

THE RISING N NEWSLETTER

SWAMP EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

275 SWAMP CHURCH ROAD , REINHOLDS, PA 17569

Church Telephone 717 -336-2849 Fax 717-336-2840 e-mail swampluth@dejazzd.com
Eucharist Service 8:00 a.m. Worship service 9:00 a.m. Sunday Church School 10:30 a.m.

F E B R U A R Y 2 0 1 3

Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church is a member of CALM 5 (Cocalico Area Lutheran Ministry). CALM5 is a cooperative ministry with Faith United Lutheran Church, Denver; PA; Mellinger's Lutheran Church, Schoeneck, PA; Muddy Creek Lutheran Church, Denver, PA & St. Paul Lutheran Church, Adamstown, PA

Staff:

Ministers

Congregation

Pastor

The Rev. Dennis L. Trout

Adm. Asst/Sec

Judith L. Sauder

Organist/Choir Director

Susan Kreitz

Sexton

Matthew Lewandowski

Officers of Council

Sue Knauer, President,
David Kupp , Vice Pres..
David Sauder, Secretary
Steve Young, Financial Sec.
Guy Templin, Treasurer
Jim Kidwell, Asst. Treas.

Congregation Council

Roslyn Bansner
Glenn Beard
Lori Gockley
Lori Hagy
Randy Krater
Tom Laudenslager
Don Risser
Heather Weaver
Ray Weitzel



All Lenten Services begin at 7:00 p.m.

ASH WEDNESDAY SUPPER

This year's Ash Wednesday worship service on February 13 begins at 7:00 PM. Immediately preceding the service, worshippers are invited to enjoy a light supper consisting of soup, salad and assorted other foods prepared by the Kitchen Committee. Supper will begin at 6:00. There is no fixed price for the meal. However, donations are greatly appreciated.

2/13 - Ash Wednesday - Swamp - Pastor Dennis L. Trout - Matt 6: 1-6

2/20 - Muddy Creek - Pastor Joe Veras - "Beneath the Cross"

2/27 - Faith United - Pastor Herb Lohr - "Weary Land"

3/6 - St. Paul, Adamstown - Pastor Robert Kramer - "A Rest Upon the Way"

3/13 - Bergstrasse - Pastor Sandy Gideon - "Contrite Heart W/Tears"

3/20 - Mellinger's - Pastor Dennis L. Trout - "Your Shadow"

3/27 - St. John Center - Pastor Timothy Craven - John 13: 21-32

***The offering for the Lenten services will be going to Habitat for Humanity for "the build".

Pax,



Pastor Trout

The shrinking church

When Joyce Gibbs began attending Zion Lutheran in Phillipsburg, Kan., in 1954, the congregation had to set up extra chairs in the aisle during worship services. In 1964 a new building was constructed to accommodate the rapidly growing congregation.

"We were really a thriving congregation. We had good attendance, an active junior and senior Luther League, a couples group ...," said Gibbs, who lives in rural Phillipsburg, with a population of about 2,500.

Today, Zion's average attendance has dwindled to about 50 and Sunday school is now a one-room class with a handful of mixed-aged youth. Lorna Paulus, the pastor who divides her time between Zion and nearby St. John Lutheran Church in Kensington, Kan., attributes the decline to several factors, including the loss of industry in the town, elderly members who have died and lack of young families coming up behind them.

Now, Zion is in conversation with three other rural congregations about merging. "I think for all of us we see it as necessary to our future," said Paulus, who has served Zion for 15 years. "If we don't do something, we won't be here in another generation."

Zion's story is one that echoes across the country as ELCA congregations look for ways to deal with declines in membership and participation.

Nearly 30 percent of ELCA churches reported an average worship attendance of fewer than 50 people in 2010. From 2003 to 2011, average weekly worship attendance dropped 26 percent. And from 2009 to 2010, ELCA membership decreased 5.9 percent, the sharpest rate of decline among mainline denominations, according to the National Council of Churches.

"Since the inception of the ELCA, we've seen decline every year, and it has accelerated over the last five

years," said Elizabeth Eaton, bishop of the Northeastern Ohio Synod. "It doesn't matter where a congregation is situated, we have congregational decline in every demographic, every geography."

It's no news flash that the ELCA is shrinking. But where is everyone going? And more importantly, where do we go from here?

Losing our religion

What we're seeing is not just a backlash against hymnals and pot-lucks. Nearly every U.S. Christian denomination has seen membership declines in the past two years, including Southern Baptists, who seemed invincible in the '70s, '80s and '90s.

And in 2012 the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life reported for the first time that the number of Americans identifying as Protestant dipped below half, to 48 percent. Only Roman Catholics seem to be hanging on, which experts attribute to a growing Latino population.

When it comes to actively practicing religion, which includes worship attendance, the numbers are down across the board. "Of every measure or religious tradition or practice we

track in surveys, none of them is going up," said Mark Chaves, professor of sociology, religion and divinity at Duke Divinity School in Durham, N.C.

"Part of the story is changes in family demographics. The main group that attends church is traditional families and older people. People are marrying later, having fewer kids or having no kids at all. That means the demographic subgroup that typically attends church is a smaller subgroup of the population," he said.

Fifty years ago not only were traditional families more plentiful, but organized religion had more clout.

"It used to be a cultural expectation to say you were going to church. We didn't have to do anything. We could just sort of coast," Eaton observed. "But we're not part of the establishment anymore. The rug has been pulled out under us."

Robert C. Johnson, pastor of Norwood Park Lutheran in Chicago has experienced this within the congregation. "People have allowed Sunday mornings to be crowded with many other things, such as children's sports. Even when activities don't take place on Sundays, people are so tired from Saturdays that on Sundays they just want to stay home and sleep," said Johnson, who sees an average of 30 people in worship, according to ELCA statistics.

Eaton added: "Eighteen- to 35-year-olds aren't seeing church as really relevant to what they need to get done. They want meaning in their lives but don't necessarily see the church as providing that."

Lutherans also face a challenge because of the church's central and northern European roots. When many ELCA congregations were planted, Scandinavians and Germans were migrating to the U.S. in droves. Now, Lars and Gretchen have scattered and neighborhoods have become more ethnically diverse. Meanwhile, churches are still catering to their charter members.

Neil Harrison, director for Renewed Evangelizing Congregations, said, "Too often not only are people out of relationship with each other, but especially congregations are out of relationship with their neighbors and community."

"The Lutheran" - Jan. 2013



LUCILLE LORAH 2/1
 236 FIELDCREST LANE
 EPHRATA, PA 17522

CHARLES WEITZEL 2/9
 EPHRATA MANOR, RM. 120
 99 BETHANY ROAD
 EPHRATA, PA 17522

BETTY HORNBERGER 2/8
 55 W. FRANKLIN STREET
 APT. 403
 EPHRATA, PA 17522

ANNA ROSE SCHANNAUER 2/10
 65 FIELDCREST LANE
 EPHRATA, PA 17522-2913

VERNON SHOWALTER 2/13
 843 N. FOURTH STREET
 DENVER, PA 17517

CAROLYN LESHER 2/17
 DENVER NURSING HOME
 RM. 217
 400 LANCASTER AVENUE
 STEVENS, PA 17578

RAY KAUFFMAN 2/19
 1095 W. ROUTE 897
 REINHOLDS, PA 17569

GRANT BOYER 2/20
 943 FRITZTOWN ROAD
 SINKING SPRING, PA 19608

MICHAEL WARGO 2/21
 178 HOSPITAL ROAD
 WERNERSVILLE, PA 175565

Special Dates

- African-American History Month
- Boy Scout Sunday, *February 3, 2013*
- Transfiguration of Our Lord, *February 10, 2013*
- Ash Wednesday, *February 13, 2013*
- Valentine's Day, *February 14, 2013*
- First Sunday in Lent, *February 17, 2013*
- Presidents Day, *February 18, 2013*
- Second Sunday in Lent, *February 24, 2013*

Dear Rev. Trout and members of Swamp Lutheran Church:

I would like to thank all who are responsible for the Christmas basket filled with all of those goodies. What a treat!

Also, thank you for the prayers, cards, flowers and Rev. Trout's visit.

God Bless,
 In Christian Love,
 Richard Eckenroad

I would like to thank the congregation for the variety basket and all the beautiful Christmas cards. They were all appreciated.

Thank You,
 God bless you,
 Anna Mae Moyer

Thank you to all who donated the lovely basket of "goodies" to Dale for Christmas. He really enjoys the fruit and all that the basket contained. The many cards were read to him and he remembered each person also.

Sincerely,
 Joan Reinecker

Thank you for the fruit basket and all the beautiful Christmas cards and the get-well cards too. Thanks to all of my Swamp family and Pastor Trout.

Delores Becker
 1902 James St. Sinking Spring, PA 19608

Thank you for the Hospitality Basket that was given to me for Christmas. I love fruit and the other goodies that were in it. Thank you also for all the beautiful Christmas cards the congregation sent to me. I enjoyed all of them. Also thank you to Pastor Trout for his visits. I always look forward to them.

Charles Boyer

Thank you to the congregation for the Hospitality Basket and the wonderful Christmas Cards. Thanks for remembering me.

Edwin Kramer

Thank you so much for the Hospitality Basket and Christmas Cards. The basket had lots of goodies in it. Thanks again.

Beatty Hoover

Thank you those who helped me during the Advent and Christmas Season. The Advent Wreath readers – Jen Weitzel, Lowell Haws, Glenn Beard, Michael Wargo, Jim Beard and Greg Diestel.

All the musicians who helped at various times by accompanying choir anthems, providing preludes and anthems – Kylie Kidwell, Rachel Young, Lori Gockley, Jen Weitzel, Deb Sweigert, Abbey Stopper, Doug Kulp, Randy Krater, Matt Sweigart, the Handbell Choir and the Chancel Choir.

I hope I didn't miss anyone, my memory doesn't always serve me well!!

Thanks to all for giving of your talents. I appreciate it!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sue".

Night of Music

I would like to thank all those who played a part in making our annual Night of Music a huge success!

All the participants who shared their gifts.

Pastor Trout for being a marvelous MC for the evening.

Sandra & Lowell Haws and their committee for arranging and serving the delicious refreshments.

Judy Sauder and her helpers for printing the program.

Earl Myers for manning the sound system.

Doug Kulp and the incredible bell ringers.

The awesome Chancel Choir.

Sally Hagy for recruiting the Sunday School Children to sing.

Doug Kulp, Randy Krater, Matt Sweigart, Kylie Kidwell and Rachel Young for providing instrumental accompaniment.

Guy Templin for helping wherever he was needed.

The congregation for their support.

Hope I didn't miss anyone. I'm so sorry if I did!

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sue".

December 31, 2012

Swamp Evangelical Lutheran Church
275 Swamp Church Rd.
Reinholds, PA 17569



EPHRATA
AREA
SOCIAL
SERVICES

Thank you:

On behalf of the board of directors of Ephrata Area Social Services, the staff and those we serve, I want to thank you for the recent generous donation of **food, hats, scarves, underwear and socks** made to EASS.

We are grateful for the continued support shown for EASS and its mission. We are able to do what we do because of your faith and trust in us...

During **2012**, EASS distributed food to **2691** families, helping **8704** people. **3539** people benefited from the Clothing Bank. We provided **1777** rides through the Transportation Service. We also helped **222** New Families, having **589** members. **338** families (**1,054** family members) benefited from our *Emergency Financial Assistance Program (Discretionary Funds)* expending **\$44,788.28** in financial assistance to help with prescriptions, home heating fuel, **electric payments to prevent disconnections** and with emergency overnight lodging.

The mission of Ephrata Area Social Services is *to channel effectively community resources into a network of support for neighbors in need of Human Resources*. With your support we are able to continue meeting that challenge.

We invite you to take a look at our new web site: www.eassinfo.org

Sincerely,

Have a Happy and Healthy New Year

Thomas A. Swalwell,
Executive Director, EASS

The donor received neither goods nor services in return for their donation.

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

227 NORTH STATE STREET • EPHRATA, PA 17522 • 717-733-0345

Requests from the Office:

Please call the church at 336-2849 if:

***You are in the hospital or prior to going to the hospital (or have a relative call for you).**

***You are going to a rehab center or a nursing home;**

***You are confined to your home for an extended period of time because of illness or accident;**

***There is a change in your family status (birth, death, marriage or divorce);**

***You move to a new home, move out of the area, or go away to college or graduate school.**

Please inform the church office if your mailing address and/or telephone number have been changed or you have moved to a new address. The church is charged a fee of \$.75 for each piece of mail that is returned.

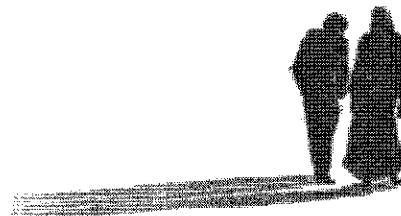
***** As you schedule a meeting or an event of a group, committee or task force of Swamp, please inform the Church Office. In an effort to be open and communicative with everyone we would like to include all scheduling on the Church Calendar and in the Weekly Bulletin. Changes to the routinely scheduled meeting should also be shared with the Church Office. We want everyone who checks out our bulletin or newsletter to see our activities.**

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Committee

- Sue Knauer, President – Youth Ministry & Learning
- David Kupp, Vice President – Scouts & Service
- David Sauder, Secretary - Love, Inc, Constitution
- Steve Young, Financial Secretary
- Guy Templin, Treasurer - Worship
- Jim Kidwell, Co-mTreasurer - Stewardship
- Roz Bansner
- Glenn Beard Helping Hands
- Lori Gockley
- Lori Hagy - Finance
- Randy Krater - Property
- Tom Laudenslager- Property
- Don Risser - Property
- Heather Weaver
- Ray Weitzel - Property

Lenten Hope



Lent is an occasion for us to journey with Christ ... into tomorrow. For you never walk with Christ long but what the dawn breaks, the sun shines and hope breaks through.

—C. Neil Straight

RELIEVE EDITORIAL STRESS:
TURN IN YOUR ARTICLES EARLY!
 REMINDER:
DEADLINE FOR NEWSLETTER ARTICLES IS

FEBRUARY 15, 2013

FOR

MARCH NEWSLETTER

DAFFODIL SUNDAY – MARCH 24th

Name _____

Phone # _____

I would like to order:

_____ Bunch(es) of 10 Daffodils @ \$10.00 each

_____ Vase and a Bunch @ \$15.00 each

_____ Potted Mini Daffodils @ \$12.00 each

_____ Bear and a Bunch @ \$25.00 each

In memory of _____

In honor of _____

Deadline to order is February 18th. Please give your orders to Sue Kreitz or call her at 717-336-3272. Orders may also be mailed to Sue at P.O. Box 76, Reamstown, PA 17567. Please make checks payable to The American Cancer Society or Sue Kreitz

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Bread and Wine Donor:

February Ralph & Dottie Good
 March Randy & Lori Gockley
 April Michael & Kathleen Fink
 May Guy and Sue Templin

Altar Guild:

February Sally Hagy, Julie Witmer
 March Jane Leshner, Linda Mohn
 April Judy Habecker, Kaye Shugarts

Communion Assistants:

February 3
 8:00 AM Linda Ream, Judy Habecker
 9:00 AM Connie Taylor, Deb Sweigart, Eric Showalter, Jake Diestel

February 10
 8:00 AM Connie Taylor, Kathleen Fink
 9:00 AM Guy Templin, Karen Krater, Leslie Diestel, Greg Diestel

February 13
 Michael Wargo, B. Wargo, Guy Templin, Connie Taylor

February 17
 8:00 AM Danielle Witmer, Connie Taylor
 9:00 AM Wanda Maxey, Jan Risser, Guy Templin, Anita Kupp

February 24
 8:00 AM Guy Templin, John Frantz
 9:00 AM Eric Showalter, Deb Sweigart, Debbie Carvell, Connie Taylor

March
 8:00 AM David Borrell, Connie Taylor
 9:00 AM Guy Templin, Anna Sweigart, Michael Wargo, B. Wargo

Crucifer:

January 27
 8:00 AM Connie Taylor
 9:00 AM Leslie Diestel

February 3
 8:00 AM Michael Wargo
 9:00 AM Eric Showalter

February 10
 8:00 AM Chris Zander
 9:00 AM Guy Templin
 Connie Taylor

February 13
 February 17
 8:00 AM John Frantz
 9:00 AM Connie Malafarina

February 24
 8:00 AM Chris Zander
 9:00 AM Greg Diestel

March 3
 8:00 AM Connie Taylor
 9:00 AM Kristen Gockley

Money for Bread and Wine should be given to Guy Templin

FEBRUARY

Acolytes:

February 3
 8:00 AM Allison Witmer, Danielle Witmer
 9:00 AM Corinne Sweigart, Brett Kupp

February 10
 8:00 AM Jonathon Templin, Dakota Moyer
 9:00 AM Cody Leisey, Matt DeBock
 Allison Witmer, Danielle Witmer

February 13
 February 17
 8:00 AM Rachel Young, Allison Witmer
 9:00 AM Taylor Weaver, Sarah Zook

February 24
 8:00 AM Kylee Kidwell, Rachel Young
 9:00 AM Jake Hill, Noah Roseboro

March 3
 8:00 AM Jonathan Templin, Dakota Moyer
 9:00 AM Nathan Keppley, J. Templin

March 10
 8:00 AM Kylee Kidwell, Rachel Young
 9:00 AM Austin Sweigart, Brett Kupp

Banner Bearer:

February 3 Eric Showalter
 February 10 Megan DeBock
 February 13 Corinne Sweigart
 February 17 Brett Kupp
 February 24 Sarah Zook

Lector:

February 3 Wanda Maxey
 February 10 Greg Diestel
 February 13 Jen Weitzel
 February 17 Sue Kittler
 February 24 Anna Sweigart

Hunger Appeal:

January Austin Sweigart, Corinne Sweigart, Sarah Zook, Jonathan Templin

Greeters, 8 AM:

February 3 Glenn Beard, Don Risser
 February 10 Randy Krater, Heather Weaver
 February 17 Ray Weitzel, Glenn Beard
 February 24 Roslyn Bansner, David Sauder
 March 3 Lori Hagy, Lori Gockley

Greeters, February 13:

Council Members

Ushers, 9 AM:

February 3 Roslyn Bansner, David Sauder
 February 10 Lori Hagy, Lori Gockley
 February 17 David Kupp, Sue Knauer
 February 24 Tom Laudenslager, Don Risser
 March 3 Randy Krater, Heather Weaver

Flower Delivery:

Jan. 27, Feb 3 Lori Gockley & Jenn Weitzel
 Feb. 10, 17 Janice Moyer
 Feb. 24, Mar. 3 Fred & Noretta Burke
 Mar. 3, 17 Earl & Irene Myers
 Mar. 24, 31 Mike & Julie Witmer

COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

January 2013

Your Council met Wednesday, January 16, 2013. Highlights include:

Pastor Trout reported that the Habitat for Humanity house build will be held here at Swamp this year on Oct. 5th.

Boy Scouts reported that the sub sale went well with the boys selling a couple hundred subs. Thank you to all who supported this fund raiser.

Service committee reported that they have met with a representative from the Commodity Supplemental Food Program and several members have received training on how to set up the Senior Citizen Food Distribution here at Swamp. They are waiting for the arrival of the shelving to store the food and then will begin the interview process to select qualifying candidates. We will be starting out distributing the 30 meals that the program currently has available, with several options for expansion as the program grows.

Love, Inc. reported that the family currently in the Homes of Hope house had a baby girl on Christmas Day and are doing well. They are scheduled to be in the home until the end of February.

Welcome committee reported that they mailed out 81 cards this month. They are working on the senior citizen banquet and details will be provided shortly. The Prayer Shawl Ministry is going well with 2 new people attending the last knitting and crocheting hour. This is held before each Welcome Committee meeting and anyone is welcome to attend from beginner to novice.

Helping Hands committee reported that they served around 55 people at the funeral luncheon for Gil Ochs. They will be preparing a light meal at 6:00pm before the Ash Wednesday Service on February 13th. They are also gearing up to prepare Holy Week breakfasts again this year the week of March 25th.

Financial Secretary has handed out or mailed the end of year giving statements. If you have not received one or have any questions on the one you received, please contact the church office. Steve Young will then be in contact with you.

Finance committee reported that Lori Hagy and Bob Christy have a meeting scheduled on February 7th with Thrivent to discuss our reinvestment of the money we received from the sale of the Fulton Bank stock. They will then prepare a recommendation to present to Council for approval.

Property committee reported that the Reinholds Fire Company has donated seesaws that they were not using to be installed in our playground. A decision has been made that the new sign will be located in the same spot as the old one, with the new one being installed perpendicular to the road way for easier reading. We have switched to Direct Energy as our supplier of electricity. They are also looking into connecting to natural gas and changing over from heating oil. This would produce a significant savings in our heating of the building. They are looking at repairing of the parking lot as well as having it relined. They made various building repairs around the building this month.

Disaster Response committee reported that they sold out at the spaghetti dinner held last Sunday and made approximately \$1900. They would like to thank all who helped with the dinner or attended for their support.

Worship committee reported that the Ash Wednesday and all the joint Lenten services will be held at 7:00 pm. Maundy Thursday service will be at 7:00 with Good Friday service at 8:00pm. The offering collected at the Lenton services will be going toward the Habitat for Humanity House that we are building with the CALM 5 churches. Our goal is to collect at least \$6000 with these offerings and the individual church contributions so we can submit a request for additional matching funds from Thrivent (approx. \$2000).

Internet committee reported that an additional repeater was installed in the social hall side of the building to increase the wireless service in the building. You should now be able to have service in the entire social hall and other areas at that end of the building that were previously dead spots.

Youth Ministry reported that Sunday February 3rd will be "Souper" Bowl Sunday and the youth are asking the congregation to bring a can of soup and \$1 to church to be donated to the EASS. The youth are also participating in a 30-hour famine on February 22-23 to raise money and awareness for Word Vision's world-wide work with children's hunger.



Earl & Marion Basehore
 Dolores Binner
 Charles Boyer
 Dorothy DeLong
 John Dillon
 Edwin Kramer
 Caroline Leshner
 Ray Long
 Dale Reinecker
 Alice Schannauer
 Lela Trout
 Walter Weinhold
 Charles Weitzel
 Maryanne Weitzel

Dolores Becker
 Elmer Kopp
 Anna Mae Moyer



Choir Rehearsal

Choir Schedule during Lent
Wed. Feb 10 - 7 pm
Ash Wed Feb. 13-
Mon. Feb. 18 6:45 p.m.
Mon. Feb. 25 6:45 p.m.
Mon. March 4 6:45 p.m.
Mon. March 11 6:45 p.m.
Mon. March 18 6:45 p.m.
Mon. March 25 6:45 p.m.



Edgar Gress
 Dolores Binner – Ephrata Hospital
 Stacey Mixell - Wife of Mike Mixell
 Carol Speicher – Cousin of Judy Sauder
 Ray Long
 David Maxey
 Robert Moyer
 Hunter Leisey
 Richard Eckenroad
 Charles Boyer
 James B. Miller
 Elmer Kopp
 Linda Martzall
 Donald Strohl – Friend of the Crowthers
 Robert Witmoyer – Nephew of Doris Kopp
 Robert Lowrie – Hershey Med. Center - Friend of Connie Taylor
 Becky Christman – Friend of Cindy Golden
 John Maicher – Friend of Connie Taylor
 Donna Schalata - Mother of Katie Koehle
 Frank Acri – Friend of Judy Habecker
 William Badedar – Friend of Byron & Sheila Reedy
 Beverly Lenharr – Friend of Jim Hickernell & Family
 Jim Kilhefner – Brother-in-law of Ann, Jim & Jeff Hickernell
 Paul Lyons – Father of Anita Phipps & Brother of Janice Moyer
 Gary McQuate – Relative of the Long Family
 Brogan Golbreth
 Marlene Boyer
 Lorraine Beck – Friend of Jodi Showalter

(Please let us know when we can remove people from the sick and shut-in list. We do not always get an update on their condition).

ASH WEDNESDAY SUPPER

This year's Ash Wednesday worship service on February 13 begins at 7:00 PM. immediately preceding the service; worshippers are invited to enjoy a light supper consisting of soup, salad and assorted other foods prepared by the Kitchen Committee. Supper will begin at 6:00. There is no fixed price for the meal. However, donations are greatly appreciated.

HELLO DISASTER RESPONSE VOLUNTEERS

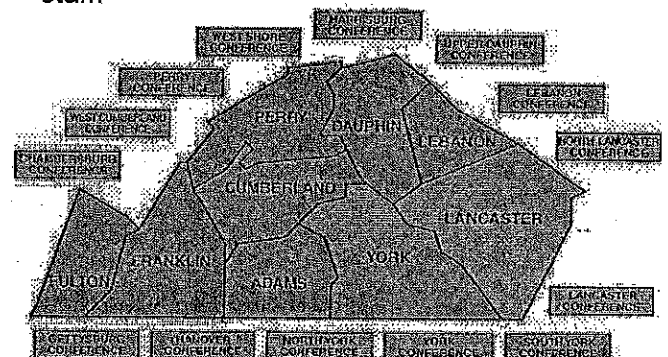
North Lancaster Conference Disaster Response trip will take place April 28th – May 4th. We will be returning to Minot, North Dakota, where more than 3500 homes still need to be repaired following the devastating flood of 2011. You are invited to take part in this trip and lend a hand to so many in need. This will be the second time our conference group has travelled to Minot and we are looking forward to another very rewarding week. Anyone interested in being part of the trip must submit the registration forms and a deposit of \$150 to Pastor Glenn Beard by February 3rd. Deposit checks should be made out to: "North Lancaster Conference Dean's Fund." There will be a meeting on Sunday, February 3rd, at Trinity Lutheran Church, New Holland, at 2:00 p.m. If you are unable to attend the meeting you can still take part in the trip; just be sure to be in contact with Pastor Beard at 721-7978 or gbeardjr@ptd.net. Hope Village Volunteer Packets are available in the church office.

LWR SOAP COLLECTION

During the month of Feb. the Service Committee will collect new bars of bath size soap. These bars of soap will be distributed to people throughout the world who do not have access to necessary hygiene products. A simple bar of soap can give someone dignity, keep hands clean and help them to stay healthy. In 2011 Swamp donated 400 bars of soap and last year we gave 250 bars to LWR. Let's get our numbers up again in 2013! This soap collection is part of the LWR Ingathering which takes place in October. Thanks to all for your donations.

Lower Susquehanna Synod A few quick facts:

- **Is one of 65 Synods of the **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**. We are clustered with seven other synods in Region 8.
- **Has about **111,000 baptized members** in 238 congregations and one synodically authorized worshipping community. The synod is organized into 14 conferences.
- **Has an average congregational worship attendance of **107 people**.
- **Received offerings of **\$3.06 million** in undesignated Mission Support from its congregations in 2011. \$1.41 million (46.5%) was sent to the ELCA for churchwide ministries.
- **Supports agencies and institutions of the Lutheran church, including outdoor ministries at three camps, social ministry and higher education at seminary and college.
- **Is partnered with the **Konde Diocese** of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.
- **Has **436 rostered** leaders, 227 of which are clergy, 21 are other rostered leaders; and 188 are retired.
- **Has an office located in **Harrisburg, Pa.** In addition to the bishop, this synod's staff currently includes two bishop's assistants, a director for children, youth and family ministry, a director for administration, a director of resource ministries and six support staff, two of whom are part-time. Serving alongside this staff are a volunteer vice president, a volunteer treasurer, and a director for evangelical mission who is deployed ELCA staff.



Lower Susquehanna Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

SWAMP LUTHERAN CHURCH

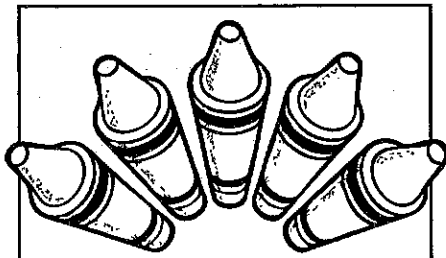
2012 TREASURERS REPORT

	December	YTD Total	Budget
INCOME			
ENVELOPE FUND AND SIMPLY GIVING	\$ 23,490.50	\$ 210,971.39	\$ 22,506.17
LOOSE OFFERING	\$ 3,392.00	\$ 29,886.63	
CHURCH SCHOOL	\$ 65.00	\$ 600.24	
TOTAL INCOME TOWARD BUDGET	\$ 26,947.50	\$ 241,458.26	\$ 270,074.00
DISASTER RESPONSE	\$ 705.97	\$ 8,367.64	
FLOWERS AND BULLETINS	\$ 326.50	\$ 2,596.75	
DESIGNATED RECEIPTS	\$ 1,578.48	\$ 13,606.52	
MEMORIALS		\$ 1,065.00	
MATCHING FUNDS & RETURNS	\$ 848.00	\$ 6,989.97	
DINNERS		\$ 1,635.00	
NONCASH CONTRIBUTIONS		\$ 961.54	
FIRE DONATIONS		\$ -	
CAPITAL FUND DRIVE	\$ 87.00	\$ 6,675.00	
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	\$ 343.11	\$ 143,711.31	
INCOME TOTALS	\$ 30,836.56	\$ 427,066.99	
DISBURSEMENTS			
BENOVELENCE	\$ 2,083.37	\$ 26,200.44	\$ 25,000.00
SAMARITAN COUNCILING CENTER		\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
LUTHERCARE		\$ 4,115.00	\$ 4,000.00
OTHER BENOVELENCES	\$ 1,807.00	\$ 6,726.12	\$ 3,390.00
LEARNING	\$ 301.47	\$ 5,899.65	\$ 7,100.00
WELCOME		\$ 1,353.96	\$ 1,200.00
STEWARDSHIP		\$ -	\$ 200.00
SERVICE	\$ 75.00	\$ 1,424.39	\$ 1,000.00
WORSHIP	\$ 52.90	\$ 4,604.51	\$ 5,395.00
PROPERTY	\$ 1,013.00	\$ 13,440.48	\$ 6,790.00
YOUTH MINISTRY	\$ -	\$ 3,488.33	\$ 800.00
STAFF EXPENSES	\$ 10,631.29	\$ 121,040.22	\$ 123,530.00
STAFF BENEFITS	\$ 10,053.40	\$ 49,433.76	\$ 44,594.00
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES	\$ 2,214.12	\$ 72,897.33	\$ 19,775.00
OPERATIONS OF PROPERTY	\$ 9,741.50	\$ 42,278.61	\$ 26,300.00
TOTAL BUDGETED ITEMS	\$ 37,973.05	\$ 353,902.80	\$ 270,074.00
UNBUDGETED DISBURSEMENTS			
BENEVOLENCE - ACTION FUND	\$ 1,450.00	\$ 4,850.00	
DISASTER RESPONSE	\$ 3,566.98	\$ 9,887.70	
MISCELLANEOUS NONBUDGETED		\$ 620.03	
MATCHING FUND PAYMENTS		\$ 1,640.00	
FLOWERS/ REIMB EXP	\$ 751.63	\$ 5,690.81	
RESTORATION/REBUILDING		\$ 38,657.87	
PAID MEMORIALS		\$ 4,102.08	
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$ 43,741.66	\$ 419,351.29	
ACCOUNT BALANCE PREVIOUS MONTH	\$ 193,639.00		
TOTAL RECEIPTS CURRENT MONTH	\$ 30,836.56		
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS CURRENT MONTH	\$ 43,741.66		
ACCOUNT BALANCE CURRENT MONTH	\$ 180,733.90		
This amount includes the following:			
Bible Study Group Money		\$ 78.00	
Personal Choir \$15.40 & Bell Choir Money \$26.32		\$ 41.72	
Memorials		\$ 72,672.72	
*TOTAL INCLUDED IN CHECKING		\$ 72,792.44	

The Newsletter®

ACTIVITIES PAGE

VOLUME 35, NUMBER 2



Crayon Heart

Make heart-shaped crayons as a reminder that the things of God should be written on our hearts.

What you need:

- An adult to help
- Oven
- Oven mitt
- Heart-shaped silicon mold (available at craft stores)
- Old crayons

What you do:

1. Heat oven to 230 degrees.
2. Remove paper wrappers from crayons. (This is easier if you soak crayons in cool water first.)
3. Break crayons into small pieces. Place pieces into heart-shaped mold, filling them about two-thirds full.
4. Bake for 15 minutes or until crayons have completely melted.
5. When the heart-shaped crayons are cool, remove them from the mold.

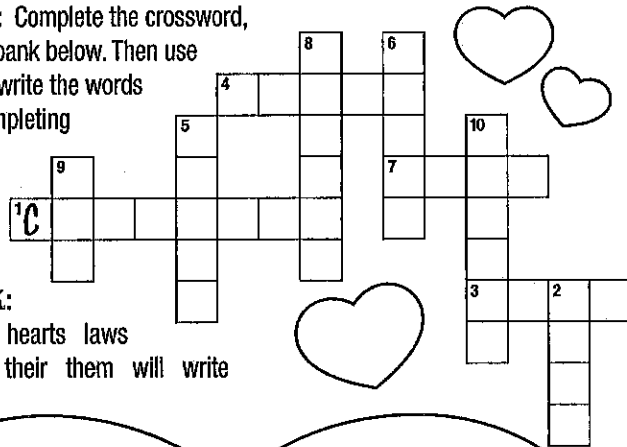
[KID0213A]



ON THEIR HEARTS

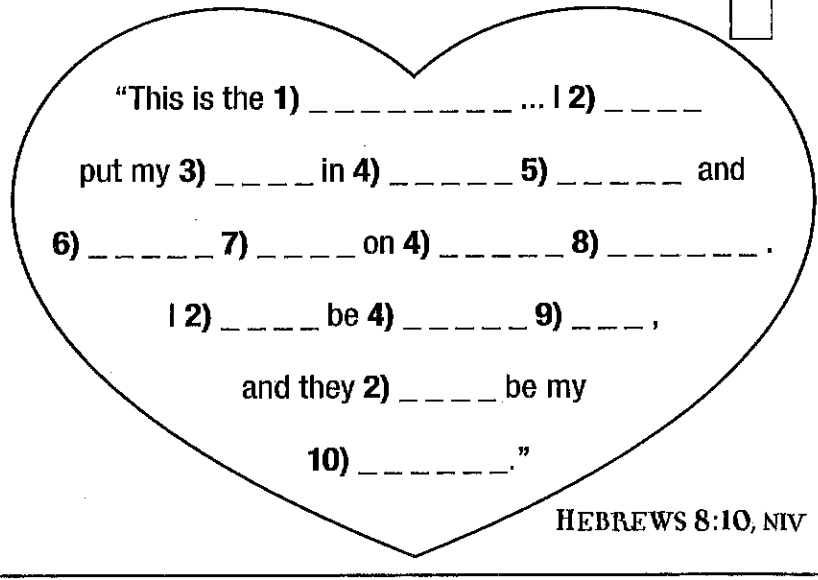
God made a special promise about a relationship he wants to have with people who love him.

DIRECTIONS: Complete the crossword, using the word bank below. Then use the numbers to write the words in the heart, completing God's promise.



WORD BANK:

covenant God hearts laws minds people their them will write



HEBREWS 8:10, NIV

Answer: "This is the covenant ... I will put my laws in their minds and write them on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people."
 Hebrews 8:10, NIV

[NOTE: A completed puzzle is in a file called KID0213BB on this month's CD and on the website, www.NewsletterNewsletter.com.]

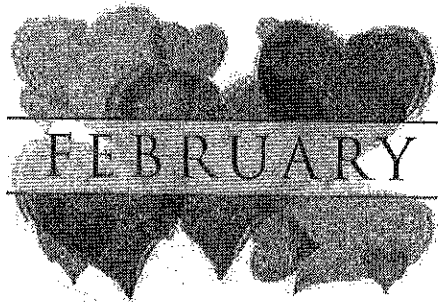
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FEBRUARY 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	JANUARY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	MARCH S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31			1	2 The Presentation of Our Lord Social Hall Rented/Beard Groundhog Day
3 4 th Sunday after the Epiphany (Green) 8 & 9 a.m. Eucharist 10:30 Sunday School Food Bank Souper Bowl	4 Scouts – 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm	5 Worship Mtg. 6:30 pm Welcome and Service Mtg. 7:00 p.m.	6 Chancel Choir 7:00 p.m.	7	8	9
10 Transfiguration of Our Lord (White) 8 & 9 a.m. Eucharist 10:30 Sunday School Lincoln's Birthday	11 Scouts – 6:30 pm Handbells 7:30 pm	12 Bible Study 7:00 pm	13 Ash Wednesday Lenten Meal - Eucharist Service 7:00 pm Chancel Choir	14 Valentine's Day Women's Bible Study – 7:30 p.m.	15	16
17 1 st Sunday of Lent (Purple) 8 & 9 Eucharist Service 10:30 Sunday School	18 Chancel Choir 6:45 pm President's Day/	19	20 Lenten Service Muddy Creek 7:00 pm.	21 Council Mtg. 7 pm	22 Social Hall – Set-up for Pinewood Derby	23 Pinewood Derby Can Collection Ambulance Bldg. 9-Noon
24 2 nd Sunday of Lent (Purple) 8 & 9 Eucharist Service 10:30 Sunday School Disaster Relief Offering	25 Scouts 6:30 p.m. Chancel Choir 6:45 p.m. Handbell Choir 7:30 p.m.	26	27 Lenten Service Faith United 7:00 pm	28 Women's Bible Study – 7:30 pm		

**SWAMP EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
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"Return Service Requested"



L E T T E R

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