

# The Light



## **Sock Stop**

**Friday, April 4, 6:00-8:30pm**

Bring your poodle skirts, saddle shoes, and black leather jackets, daddy-o. It's time to relive those happy days of the fifties. This event is fun for the whole family. And all the profits will be going into our Catch the Spirit campaign.

Date & Time: Friday, April 4, 6:00pm to 8:30pm

Place: Technical College High School, Pennock's Bridge Campus

It's a fun-food evening with choices like hot dogs with toppings, chips, pink lemonade and iced tea. Other items available to purchase will include pretzels, root beer and coke floats, and candy - all to benefit the Catch the Spirit fund.

**Adults, \$10 | Youth (under 16), \$ 5**

Enjoy special entertainment from Doo Wop Debbi (Debbie Coren). With over 17 years of experience, she currently performs at Bally's Casino in Atlantic City and over the last eight years has performed at The Tropicana, Harrah's, and over fifty yacht clubs, country clubs, and well-known venues in the tri-state area.

There will also be games for the kids and contests for the young and the young at heart. Join in the hoola hoop and bubble gum blowing contests and take away the prize for the best dressed. Those are just a few of the fun things we have in store.

We prefer to have you reserve your tickets in advance, but tickets can also be purchased at the door. 120 tickets are available on a first come, first served basis. So reserve yours today!

For tickets and more information, contact Doris Petersen, [dcpetersen@verizon.net](mailto:dcpetersen@verizon.net) or Debbie Bradley, [debbie110@mac.com](mailto:debbie110@mac.com).

**Invite your friends! Invite your kids' friends!**

**March 2014**

Sharing  
God's  
Abundant  
Love

# Pastor's Perspective

## True Faith Champions

For a couple of weeks we have had the opportunity to watch dedicated athletes from all over the world compete in some familiar sports and some of the "are you serious" variety. (Can someone please explain curling to me?) There were some touching moments and there were also some moments when the TV was in serious jeopardy of being injured. (Sticking a microphone in the face of someone who is suffering emotionally is not what I consider good programming.)

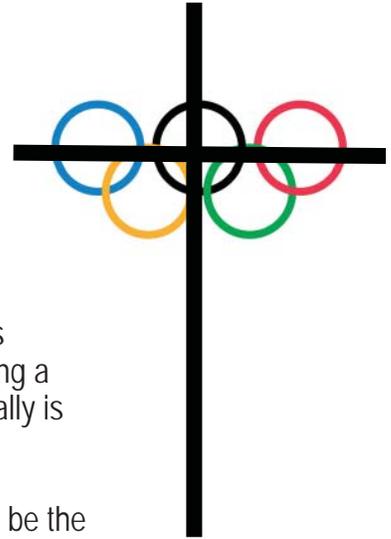
What would it be like if we had a faith Olympics? What would be the offerings for competition? Hmmm!

1. Longest sermon with style points added for the number of parishioners who really fall asleep.
2. The worse hymn attempted by a congregation. In our hymnals there are many potential winners.
3. The greatest number of announcements on a Sunday.
4. The children's team "Flabbergast -the-pastor" Children's Sermon Playoffs.
5. Letting your light shine in order to glorify God
6. Caring for others.
7. Eagerly serving the church and community.
8. Humbly walking before your God.
9. Praying without ceasing.
10. Loving your God with all of your heart, mind, soul, and with all your strength.
11. Sharing your love of the Lord with someone each day.
12. Fully committing to the trifecta of giving: treasure, talent, and time

So... how many of the events can I sign you up for?

Blessings,

*Pastor Dan*



# Save the Date

The dates for Vacation Bible School have been tentatively set. They are July 6th through July 11th, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. If anyone is interested in helping, even if it is only one or two nights, please speak to Janis Walker or Nancy Kelly.

## They Know We're Coming So Let's Get Set!

The buzz at Luther House is that Community of Love will be back to host yet another afternoon of Bingo fun on Saturday, March 22 from 2:00-4:00pm. Our dedicated following of players not only look forward to the wide variety of Bingo prizes but also the delicious food and camaraderie brought by our COL folks.

Is this the year you have time to join in on the fun? We hope that you'll consider signing up on the form in the back of the sanctuary to provide a portion of our yummy food selections and/or participate in the event by helping to serve food/beverages, assemble/display prizes, verify winning Bingo cards, etc.

Your help is so appreciated!!! Thanks!

## Drivers Needed!

Occasionally we have a member of the congregation who needs to go to a doctor's appointment or run an errand but doesn't have transportation, or is unable to drive themselves. Are you available during the day to help someone who needs a lift? If so, please contact Pastor Dan at the Church office: 610-998-0282.

Last month there was an article about Christian Education. It was just the beginning of learning about Christian Education at Community of Love.

To continue on with Sunday School - In the office complex the children who



**CHRISTIAN  
EDUCATION**

have advanced from the basement are learning during the Sunday School time. Also at the same time adults are meeting in the Sanctuary for adult education, Presently, they are using the Nooma Series by Rob Bell. A video is shown and then there is discussion. One Sunday the topic was "Breathe". The Greek word for this is "name of God".

Another facet of Christian Education is the Monday Bible study. The group meets the first and third Mondays of the month at 12:30 PM at the Walter's home. Everyone brings a lunch and one person supplies a snack. Virginia supplies the drinks. There are 13 people in this group. They have been studying the "prison epistles of Paul". They have finished the book of Ephesians and are beginning Colossians.

If you would like to join the group, speak to Virginia Walter or Nancy Kelly.

# President's Update

Seems as if activity at Community of Love has hit a fevered pitch in recent weeks. It's an exciting, yet apprehensive time as we face the retirement of Pastor Dan on May 1, 2014.

I am sure that each of you are experiencing the same emotions as in the Petersen household. Pastor Dan has been a wonderfully dedicated spiritual leader whom we will miss dearly.

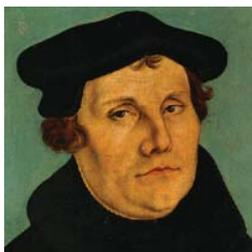
Out of this universal feeling, questions have come up about Pastor Dan's future with COL. He must be guided by the ELCA. As he stated in his letter to council, "As is the policy of our church body, after retirement I will no longer have any pastoral contact, nor perform any pastoral functions with the members of Community of Love Lutheran Church. While difficult to imagine in the short-run, it is wisdom for the long-term. It allows the time and distance to grieve and take the steps to prepare for the future God has waiting for Community of Love.

Sadly, this means that both Pat and Dan are not able to become members of our congregation or attend regularly. Nor will Pastor Dan be available to perform weddings, baptisms, etc. Pastor Ralph and Judy were given specific permission from the Synod to attend our church at a period of time that was well past his own retirement. In fact, Pastor Dan was the individual who petitioned the Synod on the Petersen's behalf.

Of course, the church at large recognizes that the Bodines will still be our loving friends. We will certainly all want to personally keep in contact with them.

In the meantime, I wanted you to know that Council has made contact with the appropriate individuals at Synod. They will be choosing an Interim pastor for us and guiding us through the process of finding a new pastor. Soon we will be putting together a call committee for that purpose.

We will keep everyone updated on our progress during this time.



## Learning Lutheranism

So how much do you really know about Lutheranism? This is the first in a series of informational pieces to help us understand Lutheranism.

### Presbyterian

1536: John Calvin writes *Institutes of the Christian Religion*. 1789: Presbyterian Church USA is organized.

### Methodist

1738: Anglican ministers John and Charles Wesley convert. 1784: US Methodists form a separate church.

### Lutheran

1517: Martin Luther challenges Catholic teachings with his 95 Theses. 1530: *The Augsburg Confession* is published.

### Catholic

Catholics consider Jesus' disciple Peter the first pope. Through Gregory the Great (540-604), the papacy is firmly established.

### Orthodox

330 AD: Emperor Constantine renames Byzantium "Constantinople" and declares Christianity the empire's religion.

### Anglican

1534: Henry VIII is declared head of the Church of England. 1549: Thomas Cranmer produces the first *Book of Common Prayer*.

# Music Worship Notes

It is hard to believe that it is March already! In March, we transition from the season of Epiphany to the season of Lent. Transfiguration is the theme of the March 2 Traditional service

where Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son – "Shine, Jesus, Shine!" At the 7 PM Ash Wednesday service on March 5, we begin with a solemn call to repentance and sacrifice as we begin our journey to Easter, with the sermon message "My Sacrifice is a Humble Spirit."

The Blended service on March 9 reminds us that while Jesus is tempted in the desert, he is not conquered and we pray that Jesus will help us through our own trials as we sing "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me." We hear of Nicodemus coming to Jesus at night to learn of the kingdom of God and his love for us at the Contemporary service on March 16 – "You are My King (Amazing Love.)" And on March 23, "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing" reinforces that Jesus offers living waters as a sign of God's grace.

Since there are five Sundays in March, the fifth Sunday (which is Youth Sunday) will be Contemporary style with the theme of "New Sight" as we learn of the blind man who was healed - "Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone) ...was blind but now I see." And the children's choir will add their energy to the service by singing "He Came Down."

So March is a big month! Meanwhile, the Music and Worship team has started planning for Holy Week and Easter Sunday, in addition to starting discussions to address the feedback provided through the Connections meetings. If you would like to contribute your enthusiasm to the Music and Worship team, please contact Melanie Lohr. We are always looking for new members!

## Birthdays *March & April*

...to YOU! Please save me a piece of cake!

Sara Marra	03/01	Rachel Hipkins	03/14	Derek Lohr	04/21
Jacob Snarr	03/01	Joseph Marra	03/17	Susan Repetz	04/21
Abby Coe	03/04	Jennifer Clark	04/02	Pat Bodine	04/23
Candace Lohr	03/06	Roland Pattinson	04/03	Joyce Sherick	04/23
Judy Petersen	03/06	Melanie Lohr	04/05	Noah Hill	04/24
Cynthia Pollich	03/08	Anna Coe	04/11	Shjona McHugh	04/24
Brian Coe	03/09	David Heffner	04/12	Don Hostetler	04/25
John Clark	03/11	Zelda Abernathy	04/18	Joan Murphy	04/25
Arty Troyan	03/11	Gretchen Coe	04/18	Donald LaBranche	04/27



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) Cost</b>	<b>Approx.</b>
3 Cans of Stain for the Ramp	\$ 150

## **Matters of the Heart**

**A discussion group for those whose lives have been touched and connected by adoption.**



All members of the adoption triad...adult adoptees, adoptive parents and birthparents as well as the families that support them are welcome to attend. We endeavor to offer a safe and compassionate setting for those in post-adoption. A place to come and share concerns, joys and sorrows, to explore unanswered questions with the realization that some questions may forever go unanswered. A place of understanding to seek reconciliation and share our adoption experiences from the heart. Come to listen or to share.

Our next quarterly meeting will be held on March 30th at 2 pm in the church office of Community of Love Lutheran Church, 115 - 117 N. Fourth St., Oxford, PA. Our topic for this meeting will be "Acceptance and Forgiveness." The meeting will be led by Amanda Woolston, BSW and Linda Hettinger.

For more information, please contact Linda Hettinger via e-mail at [homeyg.65@gmail.com](mailto:homeyg.65@gmail.com) or leave a message at the church office (610) 998-0282 for a return call.



## The Recipe Box

Looking to warm up those cold winter blues? Here's a slow cooker recipe that will do the trick!

### Golden Glow Pork Chops

5 - 6 pork chops  
salt and pepper to taste  
¼ cup brown sugar  
½ tsp ground cinnamon  
¼ tsp ground cloves  
29 ounce can of cling peach halves, drained (reserve juice)  
8 ounce can tomato sauce  
¼ cup vinegar

1. Lightly brown pork chops on both sides in saucepan. Drain. Arrange in slow cooker. Sprinkle with salt and pepper.
2. Place drained peach halves on top of pork chops.
3. Combine brown sugar, cinnamon, cloves, tomato sauce, 1/4 cup peach syrup, and vinegar. Pour over peaches and pork chops.
4. Cover. Cook on Low for 3 - 4 hours. Enjoy!

(Recipe from Pam Hochstedler of Kalona, IA)

This was the most popular appetizer at Divine Wine.

### Bacon Wrapped Crackers

1 sleeve club crackers  
¾ cup brown sugar  
1 lb bacon

Preheat the oven to 250 degrees F.

Lay the crackers face up on a large rack over a baking sheet (or broiler pan). Scoop about 1 teaspoon of the brown sugar onto each cracker. Cut the package of bacon in half (or cut pieces individually) and carefully, so the sugar doesn't fall off, wrap each sugar-covered cracker with one half piece of bacon, completely covering the cracker. It should fit snugly around the cracker. Place the bacon-wrapped crackers onto the rack. Place the baking sheet in the oven for about 2 hours. You can cook for 15 minutes more if you want the bacon crispier. Serve at room temperature.

Note from Debbie Bradley: I cut the bacon strips in thirds and stretched them a bit to fit around the cracker. Using half-slices was too much bacon for my taste. Also, these freeze beautifully. Do not serve them warm.

The original recipe calls for Parmesan cheese, but I liked the brown sugar better. Make both and decide for yourself!

### Spring Cleaning

**April 5th, 8:30am at the church**

We are looking for a crew of volunteers to help with our Spring Cleaning Day. There are projects inside and out that we will try to complete.

Look for a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Many hands make quick work. Let's get ready for Easter!

Wonderful friendships  
Often thanking God  
Meals at monthly meetings  
Enjoying Christ's presence among us  
Never a dull moment

Owing thanks to our hostess/leader, Lisa  
Faithful to HIS word

Weaving our lives with Christ  
Outreach to others  
Receiving God's grace  
Special baskets of cheer  
Helping to grow as Christians  
Inspiring lessons  
Partnering with Advent Lutheran for retreats

WOW is all of these things and more. Come and join us for our next meeting on Thursday, March 7th. We'll meet at 6:30pm for dinner and discussion at the Deeves home at 500 Boxwood Court, Oxford, PA. There's always room for YOU! (Yearning to be with Others who Understand.)

We hope to see you there!

## Clean-up Families

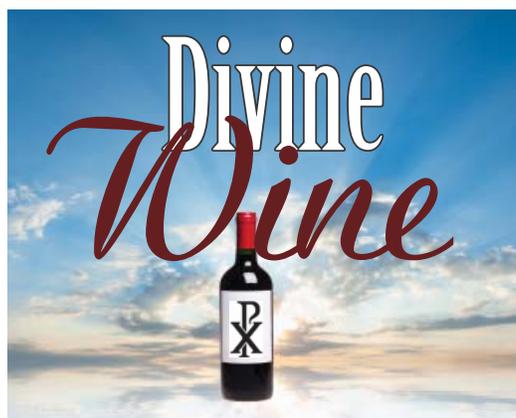
Be on the lookout for a sign up sheet for volunteer families to clean the church and the office on a regular basis. We are looking for 2 families per month.

## WOW, what a meeting!

Six women from COL attended the annual women's retreat at Black Rock Retreat Center with their sisters in Christ from Advent Lutheran Church in West Chester.

This year's theme was --- "Make a Difference." Our sessions were lively and thought provoking. We were challenged to perform five random acts of kindness a week. We learned about Max Lucado's four different types of Christians. We renewed ourselves and spent time in the Prayer Room. We worshipped at one of the most creative worship services ever presented. We ate, shopped, sang, laughed, sipped tea, shared stories, and prayed together. We hope next year YOU will join us for this very special time.

Special thanks to Bette Ann Walton who made all the retreat ladies a BELIEVE star pin. We will wear it with love and share the good news.



We were so thrilled to have over 60 people attend our Divine Wine event at the Petersens. It was a great evening of fellowship and an incredible success for our Catch the Spirit campaign.

Cash donations, tips for Bob the Bartender and live/silent auction items raised **\$4,056.46.**

A sincere thank you to Joe our auctioneer, our beautiful young servers, our fabulous chefs (Debbie & Doris) all who donated items, purchased tickets and made the bidding at our auctions a real success.

# The Light *for Kids*

## Did you figure them out last month?

Our photos from last month's issue of The Light were all Council Members. Three other council members were not pictured. Do you know who they are?

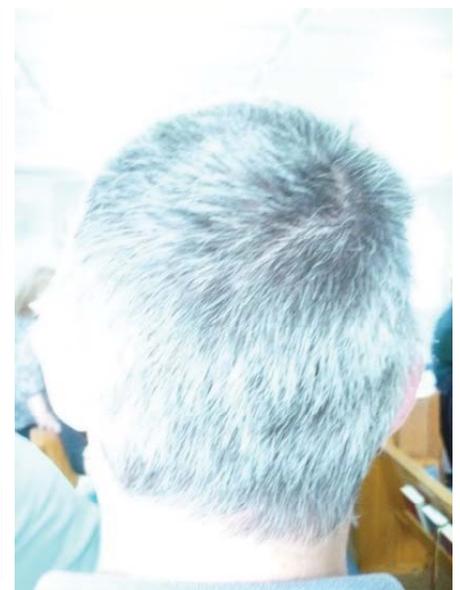
Lino Santinelli



Brad Petersen



Dave Graham



Cathy DuBosque



Doris Petersen



Joe Deeves

