

THE SHEPHERD'S VOICE

VOLUME 41, ISSUE 2 FEBRUARY 2012

FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR

Dear Family at Lamb of God,

As you may or may not know, about 3 months ago I found out I have type 2 Diabetes. This kind of diabetes means that my body is still producing insulin but just not the right amount. The doctor immediately put me on some medicine (not insulin). But he also said to me, "If you can control your diet well and lost weight, you can control this that way and come off of the medicine." At the time and since, strange as this may sound, I have felt that this was a blessing from God – the motivation I needed to start eating healthy and take my daily exercise to a higher level. So far so good... with Linda's help I have begun losing some of the weight.

I share that because I desire your support but also to get to another point. One of the things I do a lot of now is measure my progress. Every day I test my blood to see where my blood sugar level is. Once a week or once every two weeks I weigh myself on the same scale at about the same time of the day to see how I am doing weight wise. Once every three months the doctor wants to see me to measure my progress. All this measuring is so very important because it either reminds me that I need to be working harder and be more disciplined about eating and exercised and/or it encourages me as I see progress.

All that brings me to my real point – how do we measure our progress as a congregation and as individuals in the area of discipleship. Discipleship is the daily process of following Jesus, grow-

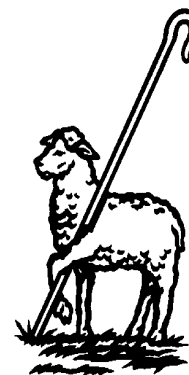
ing in our faith towards Him and service towards others. How do we know how we are doing in that area?

Believe it or not, determining how to measure our discipleship is one of the tasks taken on by the Mission 2020 team. We call them the "missional marks" that measure our spiritual progress. Imagine you are on a vacation and you are trying to determine how far you have to drive yet. You would look for road signs telling you how many miles remain till you arrive at your destination city. There would tell you how far you have come and how far you have to go. That's what "missional marks" do for us.

So what are the "missional marks" by which we measure discipleship here at Lamb of God? As a mission 2020 team we would like to propose three to you. **"At Lamb of God we measure the disciples of our members by observing how God's Word transforms their hearts, hands and voices."** In this newsletter article and the two that follow, I would like to look at each of those.

This month let's talk about "heart transformation." Since no one can see what is going on in your heart, how we measure discipleship that way? We believe that there are certain outward changes that will happen as God works on your heart. The mission 2020 team would put it this way – **"As our people's hearts are transformed by God's Word they –**

- **Desire to be regular in worship attendance**
- **Develop a thirst to know God, leading them toward faithful Bible Study**
- **Hunger for Communion with God in prayer"**



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CONGREGATION NEWS

FROM THE SENIOR PASTOR

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That's pretty straight forward. Those are really outward markers of people in a living and active relationship with God. People being transformed by God through His word desire to worship Him... to sing his praise... to be fed by His word... to feast at Holy Communion... to hear again of His forgiveness and love.

A second marker is increased numbers in Bible study and new people attending Bible Study and/or joining small groups. Think of it this way. When two people start to "fall in love" what happens? They spend more and more time with each other. If it's a healthy

relationship, they spend time listening to one another and getting to know one another. That's what happens in Bible Study. We listen to our Lord... He makes Himself known to us. The more that happens... the more we hunger for more. It sort of like what has happened to me with this diabetes. The more I am eating a better diet, the more I hunger for good food... the better I feel and the less appealing I find junk. (Please pray that continues cause the junk is still very tempting).

Of course that goes two ways. The more we feast on our Lord's Word, the more prone we are to talk to Him... to pour our hearts to Him in prayer. Going back to the previous illustration –as

you fall in love and get to know your partner, the more you trust them and feel good about opening the secrets of your hearts to them. That's what prayer is –pouring out the depths of your heart to God. You do that not in order to persuade Him... but to submit yourself to Him and His will.

There you have them – three great measures of how a disciple's heart grows – in worship... in the Word... in prayer. May God continue to do that work in you and me and in our congregation.

Your servant in Christ,
Pastor Braun

FROM ASSOCIATE PASTOR– OUTREACH

How is your community? Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, "*He who loves his dream of community more than the Christian community itself becomes a destroyer of the latter, even though his personal intentions may be ever so honest and earnest and sacrificial.*" Community is a wonderful ideal, a wonderful dream. But finding and creating community is a difficult prospect. We live in a sinful, fallen world. We live with sin inside of us. And so creating community is difficult. Community cannot be created in isolation, but instead, requires people to navigate the tensions of interpersonal relationships, tensions created by and exacerbated by our own sinful nature. Creating community is hard, much harder than simply dreaming about it. But when we do that hard work, and begin to experience true, caring community, the rewards are worth it.

Creating community is even harder in America. Our society was founded upon the principle of rugged individualism, the belief that a person could come

here to America, stand on their own two feet, and make a successful life for themselves. We don't need anything from anybody, and we don't owe anything to anybody. Just think of our heroes: the Lone Ranger, Superman, the cowboy riding off into the sunset. Our culture is built around individualism rather than community.

Perhaps you've heard this question before: "Have you made a decision to accept Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior?" It's a popular question in American Christian circles. Its intent is to either help individuals become followers of Christ, or to identify those Christians who are only going through the motions of faith, and encourage them to greater discipleship. But the question is flawed on two levels. First, the word "decision." The way the question is asked, it puts the emphasis on our decision, our action in accepting and receiving Christ. But the Bible time and time again makes it clear that the pattern of spirituality is that God

acts and we respond. Faith comes by hearing the Word. We are dead in our sins and trespasses, but God makes us alive through his Holy Spirit. In Baptism, we are buried with Christ so that when Christ is raised from the dead, we too are raised to new life. We can't accept Christ or make a decision for him on our own; we can only come to faith through the power of the Holy Spirit.

But there's another aspect of that statement that troubles me. That is its emphasis on Christ as our *personal* Lord and Savior. Yes, we do need to have faith for ourselves; no, we are not saved by riding in on the coattails of someone else's faith. But we are not brought into a personal, private, isolated faith. Faith is always a community expression. The Bible talks about believers as the body of Christ, united in him. Our faith is meant to be lived out in community. No, you don't have to come to church on Sunday to be a Christian.

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CONGREGATION NEWS

FROM ASSOCIATE PASTOR— OUTREACH (CONTINUED)

Continued from Page 2

But if you don't want to come, if you don't want to experience the community God has designed you for and brought you into, you need to reflect on what that says about your personal faith.

When we talk about community outreach, we often mean the outreach that we as a church do to the community (neighborhood) around us. I'd like to suggest that our understanding of the community we are called to as Christians gives the phrase "community outreach" a different meaning: We, as a community, do outreach together. I said before that when we do the hard work of working through the tensions of interpersonal relationships, the rewards are worth it. We live in a culture that glorifies individualism. And

yet, like an addiction, that same individualism is killing us as a culture. People are crying out for community, for connection. They hunger to touch someone real. As the body of Christ, we have something powerful to offer to others. When non-Christians are able to experience the love and acceptance that comes from true, deep Christian community, it is a powerful way for them to experience the love that Christ has for them.

Of course, we are human. We struggle with sin, including the sin of individualism. In many ways, our individualism is destroying the counter-cultural witness of the Church to the world. And so, when we recognize the effects of individualism in our own lives, the desire to do our own thing rather than care for others, the desire to pull back from

relationships and cling to the mere dream of community, we do what Christians always and everywhere have done: we repent. We ask God to forgive us, to melt our hard hearts, to change us from the inside. And we remember his promises: that he has joined us to himself in baptism and will let nothing separate us from him. That we are part of the body of Christ, and that even when relationships are difficult, those bonds are deeper than our own stubborn willfulness. That it is Christ himself who holds us together.

You were born into the American culture of individualism. But you were reborn into the body of Christ. Rejoice in that fellowship. Live in that community. And as you live in it, you will be living it out with others, to others, so that they can see Christ as well.

DECEMBER 2011 YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL INFORMATION

	<u>Dec 11</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Jul - Dec 11</u>	<u>YTD Budget</u>	<u>Annual Budget</u>
Ordinary Income/Expense					
Income					
CHURCH INCOME	137,191.55	110,083.33	644,224.01	662,250.02	1,330,000.00
ECM INCOME	<u>34,231.55</u>	<u>46,919.00</u>	<u>212,003.19</u>	<u>229,680.00</u>	<u>469,300.00</u>
Total Income	171,423.10	157,002.33	856,227.20	891,930.02	1,799,300.00
Expense					
	<u>146,408.43</u>	<u>145,316.47</u>	<u>821,119.02</u>	<u>906,841.18</u>	<u>1,799,300.00</u>
Total Expense	<u>146,408.43</u>	<u>145,316.47</u>	<u>821,119.02</u>	<u>906,841.18</u>	<u>1,799,300.00</u>
Net Ordinary Income	<u>25,014.67</u>	<u>11,685.86</u>	<u>35,108.18</u>	<u>-14,911.16</u>	<u>0.00</u>
Net Income	<u>25,014.67</u>	<u>11,685.86</u>	<u>35,108.18</u>	<u>-14,911.16</u>	<u>0.00</u>



Pledge Information

Total Amount Pledged	\$	3,843,127
Amount Received 12/18—1/15	\$	5,093
Total Received as of 1/15	\$	3,542,584

CONGREGATION NEWS

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Faith at Home: By Mark Holmen

Make Time to Talk About Faith Yes, you do have time to talk about faith with your children. You just need to take advantage of it. In today's world, time is one of our most precious commodities. In our increasingly busy lives, we must make the best of the time that we have. So when is the best time to discuss our faith with our children? The only reasonable answer is *anytime*.

●**Car Time.** Doesn't it seem that the most time you spend together as a family is when you're in the car, on your way to the next thing you have to do? Try turning off the radio and asking your children what highs and lows they had during the day. Then take a moment to pray for the event that you're headed to next.

●**Sick Time.** Another significant block of time that you have with your children occurs when they are sick and have to stay home from school. While no one looks forward to his or her child being sick, it does provide time to have a healthy conversation. Sick time gives you a chance to watch videos or listen to music together. So why not choose videos that will naturally lead to talking about issues of faith and life?

●**Bed Time.** There might not be a better time to talk about faith than at bedtime. Share the highs and lows from the day and then take time to

pray for each other. With teenagers you can ask, "What's on your schedule tomorrow that I can pray for? Do any of your friends need prayer for anything?"

●**Meal Time.** Taking a moment to give God thanks and praise before eating establishes a ritual that remains with children into adulthood. (Think *Johnny Appleseed, God is Great, the Doxology, etc.*)

●**Vacation Time.** Traveling together over a long distance or just getting away on a long weekend trip can be a great time to reestablish faith-talk in your family. Tithe 10 percent of your vacation time to God. Do a family service project, take some quiet time to read the Bible together, or have a family devotion each day. On the final evening of your vacation, spend time in prayer and worship. This doesn't have to be elaborate—simply listen to a few contemporary Christian songs and take some time to give thanks for the time you've spent to-

gether. Take turns sharing one thing that you were thankful for on the trip and one thing you look forward to when you get home.

●**One-on-One Time.** One of the best things that you can do as a parent is to establish the ritual of one-on-one time with each of your children. It can be weekly or monthly, but it needs to be built in to your life rhythm. A failure to establish this time will leave you saying later in life, "I should have done that." Spend a weekend alone with each of your children, or establish a monthly date night when you see a movie or have dinner together. The particular activity is far less important than your commitment to spend time together.

The reality is that you do have time to talk about faith with your children. You just need to take advantage of some of these slices of time. Yes, you're busy, but keep in mind that time is what you make of it.

GARDEN OF EAT'N

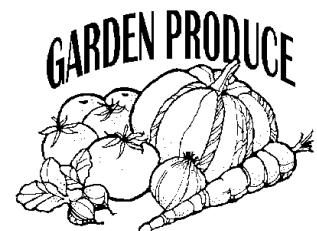
Eat your vegetables! The Garden of Eat'n made this possible for many families. We continue to take our vegetables to Community Christian Action. An over supply of some vegetables gave us an opportunity to take fresh vegetables to the Salvation Army. It was a win for their cooks and a win for those eating lunch at the Salvation Army food kitchen. The following is a breakdown of what Lamb of God was able to share with Christian Community Action and Salvation Army:

Tomatoes	64	Potatoes	209
Carrots	125	Radishes	263
Green beans	149	Squash	293
Peppers	186	Onions	312
Cucumbers	208	Okra	772
		Total	2,681 lbs.
Corn	210 ears		

ers alike makes the garden a project for everyone to enjoy.

For additional information please contact Gary Janke at (817) 533-0744

Last year was on of the best years for the Garden of Eat'n even though it was very hot. Timely applications of water with the drip irrigation system negated the effects of the heat. Advice from gardeners and non garden-



CONGREGATION NEWS

MOTHER DAUGHTER RETREAT

5th, 6th & 7th grade girls and their mothers are invited to our first Mother-Daughter Retreat: *GOD'S DESIGN FOR HIS DAUGHTERS*

Register by Sunday, February 5th! Registration fee is \$50.00 per Mother/Daughter pair (additional daughters \$25.00).

MOTHERS: You will need to attend the required orientation meeting (parents only) on Sunday, February 19, 12 pm—1 pm at Lamb of God in Room E.

For more information contact Brandy Simmons (bsimmons@log.org).



FRIDAY,
MARCH 2
AND
SATURDAY,
MARCH 3

FATHER SON RETREAT

5th, 6th & 7th grade guys and their fathers are invited to our first Father-Son Retreat: *GOD'S PLAN FOR A MAN*.

Register by Sunday, February 12th! Registration fee is \$50.00 per Father/Son pair (additional sons \$25.00).

FATHERS: You will need to attend the required orientation meeting (parents only) on Sunday, February 26, 12 pm—1 pm at Lamb of God in Room E.

For more information contact Brandy Simmons (bsimmons@log.org).



FRIDAY,
MARCH 9
AND
SATURDAY,
MARCH 10

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JUNE 11—15

"WHAT'S THE MESSAGE?" BIBLE STUDY

An original production from Lamb of God Lutheran Church

A concise and 'user friendly' survey of the Holy Bible available as a **free** weekly podcast:

"What's the Message?"

Subscribe to receive each new lesson automatically, or download current and past programs free,

by going to the Apple iTunes Store at :

<http://itunes.apple.com/WebObjects/MZStore.woa/wa/viewPodcast?id=282031199>

or at www.log.org

(Past programs on CD may also be purchased at The Shepherd's Corner Bookstore.)



To all who choose to have no computer, and to those who like to listen to CD's on a long car trip, here is something for you. Complete sets of What's the Message Bible studies, from Genesis through Revelation, are now available in the church office. Now you can learn the major themes of the Bible and how they relate to your life today, the easy way. Each lesson is short, less than 10 minutes, will grab and hold your interest, and is thought-provoking. So whether you are traveling, or staying at home, you can earn to know your Bible while you sit and relax. Just \$10 per unit, which includes the audio plus a booklet of the transcribed texts, plus a page of questions to contemplate and study aids for further growth. Start with Unit One this week.

COMMUNITY NEWS

THANK YOUS

Dear Lamb of God,

Thank you for your continued support of Water's Edge Allen and the mission movement that God is creating here. We have had an amazing year of growth and eternity impact. It has been so much fun to see the people of Water's Edge Allen really begin to embrace the call to connect with their neighbors. The stories they share are simply amazing. As we look at the year to come, we are excited by the many opportunities and challenges we will face. We look forward to hearing and seeing how God will fill in all the gaps. Looking back, we know that you and your generosity have been a part of filling in those gaps and so we wanted to say thanks. God Bless you and your family!

Travis Hartjen and the Families of Water's Edge Allen

Thank you Lamb of God for your gifts of support and for your prayers. May you have the gift of grace in Christ.

Iantha & Joel Scheiwe
LBT Missionaries

Dear Linda, staff, and students,

The School Age Parent Program has been fortunate to be the recipient of your Christmas donations for many years. Your generosity continues throughout the year with many individual gifts, some solicited when we have a special need—but all come as a result of the good people who are associated with your Early Childhood Ministry in some way.

Thank you for the blessings you are to our teens and their children.

With appreciation
Marilyn Sanders
Program Coordinator

Dear Lamb of God,

The Eternal Stitches Quilting Bee would like to thank you for letting us use the altar Guild room for our quilting. We really appreciate being able to store our supplies there and have the space to set up our quilt every Monday afternoon.

Elizabeth Gage

Dear Lamb of God,

We wanted to share our appreciation with your church. We attended your live nativity. We were one of the last people to participate and when we mentioned that we help with a prison ministry we were handed four huge trays of homemade cookies. All but a small container of the cookies remained a week later.

Thank you for being Jesus to some men in our program.

Many blessings to your church!

Tim & Theresa Black



STEPHEN MINISTRY

What is Stephen Ministry?

Stephen Ministry is a system through which members of Lamb of God are trained and organized to help provide Christian care giving to members of our congregation and community. This will multiply the amount of caring ministry Lamb of God can provide by giving us a whole lay ministry team of skilled caregivers who are equipped to bring Christ's healing love to people who are grieving, in crisis, or experiencing other stresses in their lives. We have many such needs for care in our congregation and community: people experiencing divorce, grief, a terminal illness, loss of a job, relocation, an empty nest, retire-

ment, hospitalization, loneliness, and many other stresses or challenges. Often people with needs suffer silently or do not request or receive the level of care that they really need. Stephen Ministry expands the caring opportunities Lamb of God can offer by equipping and organizing members to provide Christian care. This gives us a larger pool of people with the gifts, skills, and calling to bring Christ's love and care to those who most need it. For more information about our Stephen Ministry program at Lamb of God, please contact Pastor Braun, Dick Lasch or one of our Stephen Ministers.



LAMB OF GOD LUTHERAN
CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

1401 Cross Timbers Road
Flower Mound, Texas 75028

Phone: (972) 539-5200
Fax: (972) 539-8194
Website: www.log.org



ECM 2012-2013 REGISTRATION

Lamb of God Church Members	Sunday, February 5 th	9 a.m.—11 a.m. atrium
Returning ECM Families	Thursday & Friday February 9 th & 10 th	8:45 a.m. atrium
New Families	Thursday, February 16 th	8 a.m.—3:30 p.m. ECM office

Parents wishing to enroll their children must come in person, complete all necessary paperwork, and pay the non-refundable registration and supply fees as listed on back of this sheet. Registration forms and details are available on our website at www.log.org.

For further information contact:

ECM Office (972) 539-0055

Linda Braun, Director lbrown@log.org

Kim MacDougall, Administrative Assistant kmacdougall@log.org

March Newsletter Deadline
Thursday, February 15th

Please send your articles to
Dawn at dwendorf@log.org

REACHING YOUR CHURCH STAFF

Church Office (972) 539-5200
Early Childhood Ministry (ECM) Preschool (972) 539-0055
Fax (972) 539-8194

			Office Extension	After Hours Contact #
Senior Pastor	Dr. Wayne Braun	pastorbraun@log.org	103	(972) 539-6451
Associate Pastor—Coordinator of Outreach	Phil Cook	pastorcook@log.org	110	(972) 955-8801
Associate Pastor—Director of Youth and Family Ministries	Dwain “DJ” Thomsen	pastorthomsen@log.org	108	(972) 510-4268
Director of Care Ministry (<i>part-time</i>)	Dick Lasch	dlasch@log.org	150	(972) 355-3861
Director of Children’s Ministry	Brandy Simmons	bsimmons@log.org	105	(817) 723-7343
Director of Early Childhood Ministry	Linda Braun	lbrown@log.org	119	(972) 539-6451
Director of Music Ministry	Chris Winston	cwinston@log.org	114	(214) 952-9324
Director of Choral Activities	Rebecca Winston	rwinston@log.org	113	
Director of Operations	Gail DeBenedictis	gdebenedictis@log.org	109	(972) 754-1936
Director of Orchestra (<i>part-time</i>)	Dr. Scott Sandberg	ssandberg@log.org	106	
Assistant to ECM Director	Marybeth Hurd	mhurd@log.org	118	
Church Administrative Assistant	Dawn Wendorf	dwendorf@log.org	101	
ECM Administrative Assistant	Kim MacDougall	kmacdougall@log.org	117	

Lamb of God Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sunday Music Rehearsals 5 p.m. Orchestra 6 p.m. Children's Chimes 7 p.m. Men's Choir	Wednesday Music Rehearsals 6 p.m. Guitar Ensemble 6 p.m. Handbell Choir 6:15 p.m. Children's Choir	Wednesday Youth Events 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Classes 6:30 p.m. Sr. High Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Common Ground	1 10 a.m. Mid-Week Refresher Bible Study 7 p.m. LWML Board Meeting 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir	2 10 a.m. Life Light Bible Study 7 p.m. Fatherhood Bible Study 8 p.m. AA	3 9 a.m. Bulletin Folders	4 LOG at CCA Food Pantry 9:30 a.m. Hands of Friendship
5 8:00 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Christian Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 12:00 p.m. ECM Member Registration 5:00 p.m. Youth Super Bowl Party	6 7 p.m. Life Light Bible Study 7 p.m. Teen CBS	7 10 a.m. Life Light Bible Study 5 p.m. Dennis Lee & Funkey Monkey Bunch 7 p.m. Financial Peace University 7 p.m. Celebrate Recovery	8 10 a.m. Mid-Week Refresher Bible Study 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir	9 9 a.m. LWML Quilters 10 a.m. Life Light Bible Study 7 p.m. Fatherhood Bible Study 7 p.m. LOG Book Club 8 p.m. AA	10 9 a.m. Bulletin Folders	11 7 a.m. Elder Meeting 9 a.m. Prayer Retreat
12 8:00 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Christian Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 12:00 p.m. Youth Board Meeting 4:00 p.m. Kids for Christ	13 7 p.m. Life Light Bible Study 7 p.m. Outreach Committee	14 10 a.m. Life Light Bible Study 7 p.m. Lutheran Women's Missionary League 7 p.m. Stephen Ministry (peer supervision) 7 p.m. Financial Peace University 7 p.m. Celebrate Recovery	15 10 a.m. Mid-Week Refresher Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Children's Ministry Leadership Team 7:15 p.m. Chancel Choir	16 10 a.m. Life Light Bible Study 7 p.m. Fatherhood Bible Study 8 p.m. AA	17 9 a.m. Bulletin Folders	18 9 a.m. Stephen Ministry (training)
19 8:00 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Christian Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 12:00 p.m. Young-at-Heart Luncheon 12:00 p.m. Mother's Orientation Meeting 12:00 p.m. Jr. High PHUN 6:00 p.m. Sr. High 628	20 7 p.m. Life Light Bible Study 7 p.m. Church Ministry Council 7 p.m. Teen CBS	21 10 a.m. Life Light Bible Study 7 p.m. Financial Peace University 7 p.m. Celebrate Recovery	22 Ash Wednesday 10 a.m. Mid-Week Refresher Bible Study 12 p.m. Lent Service 6 p.m. Congregation Dinner 7:15 p.m. Lent Service 8 p.m. Chancel Choir	23 9 a.m. LWML Quilters 10 a.m. Life Light Bible Study 7 p.m. Fatherhood Bible Study 8 p.m. AA	24 9 a.m. Bulletin Folders	25 9 a.m. 8th Grade Girls Bible Study
26 8:00 a.m. Worship Service 9:15 a.m. Christian Education Hour 10:30 a.m. Worship Service 12:00 p.m. Father's Orientation Meeting	27 10 a.m. Life Light Bible Study 7 p.m. Stephen Ministry (peer supervision) 7 p.m. Financial Peace University 7 p.m. Celebrate Recovery	28 10 a.m. Life Light Bible Study 7 p.m. Stephen Ministry (peer supervision) 7 p.m. Financial Peace University 7 p.m. Celebrate Recovery	29 10 a.m. Mid-Week Refresher Bible Study 12 p.m. Lent Service 6 p.m. Congregation Dinner 7:15 p.m. Lent Service 8 p.m. Chancel Choir	FEBRUARY 2012		