

The Announcer

The Monthly Newsletter of Pilgrim Lutheran Church

June 2010

Musings

We have identified *Communication* as one of our key problems in the congregation. This is nothing new, and no startling revelation. Way back, about ten years ago, when the “Bridgebuilders” consultants interviewed most of our members, Communication was identified as a problem even then. We didn't really address it. And ten years later, guess what!?! It didn't go away. This isn't so surprising. Poor communication strains just about every human relationship—husband to wife, parent to child, employer to employee etc. etc.. People get irritated, upset, apathetic, hurt, even oppositional when they feel they have been left out of the loop. Poor communication, as a fundamental breakdown, may be easy to *identify*. Not so easy to fix.

Communication is more than just talking, or announcing, or declaring. In a *Sally Forth* comic, Sally is standing, holding a laundry basket, and Ted is sitting reading the paper. Sally laments: “Have you ever noticed that there are times when we're both sitting, times when we are both standing and times when you're sitting and I'm standing, but there are no times when I'm sitting and you're standing?” Without looking up, Ted replies, “Could you repeat that?” She says, “Probably not, but I'm serious, Ted. It seems unfair.” He says, “I guess you're right.” The final panel shows Sally, still standing, holding the laundry basket. Ted is still reading the paper, but now he is standing. The moral to this story? “Proving once again that talking and communicating are two different animals.”

For communication to happen, certain responsibilities need to be embraced. First, the one who has information to be shared needs to consider: What needs to be said? Who needs to know it? What do I want the people who hear it to do after they hear it? Now here's where it gets tricky: when I make the announcement (in print or verbally) am I saying what I think I am saying? Or to put it another way does the listener understand what I want them to know? Are my words clear and to the point?

Second, there is the person who receives the message. This person, also, has responsibilities. Communication is a two-way street. COMMUNICATION IS NOT THE SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE OFFICERS, THE PASTOR, OR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. Each has their own responsibilities to get the message out, to be sure. But you need to be present when announcements and meetings happen. You need to read the bulletin, and read the newsletter. Much information is conveyed through these media. I have had people tell me they did not know an event was happening, when I had personally announced it in this newsletter and in several bulletins. Once again, the simple transfer of information is not communication. For communication to occur, there needs to be a clear message communicated through a clear medium, AND it needs to be heard, read or otherwise listened to, understood, and responded to.

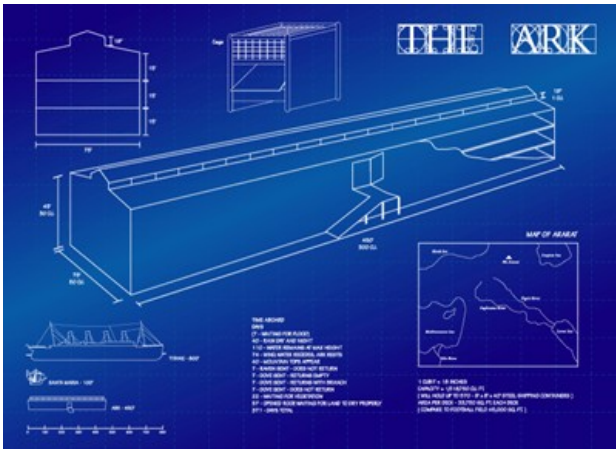
If a person makes an announcement in the woods and no one is around to hear it, has communication happened?

Is it possible that the word communicated was not as clear as the speaker or writer had hoped? Is it possible that you did not understand, or you understood differently, what was being communicated? Certainly. This is often the case when communication breaks down. Communication specialists point out that when you talk with another person there are actually six messages that can come through: 1. what you mean to say; 2. what you actually say; 3. what the other person hears; 4. what the other person thinks he hears; 5. what the other person says about what you said; 6. what you think the other person said about what you said. That's why responding is so helpful. How do I know if an effort to communicate a particular idea was successful unless someone asks about it? How may I tell whether it was understood? Or whether I gave the wrong idea? Or whether some folks have just misunderstood? If something you read seems out of step, you do me a courtesy by asking about it, so I have the opportunity to correct misunderstandings, or find out whether I, myself, had flawed information.

Listening is really vital in the process. After the message is passed on, the original speaker and listener effectively change places, the Listener responds by sharing what they understood, and the Speaker listens to see what they understood. When this happens, the process has gone full circle, and chances are good that communication has happened. Any breakdown on the path, and the message may not get out. When this happens, we all need to take responsibility for our part of the break-down.

So we have started to address some issues. Only started. There's more to talk about, and we will. Watch this space this summer. For now, think about what I have laid in front of you here. Try the listen/understand/respond dynamic out—not just in regard to church communications, but with people you hang out with. See if you notice a difference.

Parish Communication Workshop — How do we do a better job of working together, and of sharing the great mission and message we have been given? Better communication. Previously, we had announced a June 5 date for a parish communication workshop led by the Rev. John Hohe. Again we have had to cancel. We are negotiating a new date, though as of press time, it is not worked out yet. Listen for the new date. We apologize that this has not come about yet. We're working on it. Call if you have not heard anything. And please, please plan to come!



Vacation Bible School 2010

"Let's Build an Ark!"



July 12 – 16
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon.
Serving age 3 – 6th grade.

“Let's build an Ark!” is the theme for this year's Vacation Bible School week. Guess who we're going to be learning about! You got it! “Old Noah, he built himself an ark, there's one more river to cross. He built it out of hick'ry bark, there's one more river to cross.”
 “The Lord said to Noah, 'There's gonna be a floody, floody...’”
 PLUS! We all get to help build a six-foot Ark.

We need teachers to share the faith and enthusiasm of a little child! The classes will be divided this way: Pre-K, K, and 1st grade; 2nd and 3rd; and 4th through 6th. So 3 teachers or teacher teams are needed, also, T-shirt makers, snack makers & servers, games leader, decorators, crafts leader, sign makers, and helpers for teachers or helpers to make and copy class materials. We need 5 more staff, adult and teenage to put on this highlight of the summer at Pilgrim. VBS helps "train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it," a real job worth doing!

Please ask Lee Ruff where you can help or how to help in preparing for that week, 740-587-3453. Sign up children and their friends now by calling Lee at 740-877-4192, or the Church Office, 587-0345. Thank you, God always blesses the work done to share His Word with the children!

So mark the dates, get your kids and grand-kids, and the neighbor-kids and any others you can round up

L.S.S. Day with the Clippers

Saturday, July 24

6:00 p.m. Gates open for LSS Day participants.
 Food and Fun begin at Huntington Park

7:05 p.m. PLAY BALL! Columbus Clippers vs. Pawtucket Red Sox
 A fireworks display will light up the sky following the game!

Special price Admission – \$5.00
 Family Pack (6 Tickets) – \$26.00

Order tickets by calling Pastor Dan, or leave a message at the office.
 Only your advance ticket orders benefit LSS Central Ohio.



The Announcer is the monthly publication of Pilgrim Lutheran Church of Granville, Ohio.

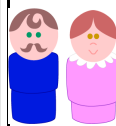
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Editor: Daniel J. Ruff, Pastor

Newsletter submissions are welcome and encouraged; due by the 23rd of each month. All submissions may be subject to editorial revision.

June Special Days:



Anniversaries

Richard and Abby Barkley 2
 Robert and Debra Warner 20
 Nicholas and Kim Edwards 20

Birthdays

Joseph Warner 3
 Jacob Warner 9

Father's Day! Sunday, June 20.

Don't forget!



June Trustees News

Painting has been completed in the Sunday School area.

The bi-metal coffee cans have been removed from the Mother's Room. We need to collect a supply of *plastic* 1 pound coffee cans for the altar flowers to be taken home in. Please be sure to return them when you use them, so that they may be used again.

The swinging doors in the women's rest room in the Education building have been repaired, as has the rocking chair in the Mother's Room.

A metal cabinet shelf in the Sunday School Storage/Office has been jamming. It has been adjusted, but it will be looked at for a more enduring fix, if possible.

As of this writing, the weeds around the church building are being taken out. Thanks, Stephanie! The cleaned-up beds will really communicate a greater care we have for this house of God in the community!

--Ruth Burdette, for the Trustees

Women's Guild Notes

The June Guild meeting will be on Monday, June 14 at 7:30 p.m. Please note: For this month we will meet upstairs in the Education Building to allow the Licking County Audubon Society to have their annual Potluck dinner and Meeting over in the Martin Luther Room. This will be the final meeting before we break for the summer. The treat for this meeting will be a dessert pot-luck. You are welcome and encouraged to bring your favorite dessert, or that recipe you've been wanting to try, to share with the group. All women are invited to come!

The Craft Workshops will continue through the summer on Wednesdays starting at 9:00 a.m. These workshops allow us to work together on various projects in preparation for the Bazaar in October. Come join us! We'd love to have you. If Wednesday morning is a barrier to too many willing hands, we would be willing to negotiate another day and time.

Call Ruth (740-928-6788) or Mary (740-366-4707) with your questions.



Adult Class is reflecting on Holy Baptism Sunday mornings

Martin Luther wrote that in baptism, "every Christian has enough to learn and practice all his life." And it's true. When we were brought to the baptismal font as an infant, or in later years as a youth or adult, we were joined with Christ in a subtle, yet powerful way. However, numerous denominational groups disparage our baptism of infants, suggesting that our teaching is false, and that baptism is only true when it is done for an adult who understands what it is about. This study encourages us to look into scripture and discover that not only is baptism for infants and children, it is the beginning of a new life. We will focus on how we can live in our baptisms each and every day, from childhood all the way to advanced age. It is God's work, the Spirit's action, that calls us to new life. Join us on Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

Worship at Wildwood/Picnic at the Park

Be sure to put on your calendars our Church Picnic and Worship Service, Sunday, July 11th, at Wildwood Park shelter house in Granville. Service at 10:30, potluck to follow. We have the shelter house from 9:30am to 2:00pm. In case of rain we go back to the church for service and indoor picnic.



Lectionary for June 2010

Sunday, June 6 – Second Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 17:17–24
Galatians 1:11–24
Luke 7:11–17

Sunday, June 13 – Third Sunday after Pentecost

2 Samuel 11:26–12:10, 13–14
Galatians 2:15–21; 3:10–14
Luke 7:36–8:3

Sunday, June 20 – Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 65:1–9
Galatians 3:23–4:7
Luke 8:26–39

Sunday, June 27 – Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

1 Kings 19:9b–21
Galatians 5:1, 13–25
Luke 9:51–62



Remember to check us out on **Facebook** at:
www.facebook.com/pages/Granville-OH/Pilgrim-Lutheran-Church/431848880482

Computer Lab

We now have 5 computers set up for general use. They are set up for internet capability. At this time they are for the use of our members and friends. If you need some assistance with them, check with Pastor Ruff or Einar Groething. We do ask that you please sign in with your name and the time of use.



Pilgrim Staff and Officers

Pastor - The Rev. Daniel J. Ruff

Phone: (740) 587-0345

Office Hours: T-F 10:00 - 1:00

Executive Committee

- **President - Robert Warner**
Phone: (740) 587-1059
- **Elder, Treasurer (pro tem) - Einar Groething**
Phone: (740) 587-1377
- **Financial Secretary - Douglas Andrews**
Phone: (740) 924-2161
- **Recording Secretary - Lee Ruff**
Phone: (740) 587-3453

Deacons

- **Fellowship - Bonnie Lamvermeyer**
Phone: (740) 924-2161
- **Education - Lee Ruff - pro tem**
- **Evangelism - Einar Groething**
- **Trustees:**
Ruth Burdette (740) 928-6788
Douglas Andrews (740) 924-2161
Debra Warner (740) 587-1059

Custodian - Bonnie Lamvermeyer (740) 924-2161

Service Date at the Columbus L.S.S. Food Pantry

Our congregation has our next date to serve coming up this month. It will be on Wednesday, June 23. You can help by donating non-perishable food items, making a cash donation to Lutheran Social Services - Central Ohio, or by donating your time, your presence and your labor by serving at the Pantry.



FYI-- The 2010 Annual Meeting and Potluck Dinner for the **East Central Ohio Audubon Society (ECO-AS)** will take place here at Pilgrim in the **Martin Luther Room on Monday, June 14.** The group is very thankful for our opening up for them, and especially this year, for the Guild's flexibility in kindly moving its meeting over to the Education Building to accommodate them.

If you are interested in the program, or have any questions regarding ECO-AS, you may call Lyn Boone at 740-587-6287.



Good news from GEO missionary Carol Becker in Japan

During the last few weeks of my teaching at Lutheran Language Institute (LLI), I asked many students, 'What did you learn about God or the Bible during your time here?' I will tell you about two responses both from my Tuesday evening class, the rest you can find on my blog. The high school girl I told you about last month said that she learned, 'Jesus loves us all the time.' And another woman in the class said, 'I'm already a Christian so I didn't learn so much new about the Bible, but I learned how to share my faith from you. I want to tell my family and friends.'

"After that I would ask, 'Are there any other questions you have about God or the Bible you would still like to learn about?' In this Tuesday evening class, I would ask the high school girl after every chapel message if she had any questions. Every week, she would always say she had no questions. The woman in the class who is a Center Church member would sometimes explain the message a bit in Japanese if she thought it was difficult, because she thought surely there must be something she doesn't understand yet and wanted to help. But other times, we would just move on.

"Well, when I asked the question this last time, she said 'Yes!' Her question was, 'Is Jesus human or God?' Wow! So that's what she has been wondering this whole time we thought. So, God opened up the chance to share all about how Jesus is both human and God, and what that means for us. Sometimes you don't realize what is or isn't getting across, so I'm so glad I got to share that with her. I was also able to give her a Japanese/English New Testament Bible, and I pray she will continue to have questions and find the Truth in God's word.

"And how about me? I learned so much! Most of all, my faith has grown so much stronger as I wrestled with the students questions about the Bible, as I experienced being in a country of 1 percent Christianity, and was challenged by other missionaries around me. I really look forward to sharing about my experiences with all of my supporters upon my return to the United States this year."