

Grace Note, March, 2009

Letter from the Pastor

A few years ago I acquired a little device that changed my world. I call it “Roberta” but the rest of the world calls it “GPS.” “Roberta’s” soothing voice comes through my cell phones little speaker and tells me how to get where I want to go. She uses helpful phrases like, “Make the next legal u-turn”, or “Your destination is on the right.” I have grown to love that little voice.

To truly understand my reaction to this piece of technology you have to understand something about me. I have spent a large portion of my life lost. I’m not talking spiritually here, I’m talking geographically. North, South, East, and West mean almost nothing to me. Some of my trips are legendary in my family. I once took off to pick up, my then girlfriend, Diana and ended up on a 4 hour detour. She waited the whole time for me in the hotel lobby I was supposed to pick her up from, not knowing if I was dead or alive. It’s a wonder she ever forgave me for that.

Sometimes I wish that we all had spiritual GPS. When a fork in the road appears, we could just listen to the reassuring voice telling us which way to turn. We could have a little clock to tell us how long it will be until we reach our destination. Think of all the detours we could avoid. Think of all the wrong turns that we wouldn’t have to make. Imagine a

straight shot to God with clear directions on what to do and when to do it. Sounds like a dream come true.

But in my clearer moments I’m not so sure about that. It seems to me that life is about the journey, not about how quickly or directly you get to your destination. If we always knew what to do, and when to do it, why would we need faith? If life was clear and simple to understand we wouldn’t need to rely on God to get us through.

I have come to believe that faith isn’t a matter of knowing the answers and believing in them no matter what. Faith is not knowing the answers but believing that we are in God’s hands anyway. Life isn’t simple, there are no easy directions. Sometimes you just have to point yourself in the direction that seems best and put your faith in the fact that God is walking along side of you no matter what.

“Roberta” gives me clear, concise directions to make my life easier, but God gives my life meaning. Roberta tells me how to get places, but God shows me that it’s worth setting out in the first place. God’s way isn’t the easy way, but the journey of faith is the only trip that is truly worth taking, detours and all.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Jeffrey Katlen
- 2 Aimee Swartz
- 5 Carryn Anderson
- 6 Jayne Imel
- 6 Rick Jennings
- 10 Mel Maharg
- 12 John Basch
- 13 Michael Griffith
- 15 Chris Jeppe
- 16 Dottie Halemba
- 17 Vicki Lester
- 17 Karl Schmidt
- 20 Morrey Nuss
- 21 Marilyn Zeitz
- 22 Nancy Kovalcheck
- 23 Chris Kovach
- 25 Linda Makee
- 25 Jane Nied
- 27 Monte Bradshaw
- 27 Barb Janzen
- 30 Robert Lucas
- Marge Wollens



THE MEN'S LUNCHEON IN MARCH will be held on March 27th at Milano's Restaurant located at Cuyahoga County Airport on Richmond Road.

FAITH CIRCLE will meet on Thursday, March 19th at 12:00 noon. Bring a sack lunch. Dessert will be provided by Nancy Reichenbach. Pastor Fox will continue a study of Women of the Old Testament.

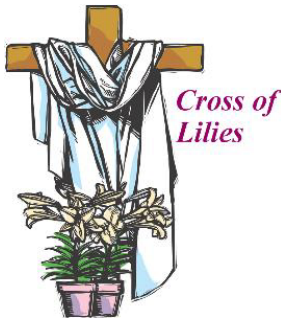
First Communion Classes:
Pastor Fox will conduct First Communion classes for fifth graders on Sunday, March 8, 15, and 22, at 6:00 p.m. These students will receive their first holy communion at our Maundy Thursday service on April 9th.

PLEASE SIGN UP TO HELP WITH THE WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPERS on the charts located in the reception area. Members are asked to volunteer to bring an item and help in the kitchen for one of the weeks. Please indicate that you are assisting at least two weeks prior to the date. You will be contacted about what to bring each Wednesday in Lent



LENTEN SUPPERS continue through April 1st on Wednesday nights at 6:00 p.m followed by a worship service at 7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE CLASSES will be discontinued during Lent.



THE CROSS OF LILIES will again be at the front of our sanctuary on Easter Sunday. Plants may be given in memory or in honor of loved ones and may be taken home after the Easter morning services. To order, use the Flower Offering Envelopes found in the pew racks or by calling the church office (440 442-6941). The cost of a lily is \$6.00.

PRAYER VIGIL....Our 24-hour Prayer Vigil will begin after our Maundy Thursday service and ends with the Good Friday Service. You may sign up on the Prayer Chart in our reception area. If you cannot come to the sanctuary during your allotted time, you may pray and meditate at home.



OFFERINGS PLACED IN HOLY WEEK AND EASTER ENVELOPES will be divided between New Covenant Lutheran Church, Trinity Lutheran Seminary, and Lutheran Chaplaincy Service. Use your regular weekly envelopes for your pledge gifts.

THE ANNUAL EASTER BREAKFAST will again be hosted by the LYO from 9:00 until 10:30 a.m. on Easter, April 12th. LYO members will be selling tickets after the early service and before and after the second service outside the sanctuary. The cost of the tickets is \$7.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children 12 and under. Please try to buy your tickets in advance to provide seed money to purchase food. The menu includes pancakes, ham, eggs, sausage, hash browns, fruit, muffins orange juice, coffee and tea.

Matching funds are being applied for from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

If you have a pancake griddle, non-stick pan for cooking eggs, or warming dishes that the LYO may borrow, please bring them to the church kitchen before Easter.

When you stop at the LYO table to buy your Easter Breakfast tickets, you can enter the LYO **“Guess the number of Jelly Beans”** contest.



THE LYO IS SELLING HONEYBAKED HAMS after services during Lent. Orders will be available for pick up at the church kitchen on Saturday, April 11th at noon.

THE COLLEGE SERIES CONTINUES!

March 22: Private colleges with Becky Dinnen

Light refreshments will be served. Questions? Contact Sue Joliat or Karen Dickerson.

START SAVING NOW FOR OUR ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE. Denise Jennings and Jill Levine will be in charge this year and it will take place August 6-8. A special thanks goes out to Sue Joliat who had been conducting it in the past.



FROM THE SOCIAL MINISTRY COMMITTEE:

Souper Bowl of Caring.....Thanks to everyone who contributed to our Souper Bowl project. We donated 346 cans of soup and \$100 to the New Covenant Hunger Center. That's a lot of soup!!

Angel Food Ministries.....We received orders of 127 basic units and 76 specials in February.

Lenten Food Drive.....We are again conducting the Annual Lenten food Drive for New Covenant. It will continue through April 5th. Please bring non-perishable food. Paper products and cleaning supplies are also appreciated. No glass containers please. Think of those in need while doing your grocery shopping during Lent.



THE VALENTINES DAY BAKE SALE was a success. The quality and quantity of food was well received as we earned \$400. Thank you to all the participating bakers,

WE ARE GOING TO PUBLISH A NEW MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY. Since many communications are now handled through cell phones and emails, we are giving you an opportunity to include this information in your listing if you desire to do so. Many of you have already turned in your listing. If you have not done so to date, please up-date and correct the rough draft you have received and return it to the church as soon as possible, but no later than April 1st. The forms can be mailed to the office, left in the box labeled "Directory 2009", or placed in the offering plate any Sunday.

PLEASE PRAY for Sean Perry, Nils Pearson, David Phoenix and the Phoenix family, Phyllis and Lawson Anderson, Barbara Budzinski, Adam, Jack Ferree, Murawski Family, Jeremy, Margurite Gardner, Gladys Elliott, Todd Skiba, Alma and Fred Fanto, Gabby Turk, Robert Kalvesmaki, JD Sidley, John Reese, Stacy, Pauline Gross, John Lane, Livi Custer.

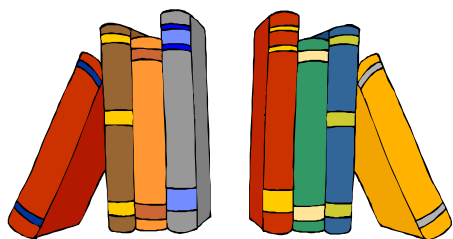


DAVID PHOENIX continues his battle with cancer., We remind his friends to send cards of encouragement and to continue to keep him and his family in your prayers. His address is 10315 Sandalwood Lane, Twinsburg, OH 44087. Lyn's e-mail: lynann42@aol.com

WE WELCOMED 8 NEW MEMBERS into our congregation on February 22nd. They are: Ruth Bode; Dennis and Ruth Kenny; Michael and Rhonda Pierce, Grace and Sean; and Sarah Vangilder.



WE EXTEND OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Donald Paul, a long time member of Messiah and father of Sharon Richardson and Carol Soltesz. Pastor Fox presided at a memorial service for him on February 7th.



From the Library.....

The Literary Ladies of Messiah will meet on Tuesday, March 10th at 2:00 pm. in the church library. This will be our last afternoon session as we will change back to evening meetings in April. Our new book is entitled *Alice, The Life and Times of Alice Roosevelt Longworth*, written by Howard Teichman. We have a few extra copies if anyone would like to borrow one for this month. Filled with pageantry and tragedy, Alice's life has all the trappings of a great national drama. Not only does her story provide a front row seat to history, but it offers revealing glimpses into the public and private lives of the brilliantly successful Roosevelt clan, from father, Teddy, to cousins Franklyn and Eleanor. Alice, the most outspoken Roosevelt of them all, has been called "the Jackie Kennedy of her day" and "the true symbol of Washington." If anyone is interested in our list of books that we will be reading in 2009, please check our folder on the bulletin board and pick up a copy.

WELLNESS NOTE

Cold or Flu???

The flu and the common cold are both respiratory illnesses. They share some signs and symptoms, such as a runny nose, coughing, sneezing, nasal congestion and a sore throat. But they're caused by different viruses and have other signs and symptoms that differ from one another. Learn to identify the differences with this chart. (continued next page)

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER MARCH 2009

Secret Valentines: We had 35 participants in this year's Secret Valentine program and a great time was had by all! It is a great mid-winter activity for fellowship and fun!

Worship Participation: On March 29th, the Beginner Department will be serving as Greeters and Grades 5-7 will be Ushers at the 11:00 service.

Lenten Pretzels: The Lenten Pretzel schedule will be as follows: March 1st: Grade 2-4, March 8th: Pre-K, March 15th: Grades 5-7, March 22nd: Grades K-1, March 29th: High School and April 5th: Grades 2-4. All proceeds from this worthwhile activity will be used to give the gift of life-giving water to those in need in Uganda and Bolivia.

Easter Program: WE ARE IN DESPERATE NEED OF SOMEONE TO COORDINATE THE EASTER PROGRAM. IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP, PLEASE CONTACT CHERYL MOSER IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL OFFICE.

Teacher of the Month: Check out the display cabinet outside the conference room for our "Teacher of the Month" display. Our March teachers are Sue Joliat and Jay Imel (High School Class). Don't forget to say "Hello and Thanks" when you see these very special people.

Attention Parents and Family Members: Please consider serving as a volunteer for our Sunday School Department. Each classroom must have two adults each week to adhere to our church safety policy. If you would like to be part of this volunteer rotation, please use the sign-up sheet on the back bulletin board or stop in the Sunday School office.

Continued from previous page

Common Cold

Flu

Slower onset of symptoms

Sudden onset of symptoms

No fever, or possible low fever

Fever (usually 101 F or higher), chills & sweats

Slight body aches or a mild headache

Headache and severe muscular aches and pains, especially in your back, arms and legs

Mild fatigue

Moderate to severe fatigue and weakness

Weakened sense or taste or smell

Loss of appetite

Get a flu shot each year to reduce your chances of getting influenza. And remember: Your best defense against any viral illness is good hygiene. Wash your hands regularly and avoid touching your eyes, nose and face. Keep kitchen and bathroom countertops clean, and don't share eating utensils or drinking glasses with others.

Source: Mayo Clinic *Embody Health* January 2007, provided by the ELCA

Submitted by: Peg Wilt and Kathy Strom, Wellness Co-chairpersons, Nancy Coleman, secretary

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

PALM/PASSON SUNDAY – APRIL 5
8:30 AND 11:00 A.M. – Holy Communion

MAUNDY THURSDAY – APRIL 9 – 7:00 P.M.
Holy Communion – Stripping of the Altar
24-HOUR PRAYER VIGIL begins following this service
and continues until the Good Friday evening service
(Sign the chart in the reception area.)

GOOD FRIDAY – APRIL 10
Community Wide Service – 12:00 Noon
Faith United Church of Christ
575 Richmond Road, Richmond Heights
The whole community is invited

Evening Service at Messiah – 7:00 P.M.

THE RESURRECTION OF OUR LORD
Easter Sunday – April 12
8:00 A.M. – Holy Communion Celebration
(note time change)
9:00 – 10:30 A.M. Easter Breakfast
10:00 A.M. – Sunday School Easter Program
11:00 A.M. – Festival Service of Holy Communion



EXCERPTS FROM COUNCIL MINUTES February 17, 2009

Pastor's Report: In January Pastor had 6 office visits, made 2 hospital calls, and 7 home visits. He organized a youth event, and conducted 2 new member classes. Pastor reminded the Council that our constitution calls for a Mutual Ministry Committee and he would like to reinstate that committee to share feedback and open communication between the Pastor and the congregation.

Treasurer's Report: The pledge income for January was \$10,700 vs. \$15,170 in 2008. We are expecting a check from the IRS for a rebate owed us from 2005.

Property Committee: Fred Moser and Kirk Maharg have been working on mounting on the wall of the television in the library. A different heating company has been called in to work on the heating system. Dawn Chemical has been contacted about removing wax build-up in the fellowship hall.

Christian Ed: Cheryl Moser, Joanie McTernan and Cris McCord will resign from the Sunday School office at the end of this Sunday School year. Pastor and Jill Jeppe will discuss leadership for next year.

Youth: The LYO will be tubing at Alpine, weather permitting, or will meet at Pastor's home. Attendance for Godspell at the Heights Youth Theater on Sunday, January 25th was very good, preceded by a pizza lunch.

Worship: After Easter a new setting from the ELW will be initiated. On February 22, we will have a guitar service.

Evangelism: Sue Joliat suggests that every committee should have a fund raiser. The committee will host a new member reception on Sunday, February 22nd. An Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 11th for Pre-K – 4th grade. It will be a one hour event including creating cards for delivery to shut-ins with the Easter Lilies..

Social Ministry: We donated 346 cans of soup and \$100 to the New Covent Hunger Center. The Lenten Food Drive for New Covenant takes place March 1 – April 5. Donations of non-perishable food, paper products, and cleaning supplies are needed. 127 basic units and 78 specials were received for Angel Food Ministries this month.

Fellowship: Game Night on February 7th was attended by 30 people. Golf outing and Corn Hole Tournament are being considered.

Capital Fund Raising Campaign: The Executive Committee will select 3-5 members to serve on the committee. 10 names were suggested by Council members. It was moved by Fred Moser, seconded by Carrie Scaggs, to have the Executive Committee of Council appoint a committee to determine whether or not a Capital Fund Raising Campaign is feasible to make necessary improvements in church property such as floor covering, windows, and how to move forward with a plan. Motion was approved.

Budget Shortfall: Council discussed possible ways to fill in the budget shortfall. Carrie Skaggs volunteered the committee to host a Father's Day Grand Slam Breakfast.

Lyndhurst Cooperative Nursery School: We have been notified that the Nursery School will be closing its doors at the end of the school year. Under their rules their equipment and possessions must be given to a non-profit. Messiah is being offered first choice.

Angel Food Ministry: We have received word that Angel Food Ministry is being investigated by the FBI and the IRS for questionable practices in high level leadership. Following a meeting with the Social Ministry Committee, it is their recommendation that Messiah utilize Angel Food Ministry until something changes. Meanwhile we will investigate to see if there is a similar outreach program available.

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Messiah Lutheran Church
5200 Mayfield Road
Lyndhurst OH 44124

Return Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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Dated Information
Please deliver by
March 1, 2009