



Weekly Messenger

Lutheran Church of God's Love
791 Newtown-Yardley Road, Newtown, PA 18940

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www.godslovenewtown.org

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ASH WEDNESDAY TWO SERVICES ON FEBRUARY 22

Worship services for Ash Wednesday will take place at both Noon and 7pm. The noontime service is spoken; the evening worship is accompanied by organ and choir. Come and receive ashes as a mark of contrition.

LENTEN REFLECTIONS Happening on Wednesday Evenings February 29 – March 28

STUDY: This year our Lenten meditations will focus on our lives, how we manage them in faith, and the goals and visions we have in living. Our congregational book for study this year is "Chazown." Chazown is a Hebrew word which means "vision" or "purpose." The book is meant to lead readers through a personal discovery of our gifts and the purpose to which God has given us life. The cost is \$5 and copies are now available in the Commons for pickup. We will study the book each Wednesday in Lent (except Ash Wednesday) at 6pm.

SOUP: A soup supper (5:30 – 6:30pm) will precede the study. Use the poster in the Commons to indicate whether you will bring soup, bread, or dessert. And join us in Fellowship Hall.

SERVICE: Then at 7pm each Wednesday in Lent we will worship using "Night Prayer" and hear a short homily on managing, in faith, some area of our lives. Topics are Time management, Stress Management, Family Management, Anger Management, and God Management. Services are 45 minutes in the Sanctuary.

BIBLE STUDY FOR LENT

Friday mornings beginning February 24, we will study "40 Day Journey with Martin Luther". Meet us at Moishe and Itzy's Restaurant in the Summit Square Shopping Center at 8:30am. Carl Fricke is the leader.

Bible Readings for
Next Weekend Feb 26

Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

ADULT EDUCATION SUNDAYS AT 9:30AM

February 19 and 26: Pastor Peter will lead a discussion on Luther 101: A Basic Discussion for Leaders and Members. The word “Lutheran” is not particularly “user friendly” these days. And certainly Lutherans do not have a monopoly on being Christian or in heaven . . .but Martin Luther and his followers did help the church recover its core values and lead it along a path of continuing self-reflection and reform. Luther had many important insights into the heart of being Christian and being the church. Especially he re-taught the church about grace and faith.

This course is helpful in understanding why we have “Lutheran” in our church name and in understanding some of the faith values that can shape our ministry and daily life. It is not intended to be preachy or dogmatic but rather helpful, stimulating, and interesting. For leaders; it will be helpful in have a basic understanding of a Lutheran viewpoint.

OUR BULLETINS ONLINE

The weekly bulletins for both traditional and contemporary services are now available on our website. Go to www.godslovenewtown.org and scroll to the bottom left-hand corner of the home page. Click the link for whichever bulletin you are interested in.

The traditional bulletin has been password protected. Since it contains copyrighted music, our licensing agreement requires a password. Use [lctl12345](#).

Offering the bulletins in a pdf format should allow some of you to download the bulletin to your portable device. This should cut down on paper used to create the hard copies. So bring in your cell phones and e-readers to give it a try! (Some devices are unable to open password protected documents – be patient while we work all the kinks out.)

FIRST COMMUNION FOR FIFTH GRADERS

Pastor Peter met with parents of students who are ready to receive the First Communion. We agreed that the training for First Communion will be a retreat in March. It will begin promptly at 7pm on Friday, March 15 and finish promptly at 2pm on Saturday, March 16.

Students will be staying overnight (or a parent may plan to pick up and return them—check with Pastor about these arrangements). Parents will help as chaperones and in all other aspects of the retreat; all parents are welcome. Students who complete the retreat will then receive their First Holy Communion on Palm Sunday weekend (March 31-April 1) or on Holy Thursday (April 5).

WISH LIST AT GOD'S LOVE

From time to time we will publish a list of items that we would really like to have here at church but for which there is no money in the budget. We would be grateful for someone to fund the cost. Items can be given in memory of a loved one, anonymously, designated for a special occasion, or for another reason. If you are interested in contributing, please let Pastor Peter know and he will guide you.

Needed Item	Estimated Cost
Video Projector (portable)	\$1000
Replace Furniture in Commons	\$3000
Replace Outdoor Message Sign	\$10,000
Replace Riding Mower	\$4000

PRAY FOR WORSHIP LEADERS

February 19th
Andy Senft

February 26th
Todd & Carol Stranahan

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

“ . . . gave according to their means,
and even beyond their means.”
2 Cor 8:3

Sacrifice proportionately as Christ sacrificed for us. For our sake Jesus gave up everything to make us rich through the cross and the resurrection. We are called to sacrifice so others may share in God’s word and blessings.

BUCKS COUNTY HOUSING GROUP

Our community outreach for the month of February is a food collection for the food pantry items for the Bucks County Housing Group in September. Please leave your donations of canned goods and nonperishables in the box in the Commons. Thank you.

NEW FINANCIAL SECRETARY

Introducing Renard Smoots, our new Financial Secretary! Renard has volunteered to post the income for the church in 2012. He is responsible for producing your giving statements on a periodic basis and will be a member of our Executive Committee. We thank him sincerely for his service.

If you have questions about your pledge or your giving, please contact Renard at renardsmoots@verizon.net or use his home phone at 215-497-5025.

ATTENDANCE AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

For Feb 4th/5th - Attendance 244

For Feb 11th/12th - Attendance 223

GOD'S LOVE FOR YOUTH
Youth Ministry for Youth in Grades 6-12

Sunday, February 26: All middle schoolers meet in the Loft at noon for a meeting.

Future events: we're currently planning a Wii/Xbox dance party, yoga/meditation and a hike at Tyler State Park. Got a time/date preference or another idea? Email Jon at joncm Myers@gmail.com.

YOUTH FUNDRAISERS FOR SUMMER TRIPS

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Our Youth are off to a great start with their fundraisers. There are two trips planned this summer:

1. We will send 15 youth and 6 adults for a week of home repair on the Appalachian Service Project.
2. A group of 11 youth and 2 adults will head to the ELCA National Youth Gathering, once again held in New Orleans.

The trips will cost \$30,000 so fundraisers are scheduled for the next several months. Available right now is:

FLOCKING A FRIEND -

You can order a flock of 12 flamingos to decorate a friend's lawn for 24 hours. Just take a pink form from the Youth Table, fill it in, write a check, and put it in Stacey Sottung's mailbox. Orders will be taken until May 1. Thanks for your support!

AND "THE GOOD OLE DAYS" PHOTOGRAPHY -

Make an appointment for March 23 or 24 here in the mods at church. Entire families or individuals may sit in costume with props for a modern sepia finished photo. Color photos (with no costuming required) are also available. The cost is just \$10 and you receive a 10x13. Call Dawn, a youth parent, at 267-987-4870 to schedule an appointment.

**Mark your calendar for the popular Fund Fair on
Saturday, May 5.**

NEW BEGINNINGS

Let's get together and play! New Beginnings is a ministry of the church that focuses on families with young children. Mark your calendar for the following activities:

Wed, Feb 22nd: Open Play in the Church Nursery at 10:30

Wed, March 14th: Open Play in the Church Nursery at 10:30

Thursday, March 22nd: Bouncing Off the Walls at 10:30

8919 New Falls Road, Levittown, PA

215-946-3432

\$10/child age 1-6, \$5/child who is crawling

2 Adults Free with child admission

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

DINE OUT

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29

The end of February takes Dine Out to the New Plum Tree Garden (also called the Lemonleaf Grille). This restaurant is in the Woodbourne Square shopping center, right next to Oxford Valley mall. They serve a large variety of Chinese dishes, together with a smaller, good Thai repertoire.

We are going there on Wednesday, February 29th at 6:30 pm. Please let me know if you would like to carpool; I can meet you in the church parking lot at 6:10 pm.

Please RSVP to me by Monday, February 27th.

Sarah Wheeler, Coordinator

WOMEN'S RETREAT "PRAYER WITH COLOR"

How do you pray? Do you pray only when you are lonely, troubled or at your wit's end? Do you pray your gratitude to God? Do you feel your prayers are just going out to the void or do you have a conversation with God?

On Saturday, February 25 from 10 am-12 noon, God's Love will be offering a Women's Retreat on PRAYER WITH COLOR. All women are invited to come and learn about this different way to pray using paper, pencil, markers and crayons. You don't need to be an artist or even be particularly creative--bring your willingness to learn and God will do the rest!

The workshop has been developed and will be run by Jennie Myers, the wife of our Youth Coordinator, Jon Myers. Please sign up in the Commons for this workshop. All you need to bring is your Bible and your favorite passage. All other supplies will be provided as well as refreshments. We will be asking for a free will donation.

Contact Beth Meyers at emjh84@verizon.net if you have questions.

NEW MEMBERS DISCOVERY LUNCH **Sunday, March 4 at Noon**

We will share some lunch, meet others who are interested in membership, and hear about what is involved in joining our community of faith. While this get together often leads to membership, there are no strings attached, and everyone is free to come and learn more about us without being pressured to join.

For those who do wish to become members, we will receive new members at any worship service on March 10-11. If we have your address, we will soon be mailing out invitations. The details of the gathering are included as well as a form to complete. Please call the office if you are interested in attending.

A SPIRITUAL SEMINAR FOR LENT

Ascension Lutheran Church in Washington Crossing is hosting a seminar on Sunday, February 26 from 1-3pm. You are all invited to attend! The two-hour seminar is entitled "Searching for the Holy" and is led by Rev. Leslie M. Richard. She will use lecture, dialog, and experiential pieces to explore what God is like, personal encounters with God, and how to recognize the presence of God.

Rev. Richard holds an MA in Holistic Spirituality and a Certificate in Spiritual Direction from Chestnut Hill College in Philadelphia. She serves a call to specialized ministry in the SEPA synod. For more information, please contact Ascension Lutheran at 215-497-0447.

ANNOUNCING BIBLE SCHOOL 2012: "Noah's Park"

This summer from July 30 to August 3, God's Love will host a new VBS program; it's uniquely created just for us and is unlike any other program in the area. Working with our new Pet Ministry, we will have an incredibly fun week of Vacation Bible School with a focus on all of God's creatures.

We will have guest animals each day - some of whom are very special, a daily bible lesson, teaching about the proper care of animals, the building of a Noah's Ark over the week, singing, crafts and animal treat making.

In order to make all this work, we are seeking some help in the following areas:

- We urgently need a Co-Director to help with the program.
- Decorators, set designers, and people to help with the ark
- Teachers for daily bible lessons
- Animal crafts
- Daily helpers

If you can help in any of these areas, contact Doty Horn at dotyhorn@comcast.net or the church office.

A Messenger from Liberia...

Last Sunday we listened to the amazing story of how Pastor Amos Zor, who pastors a growing church in Liberia, was led to come to God's Love. Pastor Zor is a man of deep faith who believes in the power of fasting and prayer and who also believes God has sent him to be with us for a time. He will be a worshipper with us, and from time to time will lead the Adult Study, or fill in for Pastor Peter in the pulpit.

Amos has come to America as both a missionary and to raise funds for the completion of his church back home. In the US he is the founder director of Prayer Garden Ministries International. He presently resides in Trenton in a house where he ministers to others in the Liberian community. His email is amos_zor@yahoo.com.

KNIT AND CROCHET GROUP **FEBRUARY MEETINGS**

Would you like to learn to knit or crochet? Want to learn how to make chemo hats and cowls? We can teach you. We have a group of talented ladies that meet every Friday. We share our knowledge, exchange ideas, share patterns, and have a great time, too. All the items we make we give to less fortunate people in our community. Come join us. All are welcome.

We meet Friday afternoons at 1pm at church in Rooms A1/A2 on February 24. If you have any questions, please call Cindy Sundstrom at 215-493-2484 or email at cscafter1@verizon.net.

GOD'S LOVE HELPING **A FRIEND**

With the blessing of Church Council, we are asking you to help some dear friends who are in desperate need. Mukesh Cheedie, former seminary intern here, and his family live in Levittown. He has a call as a Lutheran pastor nearby but has huge school debts and is barely making ends meet. Recently his family's oil furnace broke down, and though it has been patched together, it is 45 years old and really in need of replacement. The plan is to replace the current furnace with a heat pump. Someone has agreed to do the job at very low price, \$5800.

So far deposits from our members total \$1130. We are very thankful for your support of Mukesh. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans (Lower Bucks Chapter) has graciously agreed to provide matching funds for this effort. Mark your contributions "Cheedie Furnace Fund" and place in the offering plate.

GOD'S LOVE COOKBOOK

Share your favorite recipes for the new God's Love Cookbook. The cookbook will include all types of recipes from Appetizers to Canine Cuisine. Join the fun, send your favorites to Joyce Senss at ksenss@verizon.net or put a hard copy in her mailbox. The cookbook will be coming out later in the spring. The proceeds will go to the Youth for their summer mission trips.

VISION

United by the Holy Spirit,
we will make Christ known!

MISSION

We will invite all people to experience God's
love, grow in faith together, serve and care
for others.

GOD'S LOVE STAFF:

Rev. Peter Naschke, Senior Pastor
Kay Rozolis, Office Manager
Ken Weisensale, Office Manager
Walt Kull, Rejoice! Director
Tom Baust, Heartsong Musician
Sharon Sottung, Youth Administration
Josh Morales, Sexton
Jon Myers, Youth & Family Ministry Coordinator
Melanie Jiménez, Groundskeeper
Joan Smith, Nursery Caretaker

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Dawn DeChirico
Ed Franco
Sue Heinze
Kathy MacDonald
Nancy McPeak
Earl Monk
Kurt Nelson
Bob Smoose
Stacey Sottung
John Tidd
Will Toppin
Nate Webber

Financial Secretary: Renard Smoots
Treasurer: Janet Nordberg

MUTUAL MINISTRY CONTACT INFO:

Earl Monk earlmonk@comcast.net
Chris Sassaman csassaman2@comcast.net
Will Toppin whktoppin@comcast.net
Andi Webber andiwebber@comcast.net

SUNDAY – Transfiguration

8:15am Traditional Worship
9:30am Sunday School & Confirmation
10:45am Contemporary Worship
7:30pm A.A. Meeting

THIS WEEK

		LOCATION
Mon	Counters 9:30am Boy Scouts 7pm	A1 Fellowship
Tues	Rejoice! Rehearsal 8pm	Sanctuary
Wed	Bells 6:30pm Adult Choir 7:30pm	A1, A2 Sanctuary
Thurs		
Fri	Knit & Crochet 1pm A.A. Meeting 7pm	A1, A2 Mods
Sat	Heartsong Service 5:30pm	Sanctuary

NEXT SUNDAY – 1 Lent

8:15am Traditional Worship
9:30am Sunday School & Confirmation
10:45am Contemporary Worship
7:30pm A.A. Meeting

Staff Notes

Pastor Peter has switched his day off to Fridays.

GOD'S LOVE CHRISTIAN PRESCHOOL

Janet Nelson, Director

Pre-K: M – F 9:15-11:45am
4 yr olds: M, W, F 9:15-11:45am
M, W, R, F 12:45-3:15pm
3 yr olds: T, R 9:15-11:45am
T, W, R 12:45-3:15pm

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