

The GLC Voice

February 2010

God's Work . . . Gethsemane's Hands

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KETCHUP SUNDAYS IN FEBRUARY

You will be receiving a letter with your contribution statement for 2009. These statements and accompanying letters will be available on the Sunday of the annual meeting for you to pick up. Those picked up will avoid unnecessary postage for the church.



In the light of continued lack of offerings, the realization has come for the necessity to educate you about the severity of the issue before us both spiritually and financially. Jesus was quick to point out in his teachings that the use of one's resources and money were spiritual matters - the rich young ruler and the widow mites are but a few.

Therefore your council has chosen to use the month of February as a 'Ketchup Month' in relation to the \$15,000 in unpaid bills and commitments that go back to the middle of

2009. We need to 'ketchup' without losing ground on regular offerings. In fact, many need to establish regular giving patterns as well as many need to revisit their financial support of the mission and ministry of this congregation. This addressed in further detail in the letter that you will receive with you annual statement.

Briefly this is how it will all work. To help keep this before us, a 'Ketchup Bottle Poster' will be prominently displayed to mark the growth of our 'ketchup dollars' through the month of February. Your 'ketchup offerings' can be given along with your regular offering, but not in place of, provided the envelope is properly marked. More desirable would be blank envelopes marked 'Ketchup Offering' with your accompanying envelope number on

the outside of the envelope.

A celebration Sunday will be March 7th when we hope to have met the 'Ketchup' goal of \$15,000. These 'Ketchup' offerings will be received on each and all Sundays in February and also through the week should you want to drop it by the office. Some may choose to make a 'ketchup' offering each week, spreading out the total they want to give over the weeks. Others might choose to give in a lump sum at a given time.

A concerted response is needed from all members of Gethsemane. The most effective way to maximize our goal is through direct giving. All proceeds from the 'Sweetheart Dinner' will also be given. There might also be other concerted fund raising efforts that arise. Yet the majority of support must come from direct giving. How can we expect the church to be a responsible presence in the world, when we are not a responsible presence in our own church?

Dear Members of Gethsemane . . .

(Reprint of letter sent with all contribution statements for 2009)

We are thankful for some very committed people at Gethsemane - people who care about the mission and outreach of this congregation and support that mission faithfully in their participation as well as financial support. The need for this letter would not be necessary if MORE were more faithful examples in their time, talents, and treasure. We thank you. We need to change hearts before we change our giving patterns. Christ called his disciples to center their lives on his. Christ has always asked those who

follow him to do the same. Christ insisted that those who follow him need to be givers in all aspects of their lives including their finances. Does he expect less from us? Being faithful doesn't begin or end with financial stewardship, but it certainly includes it. Faithfulness begins with the heart before it enters other areas of our lives. Jesus said 'come follow me' not just 'come and believe in me'. Here are the hard facts: This last year of 2009, 25% of our giving units gave nothing, with an additional 27% giving

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LENTEN MEALS A CHANGE

Lent at Gethsemane begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17, with services at noon and 7 p.m. This year there is a change in the serving of meals during Lent. Ash Wednesday will be the only day which has a meal following the noon service and at 5:30 before the evening service. The five weeks following Ash Wednesday will only have a meal served following the noon service. The decline of support for the evening meal has led to this decision.

GROUPS ARE NEEDED TO SIGN UP FOR MEALS....The meals needed are the noon and evening meals on Ash Wed., Feb. 17th, and the noon meals on: Feb. 24th, Mar. 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th. The sign-up sheet will be on the counter in the office.

WHY NOT DO YOUR WALKING AT CHURCH? MANY ARE.... ARE YOU?

We are into the time of year when many of you who do walking are considering limiting your walking outside because of seasonal changes, such as snow, cold, ice etc. Why not bring your walking shoes and walk in the church. We have established a loop that if you walk around it eight times you have walked a mile. Why not consider it. Bring a friend and walk together.

CLARIFICATION ON SCHOOL CLOSING AND CHURCH ACTIVITIES

When there is no school, school closes early or school activities are canceled due to inclement weather, all youth classes and/or activities will also be canceled at the church as well. This does not pertain to any adult classes, committees, or activities. They will be dealt with on an individual basis. Check our website or call the church number for more info.

NEW GIFTS AND MEMORIALS BROCHURE — PICK UP ONE IN NARTHEX

A revised Gifts and Memorials brochure is in the narthex for you to pick up. Gethsemane has a committee that receives special gifts such as memorials, bequests, and other designated gifts separate from the operating funds of the church. As a result Gethsemane is able to benefit its ministry in many ways. Pick one up today and become aware of the opportunities that are available in your long-range financial planning. It is the orange brochure in the narthex.

Tentative Schedule for Adult Forums

Date	Leader	Topic
1/31	Gary & Randi Hoffman	The Book of Revelation
2/7	Don Nelson	Comparing Denominations
2/14	Gary Hoffman	Video—Being a Lutheran
2/21	Jim & Cindy Wall	Teens, Young Adults and the Church
2/28	Don Nelson	Comparing Lutheran Synods
3/7	Jim & Cindy Wall	Bible Trivia
3/14	Don Nelson	Easter Season
3/21	Gary & Randi Hoffman	Luther's Easter
3/28	Gary & Randi Hoffman	Luther's Easter
4/4	Easter	
4/11	Don Nelson	Bible Game
4/18	Jim & Cindy Wall	Hunger—Service Project
4/25	Open	
5/2	Open	
5/9	Open	

AWARD-WINNING MAGAZINE AT YOUR FINGERTIPS

We have a limited number of copies of The Lutheran, the official magazine of our church. It has been awarded for its challenging articles and topics. Wonderful reading for stretching the mind and the faith. Pick a copy up today in the narthex.

**DOLLARS & CENSUS
January 2010**

	Attendance	Weekly Income
1/3	116	\$3,165
1/10	207	\$6,399
1/17	180	\$2,219
1/24	171	\$3,350
1/31	—	—
Total		\$

Dear Sisters in Christ,
Are you sick of winter yet? I'm sick of doing the shuffle every time I walk outside.

WELCA

Dates to Remember:		
Thurs., Feb. 4,	9 a.m.	Quilting
Tues., Feb. 9,	9 a.m.	Elizabeth-Grace Circle at Church
	9:15	Faith Circle at Church
	9:30	Mary Circle
Thurs., Feb. 11,	1:30 p.m.	Lydia Circle
	1:30 p.m.	Lois Circle at Ann Palus'
Sat., Feb. 13,	8 a.m.	Sarah Circle
Thurs., Feb. 18,	9 a.m.	Quilting

Be sure to take a look at all of the Sunday School rooms. All have new window coverings or an update. We started with one room and kept finding fabric to do other rooms. Thanks Joan and Parma and thanks to those who bring fabric to the quilting room. Just when we think we might not have any more, another box or bag shows up. It is fun to see what we can add to a piece and what we come up with. Come join us on the first and third Thursdays.

Keep May 1 in mind and mark it on your calendar — we will have a gigantic garage sale. Save your "stuff" and watch for more details about where to bring it. The

Board of Education is also planning special activities for the kids that day.
Have a great February!

**Love in Christ,
Louise**

Education

FAITH TREK: Faith Trek students (grades Pre-K through grade 5) will be singing in worship on Sunday, February 4th. We will only be singing during the late service.

**Youth
Ministry
News**

FIRST COMMUNION: 3rd Graders who are interested in taking First Communion this year are welcome to join us for classes on Sundays April 11, 18, 25 and May 2.

We will celebrate First Communion at the 10:30 worship service on Sun., May 2.

CONFIRMATION: We will continue to meet on Wednesday nights during Lent at our regular 6:15 start time. We will end class a little before 7p.m. and then attend worship. Parents—please come and worship with your children.

Youth

The Gethsemane Youth will once again hold its Sweetheart Dinner. This year's dinner will take place on Sunday, February 14th. Please sign up for the dinner on the sign up sheet in the narthex.

Souper Bowl of Caring: Don't forget that on Sunday, Feb.7th, you can help feed the hungry in the Baldwin-Woodville area. Just attend the soup luncheon following the late service (we provide the soup and the drinks...bring a sandwich if you'd like). A free-will donation will be taken. All proceeds go to the Community Pantry.



SWEETHEART DINNER
Sunday, February 14

Dinner is served at 5:15 or 7 p.m.
Reservations necessary

Cost: \$45/couple

The menu choices are:
(must be made when reservation is taken)

Herbed Artichoke Cheese Tortellini *(vegetarian)*
Champagne Chicken on Rice
Dijon Sirloin Tips on Noodles

All entrees include:
French Onion Soup, Salad
Green Beans, Dessert
Beverages

Babysitting available

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less than \$5.00 a week. We are behind \$15,000 in our commitments and bills. We cut our mission support in half last year, and failed to make up half of the half that remained. In addition to being financially lax, roughly one-half of our congregation is inactive according to the measurement laid out in our constitution for active-inactive membership criteria. All congregations have such determining criteria.

During February your Council will be asking you to 'Ketchup' on your giving — giving extra over and above your regular offering AND for many, moving from an inactive to a more active status. You will hear more about 'Ketchup Sundays in February' through bulletins, our next newsletter, and on our website. We hopefully will celebrate on the first Sunday of March having accomplished the goal of 'ketching-up' without falling behind on regular giving as well as increased activity. For many of our giving units that means that they establish any level of giving and continue that level of giving AND activity.

For other giving units this will mean to commit to grow to a responsible level of giving to the church AND maintain that increased activity. This responsible proportionate sharing from our entire selves is something Christ most certainly expects of us all who follow him.

As our Bishop challenged us as the church of Christ during his visit to us this last fall, "We, the church, have to move away from simply paying the bills, as if they were an end in themselves, and become a church, instead, that realizes the need of the giver to give responsibly and proportionately of our time, talents, and money. Otherwise we might just as well lock the doors, since we are no longer the Church of Christ." Responsible and proportionate giving will take care of needs and more.

Let us pray for this to happen in Gethsemane and the whole Church of Christ everywhere. Let us pray for and, more importantly, let us be a significant part of that for which we pray.

In His Mission together,.

.....Pastor Paul and your Church Council

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

On Sunday, February 7th, you can help feed the hungry in the Baldwin-Woodville community. Just attend the soup luncheon following the late service (we provide the soup and the drinks... bring a sandwich if you'd like). A free-will donation will be taken. All proceeds go to the Community Pantry.

	February 7	February 14	February 21	February 28
Altar Guild	Lynn Nelson		Bobbi Jo Kulow/ Susie Mabis	
Coffee	Roger & Jody Olson	Gary & Randi Hoffman/ Lester & Kari Halstead		Dale & Gloria Fern
Counters	Margaret Wolske/Phyllis Chapin			
Worship	8:30 Micki Place 10:30 Cornie & Linda Z.	8:30 Mervil Heins 10:30 Greg Birdwell	8:30 Jody Olson 10:30 Cornie & Linda Z.	8:30 Micki Place 10:30 Greg Birdwell
Welcome Ministry	Ken & Louise Peterson	Jim & Cindy Wall	Gordon & Micki Place	Troy & Annette Peterson
Video Tape		Brent Nelson	Cody Berends	David Burge



Wish These Friends a "Happy Birthday!"

2/06 Barry Schaffner	2/19 Nicholas Spradley	Amy Geurkink	Mike Couch
2/08 Terry Zillmann	2/19 Kay Weiss	Jordan VanDien	Sarah Beck
Loretta Larson	Sarah Hoefer	2/23 Paul Lovestrand	2/27 Ray Heebink
Wanda Holle	2/20 Barb Ketchum	Stacy Fjordbak	Sydney Newton
2/09 Rick Stone	2/21 Rollie Rieck	Jamie Van Ranst	2/28 Nancy Newton
2/10 Terrie Stein	Linda Paul	2/25 Dale Fern	Brett Johnson
Lori Myer	Jennifer Couch	2/26 Kay Couch	2/29 Parma Melby
Elizabeth Buda	Greg Birdwell	Ann Russett	
2/11 Randy Paul	2/22 Merna Graf	Diane Willert	
2/01 Madelyne Kulow	2/16 Kari Halstead		
2/03 Lorna Lewis	Bruce Davidson		
2/05 Randi Hoffman	2/18 Ruth Hanson		
Jenna Newton	Paul Chapin		
	2/03 Gerald & Mary Ann Peterson		
	2/14 Bill & Bernice Davitt		

And Anniversaries

Celebrating an Anniversary



Tues., Feb. 2
5 p.m. Community Supper

Wed., Feb. 3
9:30 Bible Study
3 p.m. Joyful Noyze
5 p.m. Mission Comm.
6 p.m. Bells
6:15 p.m. Confirmation
7:30 p.m. Choir

Thurs., Feb. 4
9 a.m. Quilting
3 p.m. Girls Scouts
8 p.m. AA

Sun., Feb. 7—Communion
8:30 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. S.S./Forum/
Coffee
10:30 a.m. Worship

Mon., Feb. 8
7 p.m. Worship Comm.

Tues., Feb. 9
9 a.m. Elizabeth-Grace Cir.

9:15 Faith Circle
9:30 Mary Circle
7 p.m. Council

Wed., Feb. 10
9:30 a.m. Bible Study
3 p.m. Joyful Noyze
6:15 p.m. Confirmation
7:30 p.m. Choir

Thurs., Feb. 11
1:30 p.m. Lois Circle
1:30 p.m. Lydia Circle
8 p.m. AA

Sat., Feb. 13
8 a.m. Sarah Circle

**Sun., Feb. 14—Communion
Valentine's Day!!**
8:30 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. S.S./Forum/Coffee
10:30 a.m. Worship
5:15 pm. Sweetheart Dinner

Mon., Feb. 15
Newsletter Deadline

Tues., Feb. 16
6 p.m. Bells

Wed., Feb. 17—Ash Wed.
10:30 a.m. Bible Study
12 p.m. Worship/Lunch
3 p.m. Kids Club
5:30 p.m. Supper
6:15 p.m. Confirmation
7 p.m. Worship
7:45 p.m. Choir

Thurs., Feb. 18
9 a.m. Quilting
8 p.m. AA

Sat., Feb. 20
8 a.m. Friends/Fisherman

**Sun., Feb. 21—
Communion**
8:30 a.m. Worship
9:30 a.m. S.S./Forum/
Coffee
10:30 a.m. Worship

Mon., Feb. 22
9 a.m. Quilt Club

Tues., Feb. 24
6 p.m. Bells

Wed., Feb. 24
10:30 a.m. Bible Study
12 p.m. Worship/
Lunch
3 p.m. Joyful Noyze
6:15 p.m. Confirmation
7 p.m. Worship
7:45 p.m. Choir

Thurs., Feb. 25
9:15 a.m. Newsletter
Assembly
8 p.m. AA

Sun., Feb. 28
8:30 a.m. Worship
9:30 SS/Forum/
Coffee
10:30 Worship

February at Gethsemane

Church Council — January 5, 2010

Present: Randi Hoffman, Jody Wolski, Jodi Peterson, Tedd Drenth, Jim Wall, Roger Evans, Dave Johnson, Rodger Preble, Pastor Lovestrand. Absent: none
 Meeting called to order. Rodger P. had devotions.

The minutes of the last meeting were read. Motion to approve was made and seconded. Motion carried.

Melody spoke to the Council about the current education situation and her plans for the youth.

Committee Reports - reports from the Education, Mission, and Worship Committees were read.

Pastor's Report -

- A congregational meeting will be held on Jan. 24th after the second service for the purpose of approving Mission Planning for 2010.
- Pastor discussed David Burge's Eagle Scout project of upgrading the church signs on the edge of town.

David will continue to work on the project.

- The floor polisher was sold on the online auction site.
- Lenten meals - following the recommendation of the Worship Committee, a motion was made and seconded to provide meals before the evening Lenten service for Ash Wednesday only. Noon meals will continue for all of the Lenten services. Motion carried.
- A representative from Church Mutual will be at the Council meeting in Feb.
- We will try and schedule the energy audit rep. for the March meeting.

Treasurer's report - because bank statements were not available, there was no Treasurer's report. There was discussion on the unpaid bills that total \$14,752. No action was taken.

Old Business-

Mission Planning for 2010 - It looks like the proposed budget will be in the area of \$224,600. Discussion was held on ways to reach this goal. Our expenses for 2009 exceeded our income. In order to get our income and expenditure figures in line, certain areas of the Mission Planning will have to be reduced. A meeting was scheduled for Jan. 7th to further discuss and approve Mission Planning for 2010. At that meeting we will have the final year-end treasurer's report.

The meeting was adjourned. Further items on the agenda will be part of the Jan. 7th meeting.

Next meeting will be Jan. 7th at 5:00 pm.

Unapproved Minutes

Church Council — January 7, 2010

Present: Randi Hoffman, Jody Wolski, Rodger Preble, Tedd Drenth, Jodi Peterson, Jim Wall, Dave Johnson, Roger Evans, and Pastor Lovestrand.

Meeting called to order.

The purpose of this meeting was to finalize the Mission Planning Statement for 2010. Since actual income for 2009 fell about \$19,000 short of projections, the goal was to set a budget at a figure in the area of \$224,000. This would require a reduction from last year's Mission Planning of \$24,000. Discussion focused on how best to reduce the mission planning by that amount.

A request by the Youth and Education Director to reduce her hours was approved by the Council. Also approved was a reduction in hours to the Adult Ed. Director. A five percent reduction in salary was approved for all paid staff. The total reduction for all personnel results in a decrease of nearly \$25,000

over the 2009 budget. Other areas of the Mission Planning financial statement that were approved were:

- Administration - reduction of \$3615
- Worship -remains the same
- Education - reduction of \$450
- Missions - remains the same
- Inreach/Outreach - increase of \$675
- Church Home -increase of \$1250
- Debt Retirement - reduced \$11,000 to 0. While not budgeted for, repayment will occur if money is available.

The final statement that will be presented to the congregation for 2010 is \$222,385.

A motion and second was made to accept the Mission Planning Statement for 2010. Motion carried.

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Discussion then focused on how best to deal with the unpaid bills. Of the nearly \$15,000 of unpaid bills, \$5,400 needs to be paid immediately. Most of the others are commitments to the Missions budget. The Gifts and Memorials will be asked for \$1500 of that amount immediately. Still uncertain is how the remaining bills will be paid. One suggested was a special

appeal that would be included in the year-end financial statements.

Motion and second was made to adjourn. Motion passed.

Next meeting is Tues. Feb. 9th at 7:00.

Unapproved Minutes

Church Council — January 19, 2010

Present: Dave Johnson, Jodi Peterson, Jody Wolski, Rodger Preble, Roger Evans, Jim Wall, Randi Hoffman, Tedd Drenth, and Pastor Lovestrand.

Meeting called to order.

Treasurer's Report -- The beginning balance in the General Operating Fund on Dec. 1st was \$503. The ending balance on Dec. 31st was \$284. Deposits to the general fund for December totaled \$29,249 and expenditures came to \$29,468. The year ended with approximately \$14,000 of

either unpaid bills or unmet obligations. A motion to approve the report was made and seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business -- A discussion was held about the Building and Grounds Committee. The committee does not meet regularly and, since most of the work gets done by the custodians, there was a feeling by some that the committee be dissolved. A motion was made and seconded to dissolve the committee. The motion passed by a vote of four to two.

New Business -- The Council addressed the financial situation and how it will be presented to the congregation at the budget hearing on Sunday. The Council decided that in order to make up for the \$15,000 shortfall, a special appeal will be held during the month of February. Details will be mailed with year-end financial statements.

Motion and second was made to adjourn. Meeting adjourned.

Unapproved Minutes

Mission Committee — January 6, 2010

PRESENT: Pastor Paul, Gloria Fern, Gary Hoffman, Barb Thompson, Ruth Cheney, and Margaret Wolske

DEVOTIONS: Margaret

MINUTES OF DEC. MEETING AND ADGENDA: Motion by Margaret, 2nd by Barb. All approved.

OLD BUSINESS:

- ◆ PRAYER CHAIN – No change
- ◆ MISSIONARIES -- Pastor Paul will place a lead-in in the monthly newsletter and then if anyone wants to read the whole letter they can do so by picking up a copy in the office.
- ◆ FOOD PANTRY -- Did well during Christmas but more food and money are needed to keep going.
- ◆ COMMUNITY MEALS -- 175 people attended the supper in Jan. Gethsemane served the meal.
- ◆ SUNDAY COFFEE -- Barb will get people to serve in Feb.

- ◆ WELCOMING COMMITTEE -- Annette Peterson doing a good job.
- ◆ AA – No change
- ◆ MHKOTA PARISH -- No news. Gloria will send an E-Mail to see if they are ok.
- ◆ BEDNETS PROGRESS REPORT -- We will drop for this year.
- ◆ GOOD GIFTS PROGRESS -- \$1128.00 Was given for Good Gifts.
- ◆ THRIVENT REPRESENTATIVES: 1 to 4 people from the Church to take care of this.
- ◆ VISIONING OF THIS COMMITTEE -- New projects coming up.
- ◆ BULLETIN BOARD IN NARTHEX -- Sherry did a good job on Bulletin Board.
- ◆ SUPER BOWL SUNDAY -- The youth have several ideas for the following Sundays. Watch your bulletin for more information.

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NEW BUSINESS:

- ◆ 12 MONTHS OF GIVING -- Items will be added each month to the items needed at the food pantry.
- ◆ Gift of money given to the Mission Committee from Evelyn Thill.

Devotion for Feb. -- Barb

Adjourn and the Lord's Prayer.

NEXT MEETING: FEB. 3, 2010

Unapproved Minutes

Worship — January 4, 2010

Members present – Mervil Heins, Micki Place, Jody Olson, Greg Birdwell, Linda and Cornie Zevenbergen, Pastor Paul

Motion made by Cornie and second by Mervil to accept the minutes with the correction as to the date of Ash Wednesday – it is February 17, not February 7.

- ◆ Music – all felt the music went well for Christmas services. Rick Stone has joined the Living Stones.
- ◆ Fine Arts – Pastor reported that Christmas decorations will come down this week or early next week. Totes will be bought for storage as the boxes are worn out.
- ◆ Tape – Pastor will check into why there was no sound on Christmas Eve service. Has been working fine otherwise.
- ◆ Altar Guild – Baskets on the stands for used cups going well. New picture will be taken for set-up in church.
- ◆ Worship Assistants – all seems to be going well with new system of getting volunteers from members attending. Discussed again service times.
- ◆ Lenten Meals -- The Church Council was asking for feelings on Lenten suppers. Motion by

Cornie, second by Greg to recommend to the Church Council that our feelings were to continue with noon meals at Lent and the evening meal only on Ash Wednesday. Attendance at the evening meal after Ash Wednesday has declined and results in a lot of food going to waste.

Assignments for February:

- Feb. 7 8:30 Micki Place
- 10:30 Cornie & Linda Zevenbergen
- Feb. 14 8:30 Mervil Heins
- 10:30 Greg Birdwell
- Feb. 17 7 p.m. Cornie & Linda Zevenbergen
- Feb. 21 8:30 Jody Olson
- 10:30 Cornie & Linda Zevenbergen
- Feb. 28 8:30 Micki Place
- 10:30 Greg Birdwell

Inventory: Wine—2 ½ gallons, Grape juice – 4 small, wafers – 1900, cups – plenty.

Adjourned – motion by Cornie, second by Mervil

Next meeting, February 8, 7 p.m.

Unapproved minutes

Youth and Education— January 10, 2010

Present: Evelyn Birdwell, Lori Hillstead, Allison Spradley, Jennifer Pollitt, Nicole Borgerson-Burge, Melody Brue. Special Guest: Jody Wolski – Council. Mission: Lisa Cronk

Devotions by Nicole Borgerson-Burge.

Christmas Program: Went well, good speakers, great program. Ideas for next year – have confirmands do prelude or offering music if they are interested.

Sunday School:

1. Order lessons as we need based on topic
2. Supply closet for buckets, 2-week rotation of supply coordination for each member:

- Jan. 17 & 24 Evelyn
- Jan. 31 & Feb 7 Allison
- Feb. 14 & 21 Jennifer
- Feb. 28 & Mar. 7 Nicole
- Mar. 14 & 21 Lori

3. Hand out Sunday School envelopes – put in classrooms by grade.

4. Need a middle school Sunday School teacher next week and going forward.

Melody:

1. Will be here Sundays and Wednesdays
2. Need to go thru responsibilities and divide out.
 - a. Plant sale
 - b. Easter Breakfast
 - c. VBS
 - d. First Communion class —First Communion after Easter this year.

Third-quarter Offerings: To go to the food pantry and Heifer Project (we will hang paper chicks to represent our goal of purchasing chicks (Easterish)).

Website:

1. Put on the back burner while we take on more responsibility with our Committee.
2. Small group mentor program. Check with other churches to see how they do it.

Spring Fest: Held on May 1 – garage sale, kid’s games & crafts, petting zoo, grab bags. 5 tickets for \$1.

Budget: The Curriculum is roughly \$635. We will continue to purchase annually by need. We will also purchase our supplies as needed.

Publicist: Jennifer Pollitt will be our publicist. She will put posters, advertisements, sandwich boards for May Day Spring Fest. Credit Union screen also.

Nominees: We needed two. The list is compiled.

*Next Meeting – February 21, 10:30 a.m.
(new members will attend)*

Unapproved minutes

The Story Behind Flowers, Lace and Valentines Day

Most of the items linked to Valentine’s Day came from old-fashioned customs that used lace handkerchiefs and floral bouquets to pass on non-verbal messages. When the custom went out of style for everyday use, the original meaning was lost and eventually they became part of the Valentine’s Day tradition.

- ♥ Flowers: the giving of flowers dates back to the 1700s when Charles II of Sweden introduced the Persian custom of “the language of flowers” to Europe. Books about the meaning of particular flowers were published, and entire conversations could be carried out using only a bouquet of flowers. The rose has become the traditional Valentine’s Day flower. As it has always been a popular flower, the meaning of the red rose is still well known as the flower of passion and love. The red rose is also the favorite flower of Venus, the Goddess of Love, which helped give the rose its symbolic meaning.
- ♥ Lace: centuries ago a woman would drop her handkerchief in front of the man she liked. This was a form of encouragement to him, and if he picked it up for her, an introduction could be made. Lace has always been part of women’s handkerchiefs, and it has since been linked to romance.
- ♥ Cupid: he is the winged child whose arrows are shot into the hearts of potential lovers. His victims are supposed to fall deeply in love with someone. In both Greek and Roman mythology, Cupid is the son of the Goddess of Love and is always part of the celebration of love and lovers.
- ♥ The heart: The heart is linked to Valentine’s Day because it was once considered the source of all human emotions. The custom of drawing a heart shape is believed to come from early attempts to draw an organ no one had ever seen. The symbol progressed to become known as a sign of love.
- ♥ Why does an X mean kiss? In the Middle Ages, a lot of people couldn’t read or write. When they had to sign a document, they would make an X in place of their name. In front of witnesses, the signer would kiss the X to show themselves trustworthy. The kiss has since come to be represented by an X.
- ♥ It’s for the birds: lovebirds are often part of Valentine’s Day. Found in Africa, these brightly colored birds sit very close together with their mates, earning them their name. Doves are also part of the tradition. They are symbols of love and loyalty because they mate for life. A pair of doves will also share the care of all their babies.
- ♥ Love knots: A love knot is a symbol of everlasting love, because its winding loops have no beginnings or ends. In times past, they were made of ribbon or drawn on paper to prove one’s undying love.



(Dear Readers: this was found on the internet, so the information cannot be guaranteed as accurate; however, it makes for interesting reading! Happy Valentine’s Day!!)