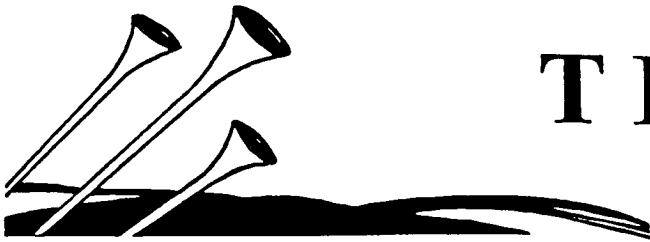


The TRUMPET

Trinity Lutheran Church
Boxholm, Iowa



Rod Meyer, Pastoral Associate
Annette Peterson, Church Office Secretary

Vol. XXXVII
No. 2

COUNTRYSIDE COOPERATIVE

Thurs., February 3, 7:30 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal
for the Cooperative Service
at Zion, refreshments following
* * * *

Sun., February 6, 10:30 a.m.
COUNTRYSIDE COOPERATIVE SERVICE

at Zion, Gowrie (no service at Trinity)

Hamball Dinner follows...free-will donations - proceeds go to Community projects

Co-op Youth will be collecting for **SOUPERBOWL SUNDAY!**

---one dollar or one can of soup---

FAITH LUTHERAN SOUP LUNCH AND BAKE SALE
Harcourt, Iowa

Sat., Feb. 5, 11:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Lenten Services



Wed., February 9, 7:30 p.m.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE
-at Trinity; joint service with Faith Luth.

Sun., February 13, 6:00 p.m.

SOUP SUPPER
-at Trinity (Youth project)
7:00 p.m. COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICE

Sun., February 20, 6:00 p.m.

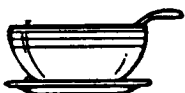
LIGHT SUPPER
-at Boxholm United Meth. Church
7:00 p.m. COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICE

Sun., February 27, 6:00 p.m.

LIGHT SUPPER
-at Pilot M. United Meth. Church
7:00 p.m. COMMUNITY LENTEN SERVICE

VALENTINE'S DINNER
-at Faith Lutheran, Harcourt
Sun., Feb. 13, 12:00 Noon

Adults: \$6 Children, 10 & under: \$3



(see Posters on the Bulletin Board)

Expectant grandparenthood is certainly an odd stop along the Greyhound Bus Line of Life. Nobody told me it was going to be so strange. Or maybe they did, but I didn't listen. Or maybe it's just one of those things that you have to learn how to do by going through it yourself. (Like shaving, for guys: most guys are never taught HOW to shave. They have to pick it up on their own, by trial & error – and that seems like a particularly stupid way to learn how to lubricate your face & then go at it with a razor blade. I'm frankly surprised that there aren't lots more noses found in sinks, from inexperienced adolescent boys figuring out how to get at the whiskers that start growing precisely where your nose ends. One of the most embarrassing incidents in my life was when, while shaving with a heavy, triple-bladed razor, I dropped the thing on my big toe. It carved out a big, deep hunk of flesh exactly where that toe touched my shoe, so that for a few days, I limped a little every time I took a step with that foot. It is frankly amazing how many people will ask you "Why are you limping?" when your answer has to be, "Oh, I cut myself shaving...")

Where was I? O, yeah – expectant grandparenthood. Lots of you have heard about my campaign to get my grandson-to-be named ELMO – I knew I didn't stand a chance, but I've got enough "Rod of La Mancha" in me to occasionally dare to dream the impossible dream. Well, that campaign has ended; not because I surrendered, but because our daughter has short-circuited the whole process by putting a GIRL in there. (Trisha was always a smart girl, but maybe planning ahead isn't her strong suit.) I have thus had to amend my choice for the baby's name to "CARMELITA", which, if I remember my high-school Spanish, means "Little Caramel". Then again, I'm not sure I ever got better than a B- in Spanish in high school. I know her parents are not going to name her Carmelita either, but the game goes on. That's how I'm dealing with this beloved stranger I am waiting to meet.

Cheryl is being a LOT more proactive than I. Cheryl is prepared to buy enough stuff now, so that the actual parents won't have to buy anything for the baby – EVER! There is a whole wardrobe of little person clothes in the guest room closet already, & every time she goes shopping, she comes back with another one or more. She pulls each one out of the bag, holds it up, & says, "Isn't this cute?" I appreciate the fact that it's a safer question than "Does this make me look fat?" At least I KNOW the answer to this question – "Yes, dear, that is very cute..."

We spent a day painting the nursery, which had a border with five or six cartoon animals on it. It turned out that this border had other matching accessories – a lamp; a lampshade; a light switch cover; a night-light; a window valance; blankets; etc.) Cheryl bought them all. She found a new baby store in Des Moines the other day, & called all excited to tell me that they had bookends that matched all the other stuff! I hated to be the one to remind her that the baby's room had neither (a) shelves, nor (b) books. It was heart breaking. The only thing that brought her out of it was when she found out she has a colleague who is also expecting her first grandchild. They have decided that they can shop tag-team style now, covering twice the number of stores in half the time. She came home from Des Moines today. The credit card set off the smoke detector. There is a bag in her car which I suspect contains (a) shelves, (b) books, & (c) book ends with cartoon animals on them.

All of this is to say that we are both more than a little anxious for May & Little Carmelita (or whoever) to arrive. It is also a fresh lesson for us about unconditional love. This person is loved before she is born; before we know anything about what she looks like or what her personality is like, or if she might have any of the deviant social traits of her uncles. Regardless, even if she is not an Elmo, she is loved already.

We get these little glimpses into the mind of God. Before we were born – before we were conceived, God loved us. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. It is the story of Lent, even as it was the story of Christmas in December, and as it will be the story of Pentecost in April. Unconditional love – God gives it to us as the gift of Jesus - just because He can, & He wants to.

And it makes me thankful - thankful that Cheryl wasn't Jesus' grandmother. Our guest room closet would be full of myrrh by now, & the drawers full of swaddling clothes in 6 designer pastel colors...

Have a blessed Lent.

rod



The TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL held their re-organizational meeting on Sunday, January 23rd following worship. The following members were present: Pastor Rod, Randy Lehman, Randy Reutter, Larry Krakau, Larry Fatka, Dustine Peterson, John Swanson, Rhonda Nelson, and we welcomed new member, Rich Larson.

- Reviewed church officers; Rich Larson volunteered to replace Mary A. Haleen as Memorial Treasurer... all other positions will remain the same; Vice-Chr: Randy Lehman; Secretary: Rhonda Nelson; Sec. of Congregation: Marie Bengtson; Church Treasurer: Larry Fatka; Financial Sec: Larry Krakau; Building Fund Treasurer: Randy Reutter. In addition, the Council nominated John & Jo Swanson as Madrid Home Delegates.
- A few changes were made in the church committees & communion assistants & they will be published in the new Directory; John Swanson & property committee will prepare a new mowing schedule. Pastor Rod reported that Lenten services will be held with the Methodist churches as in previous years with light lunch prior to services on Sun. evenings. Faith Church Council is interested in holding a joint Fall & Spring service with our congregation and we were in agreement to this.
- Pastor requested internet service for his office here in Boxholm & we agreed to subscribe to DSL.
- The nativity was discussed and it was decided that it is getting old, has lived its useful life, & will probably be disposed of... we will not replace it.
- A committee was chosen to select counter tops for the kitchen... Dustine, Rhonda, and Roberta will serve on that committee. We viewed & discussed possible options for repairing the back hallway in the basement.
- Meeting adjourned.

Rhonda Nelson, Secretary



* * * * *

Love is the Greatest

(A personal response to 1 Corinthians 13)

Love is patient. Boots, mittens, scarves, hats, sneakers, socks, school books, records, dolls, blocks, cars, glasses, dishes... from the front door through the whole house. I find a messy path to follow! *How many times do I have to tell them to pick things up?*

Love is kind. "Mom, could you take me and six of my friends to the game?" *I will, but I really had other plans.*

Love does not envy. "Christine's house is so much bigger and nicer than ours." *I know. Everytime I drive by that brown house, I wish I could live there.*

Love is not rude. "Are you ready to leave yet? I thought you said it would only be a minute." *I'm coming! Can you ever be more patient?*

Love is not self-seeking. "Could you bake a dozen cookies and help sell them at your daughter's grade - school Country Store next week?" *They always have something for me to do. But I had better be nice to her and do it. I may need her friendship sometimes.*

Love is not easily angered. "I can't believe you'd do anything that stupid! Don't you ever think first!" *If you raise your voice at me again, I'm going to lose control.*

Love keeps no records of wrongs. "Honey, I really am sorry I forgot your birthday. Things at work and here at home kept me so busy, the date crept up on me." *I won't forget this! Ten years from now, I'll still remember!*

Love does not delight in evil, but rejoices in truth. "Did you hear about Jane's husband? He may be having problems at work." *Not only that. He's never home.*

Many are the ways to show love. A positive reinforcement stated, a note written, a diaper changed, a tub of dirty clothes washed, a pat of reassurance given, a kiss of unrestrained passion shared, a car repaired, a flower sent, a loving spirit lived!

Love never fails. My love for my husband and children may falter and waver. Christ's love is unailing.

Love always protects - I want to take the hurt for my child. Instead, I will protect and love him.

Trusts - I trust, even when my husband travels a lot and faces life's temptations.

Hopes - We still share our dreams for life together.

Perseveres - Another obstacles in our lives? With God's sustaining power, we'll "tough it out" together!

Now these three remain - faith, hope, and love. *Love is the greatest!*

Author Unknown



A PRAYER FOR THE BEGINNING OF LENT

Lord, at the beginning of this Lenten season, I sense my need of you.
 Yet, I am not quite sure how to reach you.
 I heard someone say, 'Read your Bible.'
 But too often the words are like
 Bullets that ricochet off my brain.
 I heard someone say, 'Pray.'
 But my prayers, hurled heavenward,
 Fall back to earth like lifeless stones.
 I heard someone say, 'Meditate.'
 But my wandering mind was lost
 In a desert of random thoughts.
 Lord, speak to me through your Word,
 And let it penetrate my mind
 And my heart.
 Lord, speak to me through prayer,
 And turn the lifeless stones to bread.
 Lord, speak to me in my meditation,
 That I may see, amid life's wilderness,
 The way, the truth and the life.
 -Robin E. Van Cleef

God's partner

Biblical faith says you are God's partner. To God, you aren't a slave whose only duty is to do what you are told. You aren't even an employee who agrees to do work in exchange for pay. You are a real partner whom God invites to share the responsibility for carrying out God's plan for the world God's coming to you in Jesus gives you the freedom to be who you are: God's partner God's coming to you in Jesus, however, is not a demand. It is an invitation. God doesn't tell you, "This is what you must be!" God says instead, "This is what you can be!" So, when you encounter Jesus, you can say not only, "There God is," but also, "There I am."

—Barbara Wendland and Stanley Menking,

Leap of faith

A house was burning down. The whole family was able to escape the roaring flames, except for one child. He was trapped on the second story of the house. His father, standing on the ground below the window, called out to his son, "Jump, and I'll catch you!"

"I can't," the son replied. "I can't see you for all the smoke."

"Don't worry," the father answered, "I can see you."

.....The Bible has a simple story. God made man. Man rejected God. God won't give up until he wins him back.

God will whisper. He will shout. He will touch and tug. He will take away our burdens; he'll even take away our blessings. If there are a thousand steps between us and Him, He will take all but one. But He will leave the final one for us. The choice is ours.

His goal is not to make you happy. His goal is to make you His. His goal is not to get you what you want; it is to get you what you need.

-Max Lucado



YOUR NEWFANGLED ECUMENISM IS FINE, ROY, BUT NOT WHEN YOU LET COMPLETE STRANGERS SIT IN MY PEW!



Women of the ELCA

Wednesday, February 2, 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 9, 1:00 p.m.
2:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 16, 2:00 p.m.

Wednesday, February 23, 9:00 a.m.
Monday, February 28, 7:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY BIBLE STUDY

"Empowering Persistence"

Luke 18:1-8 (the parable of the widow & the unjust judge)

FEBRUARY ALTAR FLOWERS

Dorothy Henrichs, Norma Henrichs,
Sue Fatka

HOPE GROUP; Hostess: Thelma Anderson;
Devotions: Irene Westfall; Lesson: Viola
Anderson; Roll Call: Verse on Love

WORSHIP AT OGDEN MANOR – Faith Gr.
GENERAL MEETING; Bible Study with
Pastor Rod; Hostesses: Dorothy Henrichs &
Norma Henrichs

FAITH GROUP; Hostess: Faye Reutter at her
home; Devotions: Annette Peterson; Lesson:
Doris Peterson; Roll Call: Love

QUILT WORK DAY; noon potluck

MIRIAM GROUP; Hostess: Norma Henrichs;
Devotions: Rhonda Nelson; Lesson: Norma;
Roll Call: Show and Tell

The Faith Group will go to Ogden Manor for worship on February 9th... on the day of our General Meeting so we will start our meeting at 2:30 p.m. so they have time to get back and also our Bible study leader will have time to get here!

Thanks to all of you who donated caps, scarves, and mittens for our Mitten Tree. Marie took them out to school and we also had several for the Beloit Home. Marie had 14 sets of caps and mittens, 6 extra caps, and 15 pairs of gloves or mittens.

As this letter goes to press, we are having a Quilt Work Day with a potluck and Pastor Rod will have our Bible study as we missed our regular meeting due to the weather. Also will be having another Quilt Work Day on February 23. Any of you in the congregation may donate for our kits and material for our quilts.

Thankoffering boxes will be handed out soon. If we each have a box to keep our loose change in for the offering, it makes it seem more personal. When you see the box may it remind you to give so that God's ministry may be carried on.

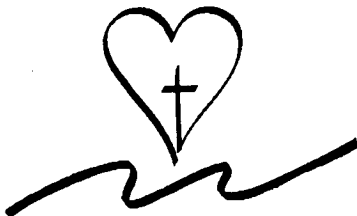
Lenten Services will begin this month. I don't have any information on this yet. We will once again have the opportunity to look back to the life of Jesus which holds so much significance for our own lives. May we find inspiration in remembering what happened to Him once long ago.

World Day of Prayer will be on Friday, March 4 at the United Methodist Church here in Boxholm.

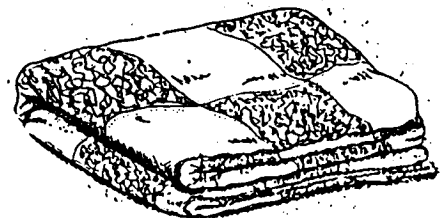
"What counts is not the number of hours you put in, but how much you put in the hours."

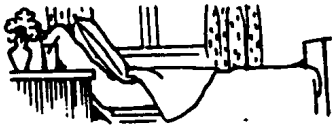
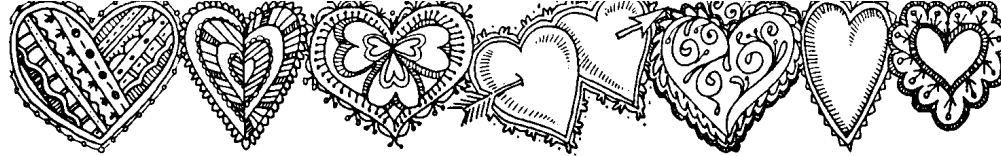
Women of the ELCA President, *Gwen Scheetz*

THANKOFFERINGS



...gifts of faithful hearts





HOSPITALIZED since the last newsletter: Lyle Swaney, Dan Kauffman, Bob Nibel

Thank You

Special people make Special Schools.....!

Thank you, Trinity Lutheran Church, for the two bags of hats and mittens for the students at Grand Community. Community support is such a blessing and so greatly appreciated.

Thank you all,
Grand Community School

A GREAT BIG THANK YOU...

for all the kindnesses shown to me (and Chuck)... the prayers, cards, calls, visits, gifts, food and help. It has truly been overwhelming! Hope the next six weeks go by as fast. Thanks again.

- Linda Swanson

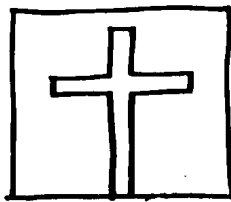
...No amount of truth in the head makes up for lack of love in the heart...

... To all our friends who sent cards, called or attended our 25th Anniversary Party we send our heartfelt thanks. The celebration was especially meaningful because of your thoughtfulness.

Each one of you is special to us & your friendship touches our lives. - Lynn & Shirley Patrick

..Peace begins with me and my actions toward others...

...The cross is a symbol of God's heartbreak over a world that has gone astray...



"Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed."
Proverbs 12:2

...More time in God's house will bring better times in our house...

...He who wants to finish the race must stay on the track...

...You can never speak a kind word too soon, for you never know how soon it will be too late...

BLESSING BY TRIAL

No trouble seems pleasant at the time. Yet in God's economy, it is this pain which brings forth new faith. How often we hear, "I thank God for that hard time; it was the best thing that ever happened to me." Even when we may not find the grace to thank God for our tribulation, we can thank him for the good that comes from our fire.

A Measure of Our Love and Faithfulness

(Giving)

(Attendance)

Sun., Jan. 2....No worship due to inclement weather!

Sun., Jan. 9: \$ 886.80.....
50.00 Late Christmas
18.00 Initial

Food Pantry: 7.00 & 4 bags of food
Sun., Jan. 16: \$1,518.00.....
16.00 Initial

Sun., Jan. 23: \$1,203.00.....
4.00 Initial

SMILE



Time flies like an arrow. Fun flies like a banana.

A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.

You feel stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.

LAY READERS for February

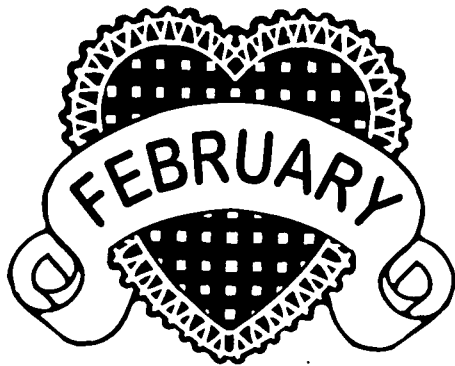
- 6 Cooperative Worship Service
- 9 Carolyn Ross (Ash Wednesday)
- 13 Andy Ross
- 20 Linda Peterson
- 27 Denise Lehman

Feb.-13 Communion Assistants

- Larry Fatka
- Stewards: Mark & Heidi Peterson
- Norma Henrichs
- Head Usher; Larry Krakauer
- Helpers: Mike Peterson & Shorty Peterson
- Altar: Norma Henrichs, Irene Westfall, Annette Peterson

Newsletters assemblers:

Gwen Scheetz, Marie



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

When a man has come to the point at which he can no longer believe there is anything worth seeing around the next corner, he is old, & whether his years be 19 or 99 is irrelevant. But he who is always hopeful that there may be a wonder to be seen in the cross street will somehow make it to the corner ...tottering, gasping, perhaps, but getting there.

-Gerald W. Johnson

- | | | | |
|----|----------------|----|-----------------|
| 1 | Larry Krakau | 18 | Linda Peterson |
| 3 | Randy Freeman | 23 | Shorty Peterson |
| 4 | Amy Larson | 24 | Brenda Hellyer |
| 6 | Michelle Blair | 25 | Paul Lundvall |
| 10 | Wade Sundell | 26 | Rich Larson |
| 15 | Fred Thorpe | | |

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|----|-----------------------|
| 11 | Dan & Diane Smith |
| 24 | Roy & Roberta Clausen |