

*Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church,  
February, 2011  
Newsletter*

*Love Conquers All*

The love for equals is a human thing —  
of friend for friend, brother for brother.  
It is to love what is loving and lovely. The world smiles.  
The love for the less fortunate is a beautiful thing —  
the love for those who suffer, for those who are poor,  
the sick, the failures, the unlovely.  
This is compassion, and it touches the heart of the world.  
The love for the more fortunate is a rare thing —  
to love those who succeed where we fail,  
to rejoice without envy with those who rejoice,  
the love of the poor for the rich ....  
The world is always bewildered by its saints.  
And then there is the love for the enemy —  
love for the one who does not love you but mocks,  
threatens and inflicts pain.  
The tortured's love for the torturer.  
This is God's love. It conquers the world.

—Frederick Buechner,  
The Magnificent Defeat

## *Notes from Pastor Andy*

Each month Bells Elementary School declares one night as family night. On that evening the children receive no homework and it is hoped that parents will spend the evening giving their attention to their children whether it be playing board games, going to the movies, doing some type of project together as a family, etc. Our sons like to eat. Therefore, family night always includes going to dinner at a place of their choosing. On the most recent family night, we had dinner at their favorite Chinese Buffet. At the end of the meal our check was delivered with the traditional fortune cookies. I usually don't eat the fortune cookie nor do I care about my fortune because I do not believe in luck or fortune. However, on this particular evening, I decided to eat my cookie. As I read the tiny paper slip containing my 'fortune' I was shocked by what I read; "No Fortune; reject, ignore, abort?" Danny and Jake were amused by my fortune since I had reminded them prior to opening my cookie that I did not believe in luck or fortune and yet the words on the little slip of paper seemed true. Since it is tax season, Amy had to work late and was unable to have dinner with us. When she came home the boys could not wait for me to tell her my 'fortune'. Her reply was, "That's a perfect fortune for you since you don't believe in luck!"

Today we often wish people 'good luck' if they are going on a job interview or doing something for the first time. In fact in any situation where there is more than one possible outcome for an individual we might wish them luck. If we enter a crowded parking lot and eventually find a place to park, we might say, "I was lucky to find a parking spot." The truth is that luck has nothing to do with this. Luck is not a gift of the spirit nor is it a Christian virtue. In fact, if we look at the history of the term 'luck' we can trace it back to ancient Rome in which the Romans had personified luck in the goddess Fortune (this is why gamblers often use the term, "Lady Fortune" and who can forget the song sung by Frank Sinatra "Luck be a Lady Tonight". When we attribute the circumstances of our lives to luck, we may be unknowingly attributing those circumstances to a Roman goddess. What would that say about our faith? As Christians we believe in only one God. We attribute our health and safety to Him. We attribute all that we have to God's generous bounty and not to luck or our own endeavors.

Belief in luck can lead us into idolatrous situations where we think that certain behaviors or even certain objects can bring us luck. If someone breaks a mirror people will say, "You now have seven years bad luck." Why? How does breaking a mirror affect the future of anyone? Or what about the athlete who is convinced that he or she only wins at their sport when they are wearing their lucky shoes or lucky glove or lucky socks? Can a piece of metal affect the outcome of an athletic competition?

To the gambler luck may be a lady, but to Christians ***Jesus is The Lord!*** We place our faith, our trust, our security in Christ Jesus our Savior and Redeemer! Jesus told the disciples, <sup>29</sup>"Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup>And even the hairs of your head are all counted. <sup>31</sup>So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows." (Matthew 10:29 NRSV). Since God cares for us this deeply, He certainly will not leave our lives, future and salvation to chance. As we continue our journey into the New Year let us leave luck behind and focus on our future with the Lord. As Timothy writes, "join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, <sup>9</sup>who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. (2 Timothy 1:8b-10 NRSV).

Grace and Peace,

*Pastor Andy*

## **SERMON PREVIEWS**

Feb. 6 - EPIPHANY 5 - HOLY COMMUNION

Sermon: **"HAPPY GO LUCKY"**

Psalms 112:1-19

Feb. 13 - EPIPHANY 6

HOLY COMMUNION - 10:00 A.M.

BAPTISMS/SHARE SUNDAY

Sermon: **"GOT MILK?"**

I Corinthians 3:1-9

Feb. 20 - EPIPHANY 7 - HOLY COMMUNION  
JUNIOR CHOIR/JUNIOR HANDBELLS

Sermon: **"JESUS CHRIST, OUR SURE  
FOUNDATION"**

I Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23

Feb. 27 - EPIPHANY 8

HOLY COMMUNION - 10:00 AM

PRAISE CHOIR/SENIOR HANDBELLS

Sermon: **"GOING GREEN, SPIRITUALLY"**

Matthew 6:24-34

Mar. 6 - TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD  
HOLY COMMUNION

Sermon: **"THE DAZZLING SON OF GOD"**

Matthew 17:1-9

Mar. 13 - LENT 1-BAPTISMS/SHARE SUNDAY  
HOLY COMMUNION - 10 AM

Sermon: **"THE FREEDOM OF CHOICE"**

Genesis 2:15, 12-17

Mar. 20 - LENT 2 - HOLY COMMUNION

JUNIOR CHOIR/JUNIOR HANDBELLS

Sermon: **"BEING FAITHFUL TO THE CALL  
OF GOD"**

Genesis 12:1-4a

Mar. 27 - LENT 3 - HOLY COMMUNION - 10 AM  
PRAISE CHOIR/SENIOR BELLS

Sermon: **"WAITING OF GOD"**

Exodus 17:1-7



### **LIFE LINE SCREENING**

Trinity Lutheran Church is pleased to offer a preventive health event. Life Line Screening, a leading provider of community-based preventive health screenings, will host their affordable, non-invasive, painless health screenings on **February 14, 2011**.

Five screenings will be offered that scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries, which is a leading cause of stroke; abdominal aortic aneurysms, which can lead to a ruptured aorta; hardening of the arteries in the legs, which is a strong predictor of heart disease; atrial fibrillation or irregular heart beat, which is closely tied to stroke risk; and a bone density screening, for men and women, used to assess the risk of osteoporosis.

**Your Health is in your hands so call:  
1-800-636-0418  
for more information or to pre-register.**

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## **COMING IN MARCH**

Mar. 8 - **SHROVE TUESDAY** -

Pancake Supper - 5 to 7 p.m.

Mar. 9 - **ASH WEDNESDAY** - 1:00 & 7:30 PM

Services of Holy Communion and Distribution  
of Ashes

Sermon: **"THE CRYING GAME"**

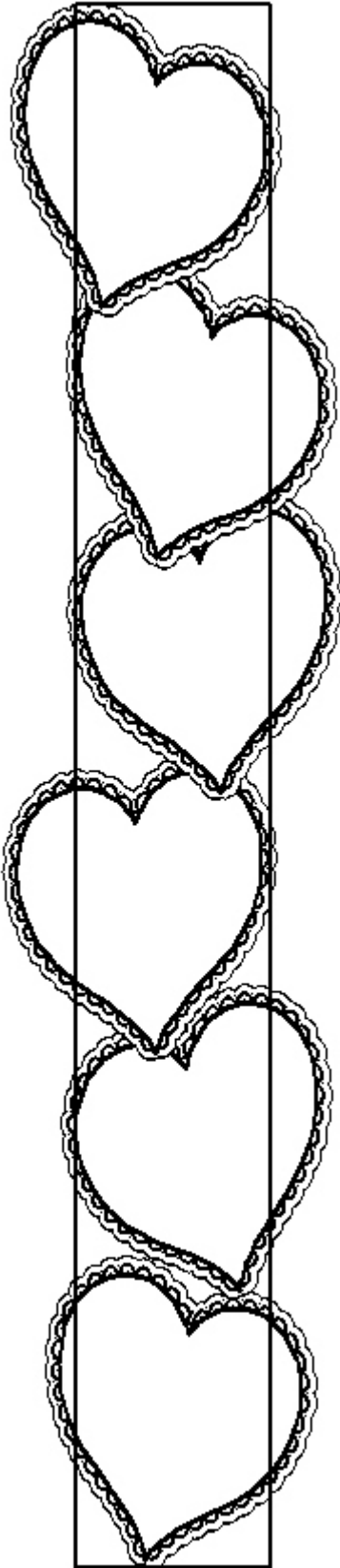
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17



### **COME FOR SUPPER**

Every Wednesday during Lent beginning on  
March 16<sup>th</sup> - 6:00 p.m.

Soup, Bread and Beverage will be ready -  
just come! Then join us upstairs for our  
Lenten Program.



# Social Concerns Ministry

We hope everyone is surviving this winter season and all the snow. Have faith, spring will be here soon.

Social Concerns wants to thank everyone for their generosity with food and monetary donations. It is greatly appreciated and we would not be able to help those in need without your help.

Due to the snow on January 27<sup>th</sup>, pantry day was rescheduled to Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup> and 33 families participated.

Items needed include the following:

Pancake mix, regular tea bags, spaghetti sauce, cereal, toilet paper, paper towels, soap, canned fruit, spaghettios, crackers and jelly.

Clothes can be dropped off at anytime at 17 Knight Ave. Please be sure they are clean and gently used. Place them in plastic bags and label them men, women, etc and you can leave them on the porch.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER:**

February 13-Share Sunday and Social Concerns meeting at 11:30 am.

February 20-Social Concerns annual Christmas after Christmas dinner at Ponzio's at 3 pm.

February 24-Pantry open from 9-11 am and 6-7 pm.

If any of you would like to learn more about Social Concerns, please come to our meeting. We would love to have you join us.

*"God will keep you from falling because His love is over you to keep you from being pushed down...behind you to keep you from being pushed over...and in front of you to keep you from being pushed back."*

Caring and Sharing  
Sharon Fetters

A decorative border of hand-drawn hearts surrounds the text. The hearts are of various sizes and are arranged in clusters at the corners and along the right side of the page. The border is drawn with a thick black line.

# Youth Group News

Trinity's Youth is in high gear as we hit February.

A youth dance is planned for February 12<sup>th</sup>.

We will also be participating in the IHOC walk for the Homeless on February 27<sup>th</sup>. Our youth will be looking for everyone's support as we hope to build on last year's success.

We will be attending the Youth Encounter Quake/Zone retreat in Morristown, NJ in April. Information packets have been sent to our 6-12<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School students explaining the program, including costs and permission forms. This is a wonderful program, and we hope to send a large group up there in April to represent Trinity! Please contact Jim Eberts at 856-205-1077 with any questions. Registrations are due February 27<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, we are looking to form a Youth Praise Band. There will be an organizational meeting in the near future, which will be posted on the youth bulletin board and in our Sunday bulletins.

A call for volunteers. Anyone interested in volunteering your time for this important ministry, please contact Jim Eberts or Pastor Andy, or come to our next planning meeting 7 pm Monday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. See **YOU** there!

In His Name,  
The Youth Ministry Team

# Junior Choir Notes

Sunday, January 16<sup>th</sup> the Junior Choir sang an old favorite from early years in Sunday School: "*This Little Light of Mine.*" What fun! The words were somewhat brought "up-to-date" (as printed in the newest hymnal printed by our national church body) and we asked the congregation to join us as we re-sang the first verse. Many thanks to McKenzie Yurcaba and Sarah Smith for asking you to join us and to the congregation for being willing to do so!

As we look forward to February 20<sup>th</sup> when we will sing again, we are going to be doing a song with music you may recognize from the dance floor at a wedding reception! It is an old Hasidic tune and the words were translated into English in 1966. It is called "*Open Your Ears, O Faithful People.*" I hope both the children and the congregation will like it.

If you know any children in grades 1-6 in particular who like to sing, please encourage them to join the Junior Choir. We have all girls now and I know of at least one boy who is willing to join us if we can recruit another boy. Rehearsals are held each Sunday morning for just 15 minutes at 9:45 a.m. in the choir room. [As we travel around the synod, people are amazed that we can sing with such a short rehearsal time. We have good singers (and parents who go over the words with them) and an excellent accompanist in Mr. Kraemer. A big thank you to each of you!]

Thank you to the many people who spoke to McKenzie and Sarah and other choir members to tell them now nicely they did this last Sunday. They were really pleased. Of course, in all things it is to God Who receives the glory!

Love to all,  
Mrs. Schmidt



*"God is as present with us in our  
doubting as in our believing."*

As we work with our Sunday school curriculum, "Shaping Hearts with God's Word" each Sunday, the teachers strive to tell their classes how to stay focused on Jesus. They also are taught how to pray, and learn to "talk to Jesus" just like they are talking to a friend. How about you? Try talking to "our Father" each day and know the peace He brings to all.

The Winter Quarter is well under way, and will end February 27<sup>th</sup>. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> and during the Lenten Season, each class will spend a portion of time discussing the true meaning of Lent.

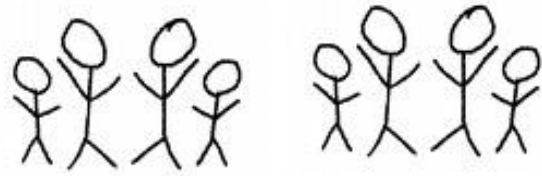
Oh, yes, "Soup and Bread" will begin on March 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m., and continue each week until April 17<sup>th</sup>. Come and enjoy the delicious soups and desserts our own folks have made. We would be happy to have new people join us! Call me at 856-428-8572 and I'll sign you up!

Thanks for continued prayers and support throughout the year.

Our next staff meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

A final thought: *"Prayer opens the door for God's power and strength to fill us."*

To God be the glory,  
Pat Henry



Interfaith Homeless Outreach Council

# MALL WALK

## FOR THE HOMELESS

**Sunday, February 27, 2011**

Voorhees Town Center (*Echelon Mall*)  
checkin at 1:00 p.m.

Ong's Hat String Band at 1:15 p.m.

Warm-up exercises begin at 1:45 p.m.

Phillie Phanatic Arrives and  
WALK STARTS at 2:00 p.m.

Registration Forms are located  
on the table by the Johnson  
Avenue side entrance of  
the church sanctuary.

Sign up and support our Youth!

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### **BE A DISCIPLE**

A girl returning home from Sunday school expressed disappointment with the class's reaction after the day's lesson.

"We were taught to go into all the world and make disciples of all nations," she said, "but we just sat there!"

*-Source unknown*



## *Prayer Shawl Ministry*

Snow, snow and more snow! Somewhat housebound but enjoying the time it gives to stop, rest, pray, crochet and think. Actually doing more cooking and baking and EATING. You know what comes next - POUNDS. Let's welcome February, the month of hearts and flowers and hopefully some better weather. It does help that the days are getting longer.

We didn't have a meeting in January instead we had a snow day. Thanks to Sally Miller for helping call everyone when we canceled the meeting. We will be happy to see everyone on Friday, February 4th.

We had a wonderful thank you we received previously from Pastor Andy. We would like to share it with you here:

"Dear Members of the Prayer Shawl Committee, What a wonderful surprise to find the beautiful 'Prayer Shawl' snow bunny on my desk. It is a very thoughtful and kind gift. However, it pales in comparison to the gift that each of you brings to our community through the beautiful prayer shawls that you create through your love, skill and prayers. You truly are a blessing to us and to those who receive comfort from your ministry. Sincerely, Pastor Andy

Philemon 1:4-7 (4) When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God (5) because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. (6) I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that we may do for Christ. (7) I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother."

We were most appreciative of this note. Pastor has such a gift for writing and speaking. We are so blessed!

Getting back to prayer shawls, we have many patterns available if you need one. We have "The Prayer Shawl Ministry" books Vol. 1 and Vol. 2 and Annie's Attic "Prayer Shawl" book. There are many individual pattern sheets which we have copied from others who have completed projects. We even have a pattern for a "no-sew fleece blanket and pillow." Sounds easy! Just put together 2 pieces of fleece, fringe and knot. If you would like any pattern, just call and they can be mailed or delivered on Sunday mornings. Just call Carol at 856-939-0434.

Our next meeting date is Friday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, at 10 am. To quote Pastor Andy from a January sermon, "COME AND SEE". You don't know if you don't come and see. Future meeting dates are: March 4, April 1, May 6, June 3.

"Until we meet again, May God Hold You in the Palm of His Hand."

The Prayer Shawl Ministry Family  
Carolyn Lunn, President



## ***LIFE LINE SCREENING***

### **YOU CAN AVOID A STROKE!**

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**Your Health is in your hands so call:  
1-800-636-0418  
for more information or to pre-register.**



They say time flies when you're having fun! So, I must be having a ball because time seems to be flying for me. Can you believe that January is over already? I can't.

We had our last Sunshine meeting on January 11<sup>th</sup>. Eileen Humes and Doris Menchaca were hostesses. They served homemade cake and cookies along with chips and dip, and coffee. It was great! We discussed different projects that we would like to make donations to in the coming year.

Our next meeting will be held on February 8<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon, and the hostesses will be Marge Barr and Sarah Whelan.

As you are probably aware, the Sunshine ladies take care of distributing the flowers that are placed in the church each week. If you have given flowers and would like to take them after the 11:15 a.m. service, please put a note on the bulletin board in the flower room before that service. We want you to have your flowers back, you deserve them, however, we really need to know so that we don't give them to someone else.

On a sad note, Mary Ludlam passed away in January. Mary had be an

active Sunshine member until she became ill. She will be sorely missed by all of us in Sunshine.

God's Love at Work.  
Pass it on!

Linda Brown,  
President

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### THE WITNESS

Years ago, after folk-music trio Peter, Paul and Mary performed in Texas, a teenager approached Noel Paul Stookey backstage.

"I want to talk to you about the Lord," the boy said. "We ought to have a word of prayer."

After praying, the boy put the musician on the spot by telling God, "Noel wants to talk with You."

All Stookey could bring himself to pray was, "I'm sorry." Through those words, he admitted he'd failed to honor God with his life. He was repenting and soon became a Christian.

Stookey said that experience made him a new person. "You cannot change a man from the inside out and not have it affect everything in his life," he said.

All because of one teenager's witness.

## **Lutheran Home News**

The Lutheran Home Auxiliary met at 10 a.m. on Thursday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. A brief memorial service was held to honor Paul Sochor, a long time auxiliary member and volunteer who died in December. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Florence and their loved ones. Also, Phyllis Kline, auxiliary member passed in November. A memorial service was held for her on January 14<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor Steele and her husband have accepted an office to Pastor at St. Marks Lutheran in Hagerstown, Maryland area. Her last day at the Home was Friday, January 14<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Steel so much exemplified the gentleness, love and compassion of Christ to the residents and all she met and will be sadly missed. Our thoughts and prayers likewise are with her and her family at this time of transition. In the meantime, residents are still receiving pastoral care and having church services from other pastoral staff until Pastor Steele's position with the Home can be appropriately filled.

The amount made on the Octoberfest, as I promised I would find out for you, was \$726.00.

Residents enjoyed the Santas and their Christmas gifts and the Mummies did a super job entertaining the residents for New Years Eve. They went through the entire building for those residents who were not able to get out to the celebration.

Always appreciated: birthday, sympathy, get well cards, nail polish, remover, cotton balls, button down cardigan sweaters and robes.

And as always, thank you so much for your contributions of things and money to the Home. You've always been so generous and faithful.

This month is our church's fund drive for the Lutheran Home. Hope you will please prayerfully consider what the Lord would have you give. Envelopes marked Lutheran Home will be available at all services. Checks should be made payable to Lutheran Home Auxiliary.

Feb. 10 - Auxiliary meeting - 10 am  
Feb. 14 - Residents' Valentine Party, 2 pm  
Feb. 17 - Residents' lunch, Cracker Barrel  
Feb. 22 - Residents' birthday lunch-12:15  
June 11 - June Day  
Oct. 8 - Octoberfest

I prayer you stay warm and safe and remain in His love this February.

Sincerely,  
Sandy Counsellor

*"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor death, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord"*  
*Romans 8:38.*

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### **Bible Quiz**

What did Jesus say his earthly mission was all about? Choose the correct answer from the list below:

- A. Doing his own will
- B. Doing God's will
- C. Doing the will of the people
- D. All of the above

Answer: B (See John 5:30.)