



THE BEACON

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

Happy New Year! The Christmas Season has been extremely busy, and I am looking forward to the New Year (& Ohio State playing for the National Championship on January 7th!). Because of the busy-ness, I share with you an article I found interesting, regarding the custom of making New Year's Resolutions.

Pastor Terry

The Origins of New Years' Resolutions

Like other Christian festivals, the celebration of New Years Day in the West started before the church came into existence. At first, the Romans celebrated the beginning of the new year on March 1, not January 1. Julius Caesar instituted New Year's Day on January 1 to honor Janus, the two-faced god who looks backwards into the old year and forwards into the new. The custom of "New Years resolutions" began in this earliest period, as the Romans made resolutions with a moral flavor: mostly to be good to others.

When Rome took on Christianity as its official faith, the Christians kept New Years Day. Only, they traded the vaguely moral emphasis for a practice of fasting and prayer aimed at living the New Year in the New Life of Christ. Soon, however, the new year celebration reverted to March 1, and this early emphasis on spiritual things dissolved. Or rather, it shifted to a new celebration on January 1. Beginning in the middle of the sixth century, parts of the church began to set aside January 1 as the Feast of the Circumcision, commemorating Jesus' circumcision. As with other Jewish boy babies, Jesus was circumcised eight days after his birth (Luke 2:21, "when eight days were accomplished").

But the pagans had apparently spoiled January 1 for many Christians: the Roman church did not accept this feast day until the 11th century. It was finally in 1752, when Britain and its possessions adopted the Gregorian calendar, that January 1 again came to be recognized and celebrated as the first day of the year.

Some Christians, however, still hesitated to celebrate the day. The Puritans, for example, were leery of the associations of January 1 with the pagan god Janus—they preferred not even to say the name of the month, referring to it rather as "First Month." And of course they stood against the dissipations usually indulged during the celebration. Instead, the Puritans urged their young people, especially, to skip the revelry and meditate on the year past and the year to come. Always ready to introspect—in famously excruciating detail—they adopted again the old custom of making resolutions. They vowed to take more care against their besetting sins, make better use of their talents and other divine gifts, and treat others with Christian charity.

With or without such historical understandings, many of us may have taken New Years Eve and New Years Day as God-given opportunities. We have taken at least a few minutes to reflect, pray, and dedicate ourselves anew to our Lord—whether at a "Watch Night Service" or in private, with pen and journal (or word processor) in hand. If you are one of these, you may wish to extend your meditations this week by reviewing a very famous list of Resolutions. This is the list created by the American Puritan divine Jonathan Edwards. He penned them, not on a single New Years' Day, but throughout two pivotal years after his graduation from Yale, during which entered his first pastorate, in Northampton, Massachusetts.

During these years, Edwards intensely considered his spiritual state and devised ways he could improve himself as a Christian. The resulting list of resolutions reminded him to dwell each day on his own death and eternal destiny and to bring his every emotion, thought, and action in line with the Word of God. Here is an example:

"48. Resolved, constantly, with the utmost niceness and diligence, and the strictest scrutiny, to be looking into the state of my soul, that I may know whether I have truly an interest in Christ or no; that when I come to die, I may not have any negligence respecting this to repent of."

Though I sometimes find the Puritans scary in their spiritual intensity and wonder if their strict practices sometimes erred on the side of works-righteousness, I find this list of Edwards's not only challenging but inspiring. I am sure that, like New Years resolution-makers throughout history, he often failed to come up to the grand aspirations enshrined in these resolutions. But I also suspect he benefited greatly from the exercise of writing them and trying to live by them.

(Chris Armstrong)

COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR JANUARY 2008

by Erik Polkowski

“Call me”

It starts with a smile. It grows with an outreached hand. It is a laugh. It is a tear shed. It is the connection we feel between one another. At this time of year, many things are going on. We have shopping to do, parties to plan, events to attend and resolutions to write. And yet we can neglect the obvious, the people.

“So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.” – 2 Corinthians 4:18

We all have people in our life who are special. Sometimes it takes specific events, before we see them for who they are and what they were to us. My grandmother recently passed away. I wrote a letter to be read during her service out in California. It was my way of telling those present there, what she meant and some memories I had with and through her actions. It was a way of me being present without being able to attend. It was in the writing of this letter that made me reflect upon her life and its impact, not only on me but on others. It was also at this time, a friend, who now lives in Florida, traveled up to act as a pallbearer for her service here. He did so without asking or prompting. Another friend, the best man at my brother's wedding and with whom I have not spoken with in the past few years, did the same. It is actions like these which truly tell you who you are and what you mean to someone else. It is these actions that should cause you to reflect on the impact you make to others and others on you.

“I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that you may know how we are, and that he may encourage you.” – Ephesians 6:21

Best of all, this is the time of year to make it all work. We have opportunity. Be it those holiday gatherings. Be it through a Christmas card. We all have the opportunity to seek out someone we have lost touch with and re-establish that connection. Maybe you parted on good terms, maybe on bad terms. Maybe you just lost touch through time and distance. Whatever it may have been, isn't this season to reach out? Isn't it the perfect time to forgive? Isn't it the perfect time to let others know just how important they are to you?

“I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.” – John 17:22

It is said that it is the thought that counts. Looking at the presents created by my children for Dad or for Mom, they are better than anything I could ever buy. It is said that it is better to give than to receive. In this season, God, who gives us his grace and support, gave us his son, Jesus Christ. I can think of no better gift to give to another than that of you. To give them your support, your hope and your faith, to forgive and lift them up in spirit. The most heartfelt and genuine gift one can receive is that of friendship and love. Now I ask you, think of someone you love or haven't spoken with in a while. Go call and tell them what they mean to you.



A YEAR OF TIME... STEVEN B. CLOUD, *PULPIT HELPS, VOL. 14, #2*

...Though even thinking on the subject of time may prove discomfoting, it is not a bad idea—especially at the beginning of a new year. As we look into 2008 we look at a block of time. We see 12 months, 52 weeks, 365 days, 8,760 hours, 525,600 minutes, 31,536,000 seconds. And all is a gift from God. We have done nothing to deserve it, earn it, or purchased it. Like the air we breathe, time comes to

us as a part of life. The gift of time is not ours alone. It is given equally to each person. Rich and poor, educated and ignorant, strong and weak—every man, woman and child has the same twenty-four hours every day. Another important thing about time is that you cannot stop it. There is no way to slow it down, turn it off, or adjust it. Time marches on.

And you cannot bring back time. Once it is gone, it is gone. Yesterday is lost forever. If yesterday is lost, tomorrow is uncertain. We may look ahead at a full year's block of time, but we really have no guarantee that we will experience any of it. Obviously, time is one of our most precious possessions. We can waste it. We can worry over it. We can spend it on ourselves. Or, as good

stewards, we can invest it in the kingdom of God. The new year is full of time. As the seconds tick away, will you be tossing time out the window, or will you make every minute count?



TRINITY'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

This year the Sunday School students of Trinity will be presenting a story entitled "Nine Important Reasons" at the 10:45 am worship service on Sunday, January 6th. All the youngsters will have a part in this production along with the congregation joining in the singing of some Christmas carols. Following the service,

there will be a light reception in honor of the children. Please mark your calendar for this very important date.

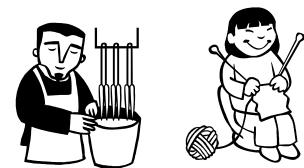
Also parents, we pray that you are reminding your youngsters to drop a few coins into the baby bottle they brought home from Sunday School. We are hoping the youngsters are learning



good stewardship through this mission, as they think about those children living away from their families and not enjoying the every day pleasures we have come to accept. Remember, we ask the youngsters to bring their baby bottles back, regardless of how many coins they have placed within, on Sunday, December 30th.

TRINITY'S 19TH ANNUAL TALENT AUCTION

Mark your calendars! Sunday, March 9, 2008 Start thinking of what talents God has given you that you would like to share on this special evening.



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Attention!

Sunday, January 27, 2007
1:00 pm



Meeting will begin following a potluck lunch at noon Please plan on staying for this meeting. Everyone's input is important as we move forward as a congregation.

ADVERTISE YOUR EVENT



The PR Committee requests that anyone who will be hosting a public event, complete and submit an "Advertisement Request Form", at least 8 weeks prior to the event. The forms are located in the church office above the copy machine. Please plan ahead so we can properly advertise

your event. Any questions, please contact PR Committee members: Chuck Lowder at 585-547-9862 or chuck@crlowder.com, Ethel Kogut at 716-937-6021 or Paula Kropelin at 716-542-3004

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS—JANUARY 2008

January 6, 2008

Worship Assistant	8:00-Donna Kumpf	10:45-Flo Goeseke
Scripture Reader	8:00-David Hofmeier	10:45-Erik Polkowski
Communion Asst.	8:00-Helen Smith	10:45-Shirley Schoenwetter
Greeter		10:45-Melissa & Erik Polkowski

January 13, 2008

Worship Assistant	8:00- Helen Smith	10:45-Diane McMullen
Scripture Reader	8:00-Ruth Knerr	10:45-Flo Goeseke
Communion Asst.	8:00-Mel Knerr	10:45-Gretchen Bruning
Greeter		10:45-Bonnie Cummings

January 20, 2008

Worship Assistant	8:00-Donna Kumpf	10:45-Diane McMullen
Scripture Reader	8:00-Brianna Jurewicz	10:45-Christian McMullen
Communion Asst.	8:00-Lisa Kaminski	10:45-Diane Vogt
Greeter		10:45-Tammy Johannes

January 27, 2008-Congregational Meeting Day, One Service at 10:45 am

Worship Assistant	10:45-Tammy Johannes
Scripture Reader	10:45-Becky Fix
Communion Asst.	10:45-Paula Kropelin
Greeter	10:45-Brian Nehrboss

THANK YOU

Thank you to Pastor White and family and friends of Trinity for your prayers, memorials, expressions of sympathy, and for serving the lunch following Robert Bluman's Service. Your love and support mean a lot.

Helen Bluman
Dale & Lois Kruschke

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

1st - Wendy Schadt
 2nd - Paul Fix
 5th - Sylvia Hebell
 14th - Chelsey Schmid
 15th - Theresa Skorupski
 17th - Thelma Parker
 Hank Backes
 Justin Blasko
 Brian Covell
 20th - Brianna Jurewicz
 Enrique Coleman
 Mark Jurewicz
 22nd - Rachele Cummings
 Gretchen Aylsworth
 Kiera Palizay
 24th - Dawn Smith
 26th - Ryan Dorr
 28th - Philip Nice



JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES:

6th - Andy & Diane Edwards
 26th - Robert & Tammy Johannes

We rejoice and welcome
to the
Lord's Table:

Jessica Hellenbach
 Spencer Henley
 Garrett Jurewicz
 Justin Schmid

First Communion
 November 25, 2007

CONFIRMED...FOR LIFE!

This month in the confirmation class we've been studying Genesis. Of all the questions asked this month, the most memorable was, "What came first, the dinosaur or man?" Pastor had us look straight to the Bible. After reading the creation story we discovered that the dinosaur came first in the "week". We also learned that the week in which the world was created was more than a week. The days stood for periods of time, not a 24 hour block. So it could have been 2,000,000 years or seven hours. The Bible holds the answers to the questions that puzzle us, which is why it is so important we study it. We will continue working in our studies as the eighth graders grow in faith and draw near to their confirmation. Merry Christmas!

Christian McMullen



EVENTS....

Randall Memorial Baptist Church presents
Season 3 of the Eric Arnold Memorial Concert Series
Jan. 20, 2008, 6:00 pm

Houghton College Choir
The Houghton College Choir was founded in 1931 by famed musician Wilfred C. Bain. Since its inception it has focused on sacred A' cappella literature and from the beginning enjoyed a reputation for performing with sensitivity and artistry. Under the direction of Dr. Brandon Johnson, the ensemble seeks to bring listeners closer to the presence of God through the artistry and efforts of its members. Dr. Johnson currently serves as Chancel Choir Director for Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Fairport, NY.

Free Admission
For more information:
716-634-9800
EAMCS@
randallchurch.org

**Online Learning
Feb.-March 2008
Faithful Learning,
Faithful Living:
Education and the
Church's Ministry**

Presented by the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia, with the Rev. *Jessicah Krey Duckworth, Professor of Christian Formation and Teaching at Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington D.C.*

What role within the church and public sphere does education play in the formation of Christians? Looking at the new ELCA social statement, *Our Calling in Education*, we'll explore what public education means to people of faith. We'll also discuss a pattern for faith formation to guide parish ministries of education, fellowship and service issues in this not-for-credit course.

Registration now open. Learn more and register online :

www.Ltsp.edu/flonline

**Lord of Life
Lutheran Church**
Invites you to join us in
Celebration

as we install

The Reverend
Deborah L. Turley

and

The Reverend
Dean M. Hunneshagen

as Co-Pastors on

Sunday, January 6, 2008
5:00 pm Worship
Reception Follows

***Lord of Life
Lutheran Church
1025 Borden Road
Depew, NY 14043***

Dates to note:

January 6
Epiphany
Sun. School Program

January 20
*Post Holiday Party
And Train Show*

January 27
*One Service 10:45
Annual Meeting*

February 3
*Trinity's
"Souper Bowl"*

February 14
*Valentine's Marriage
Vow Renewal
Evening*

March 9
Talent Auction

SOUPER BOWL SUNDAY

Trinity will be participating in the "2008 Souper Bowl Sunday" on Feb. 3rd. This is a time when we collect funds in support of our favorite football team as well as to give to an organization designed to help feed the hungry. Trinity has proudly been an active participant in this collection for over 15 years and has a pretty good record of picking the winner of the Super Bowl, (about 80%)! Watch for more details to follow in your Sunday Bulletins and the February Beacon.

LADIES OF TRINITY

The Ladies met on December 10th, and although they were few in number they were able to set their 2008 schedule. The ladies agreed that a Monday morning meeting is better. So they will continue to meet on the second Monday of each month at 10:00 am. The gathering opens with a Bible discussion, followed by an ever so brief business meeting, and then lunch.

In 2008, you are invited to share in the many activities planned by the Women of Trinity. Their schedule includes:

January 20th-Train Show/Post-

Holiday Party (more details to follow).

April 14- Spaghetti Supper.

June-Sidewalk Sale, (date determined by Akron's Chamber of Commerce).

March 23rd-simple Easter Breakfast.

July (date yet to be determined)-the Ladies Day Out possibly to a Quilt Barn in Lockport.

September 20th-County Kitchen at the Chowder Sale.

November-Thankoffering Service.

These activities welcome everyone regardless if you are able to attend the monthly gatherings or not.

The December gathering was followed by a mission project of making cookies for the Akron-Newstead Food Pantry. There were 7 women, 1 man and 2 younger children that helped to roll, sugar, bake and even test about 12 dozen cookies. The Akron-Newstead Food Pantry Staff thank all who helped with this task. A plate of cookies was given to each family that received a Christmas dinner.



POST HOLIDAY PARTY AND TRAIN SHOW A FAMILY GATHERING

SUNDAY,
JANUARY 20TH

The Ladies of Trinity invite everyone, including children to a Pot-luck Supper, a presentation on trains, and LOTS OF FUN!

**4:00-5:00 pm- Appetizers
&Train Layout Viewing
5:00 pm- Pot-luck Supper
6:00 pm-Model Train Facts &
Fun Presentation**

A sign-up sheet will be in the Narthex for your reservations to attend and if you would be bringing a dish to pass.



P.S. If you have a few train cars or a whole layout, you are welcome to share them with us for the evening. Please contact Jane Dorr, Candy Kruschke, Donna Kumpf, Trudi Schmid, or Ruth Walworth as soon as possible.

VALENTINE'S DAY

**Renew your Wedding
Vows!**

**at Trinity Lutheran
Church**

**Thursday, February 14th
6:30 pm**

Everyone Welcome!

**ALL ARE
WELCOME**

PRAYER CONCERNS

Please pray for:

Ken Mekeel, Owen Pieber,
Jim Roehling, Barb
Janotte, Claire Bauer,
Georgia Sciolino, Janet
Grady, Linda Yaeger,
Janet Rhody, Emma
Peters, Mary Schruers,
Joshua Schmidt, Baby
Andrew Mekeel, Ida
Witkowski, Nicholas Frey,
Jean Utz, Helen Cordova,

Leo Hadley, Alan Kumpf,
Mary Florkowski,
Jonathan Kropelin,
Dorthea Wilson, Andrea
Powell, Cindy Ezzo

And the families of:

Robert Bluman, Anne
Polkowski, William Ruff,
Don Weber

**We remember our
homebound:**

Daisy Graff, Margaret
Baker, Bill Nehrboos and



IN MEMORY

Robert Bluman-

3/13/1948-11/30/2007

Memorial Service
12/7/07

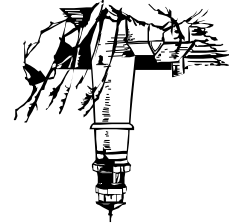
William Ruf-

6/18/1920-12/18/2007

His family to hold private
services.

January 2008

“BE A BEACON—
SEEKING AND REFLECTING THE
LIGHT OF THE LORD”



Email: trinic@rochester.rr.com
716-542-9828
Akron, New York 14001
4809 South Newstead Road

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF SOUTH NEWSTEAD

Reverend Terry L. White, Pastor (716) 542-2309

Erin Swiatowy, Office Manager (716) 542-9828
Erik Polkowski, Council President
Charles Lowder, Webservant (585) 547-9862
David Hofmeier/Candy Kruschke, Pianists
David McMullen, Choir Director

Sunday Worship Services: 8:00 am and 10:45 am
Sunday School (ages 3-adult): 9:15 am
Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9:00 am—1:00 pm

WE'RE ON THE WEB!

WWW.TRINITY-LUTHERAN-CHURCH.ORG
