



TRUMPET



Trinity Lutheran Church
Boxholm, Iowa

Rod Meyer, Pastoral Associate
Annette Peterson, Church Office Secretary

Vol. XXXVIII
No. 2

FEBRUARY OPPORTUNITIES

Saturday, February 4, 8:30 a.m.
"The Christian Woman
Speaks" on Ft. Dodge radio

Sunday, February 5, 10:30 a.m.
Worship/Holy Communion

Wednesday, February 8, 2 p.m.
WELCA General Meeting
6:30 p.m. Confirmation
7:30 p.m.
Bible Study

Thursday, February 9, 7:00 p.m.
Countryside Ministry Joint
Choir rehearsal at Zion

Sunday, February 12....
Food Pantry Sunday

Wednesday, February 15, 10:00 a.m.
VBS meeting at Trinity
2:00 p.m. Faith Group
6:30 p.m. Confirmation
7:30 p.m. Bible Study

Sunday, February 19, 10:30 a.m.
Countryside Ministry Joint Service
at Zion, Gowrie, followed by a
Hamball Dinner.....

Wednesday, February 22, 9:00 a.m.
Quilt Work Day; noon potluck
6:30 p.m. Confirmation
7:30 p.m. Bible Study

Monday, February 27, 7:30 p.m.
Miriam Group

A PARAPHRASE OF I CORINTHIANS 13

No matter how eloquently or spiritually I speak,
If I do not love people, I am merely making noise.
People will never care how much I know,
(whether of present or future)

Until they know how much I care.
People will not care how much I trust God,
Unless they feel they can trust me.

I may give away everything,
But if love does not purify the gift, it is a waste.

Love waits...it does not push.

Love is tender...it does not grab.

Love shares...it does not sulk.

Love rejoices...it does not gloat.

Love bears, believes, hopes, endures;

It cares.

Love is ultimate:

Predictions end; noises dissipate; knowledge is forgotten
These things are finite...they will fade.

But the ultimate will remain.

We are growing...from childish
speaking,

feeling,

thinking,

to mature

speaking,

feeling,

thinking.

The future is unclear,
As our own self-image is unclear.

But the time will come,

When our purpose is known

As God already knows it.

Out of everything remain faith, hope

And love...but the ultimate is love!

Tony lay on the couch the other night. I had told a bad joke.

Well, not a bad joke. I thought it was funny. But then, I think lots of things are funny that probably aren't funny at all. Like someone told me that she was going shopping today: "I need milk and soap, so I can wash clothes." Statements like that strike me as funny. When newscasters start a story with a statement like, "Police continue to search for murder suspect this evening..."; that can strike me as funny, too. I mean, it's not news, is it? News tells you stuff you don't know or wouldn't suspect. Thus, it would only be news if the police quit searching for a murder suspect because it was getting dark & everybody wanted to go home before it got too scary.

Even the simplest statement of fact can make me laugh. "The watch stopped when it hit the concrete." My brain rushes to analysis of that declaration, & it usually comes up with something like "Well, yeah... what did you expect? That it would go THROUGH the concrete?"

Even so, you can easily imagine that even the stupidest joke might strike me as hilarious. I have an addiction to the jokes that start, "_____ walked into a bar..." There are dozens of them. "A pair of jumper cables walked into a bar. The bartender says, "All right, I'll give you a drink – but don't you two start anything."

Or the ever-popular, "A brain slithers into a bar. The bartender says, "I'm not giving you a drink! You're already out of your head!"

It's very likely that it was a joke similar to that which I had told to Tony as he lay on our couch. And he laughed, which was kind of gratifying. But his follow-up statement was this: "You have tainted my brain. Nobody should think that is funny..."

Now, it's not that I hadn't suspected that Tony's brain was tainted: I just never imagined that he was holding me responsible for it!

Oh, sure. I had taught him about 40 minutes of jokes when he was little, & we would do them whenever we were left in immediate proximity of each other. Once, the local Hy-Vee Store had a summer display of something (Coke Products & bug repellents, I think...), & in the middle of it was a two-person swing/glider. Tony & I sat there & started doing our routine, while Cheryl wisely decided to continue shopping on her own.

It's not as if I didn't realize that we didn't have great material. An example might be: TONY: "I'm going fishing today." ROD: "Do you have any worms?" TONY: "Yeah, but I'm going fishing anyway."

This possibly explains why, on this particular day, Cheryl didn't return for us. She paid for the groceries, got in the car, & went home – leaving us to follow on foot. She is the King Solomon of public & social situations...

All of that being said, I have spent the last week or so living with the sentence, "You have tainted my brain." It's not that I expect to find him blank-eyed someday, curled up in a corner, doing the Abbott & Costello "Who's on first" routine. I suppose he COULD end up on the Dr. Phil Show someday, trying to get help because he can't fit into this serious-minded, dour-faced, gloom & doom society we have built for ourselves.

In the meanwhile, I've decided my response to the accusation "You have tainted my brain" is going to be, "You're welcome. I have given you a sense of silly."

There are far too many people in this world who couldn't find humor in any given situation with a map, two hands & a flashlight. Their inflated egos tell them they are too important & their positions too lofty to make light of themselves. They find life too serious to laugh at, let alone their relationships with God or others. I lay much of the fault of the messes we have as a denomination & a nation at the feet of leaders & followers who are emotionally constipated.

And, yes, that phrase did strike me as funny, even as I typed it...

Psalm 5:11 – "But let all who take refuge in you rejoice; let them ever sing for joy."

rod

Wednesday, February 1, 2:00 p.m. **HOPE GROUP**; Hostess: Thelma Anderson; Devotions: Mary Ann Haleen; Lesson: Thelma; Roll Call: Favorite Hymn



Saturday, February 4, 8:30 a.m. “The Christian Woman Speaks”- on Ft. Dodge radio; Gwen Scheetz

Wednesday, February 8, 2:00 p.m. **GENERAL MEETING**; Bible Study with Pastor Rod; Hostesses: Dorothy Henrichs, Norma Henrichs

Wednesday, February 15, 2:00 p.m. **FAITH GROUP**; Hostess: Faye Reutter at her home; Devotions: Faye; Lesson: Annette Peterson; Roll Call: Bible Verse on Love

Wednesday, February 22, 9:00 a.m. **Quilt Work Day**; noon potluck
1:00 p.m. **Worship at Ogden Manor** – Miriam Gr.

Monday, February 27, 7:30 p.m. **MIRIAM GROUP**; Hostess: Norma Henrichs; Devotions: Rhonda Nelson; Lesson: Mary Krakau; Roll Call: Show and Tell

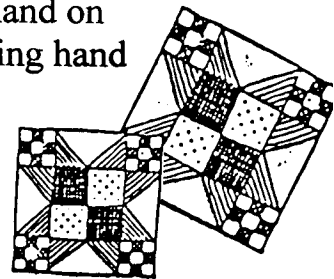
The first month of 2006 is flying by so quickly. In January and February, we will have 2 Quilt Work Days with potluck lunches and dinner. Then at our March meeting we will complete our quilts getting them ready to be given to those less fortunate than we are.

When all this has happened, the Lenten season will be here. As always we will have the opportunity to look back to the life of Jesus which holds so much significance for our own lives. As I have said before, may we find inspiration in remembering what happened to Jesus once long ago.

A date to keep in mind is March 3rd... World Day of Prayer. This will be held here at Trinity at 2:00 p.m. The program is written by the women of South Africa and the theme is “Signs of the Times.”

Sam Levinson said “It was on my 5th birthday that Papa put his hand on my shoulder and said... ‘Remember my son, if you ever need a helping hand you’ll find one at the end of your arm.’”

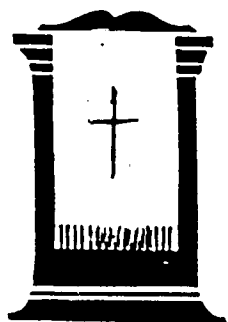
-Women of the ELCA President, Gwen Scheetz




COUNTRYSIDE MINISTRY
Joint Worship Service
Sunday, February 19, 10:30 a.m.
at Zion Lutheran, Gowrie
 Ham-ball Dinner following the service-
 Free-will offering



Zion Lutheran Choir invites you to participate with us on **Sunday, February 19th** for a combined choir for the special music that day. The song we will be singing is entitled "Song of Hope". It is a unison-2 part song based on an Argentine folk melody accompanied by instruments. It should be lots of fun. We will rehearse on **Thurs., Feb. 9th at 7:00 p.m.** Refreshments will follow.



Love one another
 as I have loved you.
 John 15:12



THE HISTORY OF SANCTUARY PARAMENTS

The use of color in worship began in the 9th century. At first, the newest or most magnificent vestments and paraments were used on great festival days, irrespective of color, in much the same way we like to 'dress up' at Easter or Christmas. In 1570 an accepted pattern of color was formally defined in the reformed missal under Pope Pious V. The churches of the Reformation rejected the use of color in worship at the time. Where the Calvinist or puritan spirit prevailed, clergy wore plain black gowns.

Liturgical color came into renewed use in the Church of England in the mid-nineteenth century and spread to other Protestant churches. Today many churches use the traditional liturgical colors at specific times to help express the mood and meaning of the various seasons in the church year. It is natural to associate red with blood, passion, fire and Pentecost; violet with dignity, majesty, Advent and Lent; white with celebration, purity, Christmas and Easter; and green with growth and renewal.

A PRAYER FOR LOVE

Eternal and ever blessed God, whose name is love, put Your own love into our hearts; and help us to love You as You have first loved us.

Help us to love You so much, that worshiping in Your house may be to us neither a burden or a duty, but a joy and a delight.
 Help us, O lover of the souls of persons, to love our fellow human beings as You love them.
 Help us to love them so much, that we shall always be ready to help and always quick to forgive.
 Help us to love them so much, that hatred and bitterness may no longer have any place within our hearts.
 Help us to love them so much, that all shall know that we are Your disciples, because we have love one for another.
 All this we ask for Your love's sake.
 Amen.



BAPTISM: We welcomed into God's family, our church family, *Jace Robert Nelson*, son of Jessica Nelson, on Sunday, January 8, 2006. Sponsors were Libby & Ryan Nelson.



SYMPATHY: We extend our sympathy to Elin McFarland and Raymond on the death of Elin's niece, *LaVonne Ruther*, a former member of Trinity. LaVonne passed away on Tuesday, January 10, 2006, in Iowa City. The funeral was Friday, January 13 at Zion Luth., in Iowa City.

Our condolences to the family of *Mildred Sundell*. She died on Thursday, January 19, in Freeport, IL. The funeral and burial was Monday, January 23 in Ogden. Pastor Rod Meyer was the Officiant.

THANKS: Thanks to our intrepid choir for doing double duty at both Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. You guys are terrific and you sound great, too!!
-Kate, Choir Director

A SPECIAL THANK YOU...to Trinity....

A special thank you to all the members of Trinity, Boxholm, for your kind support of my School of Lay Ministry endeavor. I completed my studies in December. You lent your financial support, but most of all it was your words of encouragement and interest that meant so much to me during the two years I was engaged in learning about the Lay Ministry. I hope I can serve our congregation with greater devotion thanks to the gift of learning you made possible. Again, THANKS TO ALL OF YOU!!

- Kate Alevantis



A Measure of Our Love & Faithfulness:

(Giving)	(Attendance)
Dec. 31, 2005: \$500.00 Christmas	
Sun., Jan. 1: 763.00	45
22.00 Initial	
Sun., Jan. 8: \$522.00	60
Food Pantry: 20.00 & 6 bags of food	
Sun., Jan. 15: \$1,059.00	62
7.00 Initial	
Sun., Jan. 22: \$ 461.00	50
4.00 Initial	

LAY READERS FOR FEBRUARY

- 5 Kate Alevantis
- 12 Roberta Clausen
- 19 Denise Lehman
- 26 Andy Ross

February 5 Communion Ass't: Larry Fatka
Stewards: Norma Henrichs, Mark/Heidi Blair
Head Usher for Feb: Larry Krakau
Helpers: Mike Peterson & Shorty Peterson
Altar: Norma Henrichs, Irene Westfall, Annette Peterson
Bulletins: Annette Peterson, Ken Peterson
Newsletter assemblers: Marie Bengtson, Gwen Scheetz, Norma Henrichs, Annette Peterson

... There is a net of love by which you can catch souls. - Mother Teresa

...The Lord prefers common-looking people. That is why he made so many of them. -Abraham Lincoln

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

...Great occasions for serving God come seldom, but little ones surround us.

...The February sunshine steeps your boughs, And tints the buds & swells the leaves within. -William C. Bryant

LOVE IN ACTION

Love that is not expressed in loving action does not really exist, just as talent that does not express itself in creative works does not exist; neither of these is a state of mind or a feeling, but an activity...
not a myth.

IN FEBRUARY

The earth is dim, the world is dark,
The midst of winter doth embark.
The days quite short and nights so long,
The frozen ground, the wind's shrill song.



In February snow mounts high,
And clouds are deep within the sky;
There's ice atop the little stream
While home fires burn and hearts shall dream.

But in the distance not too far,
Our hearts behold an April star;
When flowers shall bloom and birds
shall sing.
The winter melts into the spring.

In February, though 'tis cold,
We look ahead to springtime's gold.
Our minds aglow of things to be,
In February, spring we see.
-Garnett Ann Schultz

God With Us

"We do not leave God behind when we come home from worship. In fact, God takes us to church and brings us home again. He is there before we invite Him to join us at our meal. He tucks us into bed and watches while we sleep. He lives with us and knows our joys and sorrows. He lives, for others, as we show His love to them."

-Portals of Prayer

*Lord Jesus, live in us that we may
Live in you. Amen.*

We Keep Only What We Give Away

God wants us to be our brother's keeper:
To feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, to
shelter the homeless, to instruct the ignorant;
at a personal sacrifice, is what God wants us
to do. What we give to the poor for Christ's
sake is what we carry with us when we die.
...When we die, we carry in our clutched
hands only that which we have given away.

-Peter Maurin

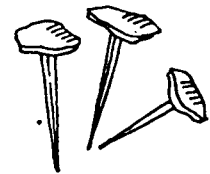
SNOWFLAKES

Snowflakes are a gift from God,
That float on angels' wings.
Delighting all who see them,
With the beauty that they bring.

They glow with crystal brilliance,
That comes from God alone.
Then join to make a snowman
With a newness all its own.

And like each perfect snowflake,
We, too, were made to be
A wonderful example
Of God's creativity.

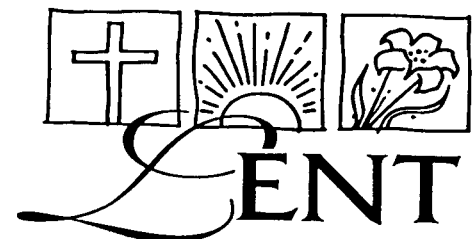
So when you see a snowflake,
All pure and glistening white.
May you also be reminded,
You are precious in God's sight.



THE SEASON OF LENT...begins on March 1st....Ash Wednesday

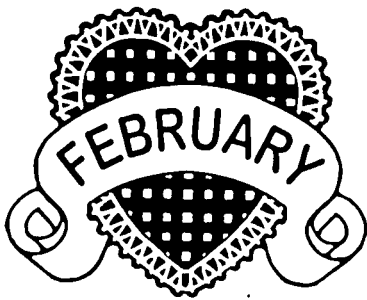
Lent is a time for 'coming to Jesus'...
being clear and honest about ourselves
in relationship to God in Jesus Christ.
Think about different ways we might
observe Lent so that our relationship
with Jesus is strengthened and enriched.

"Open my ears, Lord, so I will hear
you. Open my eyes, Lord, so I
will see you. Open my heart,
Lord, so I will live for you." Amen.



FEBRUARY 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5 th Sunday after Epiphany (Green) <u>9:15 a.m.</u> Sunday School <u>9:30 a.m.</u> Coffee Fellowship <u>10:30 a.m.</u> Worship/Holy Communion ... Youth Event			<u>2:00 p.m.</u> Hope Group <u>6:30 p.m.</u> Confirmation <u>7:30 a.m.</u> Bible Study	<u>7:00 p.m.</u> Joint Choir Rehearsal at Zion		<u>8:30 a.m.</u> "Christian Woman Speaks" <u>11-1:00</u> Soup Lunch & Bake Sale at Faith
6 th Sunday after Epiphany (Green) <u>9:15 a.m.</u> Sunday School <u>9:30 a.m.</u> Coffee Fellowship <u>10:30 a.m.</u> Worship			<u>2:00 p.m.</u> Women of ELCA General Meeting <u>6:30 p.m.</u> Confirmation <u>7:30 p.m.</u> Bible Study			
Lincoln's Birthday 6 th Sunday after Epiphany (Green) <u>9:15 a.m.</u> Sunday School <u>9:30 a.m.</u> Coffee Fellowship <u>10:30 a.m.</u> Worship Food Pantry Sunday <u>11:00 a.m.</u> Valentine Dinner at Faith		Valentine's Day (Green)	<u>10:00 a.m.</u> VBS meeting at Trinity <u>2:00 p.m.</u> Faith Group <u>6:30 p.m.</u> Confirmation <u>7:30 p.m.</u> Bible Study			
<u>9:15 a.m.</u> Sunday School <u>10:30 a.m.</u> Countryside Ministry Joint Service at Zion, Gowrie (no service at Trinity)	Presidents' Day		<u>9:00 a.m.</u> Quilt Work Day; noon Potluck <u>1:00 p.m.</u> Ogden Manor- (Miriam Gr.) <u>6:30 p.m.</u> Confirmation <u>7:30</u> Bible Study			
TRANSGURATION OF OUR LORD Last Sunday after Epiphany (White) <u>9:15 a.m.</u> Sunday School <u>9:30 a.m.</u> Coffee Fellowship <u>10:30 a.m.</u> Worship	<u>7:30 p.m.</u> Miriam Group		March 1 ASH WEDNESDAY <u>7:30 p.m.</u> Service at Faith, Harcourt			



*In youth we learn;
in age we understand.*

A young boy, ready for bed,
interrupted a family gathering in
the living room. 'I'm going up to
say my prayers now. Anybody want
anything?'



**Happy
Birthday**

- | | | | |
|----|----------------|----|-----------------|
| 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 | | |

ANNIVERSARY

- 24 Roy & Roberta Clausen