

February 2014
Volume 40, Issue 2

The Bells

WORSHIP WITH US

Saturday: 6:30 PM
Sunday: 10:15 AM

Contact us:

www.princeofpeacefreedom.com

Office

724.728.3881

Preschool
724.728.2405

Fax
724.728.6708

Email
Pr. Michael
Podeszwa

pastor@princeofpeacefreedom.com

Rose DeWeese
secretarypop@princeofpeacefreedom.com

Liz Shuttleworth

Individual Highlights:

Braille Center 155	2
Birthdays & Anniversaries	3
Lutheran Hour Ladies' Bible Study	4
POP News	5
Preschool News	6-7
February Calendar	8

Receiving an Imperishable Wreath

Dear Friends in Christ,

This year, February is the month of sports. Not only does the month start with the Superbowl, but also this year is the 22nd Winter Olympics. Over 2500 athletes from 90 countries will compete in 98 events in 15 disciplines over 7 sports.

The athletes who train for these events invest a lot of time and money. An Olympic figure skater, for example, will spend upwards of \$50,000 over the course of their career trying to make it to the Olympics. They'll practice on the ice two to three hours a day, six days a week. Adding to that grueling schedule, they'll also have strength training, endurance conditioning, ballet and other dance training. All dedicated to making it to the Olympics.

To be good enough to win an Olympic medal, whether it be bronze, silver or gold, takes talent, skill, physical conditioning and discipline. In the end the award that athletes receive is proof of being recognized as the world's best athlete in their sport.

The life of an athlete and the life of a Christian are very similar. In 1st Corinthians 9, St. Paul asks the question, "Do you not know that in a race all the runners, run, but only one receives the prize?" He then encourages us to "run so that you may obtain it." He then explains, "Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we, an imperishable one. So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified. (1Co 9:26-27 ESV)"

Unlike the Olympic athletes, we do not strive to "win" our medals; our victory is in Christ, and we know that the imperishable wreath (the crown of life) is already ours. Our prize is the abundant life that has its source in the Author of Life. However, because we were chosen to be part of this already victorious team, we work not to win, but so that we won't be found lacking. We strive (literally, agonize) not be thrown off the team.

Paul encourages the Corinthians and us to run the race of life with endurance and so that we are not "disqualified" – found wanting. He encourages us to press on, to persevere, to endure. As athletes require discipline in physical training, so we must be disciplined in our spiritual exercises.

So how do we do this? Well it begins with abiding in Christ. Jesus says, "Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5 ESV) We abide in Him by studying His Word, by partaking of the Sacraments (John 6:56), and by doing the will of the Father. (1 John 2:17) And the will of God is to believe in the One that He has sent.

As you enjoy the pageantry and completion of the Winter Olympics, I encourage you to take part in one of the many Bible studies here at Prince of Peace. Train yourself for endurance, strive to grow in faith, and be comforted in knowing that this is the will of our Lord and Savior, in whom you already have the Crown of Life.

In Christ Jesus,
Pastor Michael

A Touching Goodbye

by Rose DeWeese

It was a unique Reformation Day in the history of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church on October 31, 1982. The Dedication of Braille Work Center 155 realized the efforts of then Braille leader, Mrs. Joann Sanders and the group's mission of establishing the only Braille Center of its kind in the area. Starting with a \$3,000 grant from the Eastern District LWML the long undertaking of producing Bible materials for the blind all over the world began. Other congregations such as St. John's of Millvale, The Haven, St. Luke's and Forest Hills got on board from the very beginning as well. And up until a few weeks ago these members and non members of Prince of Peace would enable others to "...touch words and have them touch back".

When the letter from headquarters in Yucaipa, California was received advising that all Braille materials be returned "I didn't take it seriously" revealed Edna Gaertner "but when they called for labels and said you are shut down it was a shock. I just got my 30 year volunteer pin this summer from the International Braille organization, and now I won't get any more. I had hoped to keep on with this as long as I could."

Dearly departed members such as Joann Sanders, Betty Bischoff, Harley and Jean Stang, Ken and Kate McClellan, Francis Blank, Hilda Roeck, Bertha Mitchell, Bev Koehler, Ethel Snow, and Judy Hensley were some of the pioneers of this group that would flourish for nearly 32 years. Other members to join the ranks were Ruth Miller, Edna Gaertner, Karol Kiessling, Gwen Smith, Alice Davis, Jessie Stanko, Minnie Nowry, Barb Blank, Mary Nuerge, Andrea Raabe, Mary Lehocky, Sylvia Clayton, Amy Wilson, John Hamara, Colleen Sigler, and Karen Veloski to name a few. Any one of these crossed trained volunteers could be found running plates through the roller press, emptying or refilling plates with the new pages to be printed, while others were punching pages to bind or inspecting the finished product before packaging the books to be shipped all over the world. Alice Davis, of the Tuesday morning assembly line joined after her husband passed away and her kids were grown. "I really looked forward to it; I had fun with everybody and working with the rest of the ladies."

The first product to be manufactured on the Braille press was the Mustard Seed devotional, "The Spirit and Me" which was to be made by the work center for many years and reached blind individuals in Africa and India. As demand grew for more Bible materials, Work Center 155 found themselves putting together books such as Romans, Esther, II Samuel and more recently a compilation of sermons entitled "New Perspective". In fact our center shared a benchmark with St. Luke's in 1997 when they reached the milestone of producing 20,000 books. "We didn't keep count after that" admits Karol Kiessling. Karol a volunteer since 1994 responded to the recent closing stating "We all felt let down. When the man came to inspect our work center this summer he said that we wouldn't be one of the centers to be closed. He indicated that we would be getting a new machine. So we are sad because we had a good group, good fellowship." Mary Lehocky, Braille Treasurer, remarked "...it was rewarding." Mary, one of the original members worked on Monday nights with the St. Luke's group and filled in during the summer time as a substitute when she first joined.

While there has been no official reason for the closing from the International Braille Organization, Braille members have speculated that recent technology, such as iPad offerings of downloadable apps with accommodations for blind individuals have limited the need for these materials and are better equipped to reach the same global market that have been our "customers" for decades. Perhaps it is a sign of the times rendering other braille groups as nearly obsolete.

The impact of the shut down is far reaching for this special group; Gaertner recalled a morning when Hilda Roeck was scheduled for a doctor's appointment during her Braille shift. "She wasn't going to work but she came in just for the devotion." Gaertner continued "if someone was sick, we kept track of them. We looked out for each other, that's what we did. We cared for each other." Ruth Redenbaugh, a volunteer from St. John's, Millvale became involved several years ago when she started to drive an elderly member of their group to Braille. "There is about eight of us that volunteer from St. John's. When our people got the news they were ALL disappointed, they felt like they weren't needed, we thought we were doing something good."

Please take a minute. Recognize a Braille volunteer. Spend time looking through the Braille scrapbook in the Narthex area to enjoy the many pictures from days gone by. Look carefully at each individual in those photos contained in the pages that record the history of Braille Center 155. Some people you will recognize, others you may not, but be assured that every face wears a smile from the service of touching other's lives spiritually by bringing them light.

Birthdays

Bill Kerr	2
Roger Nuerge	2
Avis Miller	3
Jean Taylor	4
Renee Lindell	5
Elizabeth Nowry	8
Brett Torres	11
Ben Forsyth	12
Joel Nuerge	12
Justin Nuerge	12
Luke Bendekovic	12
Ariana Gremer	13
Lisa Dietrich	14
Amber Gremer	14
Matthew Osten	16
Ronald Nowry	17
Madison Fessides	18
Skylar DeThomas	19
Minnie Nowry	20
Rich Clayton	21
Madi Daubenspeck	21
Allison Bendekovic	22
Morgan Blank	24
John Dietrich	28
Kyle Borgman	29

Baptismal Birthdays

Kathy Voland	
Tom Sigler	
George Mesing	2
Sallie Mannino	5
Shane Dietrich	7
Jean Taylor	9
Joan Coe	14
Mary Nuerge	15
Kim Singleton	21
Roger Nuerge	22
Brooke Lehman	22
Lisa Dietrich	24
Jason Mengel	24
Becky Mallary	25
Joel Nuerge	26
Justin Nuerge	26
Karen Meinert	28
Shawn Nowry	28
Jane Wilson	28

Anniversaries

Tom & Cheri Shively	13
Lorena Hamara & Ron McWilliams	15
Scott & Beth Lehman	20

**Servants in Ministry****Altar Guild**

Mary Nuerge &
Carol Helkowski

Greeter

2-George/Joleen Mesing
9-Robin/Brittany Young
16-Mary Nuerge/Tara Dulski
23-Tom/Coleen Sigler

Reader

2-Jennifer Ciccone
9-Darryl Gunther
16-Peter Humphrey
23-Kathleen Ormiston

Acolyte

2-Matthew Muto
9-Jase Wilson
16-Kyle Borgman
23-Matthew Osten

Audio Visual

2-J. Ciccone/K. Ormiston
9-S. Fatschel/K. Ormiston
16-L. Gunther/K. Ormiston
23-D. Gunther/D. Eckstrom

Prayer Concerns

- Chuck Taylor recently in car accident, recuperating at home;
- Brittany Mavrich, (POP friend) back problems;
- Teresa Aranda (friend of the Ciccone family) for eye problems and an upcoming eye surgery.
- Margaret Rombold, diagnosed with cancer and awaiting treatment plan;
- Peter Humphrey's grandfather, hospitalized;
- Betty Wunnenberg, recovering from broken ankle; Trevor Mesing recovering from ACL surgery; Sharon, Bill & Becky Mallary's son-in-law's mother, for serious health issues; Daine Tomako (friend of Lynn Gunther), lung cancer, Rose Reiley (friend of Sallie Mannino), Bill Patterson (Lawrie Borgman's father), Kristanya Zittlow, Milt Scott, Twila DeThomas' stepfather, Philip Forsyth, battling cancer.

The Lutheran Hour—February Sermon Schedule

February 2 "Jesus Gets It"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

Jesus understands your pain and has a heart of mercy for your hurt. (Hebrews 2:14-15)

February 9 "You're Still in the Game"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

No matter what, you're still in the game and have a purpose in God's Kingdom. (Matthew 5:14-20)

February 16 "Living in God's Choice"

Lutheran Hour Speaker: Rev. Gregory Seltz

Breathe in God's life-giving Word today and choose life, choose good. (Deuteronomy 30:15-20)

February 23 "The Walls, the Moats"

Speaker Emeritus of The Lutheran Hour: Rev. Ken Klaus

Loneliness is a wall we build, a moat others dig around us. (Matthew 28:20)

Ladies Bible Study "Under His Wings"

Ladies, please join us Thursday evenings for this relevant and interesting study that considers the two sides of emotions that women face every day. Each study focuses on a psalm – its meaning in the life of the psalmist – and the lives of two biblical women. Our current study – Indecision/Certainty – includes the following topics:

Sarah's Struggles
The Widow of Zarephath Wavers
Jeremiah's Indecision
God's Answer for Indecision
David's Certainty in His God
God's Active Presence for Jochebed
God, Dorcas, and Me
Certainty in "Omni-God"

Hope you can join us! Please contact Kathleen Ormiston for more information.

UUMC Thank You

A letter from Jo Shane, Unionville United Methodist Church:

Dear Friends at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church:

Thank you for your support of Compassionate Ministries Community Food Pantry. Your help has enabled us to help 40 families at Thanksgiving and 36 families at Christmas as well as others during and after the holidays. The families have been from New Sewickley Township, Freedom, Rochester, New Brighton, Monaca and Conaway. We even had a couple that was homeless and living in their car after their home was repossessed and their children taken by CYS. They were hungry, needed food and some advice. The food you have collected has touched many lives and has made my job easier.

There are many stories that would break your heart. Some groceries have to be delivered because the people have no car or are elderly. One older gentleman cried when he was told that Nancy Liston died. He said she treated him like a mother would. One lady called two weeks before Christmas. Her husband had left her with a six year old son, no money and no food. She received food that day, a ham for Christmas and Christmas presents for her son. Most of the people are very grateful and express sincere thanks for all that has been provided for them.

Compassionate Ministries also has a Clothing Closet and is always in need of children's clothes, coats and boots. Adult clothing is also appreciated, especially coats, jeans and casual wear.

Keep up the good work and know that you are making a difference.

God Bless,

Jo Shane

Unionville United Methodist Church

Compassionate Ministries

Ministry for Transportation

Some members of our congregation are unable to attend church service regularly because of transportation issues. Maybe their car has broken down, maybe they can no longer drive. We are looking for members who are able to provide transportation. If you are interested in helping or know of someone who might need a ride please contact Natalie Osten at n.osten21@gmail.com or call 724-996-4787.

Getting the Word Out

Please contact Mirka mfatschel@zoominternet.net if you would like to be added to the POP email list for announcements/cancellations, etc. Indicate if you **do not** want to be included in the email prayer requests. Also forward any POP events you would like advertised locally/online with 3 week's notice. Thank you!

January Preschool News . . . Mrs. Shuttleworth & Ms. Nikki

Well it is that time of year again, when we get the snow suits out and dress children over and over again! I love a good snowball fight and making snow angels in the fresh fallen snow! Winter is definitely here! The children are all busy working on their alphabet books and their number books. They have grown in so many ways since the beginning of the school year. You should be very proud! We are! I will say that I do believe that they have spring fever and the teachers do too!!! They have a lot of energy to run off so we have been doing just that. We have been playing musical snowflakes and snowmen in the fellowship hall with many balls and some hockey nets. Boy they have been enjoying that!!! It's also great exercise for the teachers. Our Bible lesson for the month was David and Goliath.

Three year olds

The three year olds lesson for this month was Nursery Rhymes. I was glad to see that some of them knew some! We did some fun activities too. Mitten Matching, Mitten Measurement and Musical Snowflakes! Wow did they like that! We even wished upon our own stars! This is such a fun unit to do with them. We had a lot of fun with the kids. Thanks for sharing them with us.

Four year olds

The four year old's lesson for the month are hibernation and rhyming words. Once they caught on to the rhyming, they had a lot of fun with it! We even made up silly rhyming words, like Dr. Seuss is known for! The children had so much fun with this! We discussed the many animals that sleep for the winter and how other animals prepare for the winter and we talked about how we prepare for the winter too. We are still working hard on our number and alphabet books. We have started printing our names in upper and lower case letters. Everyone is doing a great job and time is sure flying.

Mrs. Shuttleworth & Ms. Nikki

January Preschool News ... Mrs. Smith & Ms. Twila**HAPPY 2014...!**

Both preschool classes jumped right back into each school day after a quick classroom "show and tell". All the boys and girls were permitted to bring his or her favorite Christmas gift to show the class. Toys were definitely the most popular type of gift that the children brought from home.

It was nice during the month of January to have full weeks of instruction again since the holiday season is over. The only thing we are battling now is with "Mother Nature". How about this weather we have been having? Please stay warm and safe during the rest of this record low temperature, winter.

Both classes sure were busy all month. We learned four new letters during our writing skills during January. We learned the letters; N, Y, D, and Z. During the letter N week we talked about the "New Year" and even made a 2014 card to take home. Towards the middle of the month we focused on animals that hibernate. We talked about what it means to hibernate and which animals typically do so. We always have crafts that go with lessons and even our three year old class took home a little foldable book all about hibernation. This time of year it's hard to keep the distractions to a minimum, but when it came time to learn about our five senses; we sure had each and every student's attention. I am talking about the science project which helped us learn about our five senses. The sense of "taste" was so cool to play with. Students were encouraged and given the opportunity to taste food items that were: sweet, sour, bitter, and salty. We really had their attention during this activity. In addition to "taste", the students learned sight, sound, smell, and touch. Our job is so easy when we have all these eager learners.

As always, the entire month each class focuses on a story from the Bible. We held Chapel again at the end of the month, where the children got to show and sing the song of David throwing stones. The children looked so cute turning round and round as they sang the words that the sling shot pushed the rock toward Goliath. Our theme which we developed for the students all month was the story of David and Goliath. We always try to take a moment to thank the friends, families, and neighbors who attend Chapel with our children. The children feel really special as they stand in front of the church and sing. January was a fun and very exciting month during preschool. We are gearing up for a very busy February too. Our time with the four year olds is half over, which makes us push toward preschool graduation so that they may be ready to enter kindergarten in the fall. We are now accepting 2014-2015 registration for both three year old and four year old preschool classes. Please contact one of us at the preschool should you have any questions or need the information for someone else. Referrals are always appreciated!

Until next month; many Blessings to you and yours,

Mrs. Smith & Miss Twila

February 2014

Sun.	Mon.	Tue.	Wed.	Thurs.	Fri.	Sat.
						1 6:30 Holy Communion
2 4 th Sunday after Ephiphany 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion	3	4 6:30 Kidz Klub 6:45 Comrades of Christ	5 11:00 Midweek Bible Study 7:00 Elders	6 7:00 Ladies Bible Study 7:00 Choir	7	8 9:00 Men's Club 6:30 Holy Communion
9 5 th Sunday after Ephiphany 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion	10	11 6:30 Kidz Klub 6:45 Comrades of Christ	12 11:00 Midweek Bible Study 6:30 Council	13 7:00 Ladies Bible Study 7:00 Choir	14	15 6:30 Holy Communion
16 6 th Sunday after Ephiphany 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion	17	18 6:30 Kidz Klub 6:45 Comrades of Christ	19 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	20 7:00 Ladies Bible Study 7:00 Choir	21	22 6:30 Holy Communion
23 7 th Sunday after Ephiphany 9:00 SS/Adult Class 10:15 Holy Communion	24	25 6:30 Kidz Klub 6:45 Comrades of Christ	26 11:00 Midweek Bible Study	27 7:00 Ladies Bible Study 7:00 Choir	28	