

Pastor Carl's Castings

One thing this winter weather has taught me is to see what is constant amidst all the changes. I noticed, with thanksgiving, that the technology of today has let me work from outside the office so that not all deadlines were lost to the weather and other interruptions.



But I also noticed the presence of another technology, so long lived it could be said to be eternal. I could have suffered some from the greater absence of face to face contacts due to bad weather. Instead, God made many things happen for the better. Yet I only knew how hard God was working to keep us connected by using daily prayer to hear God speak, reading scriptures to stay familiar with

God's ways, and by interrupting myself often to begin what I could in fellowship first, with God. Sometimes *that* was the hardest work I had to do.



Technology—it means the ways we can connect and advance things with others. God's technology, not new, except in how surprisingly effective, reliable, and loving it always is, lasts as the best of all technologies we can use. And it is the most important. God knows. It was good for others--

Ephesians 5:20—"giving thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (NRSV). But it can be wonderful to be surprised by this anew ourselves, I've been finding.

How about you? These frustrating, even dangerous winter weather interruptions—are they increasing your use of God's technology. It



is the best network, and the only one that does this—brings us life! I hope that whatever this February brings, we will find ourselves in ‘prayer position’ gratefully, and frequently also reading God’s living, life-giving word. May the Word be with us magnificently, keep us safe, and lead us boldly in this adventure our faith helps us follow Jesus into.

I am looking forward to seeing even all of us, and some friends and family, too, on February 6th for our Annual Meeting, Part II. These are such important times for conversation that can lead to increased sharing and partnership, as well as joy. Want to share in these good things, and good times? Perhaps you would consider inviting someone who would not otherwise come, to attend with you. The agenda and reports should be to you shortly, so that you can come with questions and perhaps celebrate our God’s goodness to and through us to others. God’s technology—it’s wonderful, and it’s pure GIFT!



In the love and peace Christ brings among us,

Pastor Carl Wenzel

HAVE YOU SEEN IT?

In the corner of the overflow area is a future hospitality serving station. Many thanks to Daniel Rohrbach who made the bureau so usable and nice.

A PASTORAL NOTE

Please call the church office or Pastor Wenzel if you would like to schedule a home visit or receive communion at home. If you need to contact him in the event of an emergency, Pastor Wenzel’s cell phone number is 610-223-6555, (please note: he will not be able to answer the cell phone when visiting in the hospital).

HOSPITALIZED

Here are the appropriate codes assigned to us by the respective hospitals in Allentown and Reading. Lehigh Valley Hospital and St. Luke's Hospital – 282; Reading Hospital – 512; St. Joseph's Hospital – LU 60. You can use these codes if you are undergoing elective surgery or you can call the chaplain's office at each hospital and ask them to list you under our congregation's code for that institution.

Service Opportunity:

Starting early this year, we would like to get a group of volunteers from St. John's to work on a local "Habitat for Humanity" project. Everyone age 16 and above is welcome to participate. Construction skills are not required; they will find tasks that you can do. Stay tuned for future announcements with more details coming soon. If you are interested in participating or have any questions, please contact Randy Rentschler at 610- 944-0761 or the church office.

Memorial Fund

In Memory of Judith Tice

Eleanor Berger
David Dare
Otto and Joyce Esenwein
Jim and Denise Greco
Howard Haferty/Raylon Corp.
F. Gregory Fox and Rickey Holtzapple
George and Sally Heimerdinger
Jasper and Winifred Ho
Dwight and Barbara Pennigton
Ronald and Linda Schappell
Janice Shirley
Anna Smith
Robert and Susan Ziegenfus

Applying Bible Principles

One of the most striking accusations the Lord Jesus made when He was on earth was to label someone a hypocrite. Time and time again, He criticized the Pharisees and others for their hypocrisy. They said one thing but did something entirely different. They fit the description used by Zig Ziglar who said, “A hypocrite is one who is not himself on Sunday.”

That’s perhaps what the Apostle Paul had in mind when he wrote to Timothy: “And whoever does not provide for relatives, and especially for family members, has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.” In other words, to give credence to Christianity, to give lip service to following Christ and to trusting in Him as Savior and Lord, and then to fail to provide for our own family, is hypocrisy. To do so, in reality, is to deny our faith and to be considered as someone who has no faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and no interest in spiritual matters.

It seems like such a small thing — relatively speaking (pun intended) — that Paul is exhorting Timothy to do. Provide for your own household, your own relatives. Take care of those under your care. Minister to those closest to you as a demonstration of your Christian faith.

Yes, we are to give to His ministry here at St. John’s Lutheran Church. Yes, we are to be involved in ministering to others “on our own” and as part of the outreach of this church. But we are also to provide for our own families. We are also to minister to them and to care for them, for by doing so, we demonstrate the practical reality of our Christian faith. We thereby avoid the label of hypocrite since what we say is what we do.

How’s the balance in your life? Are you providing for the needs of this ministry and those of your household? As a result, do others (especially your family) see Jesus in you?

- *Stewardship Committee*



Day Care Highlights

Happy New Year to all of you from the staff, children, and parents of St. John's Daycare!

So far 2011 has been lots of fun. We began January by making snowmen and having snowball fights out of paper because Brrr, it sure has been cold outside! In addition to covering letters M, N, and O, we talked about how Winter is different than Fall.

The children visited the Book A saurus. Mrs. McGonigle's class visited the Kutztown Manor to entertain and spread some New Year cheer to the residents.

On January 19th we wore our PJs to Daycare, ate breakfast, and listened to Pastor Wenzel tell us a story. He even ate breakfast with us in his PJs.

We ended the month talking about Alaska, Eskimos, Penguins, Polar Bears, and more!

We wish you all a warm and cozy February!

- *St. John's Daycare*





Preschool News

Mrs. Leibensperger's 4 Year Old Class

The month of January was very busy in Preschool. Our letters this month were M, N, and O. Our number was 5, and our special color was white.

The special themes this month were "Mittens", Polar Animals, Penguin day, the 5 senses, "What is Snow and Ice?" and Dinosaurs.

We learned many new fingerplays. Our hall is decorated with the children's beautiful artwork. Hopefully we won't have any more snow days, but the color of the month was white!

Upcoming events: March – Candy sale, Book fair, Open House.

We are taking registrations for the 2011-12 School Year – 3 and 4 year old classes. If you would like information, call Jane at 484-769-5068.

Yours in Christ,
Jane Leibensperger

St. John's Bible Study group meets Thursdays at 9:30 AM in the Council Room

We're always looking for new people to join us, so as your schedule allows consider meeting us as we study God's Good Word, fellowship, and pray together.



**Next Meeting February 10th, 2011
“Valentine Gift Bags”**

**7 PM Fellowship prior to 7:30 PM Meeting
In the Fellowship Hall**

On Feb. 10th the Women of the ELCA will be filling Valentine Gift Bags for our shut-in members. St. John’s Women of the ELCA has done this for many years. Last year we filled 27 bags. Each bag contains 12 or 14 different food items plus a craft and a personalized valentine. The big smiles and gracious thank yous make this a very worthwhile project. But we do need help from the congregation. We are asking the congregation for monetary donations to purchase the small food items we put in the bag. Donations can be given to Judy Hilberg, Casss Bieber or the church office. Thank you in advance.

***St. John’s
Women of the
ELCA***



On Sunday February 6th, 140 million Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship, and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal. Please join young people around the country as they demonstrate God's love by loving their neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It's a simple, yet significant act of caring for others. Drop \$1 (or more) in the soup pot as you leave worship on February 6th. The Senior Youth Group will also be selling soup in pint and quart containers after each service. Those who need help may not know that you cared, but God will. And our young people are developing hearts for giving that can last a lifetime. Please support their efforts. Proceeds will benefit Friend, Inc.

Redner's Save-A-Tape Program

St. John's participates in the Redner's Save-A-Tape Program. By collecting receipts and sending them to Redner's Corporate office, we can earn 1% of the totals. Each person should stop by the store office or Customer Service area to get a Save-A-Tape card. Each time you shop at Redner's with your card, your receipt will be designated as a Save-A-Tape receipt. Please place receipts in the box in the coat area. We appreciate the funds raised through your efforts in saving your Redner's receipts!

WOW! LOOK AT YOU GROW!

Did you ever wonder why some churches are growing? Please join me Sunday mornings beginning January 9th in the sanctuary for conversations from 9:15-10:15 am. On January 9th we will ask about a growing church—and begin a study of its God-given gifts for its members and the community. If you're interested but unable to attend that day, drop me a note/email about your interest, even questions.

What is: Theology With A Twist?

Hot topics, refreshing conversation with friends old and new.

**Kutztown Tavern, 272 W. Main St., Kutztown
Tuesday, February 8**

Jim Siburt, Director of Technology LTS

The Wired Podium: Visual Culture and the Signs of Our Time

INCLEMENT WEATHER

In case of inclement weather please check WFMZ TV or online, or on WLEV or WEEU radio stations.



Thank You!



Dear St. John's,

Thank you for the beautiful poinsettia which Mary Krumanocker and Mrs. Mertz brought to me. Also, thank you to Pastor Carl for his visit and for bringing me communion with prayers.

Lillian Baldwin

Dear Members of St. John's,

Thank you for the Get Well Card you sent me when I was in the hospital, and thank you Pastor Wenzel and Joe Piscitelli for visiting me. It was good to see you and talk. After being hospitalized 3 times it was wonderful to go home. I received a very thoughtful surprise when Anna Herman delivered the beautiful altar flowers presented by Paula Kutz. Thank you Anna and Paula. We love flowers, and they lasted so long.

Bruce Carr

Dear St. John's,

Thank you so much for the lovely poinsettia plant delivered to me by Anna Herman. I enjoyed it very much.

Fern Fulton

Dear St. John's,

Thank you so much for the lovely altar flowers. They were much appreciated.

Kenneth Mertz

February Sponsorships

The following people are scheduled to sponsor bulletins, candles and flowers during February:

BULLETINS

2-6	Open
2-13	Open
2-20	Open
2-27	Tomasi family

CANDLES

2-6	Open
2-13	Paula Kutz
2-20	Elmer High
2-27	Kelly Spohn

FLOWERS

2-6	Mary Krumanocker
2-13	Shirley Williams
2-20	Shirley Herring
2-27	Amy Lindenmuth

Please complete the sponsorship form and submit it along with your payment to the office at least one week before the date of your sponsorship. To ensure proper credit on your giving statement, please submit a form to the office.



February Birthdays

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|----------------|--|----------------|--------------------------------|
| Feb. 1 | Jonathan Schappell | Feb. 21 | Colby Reitenauer |
| Feb. 3 | Doreen Boyer | Feb. 22 | Sharon Davis
Melissa Miller |
| Feb. 4 | Kimberly Schroeder | Feb. 23 | Paul Leimbach |
| Feb. 6 | Matthew Qualio | Feb. 24 | Clair Stump |
| Feb. 10 | Carol Burian | Feb. 26 | Patricia Rentschler |
| Feb. 13 | Jean Leimbach
Lorraine Dries | Feb. 27 | Jenna Spohn |
| Feb. 14 | Harry Miller
Brook Snyder | Feb. 28 | Suzanne DeTurk
Brian Miller |
| Feb. 15 | Ruth Kern
Diane Fenstermacher
Michael Burian | | |
| Feb. 16 | Kiersty Boyer
Elizabeth Mest | | |
| Feb. 17 | Shirley Herring | | |
| Feb. 18 | Joyce Leibensperger | | |
| Feb. 19 | Fern Fulton
Wendy Fenstermacher | | |

If you notice that your birthday or the birthday of someone you know is not listed among those in The Spire, which means that the birthday information is not entered in the church's computer. Please contact the church office and let us know of anyone missing from the birthday list. We want everyone to be included.