

# Shalom Now!

Volume 12, No. 2  
February 2012

## Sunday Worship Services

8:30 Evangelical  
10:45 Contemporary

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Sign Interpreter available upon request.

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### STAFF

**Pastor:** Grant Aaseng

**Music Director:**  
Marcia Benson

**Director of Youth and Children's Ministries:**  
Shannon Anderson

**Accounting:**  
Rena Larson

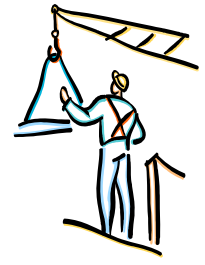
**Office Administrator:**  
Carol Hedlund

## From the Pastor

*"My house shall be a house of prayer for all peoples." Isaiah 56:7*

Last month we commissioned the Capital Campaign Team to encourage financial support for a new sanctuary and already "excitement is building!" As you have likely heard, our campaign theme is "Building to Fulfill Our Mission in Christ." This slogan emphasizes why we are building. Simply put, we need more and more suitable space to enable us to invite more people to a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ.

Soon we shall move on to the question, "What shall we build?" In September, our congregation endorsed the Council's recommendation to move forward toward building a sanctuary, a special room set aside for the worship of our triune God. This coming Lenten season, I will invite you to explore with me a vision for how that sanctuary might be viewed and how it will be used. The theme I have chosen for our mid-week Lenten worship (starting February 22) is "A House of Prayer for All Peoples."



As a "house" the new sanctuary will require certain structural features, and it will need to be large enough to include all the people God may be sending our way. But as a "house of prayer," we need to keep in mind what this sacred space is to be designed for: a place to deepen our relationship with God through individual prayer and meditation, as well as corporate prayer and worship. It will not only be a place where we offer our prayers of thanksgiving, confession, intercession and supplication, but also a place where we come to hear and receive God's reply in scripture, sermons, and sacraments.



Whatever structure we decide to build, we must always remember that a lovely building is not our goal. Rather, the building is a means toward fulfilling a greater purpose—that we might carry forward our mission to invite all people to a deeper relationship with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

In Christ,  
Pastor Grant

P.S. Speaking of the importance of relationships, please consider participating in a "Friendship February" group. If you haven't already, sign up today!

## Need some fun??

Join the choir at Shalom. You're welcome to come rehearse Wednesday, 7:00—8:00 pm. Get to know a great group of people, improve your singing technique and learn some great music. Contact Marcia Benson at 320-282-7117 or [marcia.n.benson@gmail.com](mailto:marcia.n.benson@gmail.com).



*"We believe God is calling us to invite people into a deeper relationship with Christ, that all may discover true peace and be prepared to follow him in compassionate service"*

## Lent 2012: “A House of Prayer for All Peoples”

The season of Lent is an annual invitation to a closer walk with Jesus, the one who gave his life for our salvation. The midweek Lenten theme for 2012 will be “A House of Prayer for All Peoples”—a vision for the new sanctuary. As in years past, we invite the community (members and non-members alike) to gather each Wednesday for a simple supper at 5:30 PM, followed by worship at 6:30. We will again be using the liturgy, “That You May have Life” which we introduced in 2006. The **Ash Wednesday** service, on February 22, will include the Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion. The February Lenten Offering has been designated for “LOVE INC, a cooperative Christian ministry reaching out to needy residents of Douglas County, and the March offering will go to the Douglas County Food Shelf. Following worship (at approximately 7:05 PM) there will be a variety of Lenten Activities, including: Quilting for Lutheran World Relief, “Go Deep” for High School Youth, rehearsal for the Shalom Choir and a discussion of the sermon topic. The proposed schedule of worship meditations is as follows:

### “A House of Prayer for All Peoples” 2012 mid-week Lenten Worship Themes

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Theme</u>                       | <u>Scripture</u>                  |
|-------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| February 22 | Ash Wednesday: “A Den of Thieves?” | Mark 11:15-19                     |
| February 29 | “Holy Ground”                      | Exodus 3:1-6<br>Genesis 28:10-19a |
| March 7     | “A House of Prayer”                | Luke 11:1-13                      |
| March 14    | “A Place to Hear God’s Word”       | Mark 2:1-2                        |
| March 21    | “A Place for All”                  | 2 Chronicles 6:12-21, 32-33       |
| March 28    | “Prayers for Everyone”             | 1 Timothy 2:1-4                   |

## Planting Seeds

*(In response to Pastor Aaseng’s January 15 sermon on Mark 4, Ruth Nagle sent the following:)*

A bit over 15 years ago I became acquainted with a mom & her 2 children. Their life was a mess & dad had just abandoned them, taking with him the only paycheck in the home.

It was early summer and everyone needed a healing time. I asked Mom how she'd feel about sending the children off to camp for a week. They would be fed and there would be time for her to clear her head a bit. Good idea!

Time to recruit Christian friends in the community for a donation, and we put together enough to pay for the two kids to go to Luther Crest.

The first absolutely terrific gift from that event came in about 7 years when I opened an envelope at work & a one hundred dollar bill fell out. The note with it was from Mom & she said she had been able to get loans and get back to school and finish her teaching degree. She now had a little to give forward for some other child. She indicated the experience had been wonderful for her children.

HOWEVER, the 2nd gift came just two weeks ago when I learned that the little girl that we sent to camp was Ordained into the Ministry that Sunday.

You just never know where & when the seeds will grow!



## Friendship February

One of the best ways to strengthen our church is to build stronger friendships within the congregation. In order to do this, we are currently organizing up to 6 FRIENDSHIP groups that are available for you to participate in. The goal is to develop groups of 6-8 people per group and ask them to meet once a week for 4 weeks. Please Cami Pexsa know if you have any ideas for additional times or types of group. Sign up for these groups on the Sign-up Board in the narthex. Get to know your Shalom family a little more intimately and grow your faith!

### Shalom February Friendship Groups

- Sun 6:00pm Families with teens—At participants homes - including supper
- Sun 6:30pm Families with young children—At participants homes - including snack
- Fri. evening Active Lifestyles Meet for a walk on the Y track, central lakes trail, with special events including candle light ski at Lake Carlos Feb 3.
- Sat 8:00am Early Risers, coffee lovers at Great Cravings upstairs
- Tue 4:00pm Tea Time - Relaxed and fun light snack and lots of fellowship
- Wed 5:00pm Mom's take a spirit filled break with friends - shared baby-sitter at Church (Follows children ministry GO and during Childrens choir )
- Thur 7:00pm Anyone looking for more authentic friendships At participants homes - including snack



### READY TO STRETCH THE SPIRITUAL MUSCLE?

Go Deep with a Beth Moore Bible Study, which provides a personal study experience five days a week plus weekly group video sessions of this in-depth women's Bible study. Meets for 10 weeks. Group to choose the study:

***Breaking Free*** by Beth Moore leads you through Scripture to discover the transforming power of freedom in Jesus Christ. Themes for this study come from Isaiah, a book about the captivity of God's children, the faithfulness of God, and the road to freedom. It draws parallels between the captive Israelites of the Old Testament and New Testament believers in Jesus as the Promised Messiah.

***Living Beyond Yourself: Exploring the Fruit of the Spirit***, a study of the fruit of The Holy Spirit as presented in the book of Galatians. Beth walks participants through each trait listed and encourages women to know the freedom of a Spirit-filled life. **Sign-up in the narthex.**

### **Thank you, Cher Larson!**

As of the end of 2011, Cher Larson will no longer be serving as Shalom's Parish Nurse. For the past 3 years, we have been deeply blessed to have Cher on staff, working to facilitate health and wholeness among all God's people. In the past year alone, over 40 members connected with Cher, or were visited by her, often in tandem with her husband and partner in ministry, Dr. David Larson. Cher also helped to organize a Parish Health Ministry Team, meeting with other nurses and health care workers in the congregation to offer blood pressure checks, write articles about health for our newsletter and to put health-related bulletins in our church restrooms.

As we commend Cher for her tireless, caring and effective ministry (for which she was not paid) and as she discerns where God is calling her to serve next, Deb Samples (also trained as a Parish Nurse) will do her best to carry on elements of the Parish Nurse mission, as time allows.

If you have been blessed by Cher's health ministry over the past three years, please offer a prayer of thanks to God and let Cher know how grateful you are.

### **NEW WELCA CIRCLE FORMS**

Shalom WELCA Circle had its first meeting on January 10, 2012. There were 12 women in attendance. It was decided to continue with the Circle as an open group, which allows others to join the group when possible. We will continue to meet at the church on the second Tuesday of the month (no July meetings) from 9:00 to 11:00 A.M. Bible Study will be found in "The Gather". Circle will join with the Caring Committee to complete their objective of visiting shut-ins and the elderly.

# Children's Ministry

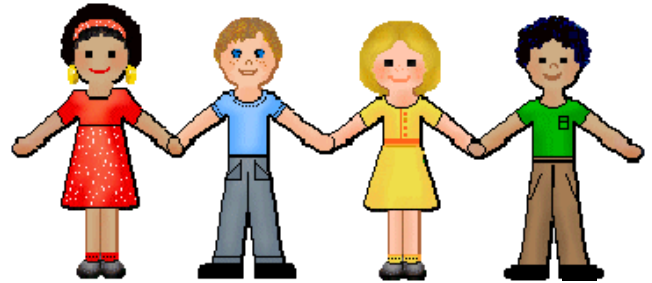
## BIBLE AT MY BEDSIDE

For the last few months, in Sunday school, we have been sending home calendars to help encourage your children (as well as us adults) get into the habit of reading our Bibles. While we haven't seen a huge re-



sponse (yet), we did get one calendar back in January for December reading. Congratulations, Patina Frovarp!

If you have any questions about this calendar, don't hesitate to ask. And adults, extra calendars are available on the tall counter in the narthex. Readings chosen are from a Kid's "through the Bible in a year" program. However, as we tell the kids, you don't have to follow them. Read what you want. Just get digging into God's word!



## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY UP-COMING DATES AND A PEEK AHEAD

Sunday, February 5th: Luther Crest Sunday  
Wednesday, February 22nd: NO GO!/Children and Youth Choirs (Ash Wednesday)  
March 31st, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.: First Communion Retreat (3rd grade and up. More information will be coming.)  
April 1st, 1:30-3:00 p.m.:  
Easter Family Event  
April 8th: NO Sunday School  
April 13th, 7:00-10:00 p.m.:  
Children's Ministry Lock-In  
May 13th: Last Day of Sunday School/Children's and Youth Service



Don't let anyone look  
down on you because  
you are young, but set  
an example for the believers  
in speech, in life, in love,  
in faith and in purity.  
1 Timothy 4:12  
DA22LEJUNCTION.COM

Special thanks to Kris Wilson who has been accompanying our Children's and Youth choirs this year. Kris has decided to step down as accompanist. We were so thankful for your willingness to come "play" with the children and youth of Shalom. Thank you for sharing your musical ministry with us!



# Youth Ministry



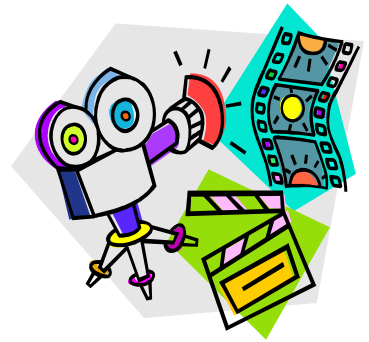
One person's  
junk is another  
person's...  
**TREASURE!!**

I have been asked a couple times now about the Youth Rummage Sale Fundraiser.

Yes, we are planning on having one! So, please save those treasures that you are ready to part with, for the big event! We'll be setting up April 30th-May 2nd. The sale will be held Thursday, May 3rd-Saturday, May 5th.

## LIGHTS...CAMERA...ACTION!

All youth (Grades 7-12) are invited to a movie marathon day on February 11th, 4:00-10:00 p.m. You are encouraged to bring G or PG rated movies and we'll vote on the ones we'll watch. You are also asked to bring a snack to share. (We'll order pizza around 6:00 p.m.) Come for one movie or all! Bring a friend!



Cross Training (grades 7-9) will be held on  
Sunday, February 12th,  
6:00-7:30 p.m.

### A Peek Ahead...

~Shalom's All-Nighter/Lock-In:

March 9th-10th, 7:00 p.m.-7:00 a.m.

~Penny Wars- A youth fundraiser begins on Sunday, March 25th.

Watch for more details. It all ends with the pie-eating contest on Sunday, April 22nd, following the 2nd service. (All are invited to come watch the contest. Mark your calendar TODAY!)



Have you been thinking about joining either the Y-Team (the youth team) or the Education Committee? If so, we'd love to have you join us at our next meetings. Because of Valentine's Day, we will be meeting on Thursday, February 16th. The Y-Team meets at 6:00 p.m. and the Education Committee meets at 7:00 p.m. We usually meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month at those same times. Come check us out!



## Meet Deb Samples . . .

Deb Samples usually attends the 10:45 A.M. Worship Service at Shalom because it fits her nursing schedule better. She is one of Shalom's volunteer parish nurses, and is also a member of Shalom's Caring Committee; as well as an integral part of a noon small group that meets weekly.

Deb was born in the "old, old" Douglas County Hospital in Alexandria in 1964; the oldest child of three. Her local ties include the well-known Gawthrop family on her mother's side. She later moved to Park Rapids with her family and graduated from Park Rapids High School. Quiet-spoken Deb loved music and was in the marching band as well as played piano. Following high school she attended the Moorhead Tech School and lived there a couple of years. She found Moorhead to be the "coldest place she'd ever lived in".

1984 found her moving to Washington State, where she worked for a time with the Princess Cruise Lines as a travel planner. While it was a fun job, it was only temporary and seasonal; so she followed her dream to become a nurse. After living around Puget Sound the first 3 years, she moved to Aberdeen and through a friend's matchmaking, met and married Rollo Samples in May of 1989. She received her LPN license in July of 1989, after many hours of studying while working full-time as a Nurse's Aide.



In October of that same year she was diagnosed with Crohn's Disease, which led to treatment with steroids and other meds in an attempt to control the disease. In March of 1996 Deb & Rollo became proud parents of Melissa Michelle. She quickly became the light of their life. Grandma Delores, Grandpa Ron Ofstedal and Deb's sister were nearby and frequent eager babysitters. After relocating back to Aberdeen, WA, Deb continued to work in local nursing homes; and after she and Rollo were divorced she chose to return to Nursing School to pursue her RN degree. At about that same time she learned her Father needed to have heart surgery. While it was difficult to leave school just then, she decided her place was to be near her parents during his recovery. However, before they could get back to MN her Father died of complications from triple by-pass surgery. Following the funeral Deb returned to Washington to continue Nurses training and was pinned by her peers in June of 2002. She continued to work as an RN in that area for another 2 years before giving in to the call to "go home" to Minnesota. She began her work with Douglas County Hospital in 2004 and has since trained in medical/surgical, pediatrics and OB. Being able to work in all those areas gives her work much variety, and makes her a valuable asset.

Deb spends what little spare time she gets (being a full-time working Mom) crocheting, reading, baking and teaching the girls cooking and baking skills and walking her dog. Deb's daughter, Melissa, was pictured recently in the Echo Press in connection with a culinary art class project. She is looking forward to the time when Melissa will take over the cooking duties! Deb's niece, Anaka, also lives with them as a member of the family. Anaka loves Glee (of course) and singing. Her cat, Sara, flew with her to MN. Deb says they love having Anaka and Sara with them—sounds like a busy household!

On a prior visit to MN before moving, Deb had been to Shalom with her Mom and Step-dad (Delores & Dick Martin). They raved about how awesome the Pastor was here and the hospitality of the congregation. Melissa & Deb became members in November of 2004. In 2010 Deb signed up for the Parish Nurse training which was held at Mount Carmel—an awesome spiritual place to learn. Deb has worked with Cher Larson and the other nurses in creating a Parish Ministry Team at Shalom.

**A big thank you** goes out to the many, many volunteers who have helped in any way at the Caring & Sharing Room over the past year. Thanks, also, to the over 388 people who have made wonderful donations of furniture and household items and for your financial support. With your help we served 203 needy families in our community with nearly 1310 items of furniture, household & kitchen items, or bedding. Your continued support is encouraged as we move forward in this ministry. **Current immediate needs are** beds, bed frames, chests of drawers, toasters, and microwaves. We anticipate another busy year so if you have items to donate or for more information call the Caring & Sharing Room at (320) 760-8084. Please check out our brochure at [www.stmaryalexandria.org/CaringSharing/C&SBrochure.pdf](http://www.stmaryalexandria.org/CaringSharing/C&SBrochure.pdf)

## 2011 Membership Report

|  | <u>Baptized</u> | <u>active</u> | <u>Confirmed</u> | <u>active</u> |
|--|-----------------|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| <b>2010 Membership</b>                   | 483             | 434           | 372              | 337           |
| <br><b><u>Additions</u></b>              |                 |               |                  |               |
| children baptized                        | 3               | 3             | 0                | 0             |
| Adult baptism                            | 0               | 0             | 0                | 0             |
| Affirmation of Faith                     | 5               | 5             | 5                | 5             |
| ELCA transfer                            | 31              | 31            | 20               | 20            |
| Other transfers                          | 2               | 2             | 1                | 1             |
| Restored to active                       | 0               | 1             | 0                | 1             |
| Confirmations                            | 0               | 0             | 9                | 9             |
| became inactive                          |                 | -0            |                  | 0             |
| <b>Subtotal</b>                          | 524             | 476           | 407              | 373           |
| <br><b><u>Deletions</u></b>              |                 |               |                  |               |
|  | -5              | -5            | -5               | -5            |
| <b>Deaths</b>                            |                 |               |                  |               |
| transfer to ELCA                         | -7              | -7            | -6               | -6            |
| transfer to other                        | -5              | -5            | -2               | -2            |
|  | -11             | -3            | -7               | -1            |
| <b>Removed (inactive)</b>                |                 |               |                  |               |
| statistical adjust                       | 0               | 0             | 0                | 0             |
| <b>2011 membership</b>                   | 496             | 456           | 387              | 359           |
| <br>                                     |                 |               |                  |               |
|  | <u>2009</u>     | <u>2010</u>   | <u>2011</u>      |               |
| <b>Average Sunday worship attendance</b> | 182             | 190           | 204              |               |

**Thank you so much** for your donation to Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County in the amount of \$1,429.43 for the Thrivent Builds. We really appreciate your partnership with us as we continue the effort to make more affordable housing available to families in need, right here in Douglas County.

Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County is in the business of making dreams become realities. Since 1997, 30 homes have been built for sale to partner families in Douglas County providing housing for 122 people. For these homeowners, the dream of owning their own home has become a life-changing reality.

Your gift will help build more homes in Douglas County. For more information about our program, call us at 320-762-4255 or visit [www.hfhdouglascounty.org](http://www.hfhdouglascounty.org).

Along with Habitat for Humanity of Douglas County, you are ***building hope, homes and community in your own backyard.*** Thank you!

# WELCA NEWS

## JOIN US FOR: WOMEN OF FAITH 2012—CELEBRATE!!

*"Be happy and full of joy, because the Lord  
has done a wonderful thing" Joel 2:21*

October 10th 7:00-10:00 pm

October 20th 9:00 am-5:00 pm

Even in the midst of everyday challenges, there are treasures hidden in plain sight. Be refreshed and renewed at a one-of-a-kind weekend. Join us for an absolutely inspiring weekend. The line up for this year's event as of now is:

**Angie Smith:** Women around the world feel as though they're lifelong friends with Angie Smith—and most of them have never met her in person. They've come to know Angie through her transparent, warm, witty blog [Bring The Rain](#). It began as the story of her fourth daughter's brief life and became an opportunity to combine Angie's two greatest passions: helping to heal people's hearts and writing. The wife of Todd Smith (lead singer of hit Christian contemporary group [Selah](#)), Angie co-wrote the song "I Will Carry You" (found on Selah's CD [You Deliver Me](#)) and authored a book by the same name. Angie, Todd, and their daughters live in Tennessee.

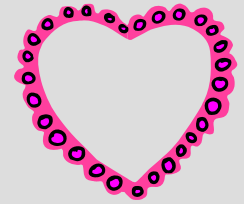
**Ken Davis:** One of the most sought after speakers in North America, Ken has appeared on television and stage around the world and is the host of the popular daily radio show, "Lighten Up," heard on over 800 stations across America. He spent 15 years working for Youth for Christ, and in the last 30 years has traveled the world as a top motivational and inspirational speaker. Ken provides a unique mixture of side-splitting humor and inspiration that never fails to delight and enrich audiences of all ages. A Minnesota native, Ken and his wife, Diane, now live in Tennessee. They have two grown daughters and six grandchildren.

**Sheila Walsh:** She's a multi-talented author (with more than three-and-a-half million books sold!), speaker, singer, television personality, and dog-walker who does it all while wearing killer heels. Her transparency takes our breath away as she shares the real issues she—and many of us—deal with every day. Prior to joining Women of Faith, Sheila co-hosted television's *The 700 Club* and her own talk show *Heart to Heart with Sheila Walsh* on the Family Channel. She is currently working on completing her Master's degree in Divinity. She lives in Texas with her husband, Barry, son, Christian, and two little white dogs Belle and Tink.

**Selah:** Selah members Allan Hall, Todd Smith, and Amy Perry each have a favorite musical style: Allan oozes country and bluegrass, Todd breathes classic rock and classic Contemporary Christian Music, and Amy marches to the beat of pop and urban gospel. Fortunately, in Selah's music all (and more) are welcome at the table. Together they make music that is undeniably unique—and undeniably beautiful. Since their first album more than a decade ago, the group has experienced tragedy and change, leaving them with tender spirits and a strong sense of purpose. As Amy says, "If we can remind [people] that God is real, and He is here, and He will take care of them, we're doing what He wants us to do."

Sign up in the narthex. Please contact Tammy Drewes or Kim Casavan with questions.

## A Valentine Gift for Both of You



Leave the rest of the world behind and enjoy some quality time for just the two of you on a Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekend. You'll spend two nights in a comfortable hotel and enjoy five delicious meals from Friday at 7:00 pm to Sunday at 5:00 pm. Engaging presentations by four Lutheran couples, including a clergy couple, give you valuable tools and information which are followed by exercises and questions the two of you discuss in the privacy of your hotel room. There is no counseling or required sharing.

The Spring Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends in Minnesota are February 10-12 in Brooklyn Center, March 23-25 in Duluth and May 4-6 in Walker. Please register several weeks in advance. For more information, contact Dick & Judy Dehnel at 952-432-3105, Pete & Phyllis McMahan at 763-561-1575 or visit [www.godlovesmarriage.org](http://www.godlovesmarriage.org).

There are also Marriage Encounters on February 11-12 or 25-26 at the Mr. Olivet Conference Center in Farmington. Visit [www.marriages.org](http://www.marriages.org) for a listing of retreats or call 651-454-3238.



**Noah's Ark:** Everything I need to know, I learned from Noah's Ark.

**ONE:** Don't miss the boat.

**TWO:** Remember that we are all in the same boat!

**THREE:** Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

**FOUR:** Stay fit. When you're 60 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

**FIVE:** Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

**SIX:** Build your future on high ground.

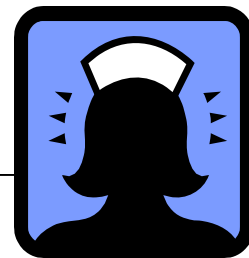
**SEVEN:** For safety's sake, travel in pairs.

**EIGHT:** Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

**NINE:** When you're stressed, float awhile.

**TEN:** Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

**ELEVEN:** No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.



### Nine Top Foods for Heart Health

February is National Heart Month. Heart disease is the number one killer of both men and women in this country.

Even if you've downed a small army's worth of French fries, cleaning up your diet can have a profound effect. Studies have shown that up to 70% of heart disease can be averted with the correct diet. Statins, the most effective single medications for reducing heart disease, only cut risk by 25 to 30%.

Following is a list of nine top foods for the heart. This list is only the beginning. A truly healthy diet features a broad range of fruits, vegetables, nuts, and legumes. Oranges contain a pharmacy's worth of salves for the heart. The soluble fiber pectin acts like a sponge, sopping up cholesterol in food and blocking absorption. The potassium in oranges helps counterbalance salt, keeping blood pressure under control. Kale has everything you want in a superfood. Kale (a dark green leafy vegetable) has heart-healthy antioxidants, omega-3 fatty acids, fiber, folate, potassium, and Vitamin E. Garlic has an enzyme that helps to decrease constriction of blood vessels, as well as a significant impact on the buildup of plaque. Red wine helps to up HDL, the "good" cholesterol. It should be noted that more than one glass a day of wine ups the risk of breast cancer in women. Dark chocolate is rich in flavanols, which improve blood vessel flexibility. Only a few squares of dark chocolate a day will do the trick. Sardines are rich in omega-3 fatty acids that help with raising protective HDL, reducing potentially fatal heart arrhythmias, and help with inflammation. Lentils include lean vegetable protein and fiber, folate, magnesium and potassium. Almonds reduce the absorption of cholesterol from the diet. Walnuts, pistachios, and peanuts are also great. Pomegranates help to bring down LDL (bad cholesterol)



Unfortunately, you won't disease proof your heart by simply adding chocolate, wine, and nuts to a diet full of doughnuts and bacon. Research now shows that the sugar and refined flour in our bagels, pizzas, cookies, and sodas are even more problematic.

As Hippocrates understood the concept of healthy eating more than 2000 years ago; "Let your food be your medicine, and your medicine be your food."

## BUILDING TO FULFILL OUR MISSION IN CHRIST

### Capital Campaign/Building Fund Update

The Building Fund has grown to \$11,874.00 due to regular contributions by Shalom members and several larger donations in December. Thank you!

In response to the Roundtable Discussion on Jan. 22, we will post on the "Tower of Blessings" in the narthex, the timetable that the Capital Campaign will follow in the next few months. This committee meets every couple of weeks and welcomes your feedback.

We encourage Shalom members to prayerfully consider becoming a "home visit volunteer" in April. This is an opportunity to be actively involved in the capital campaign and to get to know where your Shalom brothers and sisters live. It will be a 1 hour commitment for 2 weeks and will include a brief training. Your task will be to deliver a sealed pledge packet to the homes of Shalom's members, and return a week later to pick it up. **No salesmanship necessary—just a nice, warm smile with the delivery!**

Capital Campaign Team—Elroy Frank, Paul Jacobson, Brian Bymers, Paul Hanson, Vic Dale and Carol Hedlund



# Happy Birthday



|                   |     |                  |      |                   |      |
|-------------------|-----|------------------|------|-------------------|------|
| Scott Hegstad     | 2/2 | Ella Steussy     | 2/9  | Darwin Hentz      | 2/21 |
| Sheila Anderson   | 2/3 | Graham Hegstad   | 2/10 | Eileen McKay      | 2/22 |
| Marissa Bratsch   | 2/3 | Tenner Thompson  | 2/11 | Lyle Kjesbo       | 2/22 |
| Sarah Wacholz     | 2/4 | David Rush       | 2/12 | Reggie Habberstad | 2/24 |
| Emily Prestby     | 2/4 | Natasha Taylor   | 2/13 | Shelli Crowe      | 2/24 |
| Juanita Fisher    | 2/4 | Grant Toivonen   | 2/14 | John Carlberg     | 2/24 |
| David Beyer       | 2/5 | Fritz Bukowski   | 2/15 | Kayla Dale        | 2/25 |
| Paul Jacobson     | 2/6 | Naomi Paine      | 2/15 | Zach Wohlfeil     | 2/27 |
| Doug Prestby      | 2/7 | Marcia Hoffman   | 2/15 | Jared McCormick   | 2/28 |
| Hunter Croonquist | 2/8 | Paul Fieldhammer | 2/15 | Arvin Pletcher    | 2/28 |
| Troy Frovarp      | 2/8 | Abby Hanson      | 2/17 |                   |      |

If we missed your birthday, please let us know in the church office because we would like to include you in our thoughts and prayers on your birthday!

Your Shalom family rejoices with you as you celebrate the day God gave you life.

## Hospitality Time

Providing time to share the love of Christ with our fellow members and guests is the reason we have Sunday Morning Hospitality. Thank you for being on the Sunday Morning hospitality team for February. It is a real gift you are providing. Thank you!

1. Each week four family units are assigned. Each of them is requested to bring 4 dozen cookies, donuts or bars.—or you may bring half healthy treats (fruit, cheese, nuts, etc.).

2. The **first 2** on the list will be in charge of **setting up before early service** is finished, (9:30 am) (Trays for treats are in the kitchen or under the serving area and pitchers for water are in the kitchen.) and then acting as hosts during the coffee hour. The **second two** on the list will be in charge of **cleaning up after the second service**. (This includes washing the cups and other dishes, emptying and rinsing the coffee pots, and cleaning up the serving area.) These duties rotate.

*We realize that it is a problem for those who usually worship at 2nd service to get the goodies here by 9:30 am and those who usually worship at the 8:30 service to return and help clean up. Because our congregation has increased over the years we each have to only serve about 2 times each year. Maybe for the times we are scheduled, we can attend the other service and meet and greet other of our fellow members.*

### February 5, 2012

Corey & Naomi Paine  
Grant & Cami Pexsa  
Carla Randall  
Amy & Sam Schlosser

### February 19, 2012

Dave & Renae Rush  
Deb Samples  
Bob & Shawn Seward  
Ryan & Lisa Voigt

### February 12, 2012

Doug & Kelly Prestby  
Steve & Judy Radjenovich  
Dave & Joyce Rogosheske  
Dan & Colleen Rooney

### February 26, 2012

Steve & Mary Steinle  
Mike & Faith Steussy  
Greg & Karen Toivonen  
Tom & Beth Wacholz



Make a new friend over coffee



# FEBRUARY



SUN

MON




TUES

WED

THUR

FRI

SAT

|  |  |  |   |   |   |   |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|---|
|   |  |  | <p><b>1</b><br/>3:45-5:00 Go!<br/>5-5:30 Youth Choir<br/>5:30-6 Kids Choir<br/>6:30 Confirmation/YADA<br/>7:00 Choir<br/>8:00 Go Deep at Caribou Coffee</p>                       | <p><b>2</b><br/>8-9:45 Quilting<br/>10:00 Bible Study<br/>11:00 Caring Community<br/><br/>8:00 pm SOS rehearsal</p>                   | <p><b>3</b><br/>7:30 Men's Bible Breakfast at Travelers Inn</p>                       | <p><b>4</b></p>                                   |
| <p><b>5</b><br/>8:30 Worship-choir<br/>9:40 Sunday School/Adult Ed.<br/>10:45 Worship<br/>6:00 Women's Book Study<br/><br/>Luther Crest Sunday</p> | <p><b>6</b></p>  | <p><b>7</b><br/>9:00 am Circle</p>   | <p><b>8</b><br/>3:45-5:00 Go!<br/>5-5:30 Youth Choir<br/>5:30-6 Kids Choir<br/>6:30 Confirmation/YADA<br/>7:00 Choir<br/>8:00 Go Deep at Church/Worship Planning (8:30 serv.)</p> | <p><b>9</b><br/>8-9:45 Quilting<br/>10:00 Bible Study<br/><br/>8:00 pm SOS rehearsal</p>  | <p><b>10</b><br/>7:30 Men's Bible Breakfast at Travelers Inn</p>                      | <p><b>11</b><br/>4-10 pm Youth Movie Marathon</p> |
| <p><b>12</b><br/>8:30 Worship<br/>9:40 Sunday School/Adult Ed./BP checks<br/>10:45 Worship<br/>6:00 Women's Book Study/Cross Training</p>          | <p><b>13</b></p>   | <p><b>14</b><br/>6 pm Y-Team<br/>7 pm Education<br/><br/></p> | <p><b>15</b><br/>3:45-5:00 Go!<br/>5-5:30 Youth Choir<br/>5:30-6 Kids Choir<br/>6:30 Confirmation/YADA<br/>7:00 Choir<br/>8:00 Go Deep at Shannon's</p>                           | <p><b>16</b><br/>8-9:45 Quilting<br/>10:00 Bible Study<br/>6:00 Y-Team<br/>7:00 pm Education Team meets<br/>8:00 pm SOS rehearsal</p> | <p><b>17</b><br/>7:30 Men's Bible Breakfast at Travelers Inn</p>                      | <p><b>18</b></p>                                  |
| <p><b>19</b><br/>8:30 Worship<br/>9:40 Sunday School/Adult Ed.<br/>10:45 Worship<br/>6:00 Women's Book Study</p>                                   | <p><b>20</b></p>   | <p><b>21</b><br/>7 pm Church Council meets</p>   | <p><b>22</b><br/>Ash Wednesday<br/>No Go!<br/>5:30-6:20 pm Community Supper<br/>6:30 Lenten Worship<br/>7:15-8 pm Lenten Activities/Choir</p>                                     | <p><b>23</b><br/>8-9:45 Quilting<br/>10:00 Bible Study<br/><br/>8:00 pm SOS rehearsal</p>   | <p><b>24</b><br/>7:30 Men's Bible Breakfast at Travelers Inn</p>                      | <p><b>25</b></p>                                  |
| <p><b>26</b><br/>8:30 Worship-choir<br/>9:40 Sunday School/Adult Ed.<br/>10:45 Worship<br/>6:00 Women's Book Study<br/><br/>Penny Wars Begin</p>   | <p><b>27</b><br/></p> | <p><b>28</b><br/>9:00 am Evangelism Team meets</p>   | <p><b>29</b><br/>3:45-4:50 Go!<br/>4:50-5:20 Combined Choir<br/>5 pm Spiritual Growth<br/>5:30 Community Advent Supper<br/>6:30 Worship<br/>7:15 Choir/Adult Forum</p>            |   |  |   |

# Shared Ministry

**February 5, 2012**

**8:30**

**10:45**

Acolyte  
Ushers  
Communion Assistant  
Lector  
Nursery  
Greeters  
Assistant Minister  
Altar Guild  
Kitchen Monitor  
Communion Bread

Graham Hegstad  
Scott Hegstad & Paul Jacobson  
Roy Medenwaldt & Dean Kliever  
Marilyn Myers  
Sheila Anderson & Zach Wohlfeil  
Jim & Connie Johnson  
Greg Anderson  
Vic Dale  
Ron & Linda Fenelon  
Bill McKay

Devin Crowe  
Tom Arnquist & Grant Pexsa  
John Carlberg & Karen Toivonen  
Judy Hoffman  
Pam & Brandon McCormick  
Clark & Judy Hoffman  
Jon Halvorson

**February 12, 2012**

**8:30**

**10:45**

Acolyte  
Ushers  
Communion Assistant  
Lector  
Nursery  
Greeters  
Assistant Minister

Jennifer Randall  
Jeff & Danny Kuhn  
Emilie Pfeffer & Ron Fenelon  
Norm Priebe  
Emily Erickson & Ruth Aaseng  
Carol Hedlund & Liz Burbank  
Jan Keller

Ricky Feldhake  
Bill & Eileen McKay  
Al & Bettie Anderson  
Greg Toivonen  
Lesley Meehan & Sarah Wacholz  
Putt Muzik & John Carlberg  
Ted Kirst

**February 19, 2012**

**8:30**

**10:45**

Acolyte  
Ushers  
Communion Assistant  
Lector  
Nursery  
Greeters  
Assistant Minister

Kiera Mohon  
Ryan Erickson & Jennifer Randall  
Jan Keller & \_\_\_\_\_  
Dave Burbank  
Carla Randall & Kiera Mohon  
Sheila & Landon Anderson  
Dave Vagle

Lucas White  
Tammy Drewes & Tyra Johnson  
Paul & Sara Hanson  
Emily Prestby  
Ellen Halvorson & Jenna Seward  
Amy & Sam Schlosser  
Bob Seward

**February 22, 2012**

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

**6:30 pm**

Acolyte  
Ushers  
Communion Assistant  
Lector  
Nursery  
Greeters  
Assistant Minister

Johnny McTigue  
Dave & Evie Harris  
Ted Kirst & Judy Hoffman  
Shannon Anderson  
Makayla Wheeler & Aaron Halvorson  
Ray & Marilyn Myers  
Richard Bahe

**February 26, 2012**

**8:30**

**10:45**

Acolyte  
Ushers  
Communion Assistant  
Lector  
Nursery  
Greeters  
Assistant Minister

Makayla Wheeler  
Ken & Trish Jensen  
Ron & Dori Otterson  
Lloyd Berger  
Renae Rush & Michaela Dalum  
Renae Hills & Vickie Wohlfeil J  
Jack Engdahl

Sarah Wacholz  
Aaron Halvorson & Doris Mays  
Troy Frovarp & Jeri Borman  
Cami Pexsa  
Deb Halvorson & Johnnie McTigue  
Carrie Carlberg & Sue Engstrom  
Rol Halvorson

**Shalom Lutheran  
Treasurer's Report  
Fiscal Year to Date Ending Dec 31, 2011**

| General Fund                             | Actual<br>December  | Actual<br>To Date    | Budget<br>To Date    | Over (Under)<br>Budget | Annual Budget        |
|--|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Sources of Cash</b>                   |                     |                      |                      |                        |                      |
| General Fund Income                      |                     |                      |                      |                        |                      |
| Offerings                                | \$ 22,227.59        | 97,249.51            | 101,628.67           | (4,379.16)             | \$ 304,886.00        |
| Other Income                             | 127.15              | 568.07               | -                    | 568.07                 | -                    |
| <b>Total Cash Received - General Ops</b> | <b>22,354.74</b>    | <b>97,817.58</b>     | <b>101,628.67</b>    | <b>(3,811.09)</b>      | <b>304,886.00</b>    |
| <b>Uses of Cash</b>                      |                     |                      |                      |                        |                      |
| Salaries & Payroll                       | \$ 14,181.17        | 59,583.75            | 65,447.00            | (5,863.25)             | \$ 196,341.00        |
| Office Expenses                          | 869.30              | 3,611.74             | 4,796.67             | (1,184.93)             | 14,390.00            |
| Building & Grounds                       | 5,981.30            | 27,678.20            | 18,826.67            | 8,851.53               | 56,480.00            |
| Christian Education                      | 7.50                | 2,147.18             | 2,125.00             | 22.18                  | 6,375.00             |
| Worship                                  | 53.96               | 349.38               | 566.67               | (217.29)               | 1,700.00             |
| Music Ministry                           | 92.00               | 1,192.56             | 400.00               | 792.56                 | 1,200.00             |
| Evangelism                               | 10.00               | 259.34               | 533.33               | (273.99)               | 1,600.00             |
| Fellowship                               | (200.00)            | (369.32)             | 125.00               | (494.32)               | 375.00               |
| Social                                   | -                   | -                    | 233.33               | (233.33)               | 700.00               |
| Stewardship                              | -                   | 501.45               | 250.00               | 251.45                 | 750.00               |
| Youth                                    | 125.00              | 625.00               | 500.00               | 125.00                 | 1,500.00             |
| Outreach                                 | 2,210.00            | 7,085.00             | 7,825.00             | (740.00)               | 23,475.00            |
| <b>Total Cash Spent - General Ops</b>    | <b>\$ 23,330.23</b> | <b>\$ 102,664.28</b> | <b>\$ 101,628.67</b> | <b>1,035.61</b>        | <b>\$ 304,886.00</b> |
| <b>Excess (Shortage)</b>                 | <b>\$ (975.49)</b>  | <b>\$ (4,846.70)</b> |                      |                        |                      |

**Shalom Cash Financial Position**

As of Dec 31, 2011

|  |              |                     |
|--|--------------|---------------------|
| <b>Current Assets</b>                        |              |                     |
| Checking                                     | \$ 21,987.84 |                     |
| Savings                                      | \$ 21,046.84 |                     |
| Mutal Funds                                  | \$ 7,617.46  |                     |
| <b>Total Current Assets</b>                  |              | <b>\$ 50,652.14</b> |
| <b>Claims on Cash</b>                        |              |                     |
| Pass-Through Giving                          |              |                     |
| Love Inc.                                    | \$ 319.00    |                     |
| GO - Wed program                             | \$ 538.23    |                     |
| Lutheran Disaster                            | \$ -         |                     |
| Food Shelf                                   | \$ 35.00     |                     |
| Good Samaritan Fund                          | \$ -         |                     |
| Habitat for Humanity                         | \$ -         |                     |
| Sunday School Offering                       | \$ 491.10    |                     |
| World Hunger                                 | \$ -         |                     |
| Youth Fund                                   | \$ -         |                     |
| Pass-Through Giving                          |              | \$ 1,383.33         |
| Payroll Tax Liabilities                      |              | \$ 5,017.47         |
| <b>Designated Funds</b>                      |              |                     |
| Operating Reserve                            | \$ 8,000.00  |                     |
| Debt Retirement                              | \$ -         |                     |
| Building Fund                                | \$ 20,057.00 |                     |
| Memorials                                    | \$ 3,341.05  |                     |
| Music Fund                                   | \$ 605.91    |                     |
| Pastor's Education Fund                      | \$ 576.48    |                     |
| Childrens Scholarship/Ed                     | \$ 275.00    |                     |
| <b>Total Designated Funds</b>                |              | <b>\$ 32,855.44</b> |
| <b>Total Claims on Cash</b>                  |              | <b>\$ 39,256.24</b> |
| <b>Cash Available for General Operations</b> |              | <b>\$ 11,395.90</b> |

General Fund Balance

|            |               |
|------------|---------------|
| 1/31/2011  | \$ 3,984.66   |
| 2/28/2011  | \$ 1,669.39   |
| 3/31/2011  | \$ (2,905.52) |
| 4/30/2011  | \$ 6,950.38   |
| 5/31/2011  | \$ 8,563.48   |
| 6/30/2011  | \$ 10,047.65  |
| 7/31/2011  | \$ 14,344.56  |
| 8/31/2011  | \$ 17,460.88  |
| 9/30/2011  | \$ 18,396.72  |
| 10/31/2011 | \$ 22,347.11  |
| 11/30/2011 | \$ 14,492.03  |
| 12/31/2011 | \$ 11,395.90  |

**Shalom Financial Report - Thru December 31, 2011**

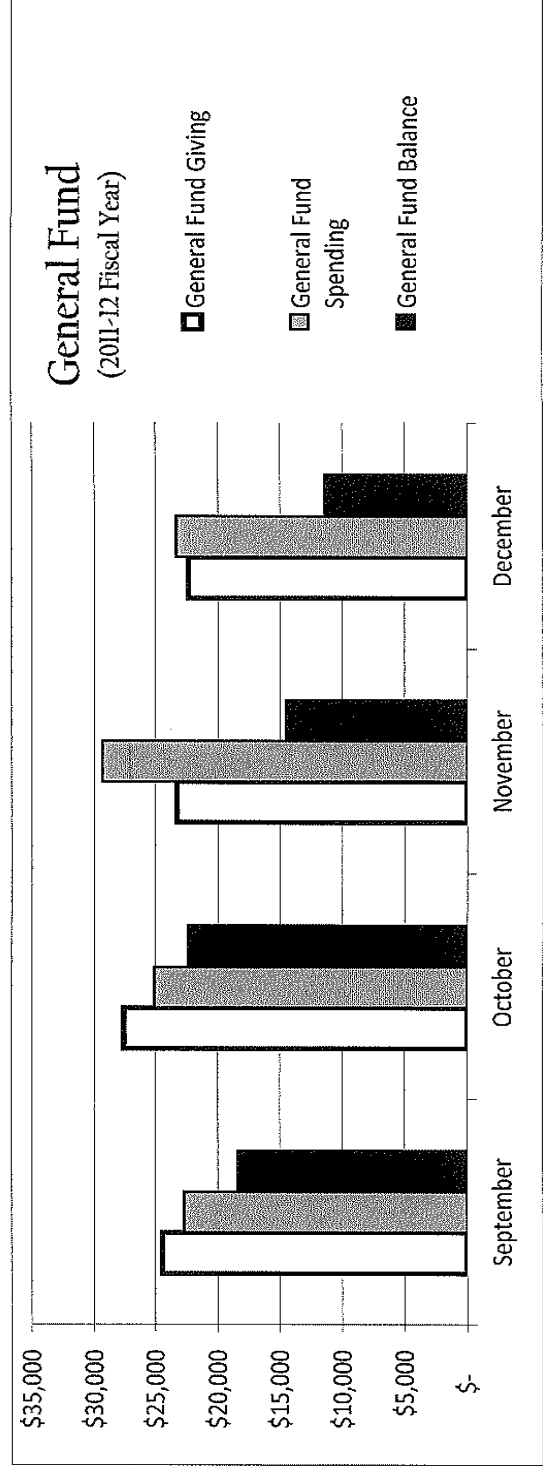
|                       | Budget Per Month | 2011-12 FISCAL YEAR |           |           |           |         |          |       |       |           |     |  | Budget     |            | Variance from Budget |
|-----------------------|------------------|---------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---------|----------|-------|-------|-----------|-----|--|------------|------------|----------------------|
|                       |                  | September           | October   | November  | December  | January | February | March | April | YTD-Dec31 | YTD |  |            |            |                      |
| General Fund Giving   | 25,407.17        | 24,452.00           | 27,628.27 | 23,382.57 | 22,354.74 |         |          |       |       |           |     |  | 97,817.58  | 101,628.67 | (3,811.09)           |
| General Fund Spending | 25,407.17        | 22,680.42           | 25,075.32 | 31,578.31 | 23,330.23 |         |          |       |       |           |     |  | 102,664.28 | 101,628.67 | 1,035.61             |
| Net                   |                  | 1,771.58            | 2,552.95  | -8,195.74 | -975.49   |         |          |       |       |           |     |  | -4,846.70  |            | (4,846.70)           |

**What this means:** 1) December giving was \$3,052.43 short of budget and spending was \$2,076.94 under budget which resulted in a net shortage of \$975.49.

**Bottom Line:** *Spending exceeded giving in December by \$975.49. Fiscal year spending to date exceeds giving by \$4,846.70. This includes the unbudgeted bills for the capital campaign which amount to \$10,500 to date. Removing those bills from spending actually puts us under budget for normal church operations.*

**General Fund Position:**

Balance to date 2011-12 Fiscal Year (\$4,846.70)  
 General Fund Balance December 31 \$11,395.90



Shalom Lutheran Church  
Unapproved Council Minutes

January 17, 2012

1. Call to Order/Approval of Agenda.
    - Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm.
    - Council members present: Fritz Bukowski, Deb Halvorson, Brian Casavan, Karen Toivonen, Ted Kirst, Shelli Crowe, Tom Kleve, Bettie Anderson and Pastor Grant Aaseng. Absent: Elroy Frank and Paul Hanson
  2. Approval of Agenda.
    - Ted K. made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Karen T.,
    - Discussion: Move confirmation requirements to current business; add fellowship team report to ministry teams
    - Deb made a motion to approve the amended agenda, Tom K. second; no further discussion; Motion carries.
  3. Opening Prayer—Pastor Grant
  4. Approval of December minutes.
    - 1) Change should be made to page 2, just before number 8, work on piano can be removed. This has been added as a regular maintenance item.
    - 2) Delete “Please see attached” phrase in the education committee request. Karen T. made a motion to approve the amended December minutes, second by Bettie A. No discussion, motion carried.
  6. Pastor and/or Staff Time.
    - Pastor highlighted membership report, which will be publicized in the February newsletter
    - Cher Larson has officially retired as Parish Nurse. The Women’s Circle that meets on Tuesdays will help where they can.
    - Synod bookkeeper, Robert Larson, was arrested for embezzling money from the synod right after the New Year. Do we at Shalom want to start doing background checks?
  7. Current Business:
    - Financial Update – Currently we are ahead of budget. Church operations are going well. We will add a blurb in the newsletter regarding total funds donated to the building fund so far. Some of the employees have been asking about direct deposit for their payroll checks, this will cost approximately \$150, so Council suggested we not do this at this time.
    - Capital Campaign Committee Update – via email everything is on schedule. First letter went out on Jan 9<sup>th</sup> stating the theme of the capital campaign “Building to fulfill our mission in Christ”. Postcards, painting, banners, etc will be coming soon. Prayers reflecting the theme will be added to weekly prayers as well. Deb asked that the communication get a little better between the Capital Campaign committee and Council. Several members have asked questions of Council members and we have not been able to answer them. Need to have a Capital Campaign Committee member at the round table discussion on Sunday. Council agreed that at least one member of the Capital Campaign Team must attend the monthly Council meetings. Deb will communicate this to Elroy.
    - Confirmation Requirements – After some discussion we decided that Bettie and Pastor Grant will discuss with Shannon our desire for her to discuss and meet with the parents about the proposed requirements.
    - Camperships – Education Committee would like to request that Lenten offering be designated towards the campership fund. They would encourage the youth to be involved in these dinners as well. Pastor thought that this offering was already designated for this year, but will check.
  8. New Business:
    - Agenda for Round Table discussion on Sunday – 9:45 – 10:30 a.m.
      - Lenten Theme
      - Cami talk about Friendship February
      - Financial update – handout graph
      - Capital Campaign Update
- Worship Team is requesting some added equipment for the sound system. They feel a need to get a wireless headset for Marcia to wear when she is playing the piano - \$250; A feedback killer to adjust the frequency as needed during the service.

- This will align the sound better throughout the service, \$163; and another equalizer for \$200. Total of \$650.00. Deb H. made a motion to approve Worship Teams recommendation to purchase these 3 items to enhance both worship services, Ted K. second. No discussion. Motion carries.
- Fellowship Lenten Suppers – Deb suggested we use the servant groups to serve the Lenten supper this year. She will discuss further with the Fellowship Committee.
- 

Shelli C. made a motion to extend the meeting for ½ hour. Deb H. second, no discussion motion carries.

- Staff Development brought forth the recommended raises for the staff at Shalom. A comment was made that our congregation is committed to paying Pastor Grant synod guidelines.
- The allocation for Pastor Grant’s housing allowance will be \$24,000. His compensation allocations will be adjusted accordingly.
- Bettie A. made a motion to accept Staff Developments recommendation for pay increases retroactive to January 1, second by Brian C. No discussion. Motion carried.

9. Ministry Team Reports.

- None this month

10. Closing Prayers—All Council members.

11. Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Shelli Crowe, Council Secretary

**Shalom Council Roster 2012**

|                       | <u>Name</u>   | <u>e-mail</u>  | <u>Phone Number</u>               | <u>Term</u> |
|-----------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>President</b>      | Fritz Bukowski<br>(Property)                                | <a href="mailto:fritz@lakesarearecreation.com">fritz@lakesarearecreation.com</a>   | 759-2241<br>760-1882              | 2012        |
| <b>Vice President</b> | Deb Halvorson<br>(Staff Development)                        | <a href="mailto:dhalvorson@fredlaw.com">dhalvorson@fredlaw.com</a>                 | 846-5112(w)<br>491-1191           | 2013        |
| <b>Treasurer</b>      | Tom Kleve<br>(Finance)                                      | <a href="mailto:tkleve@kleverestate.com">tkleve@kleverestate.com</a>               | 762-7444                          | 2012        |
| <b>Secretary</b>      | Shelli Crowe<br>(Fellowship)                                | <a href="mailto:shelli.crowe@orbmanagement.biz">shelli.crowe@orbmanagement.biz</a> | 763-8985<br>815-0291              | 2013        |
|                       | Karen Toivonen<br>(Y-Team)                                  | <a href="mailto:gtoivy05@charter.net">gtoivy05@charter.net</a>                     | 763-3011<br>320-219-3011          | 2014        |
|                       | Elroy Frank<br>(Stewardship and Capital Campaign)           | <a href="mailto:eef@wisper-wireless.com">eef@wisper-wireless.com</a>               | 320-760-4116                      | 2014        |
|                       | Ted Kirst<br>(Spiritual Growth)                             | <a href="mailto:w1gl@gctel.com">w1gl@gctel.com</a>                                 | 320-834-5397                      | 2014        |
|                       | Paul Hanson<br>(Capital campaign)                           | <a href="mailto:paul@luthercrest.org">paul@luthercrest.org</a>                     | 320-219-7558<br>cell 320-760-8412 | 2015        |
|                       | Bettie Anderson<br>(Christian Education & Caring Community) | <a href="mailto:jabga@gctel.net">jabga@gctel.net</a>                               | 763-7687<br>320-766-9661          | 2015        |
|                       | Brian Casavan<br>(Worship)                                  | <a href="mailto:bcasavan@live.com">bcasavan@live.com</a>                           | 759-1902<br>219-3292              | 2013        |

## The Handwriting on the Wall

A weary mother returned from the store,  
Lugging groceries through the kitchen door.  
Awaiting her arrival was her 8 year old son,  
anxious to relate what his younger brother had done.

“While I was out playing and Dad was on a call,  
T.J. took his crayons and wrote on the wall!  
It’s on the new paper you just hung in the den.  
I told him you’d be mad at having to do it again.”

She let out a moan and furrowed her brow,  
“Where is your little brother right now?”  
She emptied her arms and with a purposeful stride,  
She marched to his closet where he had gone to hide.

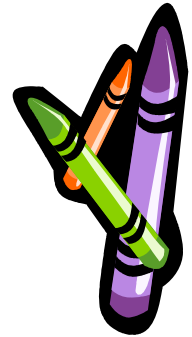
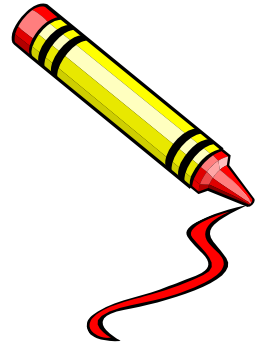
She called his full name as she entered his room.  
He trembled with fear—he knew that meant doom!  
For the next ten minutes, she ranted and raved  
About the expensive wallpaper and how she had saved.

Lamenting all the work it would take to repair,  
She condemned his actions and total lack of care.  
The more she scolded, the madder she got,  
Then stomped from his room, totally distraught!

She headed for the den to confirm her fears.  
When she saw the wall, her eyes flooded with tears.  
The message she read pierced her soul with a dart.  
It said, “I love Mommy,” surrounded by a heart.

Well, the wallpaper remained, just as she found it,  
With an empty picture frame hung to surround it.  
A reminder to her, and indeed to all,  
Take time to read the handwriting on the wall.

*Author Unknown*



## Looking Ahead:

April 8 — Easter

May 3-5 — Youth Garage Sale

May 20 — Confirmation

May 29 — Blood Drive



## THE MEANING OF LOVE

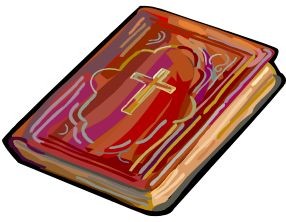
Love is  
being happy for the other person  
when they are happy  
being sad for the person  
when they are sad  
being together in good times  
and being together in bad times  
Love is the source of strength

Love is  
being honest with yourself at all times  
being honest with the other person at all times  
telling, listening, respecting the truth  
and never pretending  
Love is the source of reality

Love is  
an understanding so complete that  
you feel as if you are a part  
of the other person  
accepting the other person  
just the way they are  
and not trying to change them  
to be something else  
Love is the source of unity

Love is  
the freedom to pursue your own desires  
while sharing your experience  
with the other person  
the growth of one individual alongside of  
and together with the growth  
of another individual  
Love is the source of success

*Author Unknown*



### Cell Phone vs Bible

I wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cellphone?

What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?

What if we flipped through it several times a day?

What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?

What if we used it to receive messages from the text?

What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?

What if we gave it to kids as gifts?

What if we used it when we traveled?

What if we used it in case of emergency?

This is something to make you go .....hmm....where is my Bible?

Oh, and one more thing.....unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill.

Makes you stop and think "where are my priorities?"

And no dropped calls!



**Shalom Lutheran Church**  
**800 County Road 44 NW,**  
**Alexandria, MN 56308**

Phone (320) 762-8641

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*"We believe God is calling us to invite people into a deeper relationship with Christ, that all may discover true peace and be prepared to follow Him in compassionate service."*