy we hope to see you next month. February dinner will be at Nonna Emilia's in Aloha.

Cleaning; The senior cleaning ladies have been at it again. The kitchen cupboards have been waxed. Sanctuary wood trim dusted and Beth Kight is still cleaning our bathrooms, washing floors and scrubbing toilets. Marlene has returned to her Monday cleaning.

New to You: February 6th will be the next trip to McMinnville. If you would like to go along, we meet at SOV at 9:45 and leave at 10:00. We stop for lunch, shop a little and are back by 3:00 pm. January we earned \$55.00. Please continue to bring your clean, gently used clothing articles to the New to You closet.

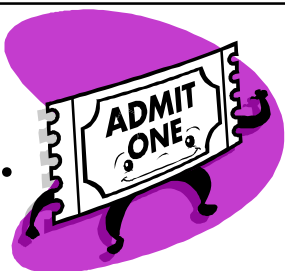


ALTAR GUILD INVITES YOU...Submitted by Betty Stoltenburg

In January the altar guild rolled out the flower dedication program (details below). We were notified that Burkhardt's **closed** their doors on Jan 31st.

The Altar Guild would like to invite members of the congregation to dedicate Altar Flowers in memorial or thanksgiving for their loved ones or important events in their lives. Altar Flowers are placed on the altar every Sunday **except** for the seasons of Lent and Advent. A list of available Sundays and donation envelopes can be found in the Narthex. All you need to do is request an available date, fill out the information on the donation envelope and place your donation in the offering plate. Within a week, a member of the Altar Guild will confirm your Sunday and go over any special requests--and we'll do the leg work!

Dates are available on a first-come, first served basis, so please include an alternate date if possible.



COMING SOON;

JACOB TABOR IN... "GUYS AND DOLLS"

~MARCH 4, 5, 6 & 11, 12, 13

~7:30 PM WESTVIEW HIGH SCHOOL

~TICKETS \$10.00



...Submitted by Aaron Zahrowski

Do you tweet? Follow **SOVLutheran!**

What is Twitter? Twitter is a social media service that allows users to broadcast short, but immediate messages to one another or to an audience of “followers”. Now businesses and nonprofits alike are utilizing Twitter as a platform to reach a broader spectrum of customers, supporters and community members. As web-enabled Smartphone's increase market share, like the Blackberry and iPhone, users leverage these devices on-the-go to find and post late-breaking updates and information tidbits about the people and organizations they care about. During the recent Haitian disaster, Twitter proved itself as a valuable avenue to disseminate fresh information, solicit donations, and mobilize local and international disaster response efforts.

SOV is on Twitter. For now, SOV's use of Twitter is limited to posting blog updates, podcasts, announcements, and “retweeting” (or re-publishing) entries from partner organizations like **ELCA, LuthWorldRelief, The Lutheran, Thrivent,** and **Lutherans Online.**

What will the future hold for SOV and Twitter? This will be decided primarily by the level of reception and engagement of our SOV congregation, fellow Lutherans, and our community members. Twitter may eventually be used to broadcast event reminders, time changes or cancelations, and community updates. If you have ideas, please send them to the Council, Tammy, and/or webmaster@sovlutheran.com. Check out our Twitter page at <http://www.twitter.com/sovlutheran>.

• **MARCH NEWSLETTER DEADLINE FEBRUARY22, 2010**

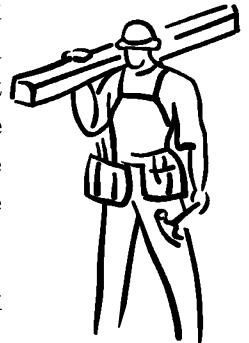
\$4,392.95

...Submitted by Linnea Harmon

Now, that's an interesting title. Do you know what it means?? That's the amount of interest Banner Bank paid Shepherd of the Valley on the Building Fund in 2009. With today's interest rates, I think that's a pretty impressive number!

There is no denying that the economic downturn impacted our schedule for the new sanctuary. However, it's good to know that our money is growing during this time. Donations made to the Capital Campaign continue to be deposited in Banner Bank and continue to grow for us.

Also, if you have a chance, take a look at the new plumbing work that was done in December. Well, maybe we can't see it through the walls, but it's there. All of the galvanized pipes have been replaced which should mean no more leaky pipes! Because this work was planned during Phase I of the building project, the project was paid from the Building Fund. That's actually the "litmus" test of whether or not projects can be paid from the Building Fund: If the work is planned in Phase I of the project and won't have to be redone when we start construction, the Building Fund is probably the appropriate funding source. As such, we continue to look for opportunities to do Phase I work now.



Thank you for your continued support of our long-range plan. We all look forward to the day we break ground on the new building!

Your Building Committee

HAITI RELIEF FUND THROUGH LWR

If you would like to donate to Lutheran World Relief's Haiti earthquake response. Here's the link to do it directly: <http://www.lwr.org/emergencies/10/HaitiEarthquake/> or you can make your donation to SOV, mark it "Haiti earthquake" on the memo line and SOV will send the funds on to LWR after a week or two. Mercy Corps is also a consistently high-rated charity (by the American Institute of Philanthropy) that people might want to donate to: <http://www.mercycorps.org/> in their response efforts.

For more questions contact Larina Hoffbeck at Hoffbeck@verizon.net.

Thrivent Members; Thrivent has pledged to match \$1 for every \$2 their members contribute, up to a total contribution of \$1 million from Thrivent. To make your matching gift (up to \$250 per person), go to www.thrivent.com/helpinghaiti



Souper Bowl is coming on February 7th!!

Submitted by Debbie

Yes, there is a big football game happening, too--but this Souper Bowl has a focus to raise money and to feed those around us.

This year, SOV confirmands will be asking for your help as they plan to raise money for this year's Souper Bowl.

Their goal is \$300 in money to raise for 1) Care to Share and 2) ELCA Hunger relief and 75 cans of food for Shepherd's storehouse.

Look for information on Souper Bowl in upcoming bulletins and look for our raffle drawings (for 2 gift baskets) that will be set up before February 7th.

Confirmands will be collecting money as a second offering at both services--let's beat last year's fundraising of \$250 for this great cause!

Blessings,

Debbie Johnson



Kids of the Kingdom...

Submitted by Susan Johanson

There are new students in both the Infant/Toddler and Preschool classrooms. God has been pouring in new students in Kids of the Kingdom. This past months Bible lesson was worshipping God. The students learned different ways of how we can worship God. Pastor Randy taught the students news worship songs during the weekly chapel times. The preschoolers have enjoyed learning, "This Little Light of Mine".

In the preschool classroom the students are learning to play the piano on a keyboard. Teacher Susan is weekly teaching the preschoolers scales, chords, and music theory. The preschoolers are also learning to speak and understand Japanese weekly. The students love Wimbleton, the Japanese (puppet) dog that is encouraging the students to learn Japanese. So far, the preschoolers can sing, say colors, and count up to five in Japanese. Every Japanese lesson starts with all the preschoolers saying "good-morning" by bowing to their classmates, Teacher Susan, and Wimbleton.

We the staff of Kids of the Kingdom would love to thank all those dedicated volunteers that helped Teacher Susan and Teacher Cathy during our Director Eva's maternity leave. Thank you and God bless.

From the Parish Nurse-----Corrine Gilbertson

We now have a date for members , family members and neighbors to have a FREE consultation with a Registered Pharmacist. I know its short notice but I am happy and grateful for this opportunity.

Tuesday February 9th --from 1:30 pm ---- 6 pm at Rite Aid Pharmacy located @ the Tanasbourne Shopping Center (Cornell Rd & 185 the)

There will be Pharmacists available for consultations re- your medications and information-re "over the counter" (non-prescription) medications..

They will answer your questions as well as give you information re- how some drugs may have adverse reaction with "over the counter" medications.

- You DO NOT need an appointment.
- Privacy will be provided and confidentiality is a "given" !
- My contact person @ Rite Aid is Pharmacist Jaishree Patel.
- This is a great service by Rite Aid .-----so we give Thanks.

Note: Be sure to bring your medications in their containers in a bag ----- not just a list of your meds! This is important and is why we call it Rx Brown Bagger!!!

Corrine Gilbertson, Parish Nurse



Stewardship 2010, Acting Together...Sharing Enough!

The journey continues..... Submitted by Diane Lewis

We got off to a slow start with our "Cans, can make a difference" food drive in January. Maybe this is just how many things start out in January as we breathe from the end of one year and go into the next. The Stewardship committee is encouraging our congregation to support our youth in their food drive for "Souper Bowl Sunday" with financial and food donations. We are excited that they have chosen to enhance their own stewardship by supporting these choices and divide the money that is donated to the "Care to Share" program and the ELCA Disaster Relief Fund. We want to encourage all ages to learn what a blessing it is to give back what God has given to each of us. Please show them your support and let them know what a difference they are making.

We will restart the "Cans, can make a difference" food drive for the remainder of February and hope to break our record of 213 items of non perishable food. Think about the mission of our Shepherd's Storehouse as you go food shopping and select something to share. (Just a hint: I am leaving these items in my car so I won't forget on Sunday) We will continue to place a big basket in front of the altar so that each item can be given as an offering each week.

We ask you to remember to bring in your newspapers to our SOV newspaper drop box. Invite your friends and neighbors to save their papers for you or to use our drop box. It is such an easy opportunity to help out. Our Stewardship committee is committed to keeping our program alive with new ideas and more education on how we can make Stewardship a fun and learning opportunity for members of all ages! Our new budget will be ready to vote on soon. We have tough choices and decisions to make for the present and future of our church. We encourage everyone to find a way to participate and bring ideas to share on ways we can further support the ministry and mission of our congregation. Do you have an idea to share? Let us know!

Let's make 2010 an opportunity to share God's love and blessings in new ways that makes a difference.

Together in Christ,

Stewardship ... By Betty Edwards, Peace Lutheran Church, Albert , Kansas,

For some time now I've tried to see... What Stewardship is meant to be.
 At first I thought it only meant... The money in God's name we spent.
 But now, I think it's gifts from Him, And what we choose to do with them.
 He gave us eyes so we'd observe... Those special ones we're called to serve.
 He gave us voice to calm the tears; He gave us backs to shoulder fears.
 He gave us hearts to love our brothers... He gave us arms to comfort others.
 He gave us hands to ease the pain; He gave us legs to help the lame.
 He gave us feet so, day by day We'd follow in Christ's holy way.
 And then He gave a talent, free, Made specially for you and me.
 Don't ever think that yours is less, For in God's eyes the least is best.
 Some cook, some sew, some clean, some teach, Some care for home, some nurse, some
 preach. God's gift to you is life, 'tis true Your gift to God is what you do

February 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 7:15 a Coffee Group @ Starbucks 6:30 p Youth Choir practice	3 10:00 a Bible Study 11:15 a Rebecca Circle meets 6:30 p Evening Worship 7:00 p Adult Choir Practice	4 6:30 p Men's Night @ Old Chicago pizza	5	6
7 Worship with Communion 8:30 & 11:00 Birthday Sunday Blood Pressure 	8	9 7:15 a Coffee Group @ Starbucks 6:30 p Youth Choir practice 6:30 p Ladies Dinner Sunset Cluster	10 10:00 a Bible Study 6:30 p Evening Worship 7:00 p Adult Choir Practice	11	12	13
14 Worship with Communion 8:30 & 11:00 Confirmation Class 	15 6:45 Social Concerns meeting  President's Day	16 7:15 a Coffee Group @ Starbucks 6:30 p Youth Choir practice 6:30 p Executive Council	17 10:00 a Bible Study 6:30 p Evening Worship 7:00 p Adult Choir Practice Ash Wednesday 	18 7:00 p Council Meeting	19	20
21 Worship with Communion 8:30 & 11:00 Confirmation Class First Sunday in Lent	22	23 7:15 a Coffee Group @ Starbucks 6:30 p Youth Choir practice	24 10:00 a Bible Study 5:45 p Soup supper 6:30 p Evening Worship 7:00 p Adult Choir Practice	25	26	27
28 Worship with Communion 8:30 & 11:00						

