

Shalom Now!

Volume 12, No. 1
January 2012

Sunday Worship Services

8:30 Evangelical
10:45 Contemporary

Sign Interpreter available upon request.

STAFF

Pastor: Grant Aaseng

Music Director:
Marcia Benson

Director of Youth and Children's Ministries:
Shannon Anderson

Parish Nurse:
Cheryl Larson

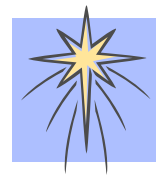
Accounting:
Rena Larson

Office Administrator:
Carol Hedlund

From the Pastor

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life." John 8:12

January is a very cold month in Minnesota; but at least the days are already beginning to grow longer. The sun began setting a bit later on December 22, and it will begin rising earlier on January 6. Long ago, the church chose January 6 as the day to celebrate "The Epiphany of our Lord"—the day when the star revealed the Christ child to the Wise Men. ("Epiphany" literally means "shining out". It refers to an event in which God's glory breaks out or "shines through").



The Star of Bethlehem, of course, was only the beginning of a long process of revealing Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God and Savior of the nations. And so, the season of Epiphany (7 weeks long in 2012) becomes a time when we tell stories of how the glory of the Christ was gradually revealed in history.

Christians are people who seek to reflect the light of Christ in all they do and say. For better or worse, many people will look to us to see if there is anything to this "Christianity" business. How we behave will either attract them or repel them. But even when we are at our best, we need to admit that we only *reflect* Christ's light, the same way the moon reflects the light of the sun. We do not generate light of our own, and we take no credit for our good deeds—it all comes from God above.

When we are not so attractive, we need to confess that we are sinners who need Christ's light as much as the next guy. Like John the Baptist, each of us can confess, "I am not the light—but I'd love to introduce you to the one who is!"



Even as we welcome the return of the sun's light, let us keep our attention focused on the light of the Son.

Happy Epiphany!
Pastor Grant Aaseng



"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"



Welcome New Members!

In December we received 17 new members:

Scott and Stephanie Hegstad live south of town on the way to Glenwood. Scott works at Broadway Medical Center. Their children, **Graham** and **Camille** are active in 8th and 4th grade.

Pete Grove teaches at Lincoln Elementary School and wife **Angie** works for the Bayer Corporation. Children **Jackson, Ella** and **Grayson** are active in sports and music.

Tom Arnquist moved to town after marrying wife Lynn a year ago. He comes from Lincoln Lutheran Church near Hoffman.

Jesse Hanish married into the Shalom family when he married Bridget Paine in August. He brings daughter **Sam** and son **Piper** with him.

Derek and Isabelle Navratil joined along with sons **Bruce** and **Thomas**. Derek works at Contact (formerly Continental Bridge) and Isabelle teaches French at Discovery Middle School.

Gideons International

Every January the Gideons of Alexandria share their testimony of the Bible distribution ministry. This year, a representative will give a greeting at our worship services on January 29.

Church is who we are, not the place we go.

* * * *

Prayer—wireless access to God with no roaming fees.

* * * *

God will accept broken hearts, but He must have all the pieces.

November Bazaar Results

Receipts:

Luncheon	\$1,574.45
Crafts	\$1,741.26
Bake Sale	<u>\$1,276.35</u>
Total Receipts	\$4,592.06

Total Expenses: \$544.47

Profit from Bazaar and donations:

\$4,047.59

(Sorry I didn't get this in the December Newsletter!)

Narrative Lectionary

Since September 11, Shalom has been following a "Narrative Lectionary" for our schedule of Bible readings for Sunday morning worship. The Narrative Lectionary takes us through the story and plot of the entire Bible in 9 months, highlighting various major stories along the way. Below are the scheduled readings for January.

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Narrative Reading</u>	<u>Theme</u>
Jan. 1	Mark 1:1-20	The Beginning of the Good News: Jesus and the Holy Spirit
Jan. 8	Mark 2:1-22	"Why Does Jesus Do That?"
Jan. 15	Mark 4:1-34	Parables of Seeds and Growth
Jan. 22	Mark 5:1-20	Driving out Demons
Jan. 29	Mark 5:21-43	A Double Healing

Children's Ministry

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!

It is with such a heart of joy that we can express our sincere thanks to those who helped make our Sunday school “church-wide”

Christmas program such a success in sharing the GOOD NEWS! Thank you, first of all, to our Sunday school kids! You are incredible! We are SO proud of you! Thank you, parents and grandparents for your support as well.

Thank you to our Living Nativity! For some of you, it has been years since you donned a shepherd, wise man, or angel costume, but just like riding a bike, you slipped right into character!

Thank you to Brian Casavan and Corey Drewes for ALL your electrical re-working to make our sound come through the best it could. We appreciate your many hours!! Thank you also for your stable set-up/backdrop ideas and set-up/take-down. Thank you, Tammy Drewes for all your pre-show help—chairs, treat bags, backdrops and other organization. (And supplying a quick lunch on Sunday, which was awesome!) Thank you, Lona Neubarth and Amy Schlosser for your sewing skills! It was a

big task to take on, but we had some of the greatest dressed nativity people as well as Holly Berry's apron was perfect! Thank you, Ruth Aaseng for the use of the authentic shepherd head pieces. Thank you, Craig and Lona Neubarth for your help with serving our “Happy Birthday, Jesus!” cake following our program. It was great knowing it was under control and in good hands!

Thank you to all those who donated items for our treat bags. What a special treat. They were excited!

Thank you, Marcia Benson for all your help with our program. Your flexibility (and musical talent) is SO much appreciated! We also thank the children's choirs, bell choir, Kris Wilson and Alli Prestby for your added musical talents to our program.

If there is anyone who we may have missed, we sincerely apologize and just know, we are thankful for you. We are blessed to have such a supportive church community!

Wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas and a blessed new year!

~Shannon and Kim



Dates to Remember

~There is NO Sunday school December 25th or January 1st.

~No Sunday school on April 8th. (Easter)

~May 13th: Last day of Sunday School and our Children's/Youth Service at 10:45 a.m.

GO! Winter Field Trip:

Big Splash Water Park @ Arrowwood

January 25th: 3:45-6:00 p.m.

WATCH FOR MORE
INFORMATION TO
BE COMING HOME
SOON!



Youth Ministry

THE COOKBOOKS ARE HERE!

The Shalom Cookbooks arrived just before Christmas. The youth will be selling them January 8th, 15th, and 22nd after each service. Shannon will have some in her office and Carol will also have a limited amount available in the church office. (These will be available during office hours.) Cost for each book is \$8.00. Thank you for your continued support of our youth activities, events and trips!



COOKIE SALE SUCCESS

We are so thankful for the wonderful support of the Cookie Sale Fundraiser Event that the youth hosted at the beginning of December. We are blessed to have such a supportive church community!



UP-COMING EVENTS/FUNDRAISERS

January 4th, 6:30 p.m.: YADA (No Confirmation)
January 8th, 6:00 p.m.: Cross Training
January 11th, 6:30 p.m.: Conf./YADA (Girls only)
January 18th, 6:30 p.m.: Conf./YADA (Boys only)

February 11th, 4:00-10:00 p.m.: Youth Ministry (7th-12th grade) Movie Marathon

February 26th: Penny Wars begin

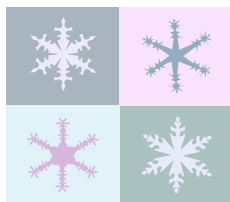
March 9th-10th, 7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.:

Lock-In/All-Nighter

Garage Sale: May 3rd-5th

(Set-up April 30th,

May 1st-2nd)



What's new in the Nursery?

You may have noticed that the Sunday school is bursting at the seams lately. It is so much fun to see those joyful faces each week! We've (the Education committee/Sunday school teachers) been talking about how to utilize the space we have. One area we talked about was the church nursery.

Our first discussion was about the purpose of the nursery. What is it used for and why do we have it? While we all agree that the nursery is an important piece to our church for worship services, we wondered how we can utilize that space in a better way. We also talked about how it has become a "dumping" ground for old toys and it is now seen as a toy room. Is that how we see our nursery?

One idea we had...Let's create a pre-school classroom in that space. This would take some revamping. First, we'd get rid of the majority of the toys. (Either give away or sell at the youth garage sale fundraiser and throwing out the old broken toys.) Keep a few of the smaller toys and store them in a roll cart in the bathroom to be brought out for nursery time during the worship services. We'd also keep the paper, color books, crayons, books, etc, as a part of the nursery. The nursery wouldn't be so much of a "play" room, but rather a place to go for a break. We'd move two short, collapsible tables into that space for the preschool classroom.

Council approved this change at their December meeting. Watch for the changes soon! Any questions, don't hesitate to ask Shannon about it.



Meet Alden Backman . . .

Do you realize there are 11 Pastors listed in the Shalom Directory? No, they are not all on Shalom's staff, nor are they all in the "active ministry. Excluding Pastor Aaseng, and to show no favoritism, I have chosen to introduce you to the first one listed, Pastor Alden Backman—a regular participant at the 8:30 am Worship Service at Shalom.

Alden was born in Chisholm, MN to Swedish parents who had come from Finland in 1911. He graduated from high school in Chisholm. In 1949 Alden's father wanted to take a trip to Finland. Since his mother had died, Alden was fortunate to make the trip with his father and enjoyed 8 wonderful months of life in Finland.

Alden began preaching at the age of 16. He would fill in for various pastors when they were on vacation or for various reasons. Upon his return from Finland, he worked for 3 years in the Ford garage at Chisholm in the parts department—advancing to manager. It was then he felt "the Call" to full-time ministry. He graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, MN and from Augustana Seminary in Rock Island, IL. During one summer at Seminary, Alden served as chaplain at Immanuel Deaconess Institute at Omaha, NE. This was quite a task as the Institute included a nursing home, children's home, and also preaching at Immanuel Lutheran church.

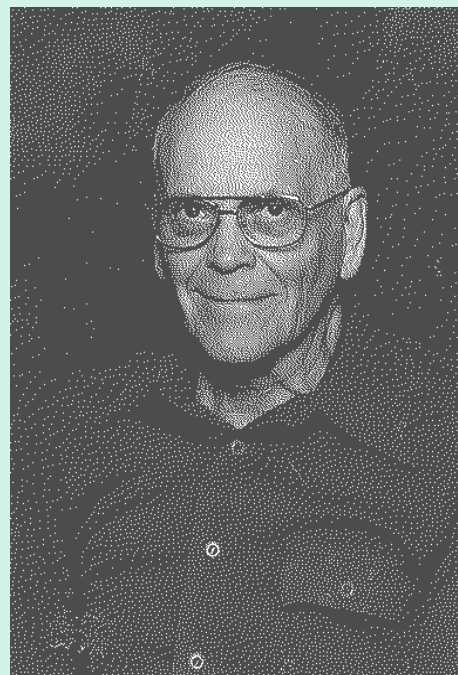
Alden married Susan Matteson at Rock Island, IL. This was during the years when Seminaries frowned on married students, but they were married before Alden entered Seminary. They raised three children—Aaron, Miriam and Samuel. Now many grandchildren have joined the family. Susan was a faithful Pastor's wife as she worked closely with Alden and many times played piano at services. During the time the Backmans lived in Alexandria, Susan sang with the Sweet Adelines. In the later years, Susan had health problems, but Alden was able to care for her until her death in 1995 in Sebeka, MN.

In 1985 Alden moved to Alexandria and became the first full-time Chaplain at Bethany Home. He served there for 3 1/2 years and decided he would like to get back to parish ministry. He then became Shalom's first "Interim Pastor", serving from December 1988 to 1990. He speaks fondly of those years in the early days of Shalom—he was impressed that even though there were tough times, but he saw caring, compassionate hearts among the congregation. He was especially proud of the fact that though many parishioners struggled with very low incomes, still they had a regular outpouring of items (such as clothing and the garden produce) that others could have for the taking. He feels this is a very important part of Shalom's legacy.

Alden's full-time ministry included serving congregations in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada; Minnesota, North and South Dakota. He regards his ministry as being "true joy"! His most recent parish was Norunga Lutheran Church of rural Lowry, MN. He served there for 11 years. In October of 2010 Alden observed his 50th Ordination Anniversary and retired permanently.

His present "To-Do" list involves major improvements on his home. He enjoys kayaking, snow-shoeing and shoveling snow. (He is patiently waiting for snow!) He also enjoys repairing cars, carpentry and bicycling. His latest bicycle is an electric one. The rear hub has a motor in it. You pedal to get it started, and away you go, controlling it with a throttle on the handle. Though he is officially retired, he still manages to "mentor" a neighborhood youth with his quiet, gentle ways, knowing that God will use him to do his will.

Alden treasures his involvement with Shalom, which dates back to our early days. Although he wasn't always present to worship, he gave his full support to Shalom. He says Shalom people are "magnificent" and it is a joy to be part of this church family.



Hi Friends:

Okay, yes, you are right! It does not mean you are not committed to Jesus Christ. It isn't a matter effecting your salvation! It wouldn't mean you're a not a believer either, right? It won't make you terrible member of Shalom. But it will help unite us as Shalom people.

It might be a matter of remembering. But it would be great if you would join your faith community by remembering to bring your Commitment Card when you come or by mailing it. It is a "duty and delight" as one of the community.

Yes, we really do hope a huge percentage will share their commitment cards with Shalom. As of now 60% of the cards have been returned.

So, please, if you have forgotten or neglected to return your commitment card!

Love,
Your Shalom stewardship friends

Extending heartfelt thanks to all who planned, practiced and participated in the delightful Shalom Christmas Program on December 18th. Although we have no children or grandchildren at Shalom, the twinkling eyes, broad smiles and coordinating between young and "young at heart" were a gift to our Christmas preparations. Focusing on the message of Jesus instead of the superficial is an important reminder to all of us. Merry Christmas!

Skeeter & Gerry Kingsberg



Shalom friends:

Thank you for the thoughtful gift and the many kind words of appreciation for my time helping with the choir and worship leadership over the past several years. I look forward to continuing to share my gifts in music under the leadership of Marcia Benson!!

Ruth Aaseng

WHAT HAPPENS IN HEAVEN WHEN WE PRAY?

I dreamed that I went to Heaven and an angel was showing me around. We walked side-by-side inside a large workroom filled with angels. My angel guide stopped in front of the first section and said, "This is the Receiving Section. Here, all petitions to God said in prayer are received.

I looked around in this area, and it was terribly busy with so many angels sorting out petitions written on voluminous paper sheets and scraps from people all over the world.

Then we moved on down a long corridor until we reached the second section.

The angel then said to me, "This is the Packaging and Delivery Section. Here, the graces and blessings the people asked for are processed and delivered to the living persons who asked for them." I noticed again how busy it was there. There were many angels working hard at that station, since so many blessings had been requested and were being packaged for delivery to Earth.

Finally at the farthest end of the long corridor we stopped at the door of a very small station. To my great surprise, only one angel was seated there, idly doing nothing. "This is the Acknowledgment Section, my angel friend quietly admitted to me. He seemed embarrassed." How is it that there is no work going on here? ' I asked.

"So sad," the angel sighed. "After people receive the blessings that they asked for, very few send back acknowledgments". "How does one acknowledge God's blessings?" I asked. "Simple," the angel answered. Just say, "Thank you, Lord. "



Freedom from your Fears

Christ has Set you Free! What is holding you Back?

Join other Christians to do in depth discovery of how Jesus helps us remain free from addiction, guilt and resentment. Many attended our Big Book Retreats but this is for anyone who wants to live in freedom.

January 13-15, 2012 at Mount Carmel on Lake Carlos

- **How the 12 steps, Big Book and Christianity relate**
- **The meaning of forgiveness/ unforgiveness**
- **Testimonials, small group sharing, prayer**
- **Skills that keep us free in our Lord**
- **Identifying your fears and letting Christ's Word fight for you**
- **Living under the Cross of Christ**

Our group will be limited to 30 participants including leaders. The \$65 cost for two nights and four meals and the program has been underwritten by friends. All participants need to stay at Mount Carmel.

"FOR FREEDOM CHRIST HAS SET YOU FREE; STAND FIRM THEREFORE AND DO NOT SUBMIT AGAIN TO A YOKE OF SLAVERY."

Call 846-2744 or info@mountcarmelministries.com for reservations.



Happy Birthday



Brad Hoven	1/1	Derek Navratil	1/11	Brittany	
Ellen Halvorson	1/2	Brian Casavan	1/11	Rooney	1/22
Julia Dalum	1/3	Dave Burbank	1/12	Jaiden Drewes	1/24
Kyle Feldhake	1/4	Colleen Rooney	1/12	Emily Erickson	1/28
Darlene Zabel	1/4	Alycia Crowe	1/13	Rachel Dale	1/28
Corey Paine	1/8	Carla Randall	1/13	Makayla Klimek	1/28
Orris Balgaard	1/9	Barbara Kirst	1/18	Carol Hedlund	1/30
Jamie Loken	1/9	David Wilson	1/20	Michael Loken	1/30
Della Sukke	1/10	Pr. Grant Aaseng	1/22	Bud Nielsen	1/30
		Michael Hoffman	1/22	Bill Kilgore	1/31

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 January. 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.

January 1, 2012

Jeff & Beth Kuhn
Roy & Connie Medenwaldt
Kevin & Pam McCormick
John & Vicki McTigue

January 15, 2012

Dave & Lynn Malvin
Chad Malvin & Shannon
Lunsford
Ray & Marilyn Myers
Emilie Pfeffer

January 29, 2012

Denny & Ruth Nagle
Craig & Lona Neubarth
Norm & Jeanette Priebe
Ray & Evie Raguse

January 8, 2012

Steve & Laura Knudsen
Melissa Lundebrek
Lesley Meehan
Virginia Luetgers



January 22, 2012

Bill & Eileen McKay
Richard & Kathy Mittag
Putt Muzik
Dave & Lori Parsch



January



SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
1 8:30 Worship-Choir 9:40 Sunday School/Adult Ed 10:45 Worship	2 Church Office Closed	3 	4 3:45-5:00 Go! 5-5:30 Youth Choir 5:30-6 Kids Choir 6:30 YADA 7:00 Choir 8:00 Go Deep at Caribou Coffee	5 8-9:45 Quilting 10:00 Bible Study 11:00 Caring Community	6 7:30 Men's Bible Breakfast at Travelers Inn	7 9:00 Spirit of Shalom Rehearsal
8 8:30 Worship-Choir 9:40 Sunday School/Adult Ed/Soc. Min. 10:45 Worship 6:00 Women's Book Study/Cross Training	9	10 9:00 am Circle 6 pm Y-Team 7 pm Education	11 3:45-5:00 Go! 5-5:30 Youth Choir 5:30-6 Kids Choir 6:30 Confirmation/YADA 7:00 Choir 8:00 Go Deep at Church	12 8-9:45 Quilting 10:00 Bible Study	13 7:30 Men's Bible Breakfast at Travelers Inn	14 9:00 Spirit of Shalom Rehearsal 10:30 Worship Team (10:45)
15 8:30 Worship 9:40 Sunday School/Adult Ed 10:45 Worship 6:00 Women's Book Study	16	17 7:00 pm Church Council	18 3:45-5:00 Go! 5-5:30 Youth Choir 5:30-6 Kids Choir 6:30 Confirmation/YADA 7:00 Choir 8:00 Go Deep at Caribou Coffee	19 8-9:45 Quilting 10:00 Bible Study	20 7:30 Men's Bible Breakfast at Travelers Inn	21 9:00 Spirit of Shalom Rehearsal
22 8:30 Worship-Choir 9:40 Sunday School/Roundtable Discussion 10:45 Worship 6:00 Women's Book Study	23 	24	25 3:45-6:00 Go! Field trip to Big Splash Water Park 6:30 Confirmation/YADA 7:00 Choir 8:00 Go Deep at church	26 8-9:45 Quilting 10:00 Bible Study 12:00 Noon Stewardship Team	27 7:30 Men's Bible Breakfast at Tnn	28 9:00 Spirit of Shalom Rehearsal
29 8:30 Worship 9:40 Sunday School/Adult Ed 10:45 Worship 6:00 Women's Book Study	30	31 9:00 am Evangelism Team				

Shared Ministry

January 1, 2012

8:30

10:45

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

Emily Erickson
Denny & Ruth Nagle & Michaela Dalum
Dick Bahe & Anna Johnsrud
Ron Otterson
Sheila Anderson & Makayla Wheeler
Robert Boe & Elizabeth Kuhlman
Gerry Kingsberg
Naomi Paine
Connie Facciotto
Tam Bukowski

Sara Wacholz
Jeri Borman & Haley Seward
Troy Frovarp & John Carlberg
Doris Mays
Lesley Meehan & Aaron Halvorson
Pam & Brandon McCormick
Ted Kirst

January 8, 2012

8:30

10:45

Acolyte
Ushers
Communion Assistant
Lector
Nursery
Greeters
Assistant Minister

Emily Prestby
Ron & Linda Fenelon
Trish Jensen & Carol Hedlund
Jan Keller
Renaë Rush & Kiera Mohon
Jeanette Priebe & Vi Dilly
Marilyn Myers

Breckan McCormick
Bill & Eileen McKay
Tony & Betty Johnson
Alli Halvorson
Sara Wacholz & Ellen Halvorson
Corey & Tammy Drewes
Bob Seward

January 15, 2012

8:30

10:45

Acolyte
Ushers
Communion Assistant
Lector
Nursery
Greeters
Assistant Minister

Makayla Wheeler
Ken & Trish Jensen
Dean Kliewer & Emilie Pfeffer
Greg Anderson
Carla & Jennifer Randall
Jeff & Beth Kuhn
Dick Bahe

Tyra Johnson
Putt Muzik & Lucas White
Grant Pexsa & Amy Schlosser
Lloyd Berger
Deb Halvorson & Johnnie McTigue
Ruth & Kris Aaseng
Rol Halvorson

January 22, 2012

8:30

10:45

Acolyte
Ushers
Communion Assistant
Lector
Nursery
Greeters
Assistant Minister

Danny Kuhn
Roy Medenwaldt & Anna Johnsrud
Al & Bettie Anderson
Dave Vagle
Liz Burbank & Michaela Dalum
Paul & Jeannette Jacobson
Carol Hedlund

Grant Toivonen
Ray & Evie Raguse
Doris Mays & Karen Toivonen
Bob Seward
Breckan McCormick & Jenna Seward
Lesley Meehan & Juanita Freier
Colleen Rooney

January 29, 2012

8:30

10:45

Acolyte
Ushers
Communion Assistant
Lector
Nursery
Greeters
Assistant Minister

Zach Wohlfeil
Dave Rush & Ed Arneson
Dave & Evie Harris
Dori Otterson
Vickie Wohlfeil & Graham Hegstad
Glenn & Linda Huebner
Deb Kramer

Ricky Feldhake
Aaron Halvorson & Kris Aaseng
Jeri Borman & Sue Engstrom
Ted Kirst
Haley Seward & Tyra Johnson
Elroy & Loiann Frank
Deb Halvorson

**Shalom Lutheran
Treasurer's Report
Fiscal Year to Date Ending Nov 30, 2011**

General Fund	Actual		Budget To Date	Over (Under) Budget	Annual Budget
	November	To Date			
Sources of Cash					
General Fund Income					
Offerings	\$ 22,968.45	74,911.92	76,221.50	(1,309.58)	\$ 304,886.00
Other Income	304.12	440.92	-	440.92	-
Total Cash Received - General Ops	23,272.57	75,352.84	76,221.50	(868.66)	304,886.00
Uses of Cash					
Salaries & Payroll	\$ 15,997.17	43,171.94	49,085.25	(5,913.31)	\$ 196,341.00
Office Expenses	1,080.75	2,742.44	3,597.50	(855.06)	14,390.00
Building & Grounds	7,850.63	21,696.90	14,120.00	7,576.90	56,480.00
Christian Education	1,204.12	2,139.68	1,593.75	545.93	6,375.00
Worship	85.73	295.42	425.00	(129.58)	1,700.00
Music Ministry	1,078.27	1,100.56	300.00	800.56	1,200.00
Evangelism	10.00	249.34	400.00	(150.66)	1,600.00
Fellowship	41.00	(169.32)	93.75	(263.07)	375.00
Social	-	-	175.00	(175.00)	700.00
Stewardship	-	501.45	187.50	313.95	750.00
Youth	125.00	500.00	375.00	125.00	1,500.00
Outreach	1,875.00	4,875.00	5,868.75	(993.75)	23,475.00
Total Cash Spent - General Ops	\$ 29,347.67	\$ 77,103.41	\$ 76,221.50	881.91	\$ 304,886.00
Excess (Shortage)	\$ (6,075.10)	\$ (1,750.57)			

Shalom Cash Financial Position

As of Nov 30, 2011

Current Assets		
Checking	\$ 10,293.05	
Savings	\$ 21,039.69	
Mutal Funds	\$ 7,617.46	
Total Current Assets		\$ 38,950.20
Claims on Cash		
Pass-Through Giving		
Love Inc.	\$ 319.00	
GO - Wed program	\$ 606.75	
Lutheran Disaster	\$ -	
Food Shelf	\$ 10.00	
Good Samaritan Fund	\$ -	
Habitat for Humanity	\$ -	
Sunday School Offering	\$ 545.97	
World Hunger	\$ 50.00	
Youth Fund	\$ -	
Pass-Through Giving		\$ 1,531.72
Payroll Tax Liabilities		\$ 1,841.16
Designated Funds		
Operating Reserve	\$ 8,000.00	
Debt Retirement	\$ 160.00	
Building Fund	\$ 8,133.00	
Memorials	\$ 3,341.05	
Music Fund	\$ 605.91	
Pastor's Education Fund	\$ 570.33	
Childrens Scholarship/Ed	\$ 275.00	
Total Designated Funds		\$ 21,085.29
Total Claims on Cash		\$ 24,458.17
Cash Available for General Operations		\$ 14,492.03

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

Shalom Financial Report - Thru November 30, 2011

	Budget Per Month	ACTUAL 2011-12											Budget		Variance from Budget
		September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	YTD-Nov30	YTD				
General Fund Giving	25,407.00	24,452.00	27,628.27	23,272.57									75,352.84	76,221.00	(868.16)
General Fund Spending	25,407.00	22,680.42	25,075.32	29,347.67									77,103.41	76,221.00	882.41
Net		1,771.58	2,552.95	-6,075.10									-1,750.57		(1,750.57)

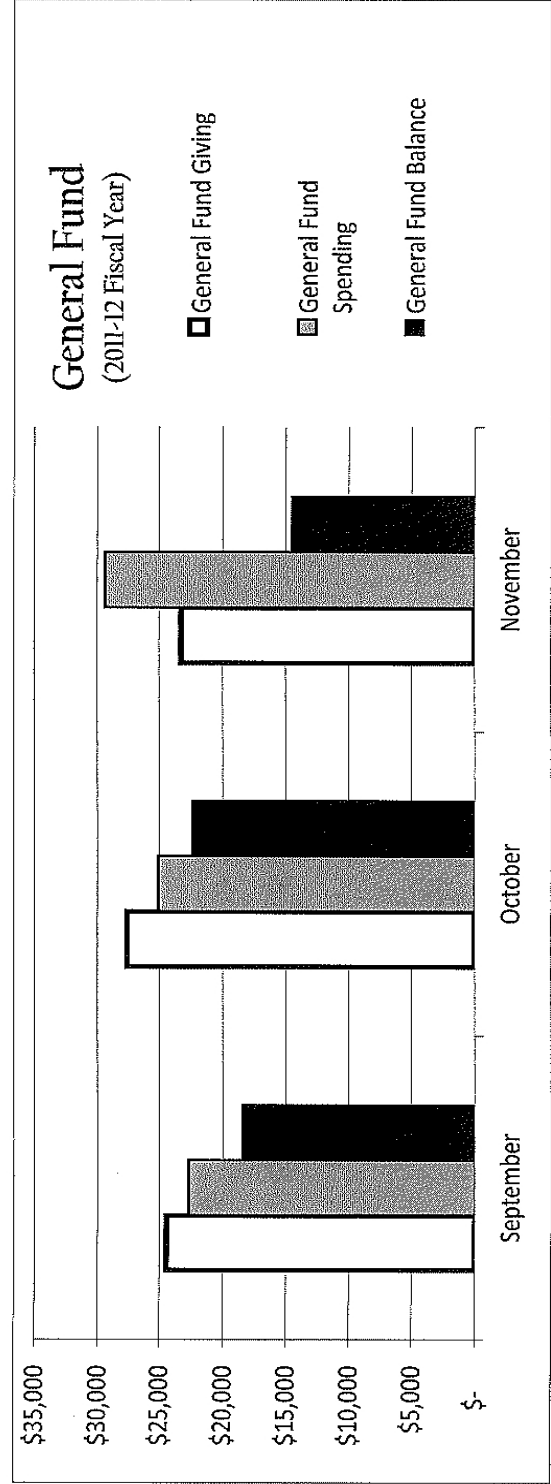
What this means:

- 1) November giving was \$2,134.43 below the amount required to meet the budget and spending was \$3,940.67 over budget.
- 2) Most of the additional spending was due to unbudgeted capital campaign expenses and an unforeseen furnace repair.

Bottom Line: Spending exceeded giving in November by \$6,075.10. Due to excess giving in September and October, fiscal year spending to date exceeds giving by \$1,750.57.

General Fund Position:

Positive balance to date 2011-12 Fiscal Year (1,750.57)
 General Fund Balance November 30 14,492.03



God's Grace

There once was a man named George Thomas, pastor in a small New England town. One Easter Sunday morning he came to the Church carrying a rusty, bent, old bird cage, and set it by the pulpit. Eyebrows were raised and, as if in response, Pastor Thomas began to speak....

"I was walking through town yesterday when I saw a young boy coming toward me swinging this bird cage. On the bottom of the cage were three little wild birds, shivering with cold and fright.

I stopped the lad and asked, "What do you have there, son?"

"Just some old birds," came the reply.

"What are you going to do with them?" I asked.

"Take 'em home and have fun with 'em," he answered. "I'm gonna tease 'em and pull out their feathers to make 'em fight. I'm gonna have a real good time."

"But you'll get tired of those birds sooner or later. What will you do then?"

"Oh, I got some cats," said the little boy. "They like birds. I'll take 'em to them."

The pastor was silent for a moment. "How much do you want for those birds, son?"

"Huh?? !!! Why, you don't want them birds, mister.

They're just plain old field birds. They don't sing. They ain't even pretty!"

"How much?" the pastor asked again.

The boy sized up the pastor as if he were crazy and said, "\$10?"

The pastor reached in his pocket and took out a ten dollar bill. He placed it in the boy's hand. In a flash, the boy was gone. The pastor picked up the cage and gently carried it to the end of the alley where there was a tree and a grassy spot. Setting the cage down, he opened the door, and by softly tapping the bars persuaded the birds out, setting them free. Well, that explained the empty bird cage on the pulpit, and then the pastor began to tell this story:

One day Satan and Jesus were having a conversation. Satan had just come from the Garden of Eden, and he was gloating and boasting. "Yes, sir, I just caught a world full of people down there. Set me a trap, used bait I knew they couldn't resist. Got 'em all!" "What are you going to do with them?" Jesus asked.

Satan replied, "Oh, I'm gonna have fun! I'm gonna teach them how to marry and divorce each other, how to hate and abuse each other, how to drink and smoke and curse. I'm gonna teach them how to invent guns and bombs and kill each other. I'm really gonna have fun!"

"And what will you do when you are done with them?" Jesus asked. "Oh, I'll kill 'em," Satan glared proudly.

"How much do you want for them?" Jesus asked.

"Oh, you don't want those people. They ain't no good. Why, you'll take them and they'll just hate you. They'll spit on you, curse you and kill you. You don't want those people!!"

"How much? He asked again. Satan looked at Jesus and sneered, "All your blood, tears and your life."

Jesus said, "DONE!" Then He paid the price.

The pastor picked up the cage and walked from the pulpit.

Shalom Council Roster 2012

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

"Somebody has said there are only two kinds of people in the world. There are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good morning, Lord," and there are those who wake up in the morning and say, "Good Lord, it's morning."

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A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses." When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."

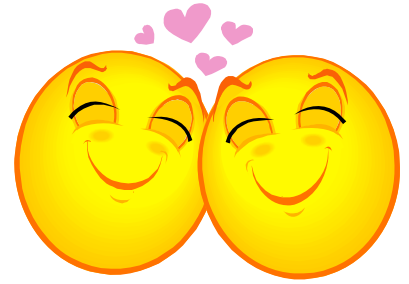
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There is the story of a pastor who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building program. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."

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While driving in Pennsylvania, a family caught up to an Amish carriage. The owner of the carriage obviously had a sense of humor, because attached to the back of the carriage was a hand printed sign... "Energy efficient vehicle: Runs on oats and grass. Caution: Do not step in exhaust."

How Can You Show Your Love?



Want to do something special for your spouse to show how much you care? Attend a Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekend and focus on just the two of you. Engaging presentations by both lay and clergy leaders give you tools and information while exercises and conversations with your spouse in the privacy of your hotel room revitalize romance, deepen communication, and nourish the spirituality in your marriage

The Spring Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends in Minnesota are February 10-12 (think Valentines!) 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 McMahon at 763-561-1575 or visit www.godlovesmarriage.org .

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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."