

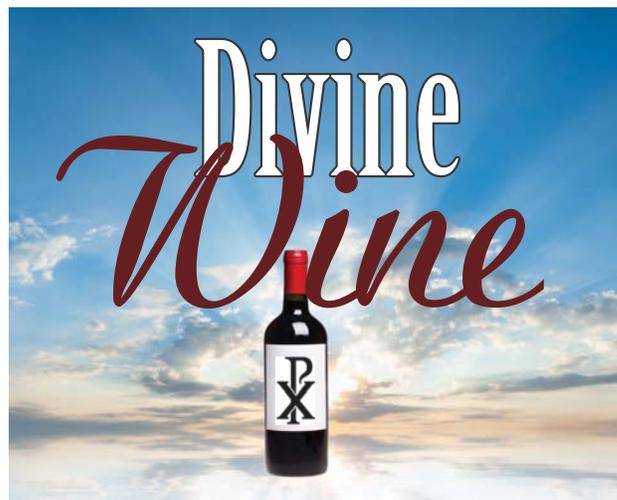


February 2014

Sharing  
God's  
Abundant  
Love

## Divine Wine Cocktail Party & Fundraiser

You are cordially invited to attend a very special event. It's a cocktail party where you'll enjoy luscious libations and sumptuous hors d'oeuvres. Yes – it's DIVINE WINE time on Saturday February 22nd at Brad and Doris Petersen's.



This special event is not only a time to socialize, but it's also the kick-off event to COL's "Catch the Spirit" campaign. We heard your concerns about making interior improvements to our building. "Catch the Spirit" was formed in response to this concern. We're going to raise funds with both live and silent auctions.

In preparation, we are looking for donations of wine (either your favorite or some off-beat bottle with a crazy name), wine accessories, gourmet foods, gift certificates, hostess items, etc. Deadline for auction donations is Sunday, Feb. 16th. You can make your own basket or the Divine Wine team will assemble it for the Silent Auction. It's easy to bid on Silent Auction items – start a bidding war against your friends and see who wins! After all, it's a lot of fun and for a great cause.

Our live auction items promise to be both exciting and amusing. Would you like a chauffeur for the evening? How about a piano player for your next party? A homemade cheesecake? Gourmet dinner for four? A sweet home baked treat of the month – for an entire year! The bidding will be spirited (pardon the pun)! Don't miss it!

**Please join us and invite your friends. Tickets are only \$5.00 and are on sale NOW. Your pre-event purchase will help us with an approximate headcount. However, tickets will also be available at the door. This event is for adults only.**

Saturday, February 22, 7 pm to 10 pm  
Brad and Doris Petersen's  
268 Hendrickson Lane (in the Ovations Community on Route 896), West Grove PA

**To donate** – please contact Doris Petersen at [dcpetersen@verizon.net](mailto:dcpetersen@verizon.net) (610-869-0787) or Debbie Bradley at [debbie110@mac.com](mailto:debbie110@mac.com) (610-998-9061).

# Pastor's Perspective

## Face the Day

I once had a sign hanging on my office wall that had a picture of the ugliest frog you have ever seen with the following written under it:

"Eat a live frog first thing each morning and the rest of your day will seem easy."

I never actually tried this suggestion, but there were some days when I was tempted.

How do you start your day? Do you try to hide under your pillow for just five more minutes? Do you leap out of bed eager for the first challenge of the new day? How do you begin?

I have a friend who starts each day my loudly chanting, "This is the day that the Lord has made. Let us be glad and rejoice in it." I have often marveled that his wife hasn't killed him for his early morning outbursts; particularly since she is not an early riser.

Martin Luther believed that the best way to start the day was with prayer. He also believed that it was best to end each day with prayer. He also said that when he had a particularly arduous day ahead he would pray twice as long that morning.

Here are his morning and evening prayer:

### **LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.  
I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

### **LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER**

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.  
I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands, I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Try praying in the morning it just might prepare you better for the day ahead and I know it is easier than eating a live frog!

*Pastor Dan*

# Save the Date

## Special Announcement

Mark your calendars NOW and reserve Friday April 4th for a special FAMILY fun-filled event with food, games and special entertainment.

## Christian Education – What is It?

There are many parts to Christian Education at Community of Love. Perhaps your initial idea is that Christian Education is Sunday School. Yes, you're right. Sunday School is a key part of Christian Ed – but it is just one part. This month's Light will focus on Sunday School. Future next issues will focus on other groups under Christian Education banner.



CHRISTIAN  
EDUCATION

Sunday School - We all think about the children's part of Sunday School, but there is much more to it than that.

On Sunday morning after the Service children between the ages of 3 years and 6th grade go to the basement of the building. They have snacks, juice and a treat, and then go on to Music. The children sing during the Service a couple times a year. This is the time they learn their songs.

The children are split into four groups, according to their age. Then Sunday School becomes a center-style learning experience. The four centers are story, craft, verses, and theme (learning the Lord's Prayer or reading the Bible depending on their age).

**We also have a rewards program that is a point system. One point for coming to SS, two points for bringing your Bible, three points for taking a part in the Service and four points for doing a service project. These points are added up and twice a year prizes are given to all children. This just happened on January 19th. The high-point winners were Abby Coe, Jessica Repetz, Anna Coe and Sarah Milley. Sarah was the top winner in the whole group. Congratulations to these fine students!**

Next month look for an article about more Sunday School classes because you know that Sunday School is for anyone from the age of 3 to over 100.

## February – Time to Worship

# Music Worship Notes

Please join us for worship throughout February as we continue to celebrate the time after Epiphany. The focus of our Traditional service on February 2 was the Presentation of our Lord - "What Child is This?"

For our Blended service on February 9 we are reminded that Jesus is Light of the World and we are to let "This Little Light of Mine" shine.

Contemporary Sunday on February 16th is when we celebrate the theme of love. During the worship service we will be having a special ceremony for couples to renew their wedding vows. The theme of love continues at the Blended service on February 23 – "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling."

While it may be cold out, when you come to church you will experience the warmth of Christ's love.

## Love Undiminished

**On Sunday February 16th  
we will be celebrating "Love."**

There are many forms of love. The Greeks had several distinct words for emotions that we all call love. On the 16th we will celebrate the Love of God, the Love of others and the special love between a husband and wife.

As part of our celebration we will offer the opportunity for couples to renewing their wedding vows. Those who have done this have expressed that it was incredibly meaningful. A husband and wife once again come to the front of the church. This time their eyes are wide open. They have experienced life and all its highs and lows and still come forward to affirm their love.

If you are interested in renewing your vows please fill out a Wedding Renewal Information sheet included in The Light and return to church by February 9th. There is also a sign-up sheet at the back of the church.

There will be photos and a reception following the service.

## Ware Mansion is Getting a Makeover

If you enjoy the fine art of decorating, mark your calendars and plan to attend the Designer Showhouse at the Ware Mansion at Ware Presbyterian Village. Ware is looking for volunteers to support this event.

The twenty-two rooms of the Mansion and the gardens will undergo a transformation by area interior designers and landscape gardeners to become a Designer Showhouse. Tours of the mansion will be given Saturday March 8th through June 8th.

Volunteers are needed to conduct tours, handle ticket sales and perform other tasks. There are many opportunities to help and orientation will be provided. Info will be posted on the back bulletin board or call 610-998-2672 to discover more. You can also e-mail Megan Wolfe at [mwolfe@presbyterianseniorliving.org](mailto:mwolfe@presbyterianseniorliving.org)

What a great way to support this historic property – a real treasure in our midst!

# WOMEN OF WORSHIP WOW

**It's time for a meeting.**

The next WOW meeting will be Thursday, February 6 at 6:30. Please take note ladies -- we have decided to return to the comfort of Lisa Deeves' home! The address is 500 Boxwood Court, Oxford. A light dinner awaits you along with stimulating discussion with your faith sisters who are also pursuing God's Beauty.

If you need directions call Lisa at 610-998-2829. We are hopeful the weather will co-operate this month, so we can continue with this great topic.

By now, several of you have made your reservations for our annual retreat at Black Rock with our friends from Advent Lutheran Church in West Chester. This year's retreat theme is "Making a Difference." This year we're pleased to offer not only the full weekend retreat, but also a one-day getaway which includes Saturday's retreat activities (two presentations, craft time, and shopping) plus breakfast, lunch and dinner. Please keep all retreat attendees in your thoughts and prayers.

Once a month we put together a Blessing basket for any woman in the congregation who needs a bit of support or a simple reminder that she is loved and a blessing. As you come into church, you will find an empty basket for donations of new or gently used items. Items might be a book, scripture plaques of encouragement, scarves, tea cup or mug. Anything you think will bring some joy is appropriate. If you want to suggest someone you think needs a pick-me-up, feel free to call Lisa or Pastor Dan.

## Birthdays *February & March*

Send Warm Birthday Greetings to our February and March Birthday People!

Jessica Repetz	02/02	Victoria Craven	02/19	Brian Coe	03/09
Tom Plystak	02/09	George Vasques	02/20	John Clark	03/11
Pete Hill	02/09	Nancy Kelly	02/22	Arty Troyan	03/11
Trish Hill	02/11	Sara Marra	03/01	Rachel Hipkins	03/14
Dan Lohr	02/12	Jacob Snarr	03/01	Joseph Marra	03/17
Rebecca Vasques	02/12	Abby Coe	03/04		
Cindy Marra	02/14	Candace Lohr	03/06		
Gabrielle Clark	02/16	Judy Petersen	03/06		
Goldye Johnson	02/17	Cynthia Pollich	03/08		

## There Was A Game They Loved the Best and BINGO Was Its Name-o...

Providing an afternoon of fun for Luther House Bingo players has long been a tradition here at COL. Although the actual date for our spring bingo event isn't until March, we will be collecting prize items throughout the month of February. New and re-gifted items in good condition are needed. These might include personal hygiene products, cleaning supplies, decorative items, small articles of clothing, snack packs, or other boxed/canned foods. We know that there are numerous clever shoppers in our midst and look forward to seeing what you have discovered that might bring a sparkle to the eyes of our Bingo guests.

A collection basket will be placed in the narthex to receive your kind donations. Thanks for helping to make this event a fun one for our Luther House friends!



### Do you have hoola hoops and/or vinyl records?

We would you love to have them for our upcoming **Sock Hop - a party for the whole family.**

Please contact [dcpetersen@verizon.net](mailto:dcpetersen@verizon.net) (610-869-0787) or Debbie Bradley at [debbie110@mac.com](mailto:debbie110@mac.com) (610-998-9061).

# Council Corner

This has been a busy time for the 2014 Church Council. In the past two weeks we have conducted a Council Retreat, a regularly scheduled Council Meeting, and a Congregational Meeting.

#### Council Retreat - January 25

The bulk of this meeting was dedicated to reviewing comments from the COL Connections meetings and assigning objectives to each ministry that will address the concerns of our membership.

#### Council Meeting - January 28

The major topics included the 2014 budget proposal, the land update, and a summary of our new *Catch the Spirit* stewardship campaign. The council did not feel that our budget accurately reflected the churches income and expenses for the coming year and we needed to dig deeper. So a vote at the Congregational Meeting was postponed until possibly April 27th. The council approved a motion to be presented at the Congregational Meeting for setting a \$23,500 per acre listing price with the authority to negotiation down to \$ 18,500 per acre.

#### Congregational Meeting - February 2

Since the budget vote was postponed, our major issue was the land. After fielding a number of comments from those in attendance, the congregation voted to approve the council's request shown above. In addition, Bob Milley presented the plan for Service to Others and Joe Deeves gave a little insight into our Stewardship plans for 2014 and beyond.

## Clean-up Volunteers

Be on the lookout for a sign up sheet in the month of February for volunteer families to clean the church and the office on a regular basis. We are looking for 2 families per month. The program begins in March.



The Wishing Well will become a permanent fixture in upcoming issues of The Light. Ministries will list various needs they have identified as, possibly, something someone in the congregation would like to fund personally. This gives everyone an opportunity to give to their passion.

Note that you do not need to shop for the item. Giving the funds to do so is all that is necessary. Just make certain that your gift is clearly written in the memo line of your check.

If you would like to give to any of this wish list items, contact Brad Petersen at [bwpetersen@verizon.net](mailto:bwpetersen@verizon.net). Thank you in advance for your generosity.

<b>Item(s)</b>	<b>Approx. Cost</b>
3 Cans of Stain for the Ramp	\$ 75

## Mary Embarks On Second Mission Trip to Dominican Republic

Last year at this time Mary Milley had just completed her first mission trip, being called to provide much-needed healthcare to the Dominican Republic. Now she has completed her second trip.

The group is Dream Ministries and this particular trip was sponsored by North Carolina Methodist church who works closely with the evangelical church of the Dominican Republic.

Located at the hospital in Barahona, this talent group from many parts of the nation performs general surgeries on all ages which include hernia repairs, hysterectomies release of burn scars along with life threatening emergencies.

They performed 70 surgeries for people who would not receive care if Dream Ministries had not been there. Patients traveled for miles by foot or donkey from the Dominican Republic and Haiti to receive care.

Emphasizing prevention and patient education, they saw 700 patients and filled over 3000 prescriptions. Most of the illnesses are related to inadequate water supply and insect carrying pathogens. Throughout the year there are three weeks where teams of 30 provide surgeries and treat patients in the clinic. There are also numerous teams who go to work on supplying clean water.

Mary says, "I was truly blessed to have been able to provide anesthesia for people who desperately need care, rewarded by smiles of gratitude. I leave knowing that God's world has no boundaries and we are called to serve."



*Mary's commissioning as a missionary during our worship service.*

## “Fork in the Road”



Dear Families and Friends of Community of Love,

Each of us from time to time comes to a fork in the road. A decision needs to be made and a direction chosen. These often become times of great opportunity.

Community of Love is at such a fork in the road and is making plans to take an exciting direction with an intense focus on making significant improvements to our sanctuary and church building. This decision is based upon the information gathered at our small informational sessions conducted in the fall. The church leadership heard our members loud and clear that making these improvements should be a top priority. And that is the road we are choosing to take over the next few months.

Have you ever noticed how things work out for people who act in faith? In the midst of the dilemma a donor stepped forward with a \$10,000 dollar gift toward the needed improvements. It is our intent to match that generous gift with additional gifts from members and friends of the congregation. We will be having various events to help raise the needed funds but we anticipate that the primary source of further funding will come from members, their families, and friends of the congregation who understand the value of the ministry at Community of Love. We are calling this initiative “Catch the Spirit”. We hope that you will catch the Spirit and join us on this journey.

We are therefore asking for your support. Will you pray for this congregation as it continues forward in its ministry? Will you step forward and lend a hand when needed? Will you financially support this movement to improve our buildings and property? All contributions will be greatly appreciated. We invite you to join with us and “Catch the Spirit.”

Blessings to you and yours,

Pastor Dan

# Donation Options

Please make sure that all donations are clearly marked for "Catch the Spirit."

## Check:

Make payment to Community of Love Lutheran Church and on the memo line write, "Catch the Spirit."

## Pledge:

Enter in the total amount of the pledge: \_\_\_\_\_ in increments of \_\_\_\_\_ per month  
(Follow the instructions for "Check" when filling out your check/s)

## Simply Giving:

Make your donation using Simply Giving. It's an easy auto-pay method. Forms can be found in the narthex of the church.

## Credit Card:

We are currently investigating a system to accept credit cards. Make your donations and earn any points that your personal credit cards may offer. Contact Doris Petersen for more details and an update.

## Memorial:

You may wish to contribute funds toward something that is part of the "Catch the Spirit" overall plan. If so, speak to a member of the property committee to confirm exactly your intentions to provide \_\_\_\_\_ to go toward \_\_\_\_\_ in memory/honor of \_\_\_\_\_ and confirm that the item you have in mind is still awaiting a donor. (When submitting your check/s please include on the memo line: "Catch the Spirit, in memory/honor of \_\_\_\_\_."

**We thank you for being part of our ministry.**

# The Light *for Kids*

## Who's Head Is That?

Every week we sit in church behind someone's head. Do you recognize any of these?

They are all connected in some way. Do you know how?



Good luck! (Answers will appear in the March Light.)