

## FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Somerset, PA 15501

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# Faith's Blessings



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## From The Pastor....



FEBRUARY 2010

Well, in January I promised that there would be some "surprises" in the New Year. I was thinking about things like Chrismons and *Holy Moses!* in worship, and the potential of new dynamics that new members on Council can bring. Little did I realize that I would enter the new year "handicapped" by a broken arm resulting from being hit by an H3 Hummer while crossing the street to make a hospital call!

Until I regain use of my arm, I am not able to drive, which hampers my ability to do visitation. While there are members willing to help me with transportation, I find arranging visits on my own time to be quite a challenge, let alone factoring in a driver's time as well. Pr. George has graciously gotten me to Somerset hospital on a regular basis. Our Lay Communion Distributors normally take care of January visits (some stepped in to finish what I could not get to at Christmas, as well), and I am grateful that I can rely on them. I hope that in February, after therapy, I can get back to both Home Communion calls and more general visitation.

Faith Lutheran Church continues to impress me with the love and care of Christ that you are willing to share. The week after my accident, you sent supper in to us, ready to serve, for the whole week! So many of you called to check on me, and I know that a host of you refrained from calling for fear of "disturbing my rest"! Even our shut-ins have been calling to check on me! I thank every one of you for your faithful prayers - they make a wonderful difference! God has been good to me, and I am very grateful.

As your pastor, I am an "easy target" for your outpouring of love and concern. I know you share the same care for others in the parish, but maybe we could work on some ways to make sure we can reach out to those in need on a consistent and equal basis. WELCA has their "Secret Prayer Partners," and the Prayer Circle is often in use. This is good! But who "falls through the cracks," so to speak, and what more can we do to take care of each other? Would *you* care to work on that with me? Give me a call!

Faithfull yours in Christ,  
*Pastor Ardelle*

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**FAITH NEWS . . .**

**ADDRESS CHANGES:**

Emily Nist  
522 Main St., Apt. 4  
Berlin, PA 15530  
Phone: 289-3680

Arica Rose  
1000 Westpointe Drive  
Apt. 201  
Pittsburgh, PA 15205

M/M Shane McCusker  
173 Cober Road  
Somerset, PA 15501



**VALENTINE PARTY**

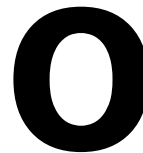
**February 13, 2010  
at 6 pm**

We will have a covered dish dinner in the Parish Hall to celebrate Valentine's Day and to honor our "Golden Club," which includes our members who are 80 years of age or older. Our bell choirs will provide entertainment! Come and enjoy the evening as we honor those who have spent so many years serving the Lord!



***Souper Bowl***

On the first Sunday in February, the Senior Youth will again collect canned goods and money for the Somerset Food Pantry and the World Hunger Appeal. As many Americans indulge in "Super Bowl" parties, this is a good time to remember the many people who actually go hungry!



**BLOW ON THIS CIRCLE**

If it turns blue, call the doctor.  
If it turns brown, call the dentist.  
If it turns purple, see a psychiatrist.  
If it turns red, see your banker.  
If it turns black, see your lawyer and make out a will.  
If it remains the same color, you are in good health and there is no reason why you should not be in church next Sunday.

*Submitted by  
Ruth Luse*

**Upcoming Events**

Date	Event	Action Required
FEBRUARY 1, 2010	Committee Night	Attend
FEBRUARY 7, 2010	Souper Bowl of Caring	Participate
FEBRUARY 8, 2010	WELCA	Attend
FEBRUARY 13, 2010	Valentine Party	Attend
FEBRUARY 16, 2010	Pancake Supper	Attend
FEBRUARY 17, 2010	Ash Wednesday Service	Attend



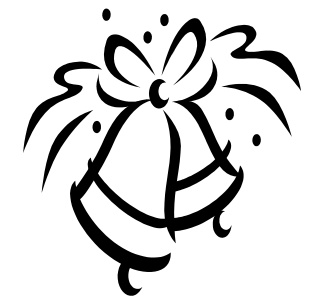
**Birthdays**

Danielle Shaffer  
Thelma King  
Thomas Walker  
Chrissy Lee  
Jay Zerfoss  
Jean Shaffer  
Alexis Simmons  
Hannah Brant  
Evan Custer  
Gavin James  
Kristi Helmick  
Joseph Heil  
Judith Brant

Kathy Trimpey  
Levi Friedline  
Melissa Harding  
Tara Tweardy  
Fred Gross  
Helen Weigle  
William Bowers, III  
Shirley Weimer  
Robert Cober, Sr.  
Nancy Heil  
Audrey Hankison  
Craig Mauer

**Anniversaries**

Mr. & Mrs. Donald Raupach





**SEQUANOTA UPDATES**

Thanks to many individuals and congregations we ended 2009 with only \$889 less in operating funds than we began with in January 2009. In the last few months, through generous gifts, we eliminated almost all of the projected \$20,000 deficit. Thank you.

Sequanota's sled riding hill is ready for use. Our 2009 Summer Staff, while on camp for the Staff Reunion over New Years, tried the hill out and said it would be awesome, if you have sleds. Old mattresses did not make the best sleds!!!

Dinning Hall restroom addition. After reviewing building code regulations and the permitting process we are moving toward a stand alone restroom building connected to the Dining Hall with an enclosed fire proof walkway. We may be able to break ground this spring or early next fall.

Marketing effort in 2010 to attract more midweek bookings: We are compiling a list of non profits, non Lutheran churches, and businesses that might be looking for a retreat or meeting facility like the Enrichment Center. If you have groups to suggest please call or email us at camp. We are applying for a tourism grant and planning a promotional effort in the spring.



**PANCAKE SUPPER**

Our Senior Youth will observe the day before Lent begins with a Pancake Supper. On Tuesday, Feb. 16, from 4:30-7, they will serve pancakes, sausage and other good stuff in the Fellowship Hall. A freewill offering will cover the cost of the supper and fund ongoing Senior Youth activities. Our kids had such a great time at the National Youth gathering that they are already planning ahead to cover the cost of sending a new delegation in 2012!

But, why a Pancake Supper?

The day before Lent begins goes by a number of different names. Shrove Tuesday has English roots and has to do with the practice of confession, penance, and absolution in preparation for the Lenten Season. Germans call it "Fastnacht Day," and fry donuts in oil or lard. Mardi Gras, of French origin, is a last occasion for celebration and indulgence before beginning Lent, the season of repentance and self denial as we focus on Christ's passion and sacrifice for us.

The day is also simply known as **Pancake Day**. One of the traditional Lenten observances, similar to the Jewish traditions surrounding Passover (when observant Jews clear all remnants of any kind of "leavening agents" from their homes), is for Christians to give up meat, fat, and/or sugary treats for the season of Lent in remembrance of Christ's sacrifice for us. Pancakes (and the doughnuts of the German tradition) use up the remaining supplies of fat and lard and butter before the Lenten fasting begins.

**ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS**

Watch for meetings to reorganize and/or train people for ministries such as Home Communion Deliverers, Readers, and Worship Assistants. If you would like to be included in any of these ministries and are not currently serving, please contact Pr. Ardelle.



**FEBRUARY 2010**



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1  Committee Night, 7 pm	2	3  Choir, 7:30 pm	4 Weekday, 9-11:30 am	5	6
7 <i>5th Sunday After Epiphany</i> Souper Bowl Sunday 6:30- <b>See Through the Scriptures</b>	8  WELCA, 7 pm	9	10 Children's Bell, 6:30 pm Adult Bell, 7 pm Choir, 7:30 pm	11 Weekday, 9-11:30 am  Council Mtg. 7 pm	12	13 Valentine Party, 6 pm  
14 <i>Transfiguration of our Lord</i>  6:30- <b>See Through the Scriptures</b>	15	16 Pancake Supper 4:30-7 pm 	17 Ash Wednesday Service, 7 pm 	18 Weekday, 9-11:30 am	19	20
21 <i>1st Sunday In Lent</i> 2nd Offering Sun. March Newsletter Deadline 4:30 Soup Supper 5:30 <b>Holy Moses</b> 6:30 <b>See Through The Scriptures</b>	22	23	24 Children's Bell, 6:30 pm Adult Bell, 7 pm Choir, 7:30 pm	25 Weekday, 9-11:30 am	26	27
28 <i>2nd Sunday In Lent</i> WELCA BOLD Woman Day 4:30 Soup Supper 5:30 <b>Holy Moses</b> 6:30 <b>See Through The Scriptures</b> 7 pm Sr. Youth	<b>THE SECOND OFFERING SUNDAY IS LUTHERAN DISASTER RELIEF: HAITI</b>					

**IN MINISTRY IN FEBRUARY**  
We thank the following people for their ministry this month:

**ALTAR GUILD**

Susan Friedline & Keri Friedline  
Susan Friedline & Keri Friedline  
Susan Friedline & Keri Friedline  
Susan Friedline & Keri Friedline  
Susan Friedline & Keri Friedline

**ACOLYTES**

Megan Helmick  
Jordan Palumbo  
Jennifer Fisher  
Brittany Will  
Mike Sulkowski

**GREETERS**

Chris Brant Family  
Tomalee Will & Judy Brant  
Shirley Weimer  
Lois & Denise Custer  
Wendell & Nancy Heil

**READERS**

Audrey Walker – Isa. 6: 1-8 (9-13), Ps. 138, I Cor. 15: 1-11  
Tomalee Will – Exod. 34: 29-35, Ps. 99, 2 Cor. 3: 12—4:2  
Katey Rose - Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17, Ps. 51: 1-7, 2 Cor. 5:20—6:10  
Elby Walker - Deut. 26: 1-11, Ps. 91, Romans 10: 8-13  
Larry Rhoads - Gen. 15: 1-12, 17-18, Ps. 27, Phil. 3:17—4:1

**ASSISTING MINISTERS**

Bill Hoffman, II  
Darren Walker  
Brenda Maust  
Katey Rose  
Wendell Heil

**DISTRIBUTE BULLETINS**

Chloe Miller  
Jennifer Fisher  
Jackalynn Derry  
Zachary Fike  
Zac Friedline

**COLLECT COMMUNION CUPS**

Corey Miller & Chloe Miller  
Tyler Fisher & Jennifer Fisher  
Jackalynn Derry & Jack Loeffert  
Travis Fike & Zachary Fike  
Jeb Friedline & Zac Friedline

**COUNCIL PERSON IN CHARGE**

Jeanetta Shaffer

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**SEE THROUGH THE SCRIPTURES**

Crossways International offers an excellent Bible Study that gives a good, solid introduction to the Bible. It ties together the major themes of the Bible, and helps us to understand the Scriptures that Jesus received and gives insights into the changes in interpretation that Jesus gave to the foundational Jewish Scriptures. Please call the church office to sign up, so that enough materials can be ordered. The Church will cover the cost of the books, but if you would like to help with the cost, the price per book is about \$14.00. Please join us!

**Council Elections**

At the January meeting, Council elected officers as follows for 2010:  
 President: Dave Walker  
 Vice President: Tomalee Will  
 Secretary: Brenda Maust  
 Treasurer: Chris Brant  
 (Dave warned us that he will **not** be available to serve as president next year, as his term on council ends in December! But we are grateful for his capable leadership for this year!)

Welcome to our new Council and to our new officers. May God continue to bless the ministry of Faith Lutheran under your leadership!



**ASH WEDNESDAY**

On Wednesday, Feb. 17, please join us in the Sanctuary for a service of Holy Communion and Imposition of Ashes. Ash Wednesday begins our 40 day Lenten journey of repentance and reflection as we prepare to celebrate the Festival of the Resurrection.

The ashes are prepared by burning the palms from last year's Palm Sunday observance. They are a reminder of how quickly our best laid plans and intentions turn to "ashes" and we fall back into old patterns of sin. We are reminded of our mortality and of our need for a savior, which we are graciously given in Jesus Christ.

May our Lenten journey continually drive us back to Christ, so that we, too, might share in his Resurrection to eternal life!

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
 2009 TREASURER'S REPORT

	Dec.	2009 Totals	Previous Month
Current	19,125.70	128,900.00	15,725.21
Benevolence	293.50	10,352.00	1,143.00
Missionary Support	37.00	2,601.00	352.00
Building/Maint.	424.00	8,036.00	1,057.50
Misc. In/Out	9,479.00	65,792.08	1,926.55
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>29,359.20</b>	<b>215,681.08</b>	<b>20,204.26</b>
			2009 Proposal
EXPENSES			
Total Ministries	233.10	7,830.47	7,750.00
Operating	2,536.81	18,862.23	20,000.00
Payroll			
Total Payroll	8,952.93	85,971.44	90,920.00
Outreach			
Total Outreach	2,094.50	17,709.84	15,000.00
<u>Maintenance</u>	1,824.51	19,556.85	19,000.00
<u>Misc. In/Out</u>	1,502.23	60,723.23	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>17,144.08</b>	<b>210,654.06</b>	<b>152,670.00</b>
ASSETS			
General Checking			\$17,182.34
Computer Lab			\$50.00
Savings (Emergency Fund)			\$2,864.92
Savings (Pastors Disc. Fund)			\$69.85
CD (3.94% 9 month)			\$0.00
CD (1.95% 13 month)			\$7,000.00
Memorial Funds			\$2,049.81
Camp Scholarship			\$6,699.81

### BURY THE ALLELUIAS

During the Lenten season, Lutherans traditionally sound a more somber note. The purple color for the season reflects its penitential nature. Hymns tend to be more serious and subdued, in contrast to the hymns of festival seasons such as Christmas and Easter.

In preparation for this change, we will end our last service of the Epiphany Season (Transfiguration Sunday, Feb. 14) with a rite called "Bury the Alleluias". We will sing out the alleluias a final time, and then fold up and put away an Alleluia banner until we celebrate the Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

The ashes for Ash Wednesday are traditionally made by burning last year's Palm Sunday palms. You are invited to bring any palms you may have saved from last year to this final service before Lent begins.



### SECOND OFFERINGS

Due to the extreme devastation in Haiti as a result of the recent earthquakes, we will receive special offerings designated for Lutheran Disaster Response: Haiti in both January and February. Lutheran Disaster Response had staff working in Haiti so the ELCA response began immediately. \$250,000 in aid is already on its way and the goal is to send at least another \$500,000 in aid as soon as funds are available. Lutheran Disaster Response tends to use local resources to distribute materials and sends 100% of donations received to meet the needs, so that their record in reaching those in need tends to be very good. Thank you for your support!

### *Holy Moses!*

Check out our schedule for Lent! *Holy Moses!* promises to be an exciting way to explore the relationship between the Law and Moses, and the Gospel in Jesus Christ. *Holy Moses!* with its focus on the Exodus will lead naturally to the celebration of the Seder on Maundy Thursday.

*Holy Moses!* is a series of Chancel Dramas that will be at the center of our Sunday Night Lenten Worship Services. Thanks so much to the many people who have agreed to read parts, and thanks to the Senior youth who will be creating props to carry it out. Since we begin each gathering with a meal we thank all those who will prepare the soup and other food. Join us for an informative and fun evening!

Each Sunday Night we will begin at 4:30 pm with a light soup supper. (We will be looking for a team of three volunteers each week: individuals, families, or couples. Two would provide a pot of soup (checking to be sure that they are different) and the third

would provide bread for the evening. This team would set tables and clean up after the meal for their week. Watch for a sign-up sheet in the entrance of the church!) We will then move to the chancel for Worship at 5:30 pm, using *Holy Moses!* Those who wish to stay for Bible Study using *See Through the Scriptures* are more than welcome! (See article on *See Through the Scriptures*.)

Offerings taken at the *Holy Moses!* services will be divided between the Food Pantry and the World Hunger Appeal.

### FAMILY MINISTRY TEAM

Pastor George will soon begin to schedule visits with families to introduce the family ministry team concept and to invite participation. The Family Ministry Team will work alongside existing committees to coordinate efforts to serve the needs of parents, children, and young couples. If you would like to be in the initial "wave" of visits, please call Pr. George at 233-4367.