

Building Bridges To God

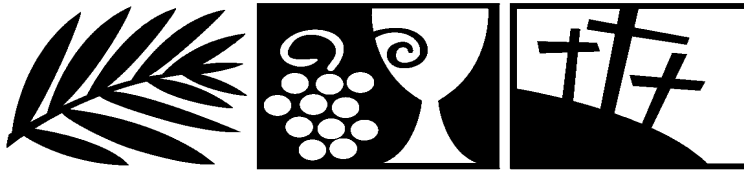


Through the Cross of Christ

EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

February 2010

The Newsletter Ministry of All Saints Lutheran Church



Please Join Us !!

Wednesday Night Lenten Services

Beginning Ash Wednesday - February 17th

6:15 Soup and Sandwich

7:00 Service

Sign up sheet is up on board to bring soup. Everyone, please bring your own sandwich, and each week someone volunteer to bring soup to share.



February 7th we will be collecting donations for "Souper Bowl of Caring", to help those needing food. Funds collected will be given to Lutheran Social Services Food Bank, as we have done in the past.



From your Pastor.....

Perhaps you should think twice about Lent this year...

Do you really *want* to be here for our Wednesday Lenten services? Careful, it could be *scandalous!*

Let me explain. As St. Paul puts it in 1 Corinthians 1:23, there's something odd about this story of *Christ crucified* (the heart and core of our Lenten reflection). "We preach Christ crucified, a *stumbling block* to Jews and *folly* to Gentiles." Actually, the word Paul used for *stumbling block* could more simply be rendered '*scandal.*'

At a time when people want religion to be *reasonable* and *socially acceptable*, our friend Paul claims that the Christian faith is nothing less than a *scandal!*

Do you want to be a part of this *scandal...* the *scandal of the cross?*

If you're daring enough, join us on Wednesday evenings for soup at 6:15 and stimulating worship at 7:00 p.m.

We'll be using the Gospel of John this year for our inspiration. Here's a quick outline of our themes and readings:

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|
| • ASH WEDNESDAY, Feb. 17 | John 3:1-12 | The Scandal of Rebirth |
| • WEDNESDAY February 24 | John 1:43-51 | The Scandal of Witness |
| • WEDNESDAY March 3 | John 2:12-22 | The Scandal of Belief |
| • WEDNESDAY March 10 | John 6:53-58 | The Scandal of Sensuality |
| • WEDNESDAY March 17 | John 5:21-27 | The Scandal of Heaven on Earth |
| • WEDNESDAY March 24 | John 12:25 | The Scandal of Self-Hatred |
| • MAUNDY THURSDAY April 1 | John 13:1-17 | The Scandal of Servanthood |
| • GOOD FRIDAY April 2 (8 p.m.) | John 3:13-15 | The Scandal of Crucifixion |
| • EASTER SUNDAY April 4 | John 20:24-29 | The Scandal of Doubt |

A special highlight this year will be video segments from the Gospel of John. I think you'll enjoy this series...if you dare to confront the scandal!

Pastor Rich





January 18, 2010

Dear Pastor Rentner:

It was a great blessing for me to be a part of your worship service at All Saints Lutheran Church on Sunday morning, January 17, 2010. The warm and gracious reception on the part of you and your church was genuinely felt and appreciated.

You and your congregation's love for the Word is obvious. The offering that was given in the amount of \$50.00 is evidence of what we consider to be a partnership between All Saints and The Gideons International in providing God's Word to a lost world. Please know that these funds will be used in their entirety to provide Scriptures in the traffic lanes of life. Certainly we can pray for searching hearts to be touched - and for souls to be saved - by way of these Scriptures.

Thank you especially for your gracious hospitality and your prayerful support of the Gideon work. We pray that you continue to enjoy God's abundant blessings for yourself, your family, and your ministry in the days ahead.

Sincerely Yours In Christ,

Don E. Niederhauser
Toledo East Gideons
The Gideons International

As we all wait to see who will win the Super Bowl this year, we also look forward with anticipation as thousands of young people across the country join together to demonstrate God's love and compassion to those in need in our communities. With our nation's economy in crisis, this year's Souper Bowl of Caring on February 7 presents us all with the timely opportunity to step out in faith. We can all do our part to provide help to charities who are struggling to support our neighbors who are hungry and hurting.

On Sunday, February 7th, please contribute to the "Soup Bowl". Proceeds will be given to the Lutheran Social Services Emergency Food Bank as we have done in the past.



To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for all the help with this Christmas season, it is greatly appreciated from me and my family.

God Bless to all of you and may you have a Blessed Holiday.

Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

Marge, Chelsea and Zack



Lady Saint's News

Fourteen ladies met on Saturday, January 9 at 9:00 AM at the church. The hostesses were Gretchen Schultz, Sue Merkel, LaVerne Bussdieker and Judy Reber. The food was delicious and the table done in blue and silver was very attractive. President LaVerne Bussdieker opened the meeting with Sue Merkel reading a comforting message from ***Psalms New*** for devotion.

The minutes from the December meeting was accepted with no changes

Secretary Marilyn Gabriel read "thank you" notes from the McCullum family and said there was a phone call from the Young family also. A suggestion was made to have the families names given earlier next year, so the people buying the gifts have more time to buy before Christmas.

Sue Merkel said she would get a card to send to Bev Rose for the death of her ex-husband, Jim Rose.

The topic of a retreat was mentioned and discussed and it was voted to defer the subject until Spring.

Thanks to Gretchen for table decorations and thanks to all who helped with the quilt show.

Meeting was closed with the Lords Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marilyn Gabriel
Secretary/Treasurer

Ladies present: Rose Thomson, Mary Lou Houle, LaVerne Bussdieker, Ann Miller, Eloise Way, Lynda Meyer, Wilma Lupe, Kathy Yarger, Joan Moomey, Laura Myers, Judy Reber, Marilyn Gabriel, Sue Merkel and Gretchen Schultz

YOUR VEGETABLE GARDEN

Find out how & when you can prepare a garden that will feed you and your family with some healthy organic foods you can grow. Learn to set up a spring garden schedule and ideas that will help you change gears with the seasons. Find out how you can enjoy a harvest of vegetables before others get theirs planted! Lots of information - getting seeds started, weather elements & cool-season varieties to grow. Seed varieties provided.

Leader: Vicki Gallagher. Limit: 25.

SUNDAY - FEB 7

2:00 - 4:00 pm

FEE: \$10.00

For more information, call 577 Foundation at (419) 874-4174

Drive Thru Living Nativity

The Drive-Thru Living Nativity Committee is asking if anyone would like to donate a plastic storage tub to store our Christmas lights, it would greatly be appreciated! We need about 4-5 storage tubs.

Thank you !!

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

“Thrivent Financial members invited to join in \$3 million Helping Haiti effort.”

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans members who want to make a financial contribution to support disaster response efforts in Haiti can have their donations to one of four Lutheran relief agencies multiplied by the fraternal benefit society.

To participate, visit www.thrivent.com/helping-haiti and make a contribution to one of the following:

Lutheran World Relief
ELCA Disaster Response
LCMS World Relief/Human Care
WELS Committee on Relief

Thrivent Financial will add \$1 to every \$2 its members donate, up to a total Thrivent Financial contribution of \$1 million. That means a potential of \$3 million or more to support relief efforts: \$2 million + from its members and \$1 million added by Thrivent Financial.

For questions or alternative ways to donate through this program, please call 800-236-3736. When promoted, say "directory" and enter ext. 83003.

ECUMENICAL BEREAVEMENT



PLEASE NOTE:

The Ecumenical Bereavement Support Group must cancel the February 2, 2010 meeting at the Holy Family Center at St. Patrick of Heatherdowns. There will be a meeting on March 2, 2010. For more information or questions, please call Susie Waible at 419 704-4641

Thank you,
Sincerely in Christ,
Susie Waible (for Rita Hoff)
Bereavement Ministry Coordinator
St. Rose Parish, Perrysburg

Council Meeting Minutes for December 10, 2009

All members were present and the meeting was held at Pastor Rich and Sue's home as part of the annual Council Christmas get together. Ted led the devotions.

The November's Council minutes were approved as written via email.

Budget is going very well. Total income is at 99.3%. It was originally projected to have about a \$33,000 deficit. The Finance Committee and Council thank the Congregation for their dedicated support during this difficult economic time.

President's Report: Tim encouraged all to continue to get involved in one of the Bible Studies. He also asked that we ask friends and family to participate in the 15th Annual Drive Through Living Nativity.

Pastor Rich had no report.

Committee Reports:

Coffee Hour will be on December 13

Lady Saints December 12

Nominating Committee was discussed. Rose Thomson and Judy Reber are up for re-election and both have agreed to run for 3-year terms.

Executive Committee will stay the same for 2010. The Council's Annual Retreat will be held on Saturday, January 30, from 9-4 at the 577 Foundation in Perrysburg.

Year-End Reports are due December 15.

It was noted that several local churches have been broken into and we were reminded to please remember to lock things up and be aware of your surroundings.

New Business:

Ted stated that St. Paul's has had a troubled relationship with the Synod for quite some time.

Ted suggested that we dedicate some time at either the next Council meeting or Council Retreat to discuss advertising ideas. All agreed to this.

A motion was received from the Finance Committee to approve Bob Krueger as the new Financial Secretary. All Council members approved the motion and we thanked Bob for agreeing to take on this task.

Meeting adjourned and we joined our families for dinner.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bonnie Driver

Secretary to Council

FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS

ACOLYTE

Feb. 7 Isabelle Merkel
Feb. 14 Samantha Merkel
Feb. 21 Isabelle Merkel
Feb. 28 Samantha Merkel

GREETERS

Rose Thomson
Rebers
Barb Mougie
Tim & Amy Merkel

READER

Sue Merkel
Donna Stockmaster
Norm Merkel
Rick McCann

COMMUNION PREP/ASSIST

Feb. 7 Jim & Diana Burkhardt
Feb. 14 Judy Grimes & Dorothy Grove
Feb. 21 Barb Mougie
Feb. 28 Gretchen Schultz & Bev Rose

MONTH

February

ALTAR

Ann Miller

MEDIA

Don Sundby

SOUND

Mike Okoneski

COUNTERS

Feb. 7 Mary Lou Houle & Carole Johnson
Feb. 14 Rose Thomson & Marilyn Gabriel
Feb. 21 Pat Toepfer & Ann Miller
Feb. 28 Mary Lou Houle & Carole Johnson

OFFERING

Feb. 7 Bonnie Driver
Feb. 14 Judy Grimes
Feb. 21 Judy Reber
Feb. 28 Mary Lou Houle

USHERS

Feb. 7 Bob Krueger, Ralph Fritsch, Jim Ter Doest, Hassan Brown
Feb. 14 Tim Merkel, Ralph Fritsch, Bill Reber, Hassan Brown
Feb. 21 Bob Krueger, Ralph Fritsch, Jim Ter Doest, Hassan Brown
Feb. 28 Tim Merkel, Ralph Fritsch, Bill Reber, Hassan Brown

Happy Birthday to:

2/2 Dwight Mauer

2/6 Jim Both

2/13 Maxine Gorsuch

2/15 Barb Moungie

Happy Anniversary to:

2/5 Bonnie & Dave Driver - 27 years

2/15 Darlene & Tom Stokes - 36 years

All Saints Lutheran Church
5445 Heatherdowns Blvd.
Toledo, OH 43614
www.allsaintstoledo.org



February
2010 Newsletter