

The Announcer

The Monthly Newsletter for Pilgrim Lutheran Church
November 2010

Musings – Positive Communication

"Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification, according to the need of the moment, that it may give grace to those who hear it." Ephesians 4:29

Any discussion of improving communication in groups will need to touch the sensitive topic of *how we say things to one another*. Solomon wrote: "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. (Proverbs 15:1)" All around us, harsh, angry, hyper-critical and even abusive voices are becoming too common and even accepted in the public and political sphere. We have had our own trouble with this. We get angry; we want to tell people what we think; we explode; they explode back at them. It may make us feel better to blow our stack. Maybe. But it poisons the atmosphere, and makes clear, beneficial communication less likely to occur. The result is distrust, suspicion, and an atmosphere of tension. In Christ, this is unacceptable. As Paul wrote to the Ephesians, our words to one another should seek other, better ends. So to improve our communication here, turn our thoughts to how we may conform our speech to that which will please God (Ephesians 5:9-11).

This can become difficult if we have allowed our relationship to God to drift. When God seems far away, we push people away further still. When we experience God's forgiveness and love, he changes the way we approach one another. As you open up to God, you will discover a new ability to open up to others. Knowing that God accepts us with our failings and defects, we learn to accept others in their failings and defects, and that leads to a willingness to communicate with others in a healthy, more constructive manner.

Ephesians 4:29 shows us the positive nature of Christian communication. It lifts up three necessities of our speech. They cover the intent, content, and extent of our speech, and set the standard for Christian communication.

- **To Well Edify.** First our communication should be "good for edification." The Christian should speak so as to edify or build up. Here, we are concerned with the intent behind Christian communication, in other words, it's aim.
- **To Suit the Need.** Second our communication should be "according to the need of the moment." Our speech should fully satisfy whatever the present occasion or circumstance requires. Here, we are concerned with the extent of Christian communication, in other words, its effectiveness.
- **To Give Grace to the Hearer.** Third, our communication should "give grace to those who hear". Our words should be a gift. They should bless those who hear. Here, we are concerned with the content of our speech, in other words its character.

Improving Poor Communication – There are all kinds of communication problems that we encounter. For example, we may come up against the brick walls of the uncommunicative and tight-lipped. Again, we might experience an atmosphere of fear and an undercurrent of mistrust, jealousy, cliquishness, judgmental assumptions. We may observe whispering and backbiting. There may be the kind of negative communication that makes you feel un-helped, pushed aside, foolish, kept in the dark. All these "negative vibes" and many more, exist because people are not following God's guidelines for positive Christian communication.

We finish with a few pointers to improving our communication and making it positive, fruitful, and pleasing to God:

- **Speak Truth in a spirit of love.** "Speaking the truth in love, we must grow up into him who is the head, into Christ..." (Ephesians 4:15). Using these two criteria alone, we can eliminate just about all evil and negative communication. Is what we say truthful, and is it spoken in love?
- **Let Yes be Yes.** Jesus says, "Let your yes be yes, and your no be no" (Matthew 5:37). It is up to us to say things that ought to be trusted, and to say those things simply. The trust is up to others. People will begin to trust us when they find our word to be consistently reliable.
- **Be slow to speak.** "Quick to hear and slow to speak; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness" (James 1:19). This does not mean that we take ages to say anything. Rather, it means that we think before we speak, and that we listen to others before we answer them, so that our reply will satisfy their needs. "Be doers of the word and not merely hearers who deceive themselves." (James 1:22).
- **The name of Jesus.** "Whatever you do, in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Colossians 3:17). If we ensured that what we say befits a disciple of Jesus, and when we speak we represent God properly, that would eliminate all negative and destructive communication. Peter said the same thing in another way, and this is a fitting statement with which to close this musing: "If any one speaks, do it as one speaking the very words of God" (1Peter 4:11).

Don't forget to set your clocks *back* one hour the first weekend this month.





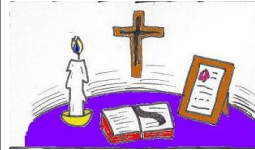
Sunday, November 7-- All Saints Sunday

10:30 a.m. A service celebrating the saints of God who have gone on before us...and who walk side-by-side with us. St. Paul greeted his readers as "saints in Christ," not for the extraordinary lives they led, but for the extraordinary sacrifice Jesus made for all of us. We will also remember our special people through the rite of the Memory Wreath. Come join us for this joyous and melancholy worship experience.

"For the saints of God are just folk like me, and I mean to be one too."

Granville CROP Walk

We sent seven walkers-- Stephanie, Mikey, Connor and Christl Blaha; Betsy Milleman; Pastor and Lee Ruff-- who accumulated \$170 toward the cause. Many thanks to all who contributed!



Pilgrim at Prayer

Join us at prayer for the congregation, for the community, and for those who may be touched by our message. 7:00 p.m. Wednesdays.



"We Gather Together to Ask the Lord's Blessing"

Once again, we offer this special opportunity to help you give thanks to God for his many blessings. On Wednesday evening, November 24 at 7:00 p.m. we come together with singing and prayers, word and sacrament to celebrate God's goodness to us. So remember...

**Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday, November 24
7:00 p. m.**

Service of Thanksgiving with Holy Eucharist

Bible Readings for the Month

Sunday, November 7 – All Saints Sunday

Psalmody: Psalm 149
First Lesson: Revelation 7:9-17
Second Lesson: 1 John 3:1-3
Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

Sunday, November 14 – 25th Sunday after Pentecost

Psalmody: Psalm 98
First Lesson: Malachi 4:1-6
Second Lesson: 2 Thessalonians 3:1-13
Gospel: Luke 21:5-36

Sunday, November 21 – 26th Sunday after Pentecost

Psalmody: Psalm 46
First Lesson: Malachi 3:13-18
Second Lesson: Colossians 1:13-20
Gospel: Luke 23:27-43

Sunday, November 24 – Thanksgiving Eve

Psalmody Psalm 67
First Lesson Deuteronomy 8:1-10
Second Lesson Philippians 4:6-20/1 Timothy 2:1-4
Gospel Luke 12:22-34

Sunday, November 28 – First Sunday of Advent

Psalmody Psalm 122
First Lesson Isaiah 2:1-5
Second Lesson Romans 13:8-14
Gospel Matthew 21:1-11 –or– 24:36-44

Granville Candlelight Walking Tour

Saturday, December 4, 2010

Returning for their fourth year in the Walking Tour... from the sanctuary of Pilgrim Lutheran Church...



6:15 p.m. Folk Legends of Central Ohio

Delight in folk and old-timey bluegrass music with mountain and hammered dulcimers, and other acoustic instruments.

7:30 p.m. Newark High Strings

– under the direction of Diana VanCamp.

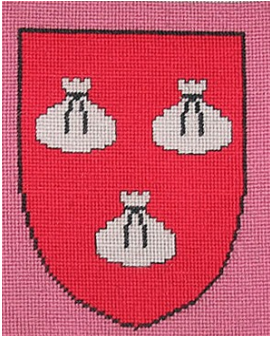
Enjoy chamber music at Christmastide as played by some of the area's very talented young musicians.

We are privileged to have them back! Come and check them out.



Don't forget the Free Christmas Gift Shop from 5:30 – 8:00 in the Sunday School area.

In memorium — Funeral services for Gerald E. Ehram, 91, of Granville, and formerly of Toledo, were held at 1:00 p.m., Monday, October 18, 2010, at the First St. John Lutheran Church, 2471 Seaman St., Toledo, Ohio. Following his graduation from Waite H.S., Jerry married his high school sweetheart, Elinor (Koch) Ehram, and together they would have celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary on October 25, 2010. Jerry, a United States Navy WWII Veteran, passed away Wednesday, October 13, 2010, surrounded by his loving family. Pastor Ruff has been visiting and serving the Lord's supper to the Ehrams this passing year.



In the Spirit of St. Nicholas...The 2nd Annual Pilgrim “Free” Christmas Gift Shop

An Outreach Project – Serving need in our community

Let's reach out in Jesus' love! These tough economic and employment times have brought on need here in Granville. We adopted this project last year to provide a source of free Christmas gifts for children and others to give to loved ones as our response.

The very grateful and heartwarming result was that many different ages were served. Pilgrim was allowed to give gifts to some of God's loved ones that lacked some basic needed items to be warm in winter.

You may recall, one of our “prescriptions” with Transforming Congregations directed us to do service projects to benefit our community.

So, we're ready to do it again! We ask all Pilgrim members/ friends to find HOW YOU MIGHT HELP:

1. find small gently used or new items to donate for a person to choose as his or her gift to give; or
2. be here for a shift when they shop to help them choose;
3. provide child-care (if needed) in the nursery while parents shop;
4. you could donate extra gift wrap & boxes;
5. you could put up posters to advertise around the area;
6. you could make yard signs we will put out at Pilgrim to advertise;
7. or you could make Christmas cookies or candy to put in the gift baskets or tins as another gift choice;
8. or maybe you could offer to bring some kids or a family that does not have a way to get here.

POSSIBLE ITEMS FOR DONATION: new candles, cologne/aftershave, knick-knacks, plush animals, hats, gloves, socks, nativity scenes, trees, Christmas decorations and books, candy, fruit, stocking stuffers,, baskets, cookie tins, toys, jewelery. We have a supply of gifts started, and leftover items will be given to clothes closets, shelters or where needed. Let's share our joy of the gift of Jesus with those that need it!

Time: 5:30-8:00 p.m., on Saturday, December 4

Place: In the Sunday School Area

You may have noticed, that's the night of the **Candlelight Walking Tour** concerts here at Pilgrim. Talk to Lee Ruff, call the church office, or drop off items at church as soon as you can in the Sunday School Room.



Guild News

The Guild's 30th Bazaar is over. The sales of the Lutheran World Relief Fair Trade Handcraft Project totaled over \$300.00. That means we sold 34 per-cent of the items they sent us. This is the highest in three years that we have consigned for them. Total sales was close to \$800.00. *(Pastor's note: All things considered, we can be very pleased with this outcome, even though the total sales were not as high as previous years. The money earned from Fair Trade sales earned some hard-working artisans in third world nations a much fairer return than they get from import/export houses. Consider also, the dollars earned through our sales in their behalf go much further in their country than they do here. \$300.00 is a lot of money in the developing world. Finally, we have been blessed for so many years through the efforts of the Guild Craft Bazaar...I mean, REALLY blessed. Let's look real close and see how God may be using this year's experience to show us some new things and new possibilities!)*

The drawing produced the following results:

- The Quilt to Verna Timms (she attended, as you may remember, in her motorized wheelchair. She and her husband attend Our Savior in Newark);
- The Wooden Santa to Sylvia Bast (one of our own church family!);
- The Decorative Door Wreath to Linda Kerr (a friend of Vera Blaha).

The November Guild meeting will be on Monday, the 8th at the church. Mary Traicoff will serve as hostess, and Sylvia Bast will lead devotions. We will be making plans for the December meeting and discussing the future Bazaar 2011. All ladies of the congregation are invited to attend. – Ruth Burdette, President

Trustee Report

Have you noticed the benches in the narthex? Check it out! Mike is refinishing them and has done a beautiful job!

The downspouts and eaves have been painted. The posts on the overhang of the Education Building have been stabilized.

The Dishwasher is to be hooked up properly so that it can be used properly.

We had an insurance inspection completed in October.

- Submitted by Ruth Burdette

“Support the Military” project

Thank you for the items and monetary contributions for the boxes being sent to Master Chief John Frase and 2 E-3 Sailors. They really appreciate “items from home”! Thanks again,

Ruth and Lisa





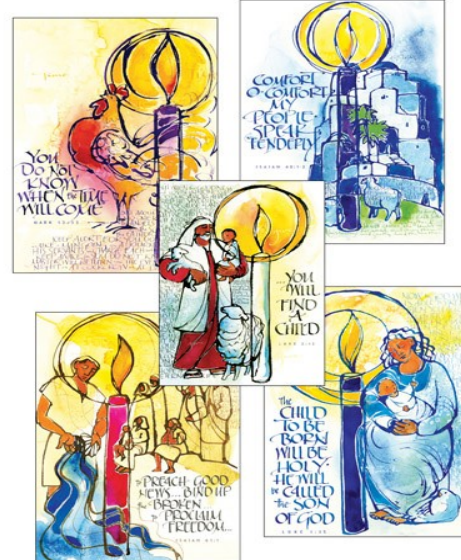
Discovering God's Vision – the work continues –

Our October 19 meeting with Pastor Stephens unfolded more of the Vision process. Three major considerations enter into the formation of a proper vision. They are: 1. Local Predicament, that is, what challenges and needs does our community face; 2. Congregational Potential, what are the talents, skills, passions, resources, values present here; and 3. Apostolic Esprit, the ties, the values, the spirit, that binds us together in service. Each of these areas has a task group formed around it, and the directive is, take nothing for granted. Do not think you know the answers to any of these. Talk, survey, interview appropriate people until we gain a picture of each area, based on the information we gather.

Much work has already been accomplished for group 1. The task group has surveyed some of the people in Granville, meetings are set up with the Village, Business, and Education communities. The primary question is, "What are the needs, as you see them, and how can we help to meet those needs? Group 2 is preparing to talk to our members and friends of the Congregation to get feedback there. Group 3 will survey our leadership.

When each group has gathered their information and insights, we will put them together to discover where the community needs, our congregations' resources, and our leaders' passion intersect. In that intersection will lay our Vision.

Stay tuned for further developments. And be sure to help when you are asked.



Coming...this Advent!

Love Finds a Voice in Bethlehem Advent mid-week and Christmas-tide series

In the birth of Jesus Christ, heaven's love found a voice on earth. That voice--God's infant voice--spoken in languages that draw us into a right relationship with God. That voice continues to speak in languages that influence and guide our own relationships with one another as well. Over the weeks leading up to Christmas we will translate and interpret those languages as we prepare our hearts and home for Christ's coming.

- The Christmas language of Time.
- The Christmas language of Affirmation.
- The Christmas language of Acts Of Service.
- The Christmas language of Physical Touch.
- The Christmas language of Gift Giving.

Beginning Wednesday, December 1.

November Birthdays

Shirley Hanby	3
Ralph Burdette, Jr.	7
Robert Sczesczey	7
Johann Bast, Jr.	8
Robert Warner	12
Philip Waite	15
Dillion Darling	30



Anniversaries

Scott and Martha Keyes	5
Philip and Regina Waite	15

A time to Serve at the L.S.S. Food Pantry

Our congregation has our next date to serve coming up this month. It will be on Wednesday, November 24. 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.

November is a great time to share from the bounty that God has given us. A great way to thank God for his goodness. Bring your food items, and help make the winter months a little less forbidding.

