

The Messenger

March 2011

SUNDAY, MARCH 6 COMMUNION

We will celebrate the **Sacrament of Holy Communion** on Sunday, March 6, during our regular Sunday Worship Service at 10:30 am.

MARDI GRAS BRUNCH

Come on out, y'all, to a bit of "NawLeans"-style celebratin'. On *Sunday*, March 6, Mardi Gras (also known as *Fat Tuesday*) is arriving just a bit early. Our Youth Group is serving up a delicious Mardi Gras Brunch after our worship service. See the article in the *Youth Group* section to check out the menu and more.



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9 TWILIGHTER'S MEETING

The Twilighters will meet on March 9 at 12:00 pm for a covered dish lunch. Bring your appetite and come for some friendly fellowship.

LENTEN SUPPERS AND SERVICES

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 9. We will again prepare Lenten suppers prior to our services on the Wednesday evenings during Lent. These light meals will be shared in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 pm. We will then gather at 7:00 pm in the church to reflect on God's sacrifice and gift of life and our response to his act of redeeming love. A sheet is on the table in the narthex for those who will volunteer to prepare meals. Our Lenten meals and services are open to everyone and we welcome you to come and join us. Whether you can come for supper or not, please gather with us for worship.

SUNDAY, MARCH 13 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS

Wake up, sleepyhead! Yes, it's that time again when we lose an hour of sleep. Daylight Savings Time begins on March 13. Remember to set you clock ahead so you don't miss a word of Pastor's message!!

WEDNESDAYS IN MARCH

The Kids Choir will still practice at 6:30 pm on Wednesdays in March. We will just keep it moving so that we can be finished before the Lenten Worship Services begin at 7:00 pm.



Children's Choir

OPERATION SNOWFLAKE

If our Worship Services need to be cancelled due to bad weather, please tune in to radio stations WARM, Magic 93, 97BHT, 97.9X, or JR93.7.

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From The Pastor's Desk

Here it is the end of February and I'm off to the beach! No – I'm not going to Florida – I'm going to Maryland. You see, I don't go to the beach for the sun and sand and ocean. I go just to get out of town for a few days. I do have some plans with some friends and Archie plans to work on taxes, so we will both have our own kind of fun. When I return I'll be ready to jump right into Lent.

Hopefully some of you are planning to come to the Wednesday evening Lenten suppers and services. If you can sign up to be responsible for one of the dinners it would be greatly appreciated. We just need something light and easy. The purpose is not to show off your culinary skills but to show love and care for your brothers and sisters in Christ. Supper will be at 6 with a service at 7.

The kids and Marc and I have had fun planning the Mardi Gras brunch for March 6. There will be lots of good food and fun decorations and games to enhance your enjoyment of the day. Come prepared to have a good time and support the mission trip the kids plan to take this summer.

I'll sign off now and go home to get ready to leave tomorrow. Pray for us while we're away and we will pray for you. We will return very soon rested and ready for whatever God sends our way.

God bless!

PASTOR PENNY

Our Condolences

It is with deep sadness that we offer our sympathy to Sharon Moyer and her family, and especially to her mother, Ann, on the passing of her father, Bob Williams, on February 7. Many of us remember Bob and Ann singing in our choir. We will miss Bob's quick smile and laughing eyes.

Thank You

Each month, thank you letters will be posted on the Bell Tower Bulletin Board from Bethany Children's Home, Lancaster Theological Seminary and Phoebe Devitt Homes. We have divided our budgeted annual benevolence gifts to these institutions into monthly installments to help us meet our goal for each of them. Please take the time to read these letters which explain how your gifts benefit them.

Valentines for Vets – Cindy Heller again delivered the Valentines to the men and women at the Veterans Administration Hospital. They especially appreciate that they are remembered by our children, many of whom created their own cards to give.

Sharon Moyer would like to thank everyone for their expressions of sympathy, phone calls, cards and prayers for her family after her dad passed away.

Caroline Cronic would like to thank everyone for their cards, calls and concern during her recovery from knee surgery.

Jim Dean would like to thank those who sent cards and showed support for him and his family during his hospitalization and surgeries.

Thanks to Steve Moyer for donating the coat rack outside the Conference Room.

CONGREGATIONAL CORNER

TWILIGHTERS

The Twilighters will meet on Wednesday, March 9, at 12 noon for a covered dish lunch. Bring your favorite dish and spend some time with us. Call Lois Eigenbrod or Mary Eroh for more information about our group.

HOMEMADE SOUP SALE

Since the Soup Sale on Feb. 6 was a great success (profit of \$917 – yeah!) *and* since the cold weather is hanging on *and* we need to warm up our bones, we're doing it all over again on April 2!! Please sign the sheet on the tables in the narthex or next to the fellowship hall door for orders of Vegetable with Hamburger, Chicken Noodle, and Potato soups. Each quart container costs \$5 each. We have extra sheets for you to sell to your neighbors, friends and family and anyone else you can think of.

Women's Fellowship – Camille Daniels is organizing a Women's Fellowship for all women of our church and community. If you are interested in becoming a part of this group, please see her for more details.



EASTER OFFERING

For many years our church has gathered a special offering for Easter which has been used to support our denomination's local institutions: Bethany Children's Home (\$150), Lancaster Theological Seminary (\$250) and Phoebe Devitt Homes (\$150). Any amount over the \$550 needed to fulfill these gifts is used to offset our offering to Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) which we have budgeted at \$1,500. Please notice that this is a special offering in addition to our regular envelopes which are intended to support our General Fund or Building Fund. With that understanding, we hope you will give generously to our church and also to the organizations we support.

Sunday School News Easter Party

Our Sunday School Easter Party will be on Saturday, April 23, from 10 am to 12 noon. Each child should bring six candy eggs for the egg hunt and a basket or paper bag to collect their eggs. We will also be making a craft and, of course, painting toast. A light "breakfast" (cereal, fruit, etc.) will be served.

Lisa Rinehimer

YOUTH GROUP

MARDI GRAS BRUNCH

Our Youth Group is serving up a delicious Mardi Gras Brunch after our worship service on March 6. They will tickle our tastebuds with helpings of Broccoli Quiche, Quiche Lorraine, chicken fingers, hash browns, a genuine Creole rice dish, fresh fruit and, of course, donuts. Our Fellowship Hall will be decked out with beads and baubles and the air will be filled with the vibes of zydeco music mixed with some Bourbon Street blues and Creole rhythms. There's fun for the kids (and kids at heart), too. We've got all the feathers, beads and glitter to create your own special, individual, one-of-a-kind Mardi Gras mask. All this fussin' is to raise funds for the Youth Group mission trip this summer. They'll be looking for your donation to help them on their way, so open up your hearts (and wallets and purses) to help them help others. ***Y'all are welcome to join us and bring everyone you know to come and enjoy a bit of the Big Easy.*** See y'all on Bourbon Street!

WEIS GIFT CARDS

The Youth Group has come up with a way to raise funds for their treasury without selling the usual hoagies, pizza, candy, etc., etc. Instead, we will be able to purchase Weis gift cards for \$25 which can be redeemed for \$25 worth of groceries, paper products, cards, knick-knacks, or whatever Weis Markets is selling. It's a great idea since you get exactly what you want and it doesn't cost any extra. The gift card plan will provide \$50 to the Youth Group for every \$1,000 cards sold. There are sign-up sheets on the table in the narthex and next to the Fellowship Hall doorway. They are also looking into gift cards from other grocery stores and may be able to offer them sometime soon.

Marc Davis

YOUTH ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Honor Rolls are out and we've got a great group of really intelligent youth! (Really!)

Crestwood High School:

Principal's Honors: Kimmy Bernetski, Rachelle Heller, Kelly Madigan

High Honors: Eric Rinehimer, Justin Rinehimer, Allison Bernetski, Courtney Kania, Alecia Myers

Honors: Glynis Dean, Sam Dauber

MMI Honors: Keegan Farrell

Holy Redeemer Honors: Meredith Martin

CROP WALK UPDATE

Walkers from our local Wapwallopen Ministerium churches participated in our Crop Walk on October 3, 2010. We raised \$1,092 which was forwarded to Church World Service to help alleviate hunger here and in many countries around the world. The way they help us is by allowing us to direct a portion of our donations to local community organizations. In our case, that means that the Wapwallopen Ministerium Food Bank received \$273 to help people in our own community. Thank you to all the walkers and those who supported them and made this donation possible.

PICTURE PERFECT

Check the front entrance bulletin board for the following pictures:

Our Boy Scouts took center stage on our bulletin board this month. There's plenty of pictures of their activities. Pack 433 and Troop 434 are chartered by Emmanuel.

Who says it's too cold outside? Definitely not the scouts of Troop #434. They took part in the 4th annual Two Mountains District Polar Bear at Camp Acahela on February 11-13. Look for Hunter Rinehimer among those braving the winter temperatures. They learned many skills and participated in outdoor activities such as fire building, compass skills, first aid and even constructed King Tut's final home. (I didn't know the King was looking for a new home.) The boys are also shown in a separate picture preparing for the Polar Bear Camp on February 5. Hey, Ron – did you warm up yet? Ron Rinehimer is one of the Scout Masters.

Cub Scout Pack #433 enjoyed roller skating at Skateaway recently. They received a roller skating patch for participating in this activity.

Scout Sunday is pictured which we recognized on February 6. It was great to have the scouts of Cub Scout Pack 433 and Boy Scout Troop 434 taking part in our worship service.

NEWSLETTER INFO DEADLINE

The deadline for information for the April Messenger is Monday, March 21. Please get all information to me before this date. Thanks, Denise

COMMITTEE MEETINGS **CONSISTORY**

The Consistory will meet on Thursday, March 17, at 6:30 pm.

Flapjack Fundraiser

On Saturday, March 19, from 8 am to 10 am, fill up on flapjacks at Applebees in Wilkes-Barre and support Candy's Place, the Center for Cancer Wellness. JoAnn Kotarsky is taking reservations and you can contact her at 417-5384 for tickets and more information. Your \$5 donation will help "Team US" in the 14th Annual Rainbow Walk. You will also receive a \$3 coupon for a future visit to Applebees.

The following is from Candy's Place website, cancerwellnessnepa.org:

"Although medical advances have been made towards the dedication and treatment of cancer, little emphasis has been placed on the recovery and re-healing of cancers physical and emotional aspects, and most importantly, the quality of life issues before, during, and after cancer treatment.

Candy's Place neither receives state or federal funds and it is not a United Way member agency. Candy's Place solely relies on good friends like you in our community who support us financially because of a strong belief in the work Candy's Place is doing. We also apply for community, county, state and private grants. Most of our funding comes from individual and corporate donations, and from the several annual fundraising events that we hold throughout the year such as our Rainbow Walk."

UPCOMING DATES

Apr 2 Soup Fundraiser
Apr 16 Turkey Supper
June 4 Yard Sale
June 5 Men in Harmony Concert
June 18 300 Club and Silent Auction

VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE **MARCH 2011**

March 6

Greeters: Dave and Rosemary Myers
Liturgist: Jill Bernetski

March 13

Greeters: Don Myers and Carol & Robert Duffy
Liturgist: Jim Stewart

March 20

Greeters: Justin and Eric Rinehimer
Liturgist: Meredith Martin

March 27

Greeters: Frank and Joan Partington
Liturgist: Sharon Moyer

OUR CLEANING VOLUNTEERS
Dave & Rosemary Myers
Clifford & Gladys Readler
Diana Decker
John and JP Jankowski

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

2	Jane Rinehimer	14	Devin Stein	28	Samantha Kotarsky
3	Carey Hoffman	16	David DeLuca	29	Amanda Bickham
7	Jason Mellas	21	Lisa Caffrey	29	Joe Huntzinger
7	Cindy Heller	24	Deven Kamat	29	Lois Huntzinger
7	Dorothy Hoyt	26	Brad Frey	31	Gwen Sakowski
9	Reece Mylet	27	Connie Miller	31	Michael Supkowski
9	Gloria Schreyer	28	Brian Heller	31	Bethany Newell

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

March 20, 1982.....Bob and Helen Heller

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