

PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Rev. William A. Schaefer, Pastor



Living, Learning, and Growing in the Word of God

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P.O.P. NOTES



February 2012 Volume 50 Issue 2

Lifting Up Our Hearts

February is always an interesting month for me. There is so much that happens in my life during the month of February. The first week is usually pretty calm, but once the second week hits, we are off to the races and this year is no different.

February 14th is that day that all of us know as St. Valentine's Day. It is the day when the greeting card industry, the chocolatiers, and the florists make a pretty good profit. More importantly, it is the day when we celebrate God's gift of love for our spouses and significant others. It is the day when we lift our hearts to God with thanksgiving for that love. The Sunday before this happens, on the February 12th, we as a congregation will give thanks for this gift of love as those who are married will renew their wedding vows during worship. We ask that those who are married to please bring in your wedding picture to share with the congregation during the reception that will follow worship.

After Valentine's Day, Angeline's Birthday and my birthday soon follow. These are happy days that we spend together as a family to celebrate the gift of life that we have been given by God. We lift our hearts to God to say thank you for each other and the gift of life.

This year, soon after my birthday, comes the beginning of the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday is February 22nd and we will have worship here at the church at 7:00 PM that night. During this service, we will have Holy Communion and the Imposition of Ashes. I invite you to come and begin your Lenten Journey that evening.

During the Season of Lent, we will have a Wednesday evening Simple Supper of Soup, Bread and Sandwiches at 6:00PM. This will be followed at 7:00PM with our Midweek Lenten Service. Our theme this year will be Lifting Up Our Hearts to God. We will focus on how we lift up our hearts to God in Prayer, Worship, Giving, Service and in Daily Life. I pray that you will take the time each Wednesday to come and grow in your faith and examine how you lift your heart to God in each of the ways that we will discuss. Bring a friend to these meals and services. It is a great way to introduce someone to the congregation that is not filled with the hustle and bustle of Sunday mornings.

Yes, Februarys are very busy for me, but the joy that I receive in times of fellowship with you and my family and the spiritual growth I am filled with through our worship together, makes up for the business 100 fold. I lift up my heart to God and give thanks for the gift of His Son, Jesus, for my family and for each of you.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Bill

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
Rosie Nickle – Ministry Chair

Christian Education Meeting – February 9th
at 7:00p.m.

2012 SUNDAY SCHOOL LENTEN
COMMUNITY BACKPACK SERVICE PROJECT



The Sunday School will again collect items for the Westmoreland Food Bank Back Pack Program. This program fills backpacks on Friday, with snack, for children in need so they have some food over the weekend. Our goal is to collect 400 items to contribute to the program from our POP Family. The collection period is February 22 – April 8, 2012. Items can be dropped at the church any time.

SINGLE SERVING/POP TOP PACKAGES

100% FRUIT JUICE, SPAGHETTI & MEATBALLS, CRACKERS,
FRUIT/APPLESAUCE CUPS, RAVIOLI, BEEFARONI, GRANOLA BARS,
PUDDING CUPS, BEEF STEW, PRETZELS, INDIVIDUAL CEREAL
BOXES, SOUPS/RAMEN NOODLES, TRAIL MIX,
CEREAL BARS, MAC N' CHEESE, RAISINS AND POP TARTS

If you would prefer to make a monetary donation instead of purchasing the above items, envelopes are available near the donation tub.

Confirmation Class – the Confirmation Class has been doing a variety of things to raise money for camp. There will be a soup sale (French onion) this month. We still have about 20 coupon books left. They are a great deal and many local businesses participate. They will be selling pies for Easter.

FINANCE

Dwight Sarson – Ministry Chair

TREASURER'S REPORT

December 2011

CURRENT FUND

Beginning Balance	\$2,562.93
Receipts	\$ 17,977.06
Disbursements	\$ 8,038.95
Ending Balance	\$12,501.04

BENEVOLENCE

2011 Pledge	\$15,500
Amount Pledged to Date	\$15,500
Amount Received to Date	\$14,898.50
Difference Over/(Under)	(601.50)

BUILDING FUND

Beginning Balance	\$25,407.60
Receipts	\$1,544.53
Total Available	\$26,952.13
Less Disbursements	- \$0
Ending Balance	\$26,952.13

OUTREACH
Vickie Onusko – Ministry Chair

Winter is here and the blanket drive will continue until further notice. Please bring in your new or gently used blankets to be donated to those in need. Please place blankets in the bin in the narthex.

Food Pantry – Our Day to help at the food pantry is March 27th. Distribution time is 9-11a.m. Those who can help unload the truck should be there at 7:30a.m. the remaining volunteers should be there by 8:15a.m.

MUSIC AND WORSHIP

Pam Yuhaniak – Ministry Chair

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR FEBRUARY

FEBRUARY 5TH

Greeters: Michael and Carrie Bolyard

Acolyte: Rachel Douglas

Lay Reader: Phyllis Orange

Lay Assistants: Dwight Sarson/Cathie Schall

FEBRUARY 12TH

Greeters: Jim Colaianne/Marlene Walters

Acolyte: Carisa Byich

Lay Reader: Pat Maatta

FEBRUARY 18TH

Lay Reader:

Lay Assistant:

FEBRUARY 19TH

Greeters: Verna Frontz/JoAnn Hauger

Acolyte: Emily Hay

Lay Reader: Sherry Stahl

Lay Assistants: Jim Colaianne/Marlene Walters

FEBRUARY 22ND – ASH WEDNESDAY

Lay Reader: Jen Schaefer

Lay Assistants: Glenn and Sheila Thompson

FEBRUARY 26TH

Greeters: The Schmitt Family

Acolyte: Zachary Jellison

Lay Reader: Pat Maatta

Lay Assistants: Dave and Jenny Bowser

Head Usher for February is Glenn Thompson

Altar Care for February is Sheila Thompson

Note: There will be no bell practice during Lent.

The 2012 Head Usher sign-up sheet is in the Narthex on the Ushers station. Please sign up early to get your desired month. Your willingness to serve in this capacity is greatly appreciated!

The 2012 Flower book pages are now in the notebook on the Ushers station.

STEWARDSHIP

Susann Tschupp – Ministry Chair

God Wants the Best for Us

In his Gospel, Mark tells us the story of a rich man who came to Jesus and asked about eternal life (Mark 10:17-27). The story asks us to see ourselves in the light of this man who came to Jesus. In the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, we discover this person was wealthy, young, and had status and power. According to human achievement, he was successful. Eagerly, he runs to Jesus and kneels before him to ask what he must do to have eternal life. With something missing in his life, he approaches Jesus.

The rich man had to be surprised because Jesus' reply to him was connecting the question of eternal life to the issue of money. Jesus tells him, "*Go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me*" (Mark 10:21). With our understanding of God's Word, this directive isn't overly surprising. One-sixth of what Jesus preached about dealt with money. Jesus knew the attraction and lure that money can have for us.

Another surprise to this story is about a demanding kind of love. Jesus loved the rich man, and He wanted the best for him. Jesus expressed His love by helping him see how his money had become his life. His money was too important to him. Jesus' love was tough and demanding. To help the rich man get what he wanted, Jesus, in love, tells him that his money is interfering with his relationship with God. It was hurting him spiritually. Jesus told the rich man what he needed to hear. The one thing he needed to do to open his life completely and wholly to God was to give his money to the poor. Jesus loved him by allowing him to wrestle with his own incompleteness. The rich man had to decide which was more important to him—his money or following Jesus.

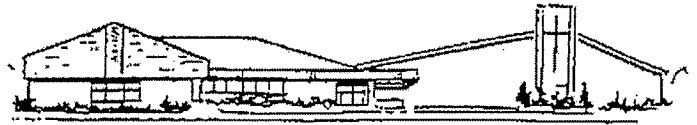
This story is both about money and demanding love. It is a sad story. It is sad because the rich man's money was separating him from a relationship with his heavenly Father. Unfortunately, the thing he wanted the most—his money—was causing his greatest sorrow and separating him from God to a life of condemnation. Jesus asked him to rid himself

from finding his security in his money, but the rich man couldn't do it.

This story should help remind us that happiness and completeness will never be found in our material wealth. Focusing on and placing our security in our money can separate us from trusting and loving our Lord. The more we let go of things in this world the more we will experience God's peace and joy.

Fellowship

Shirley Kelley – Ministry Chair



*1962-2012 50th Anniversary
Living, Learning and Growing in the Word
of God*

50 Years of Ministry – On November 25, 2012, Prince of Peace will celebrate 50 years of Ministry. The First services were on June 3, 1962 and the Congregation was officially formed on November 25, 1962. For 50 years, we have served the people of Lawson Heights, Latrobe, Unity Township and the Synods of Southwestern PA. The committee would like to plan a special event for each month of the year, so this does not have to be a year-long commitment. If you would like to be involved for a certain month, or have an idea you would like to share, contact Vickie Onusko, Shirley Kelley, Pam Yuhaniak, or Pastor Bill.

- The anniversary committee is looking for photos, movies, slides, programs, or any items that would help to archive the history of Prince of Peace. We would like to make a digital "movie" to put onto our web site, and would also like to use these items for our monthly celebrations starting in January. If you have something we could use, please get it to Pastor or to Kellie in the office. If you would like it back, please mark it with your name and phone number so we can return it when we are finished.
- For the Anniversary celebration, Sue Tschupp has undertaken a huge project. She has researched our 50 year history and has recorded important events on a monthly calendar which is on display in the Narthex. Although she has gone to Florida she requests that if you have additions/changes/corrections to the calendar that you please write them down and give them to Kellie. Sue will update the calendar when she returns. She has spent a lot of time and has a system of her own so please do not write on the actual calendar.

If you or someone you know from the congregation is in the hospital or is at home and sick and needs a visit from Pastor Bill, please call the office so that he can schedule a visit. The Pastor is only told by the hospital when a person is a patient if they ask for the church to be notified.

Prayer is an essential part of who we are as a people of God. Below is a list of people from our congregation to keep in your daily prayers. If you know of others who should be added to these lists, please contact the church office with the names.

From our congregation: Julie Zeltner, Bev Guyer, Mary Jane Hayden, Vi McInay, Verna Allen, Shirley Kelley, Dave Williams, Ron Carey, Phyllis Stewart, Norie Schrecengost, R.R. Schmitt, and Shelly McAfoose

Others in need of our prayers: Rev. Susan Luttner, Dan Schaefer, Bill Hauger, Betty Onusko, Nickolas Gehlman, Debbie Gehlman, Mary Jane Bangor, Jane Kerr, Nash Sinchak, Donald Dick, Mary Evelyn and Gene Miller, Cecil Metz, Jim Greene, Helen Lowman, John Horton, Lillian Santone, Matthew Pickering, Gabe Naggy, Jen Carey, Dorothy Layko, Jessica Miller, Jimmy Harris, Robert Semmens, Ken Lenhart, Maureen Black, Maggie Elder, Phyllis Jones, Father Terry Specht, Jason Fabian, Tim Walter and Julia Kozar.

Our Shut-in members: Louise Johns(Emeritus), Frieda Nehls (Nature Park Commons), Helen Albright(at home), Phyllis Stewart (Redstone Highlands), Marie Hill(at home), Betty Felbaum (at home) Barney and Dolores Helfferich (Emeritus), Thomas Washnock (at home) and Violet Myers (Barnes House).

Those in the Military: Sean Stewart, Justin Kowatch, Jessica Miller, Jordan Omlor, Troy Golden, Richard Schall, Erik Sarson, and the 28th Military Police Battalion.

Addresses for Care Homes of our Members

Barnes House

2021 James Street
Latrobe PA 15650

Nature Park Commons

132 Nature Park Road
Greensburg, PA 15601

Emeritus (Green Meadows)

500 Brouwers Drive
Latrobe PA 15650

Redstone Highlands

8 Garden Center Drive
Greensburg PA 15601

Announcements

One of the ministries that happen from my office that goes largely unspoken is my use of the **Pastor's Discretionary Fund**. This year I have drawn upon those funds to help more than a couple families, both from our congregation and those from the community, who are in need of some financial help due to loss of work, medical, or other emergency issues. This fund is slowly becoming depleted and in need of your gifts to help support this ministry. Right now there is less than \$1000.00 in the fund. If you would like to make a donation to this fund to help those from our congregation and others in emergency need, please speak with me. All gifts to this fund and from this fund are kept strictly confidential.

Supporting our own members – Each year we, as a church collect various things to help others. We collect blankets, we have the angel tree, mitten tree, etc. which all goes into the community which is a good thing. A couple times a year we collect food and our last food drive was very successful. The food was divided among three families, one in the community and two from our congregation. This made us realize that we do have some of our own members who could use support through rough times from time to time. So we decided to collect change and food items throughout the year for our own members. When enough change is collected, a gift card will be bought and then given to a member who is in need. The food will be collected until a need arises. If you are in need or know of one of our members who is struggling and could use this help please let Kellie or Pastor know. This information is strictly confidential.

Pennsylvania Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

LIHEAP helps PA citizens pay their heating bills and resolve heating emergencies such as utility termination, no fuel.

LIHEAP offers both CASH and CRISIS grants:

- **CASH grants** (11/01/11-3/20/12) help pay heating bills. Payment is sent to the utility company or fuel provided and is credited on the recipient's bill. In some cases the check may be mailed directly to the recipient. Maximum benefit \$1,000/Minimum benefit \$100.
- **Crisis Grants** (01/03/12-03/30/12) help families with an emergency and are in danger of being without heat (broken furnaces, less than 15 days left of fuel). Maximum benefit \$300/Minimum \$25.

LIHEAP applications available in the Narthex in the rotating rack.

ATTENTION MARRIED COUPLES: When is the last time the two of you did something just for your relationship? Make 2012 the year you resolve to take time to spend a weekend learning how to make your marriage a more intimate, loving, Christian union. Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends run from Friday night at 8 PM to Sunday at 5 PM and are designed to enrich ALL MARRIAGES. There is a \$45 per couple

registration fee; plus toward the end of the weekend, you will be given an opportunity to make a confidential contribution of whatever amount you wish toward continuation of the program. Two nights lodging, 5 meals for each of you, and all supplies are included. The **2012 Pennsylvania Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends** are: **March 16-18 at Toftrees Resort and Conference Center, State College PA** (peaceful resort located in the center of the state), **Apr. 20-22 at Park Inn by Radisson-Sharon, West Middlesex, PA** (a lovely hotel featuring king beds and in-room hot tubs--1 hour north of Pittsburgh), **September 14-16 at Olmsted Mansion and Retreat Center, Ludlow, PA** (a 1917 Manor with beautiful modern retreat center in the Allegheny National Forest -- 20 miles southeast of Warren, PA), and **October 19-21 at The Mountain Laurel Resort, White Haven, PA** (in the beautiful Pocono Mountains just off Interstate 80 -- 2 hrs. north of Philadelphia.) Registrations are limited, so choose your Weekend, and **sign up today** to ensure your first choice. If a conflict arises, you may transfer your registration to any other Weekend that has openings. To sign up, simply go to the website: www.GodLovesMarriage.org and register using your credit card. Or for questions, or if you would like a brochure with a registration form mailed to you, contact Pennsylvania Directors of Lutheran Marriage Encounter, Fred & Julie Schamber, at 724-325-3166 or email: fjschamber@comcast.net.

President's Day Trivia

What U.S. president's State of the Union address lasted a record 81 minutes?

A: Bill Clinton's.

What U.S. president was born William Jefferson Blythe IV?

A: Bill Clinton.

What document did President Andrew Johnson want a copy of placed under his head upon his burial?

A: The U.S. Constitution.

What U.S. president had the shortest life?

A: John F. Kennedy.

What future president was the only U.S. senator from a Confederate state to remain in Congress after secession?

A: Andrew Jackson.

What president's mug graces a \$100,000 bill?

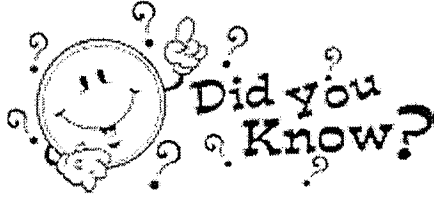
A: Woodrow Wilson.

What future U.S. president received the last rites of the Catholic Church after an infection following spinal surgery in 1954?

A: John F. Kennedy

CONGREGATION AND COMMUNITY CARING...

This page features our members that are doing positive things within the congregation and in the community. If you catch someone being "good" please let Kellie know so they can be featured in this new section.



Engagement

Gerhart / Marchese



NOAH MARCHESE, LAURA GERHART

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Gerhart of Latrobe (Derry Township) announce the engagement of their daughter, Laura Gerhart, to Noah Marchese, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Marchese of Edinboro.

Laura is an alumna of St. Vincent College with a bachelor's degree in communications and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction. She is currently a student at Life University in Georgia, pursuing a dietetics degree and registered-dietitian (RD) certification.

Noah is an alumnus of Franklin-Pierce University with a bachelor's degree in business management. Also a student at Life University in Georgia, he is pursuing a doctorate of chiropractic. They are planning a June 2012 wedding in Latrobe.



"Light A Candle For Those Who

\$390 dollars for the Lutheran Global Mission in Jerusalem supporting existing congregations and funding inter-faith outreach efforts was collected for this project.



J.T. Douglas had a Hat Trick (Ben assisted 2 of them) in the JV game against Altoona on the 23rd of January. J.T. is a player for the first time this year. He is also still a goalie for his travel team. He had a shut-out as a goalie on Saturday the 28th. Quite a week.

Dave Baran's version of Grace Keslar's "Watergate Cake" recipe:

- 1 Box white or yellow cake mix
- 1 box instant pistachio pudding
- 3 eggs
- ¼ cup of oil
- 1 cup club soda or 7 up
- ½ cup of chopped walnuts (optional)

Beat ingredients together well. Bake at 350 for 35-40 minutes (325 if using a glass pan)

Icing:

- 1 box instant pistachio pudding
 - 1 and ¼ cup of cold milk (scant)
 - 8 oz. of Cool Whip
- Beat 2 minutes, spread on cake, sprinkle with chopped nuts if desired. Refrigerate



Blanket Drive – to date we have collected 45 blankets to keep those in need warm this winter. The drive continues until further notice



CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS

PASTOR - BILL SCHAEFER	Finance - Dwight Sarson (532-3020)
President - Vickie Onusko(537-9383)	Outreach - Vickie Onusko - (537-9383)
Vice President - Dwight Sarson (532-3020)	Fellowship - Shirley Kelley - (537-5645)
Secretary - Cathie Schall - (539-7164)	Worship/Music - Pam Yuhaniak (537-5533)
Financial Secretary - Pat Fry (539-7513)	Library - Margy Williams - (539-8704)
Treasurer - Lisa Mentch (309-3264)	W.E.L.C.A. - Shirley Kelley - (537-5645)
Stewardship - Susan Tschupp (219-3893)	Memorial Committee -Pastor Bill/Pat Fry
Christian Ed - Rosie Nickle (539-9488)	Prayer Chain - Ginger Warren (593-7524)
Evangelism - Cathie Schall - (539-7164)	Altar Care - Pam Yuhaniak - (537-5533)
Property/House - R.R. Schmitt (537-3245) Lee Semasko (537-9164)	Funeral Dinner Coordinators- Sheila Thompson - (537-8010)/Ginger Warren (593-7524)



February Birthdays


- 5 Andrew Zidak
- 7 Sophia Amorose
Debbie Rose
Corey Stanko
Aimy Gruebel
Lucas Ray
Susan Sherbuck
- 8 Betty Tomci
Rachel Dahlmann
- 9 Vanessa Roddy
Michael Pavlak
Cameron Wells
Chris Massena
- 10 Dustyn McGinity
James Clegg
Dave Douglas
- 11 Patricia Williams
- 12 J.T. Douglas
- 13 Mark Ridge
Howard Sulzer
Shari Johnson
- 15 Laurie Means
Angeline Schaefer
- 14 Nick Ross
- 17 Mike Ross
Daniel Downing
Lex Hamerski
- 18 Lauren Israel
Sarah Ridge
Chris Kowatch
Patricia Harr
- 19 Nathan Weaver
- 20 Don Warren
Rev. Bill Schaefer
- 21 Megan Smolleck
- 22 George Lindsey
- 26 Garrett Grimm
- 28 Nancy Matheny
Brooke Richards

Baptisms

- 4 Myles Douglas
- 8 Pam Stanko
- 10 William Wood
- 21 Brian Zimmerman
Lara Zimmerman
- 26 Luke Jellison

Anniversaries

- 11 Robert & Bonnie
Hauser
- Bill & Donna Smith




FOLLOW GOD'S EXAMPLE

In a letter to the church in Colossae, the apostle Paul wrote about the importance of forgiveness.

•••• D I R E C T I O N S ••••

To complete Colossians 3:13 (NIV), use the smaller words to fill in the larger words.


gain as or ear van an for give
gave her on it one other he an a

B _____ w _____ h each

ot _____ d _____ give

_____ e an _____ if _____ y

of you h _____ grie _____ ce

a _____ st some _____ .

For _____ as t _____ L _____ d

for _____ you." COLOSSIANS 3:13, NIV

Answers: "Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you." Colossians 3:13, NIV

Happiness is not a destination. It is a method of life. ~ Burton Hills

Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love.

~ Mother Teresa

There are no failures; just experiences and your reactions to them.

~ Tom Krause