

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
37728 Euclid Avenue
Willoughby, OH 44094-5994

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THE TRINITY TIMES
FEBRUARY 2010



THE TRINITY TIMES
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Minister

Rev. Robert Schuler

Office Hours:

Mon, Wed-Friday 9-12PM

Music Ministry

David Dorsch, Choir Director

Adult Choir Rehearsals

9:15 AM Sept-May

Health & Wellness Ministry

Blood Pressure Screening

1st Sunday of the Month

Christian Education:

Worship Services

10:45 AM Sept-May

9:30 AM Memorial Day-

Labor Day

Holy Communion 2nd &

Last Sun.

Sunday School

Sept thru May 9:30 AM

Adult Sunday School

Sept-May 9:30 AM

Confirmation Class

Thursdays 7:00 PM

Sept-Palm Sunday

Men's Bible Breakfast

8:00 AM Second Sat.

Sociables Bible Study

10:00 AM-Second Thurs

Dear Friends,

February 2010

Have a Heart

February: the month devoted to love. Stores are filled with heart-shaped boxes of candy and heart-shaped cards and vases of flowers with heart-shaped gift tags. All this is available for the consumer so that he can find the appropriate expression of his devotion to his loved one. If that expression of love has been preceded by a year of thoughtful and loving words and deeds, it is welcomed and cherished by the recipient. If not, it is just an empty ritual, done out of duty rather than true devotion.

Our relationship to the Lord is similar. He, too, desires our sincere devotion, not empty lip service. *"The Lord says: 'These people come near to Me with their mouth and honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me' "* (Isaiah 29:13).

Stewardship is serving, helping, giving, but love is the basis for stewardship. Without love our good deeds are empty and without merit. The first act of true stewardship is to *"love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength"* (Deuteronomy 6:5). Jesus called this the most important commandment (Mark 12:29, 30). With that love for the Lord in us, we are enabled to be good stewards. Then we can do acts of good stewardship, acts of true devotion. We are enabled to . . .

- *"Give generously to Him and do so without a grudging heart"* (Deuteronomy 15:10).
- *"Carefully observe [His decrees and laws] with all your heart and with all your soul"* (Deuteronomy 26:16).
- *"Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality"* (Romans 12:13).
- *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men"* (Colossians 3:23).

God, through Ezekiel, promised, *"I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit in you and move you to follow My decrees and be careful to keep My laws"* (Ezekiel 36:26-27). This promise He has fulfilled in His Son, Jesus, Who has followed His Father's decrees and kept His laws for us. As we strive to live fruitful lives of stewardship, at the same time, we rest in Christ Who has been the perfect steward for us. *(used with permission – 12 Months of Congregational Stewardship)*

Yours in Christ,

Robert W. Schuler

**Birthdays
of the
Month**



February 2010

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2 – Sydney Stusek | 19 – Carole Takacs |
| 3 – Janet Brenkus | 20 – Ed Gross |
| 7 – Kenneth Borgman | Juliana Hopkins |
| 8 – Jeremy Karlovec | 21 – Wendy Calta-Hanson |
| Deanna Meier | Karen Jusko |
| William Mitchell | Daniel Quior |
| 9 – Sandra Blum | 22 – Martha Gallo |
| 10 – Ronald Taddeo | William Tritt |
| Lilli Wells | Candace Zontini |
| 11 – Marge Luecke | 23 – Melanie Hahn |
| 14 – Andreu Meckler | Samantha Mackey |
| 15 – John Schuler | Carole McElroy |
| 16 – John Michael Hopkins | 24 – Denise Kintop |
| 17 – Audrey Mock | Mark Pastore |
| 18 – Braden Webster | 25 – Violet Bowman |
| 19 – John Hanna | Marie Hein |



February 2010

- 4 – Richard & Michelle Brant
William & Ann Schultz
- 14 – James & Renae Chesnic
Robert & Barbara McArthur
Daniel & Valerie Quior
- 19 – Michael & Denise Kintop
- 23 – David & Dawn Mohnke
- 27 – John & Augusta Stalzer

**THE NEXT BLOOD PRESSURE CHECK
WILL BE FEBRUARY 7.**

Our sincere thanks for your donation of food supplies and the donation of money. Jesus said, “Whenever you feed the hungry, clothe the naked, care for the sick, visit the imprisoned, or minister to the stranger, you have done it unto me.”

**JoAnn Ramsey
Willoughby Food Pantry**

**Willoughby Food Pantry needs for
FEBRUARY 2010**

**Canned corn, peas & green beans
Please place your donations in the
appropriate box in the entry hall. The
Property Board will take them to the
food pantry as they accumulate.**

**CHARITY OF THE MONTH:
PROJECT HOPE**

PROJECT HOPE FOR THE HOMELESS is an ecumenical shelter network in Lake County. Many people think that homelessness is a problem limited to cities and could not possibly affect suburban/rural areas such as ours in Lake/Geauga counties.

Your support of Project Hope demonstrates that you have a heart for those who are struggling with homelessness. We hope you will help us to make sure that Project Hope remains available to those who need it so desperately.

Please use the enclosed “Special Offering” envelope. Put your name and envelope number on the envelope and put it into the collection plate, give it to an usher or mail it to the Church Office. Help the homeless – it could be your neighbor!

Remember – your contributions will be matched by the Trinity Foundation!!!

**David Greenhoff, Chairman
Board of Stewardship**

**THOSE WHO SERVE
FEBRUARY 2010**

ELDER:	Ed Gross	
PASTORAL ASSISTANT:	Phil Wallaeger	
USHERS:	Brian D'Arcy	Don Feldkamp
	Lisha Rogers	Richard Wilmot
GREETERS:	John and Sue Robinson	
 ACOLYTES		
Feb. 7	Irene Swift	Logan Molnar
14	Jake Molnar	Matt Wilson
17 (Ash Wed.)	Jessica Mohnke	Tyler Mohnke
21	Alex Meier	Sarah Meier
24 (Lent 2)	Kylie Tritt	Kelly Brown

ADMINISTRATION NOTES

If you need a 2009 statement of your contributions to Trinity for tax purposes, please submit a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope to the church office or stop in the office to pick up your statement.

To further our dedication to better stewardship, the office would like to make a concerted effort to reduce mailing costs. If you would like to receive church communications and/or the *Trinity Times* via email, please email the church office at tlcoffice@trinitywilloughby.org and let us know. The *Times* is also posted on our webpage, so if you would prefer to view the *Times* online and not have it in your mailbox or email box, let us know that too!

Mite Boxes will be collected on January 31 and February 7.

SEASON OF LENT

Join us in the journey as we draw closer to Easter. Ash Wednesday begins on February 17 with The Blessed Sacrament of Communion. Then join us on Wednesdays for Lenten evening services at 7:30. Soup suppers are provided at 6:30. See you then!



We thank our friends at Trinity for the many blessings, spiritual and material, which you have given to us this Christmastime and throughout the past year. God has always assured that we have everything which we need.

Laura Jean and Jack Braunlich

TREASURER'S REPORT

Frank Polly, Treasurer

We finished up Year 2009 in the red by \$28,000. This is the first time ever that we have finished in the red. The church boards have committed to "tightening the belt" and hopefully the congregation will evaluate their commitment to God and a successful year for Trinity.

FROM THE BOARDS

Youth Board

The Youth Board/Group has dedicated their National Gathering trip to New Orleans in memory of Larry Eslinger. Larry loved all of the children of this church, and he was the driving force behind our kids being able to attend this trip. Larry, we love you and miss you very much. Thank you for everything.

February 10 – Cici's Fundraiser 4-9 pm.

Come support the Youth! Tell anybody you pass on the street to eat at Cici's and mention Trinity!

February 14 – Bake Sale!

We are also looking to reschedule our holiday party for the kids.

**THANK YOU FOR ALL OF YOUR
SUPPORT!!!**

Outreach Board

- ❖ Do you have trouble hearing the Worship Service. Hearing devices are available. Just ask an usher for use of one and return after the service.
- ❖ Blood Pressure Sunday is the 1st Sunday of each month. We meet in the Board Room after church. Board Certified nurses take blood pressures.

- ❖ Durable medical Equipment - There is no charge for using equipment: walkers, canes, bath tub seats, raised seats for lavatory, etc. Just contact the church office if you need any medical equipment.

Christian Education Board

In the upcoming weeks our Sunday School children will be taking part in the 2010 Hearts for Jesus Mission Project selected by the Ohio District LCMS Mission Support Group. This year's project is Mission India where there are many opportunities for the Lord's work to be done. Our children will view a DVD to see what life is like in Northeast India and take a look at Mission India's Children's Bible Clubs. We will then be filling "rice bags" with loose change to help Indian boys and girls have the opportunity to hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the Children's Bible Clubs.

Sunshine Hour Ministry Update

The Sunshine Hour held their annual Christmas Service on Wednesday, December 23. John MacIntyre led the service that consisted of bible readings from Luke as well as favorite Christmas hymns sung throughout the service by the congregation.

Six Sunshine Hour members took part as they read the Christmas story from the Bible. Those participating were: Carolyn Cooper, Edith Kalthegener, Pat Kremiller, Carol Meier, Donna Muehl and Rosemay Zema.

The Sunshine Hour volunteers would like to thank members from Trinity who joined us on December 23rd as well as the jolly ol' fellow in a red suit!

Blessings in the New Year!

Foundation Board

Wolfgang is returning!! Mr. Woelfl led us in an entertaining and informative Seminar last year, and we look forward to his return. Be sure to sign up so we can plan lunch. (See below)

“Economic and Investment Outlook Update” with Wolfgang Woelfl
When you have a better understanding of the factors that affect financial markets and trends, you can make more informed investment decisions.

Join us for a free financial education event

Economic and Investment Outlook Update is an educational event that will provide you with an overview of:

- How the changing economy can impact investment markets.
- How emotions can affect decisions and when to get professional financial guidance.
- The strength of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and its prudent approach to investing.

The one-hour event will be presented by Thrivent Financial representatives Wolfgang Woelfl and Mary Jo Boswell.

When: Sunday, February 14 from 11:45 to 1:15.

Where: Trinity Fellowship Hall

A complimentary lunch/dinner will be served before the seminar.

Sign up for this free event today!

Sign up by calling the Church Office or Mary Jo Boswell at 440-354-5611 by February 4.

The Economic and Investment Outlook Update event is intended only to educate you about financial decisions. It is broad in scope and does not consider your individual personal financial situation, which is unique. The information and advice may not be appropriate in all cases. No products will be offered for sale.

For additional important disclosure information, please visit <https://www.thrivent.com/disclosures/>

Stewardship Corner

Stewardship Devotion

Scripture Reading: *“For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God’s will”* (2 Corinthians 8:3-5).



How Much to Give?

Don't we often ask: “How much should I give?” Unfortunately, from our selfish perspective, we may really be asking: “How little can I give and still call it a gift?” Giving is not something that comes naturally to most of us. By nature, we are selfish people who are only interested in our best interests, which is the accumulation of more and more comfortable and enjoyable things. Without a relationship with Jesus, our giving is nominal at best.

In contrast, the generous giving of God's faithful people is clearly written about in Scripture and is also very evident in the many faithful givers in our churches. The difference between Christians and non-Christians is that, in Christ, Christians become new creations. Our old self, with its selfish and self-centered attitude, has been replaced by the new person who is united with Christ through faith and commitment to Him. We are not perfect, but God has changed us. Out of love for Jesus, we are compelled to give generously to our churches and to those in need. As Christians, we see our time, talents, and treasures as tools that can be used to extend God's kingdom. When we faithfully use our lives and blessings in His service, He is honored and worshipped.

In our Scripture reading, Paul used the giving of the Macedonians as a model for the people in Corinth to see as Corinthians considered their gifts to the distressed Christians in Jerusalem. The Macedonians pleaded for the privilege of sharing. They did not know the people in Jerusalem personally, but they wanted to help fellow believers. The Macedonians gave beyond their ability which is giving sacrificially. They didn't give their leftovers or what they could afford. They gave to the extent that it impacted their lifestyle.

The Macedonians gave because they were new creations in Christ. Paul wrote, *“They gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God’s will”* (verse 5). Giving came naturally after God had control of their hearts. As we spend time in God's Word and participate regularly in the Sacraments, God will grant us hearts that will plead for the opportunity to give.

Discussion Thoughts:

1. What are some indicators that our time and money are overly important to us?
2. What should we be giving?
3. In what financial condition were the Macedonians, and why were they able to give so generously?

Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, You are the owner and giver of all things. Help us to acknowledge You as the source of everything. Grant us, Lord, the same grace and faith that allowed the Macedonians to give so willingly and generously. In Your name we pray. Amen.