

**Providence Lutheran Church**

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BROOKVILLE OH 45309-9331

*Jamie Vannoy, Pastor*

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THE PROVIDIAN



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
TLC- Trinity Lutheran Church (Brookville)	PLC- Providence Lutheran Church	S.S.- Sunday School			1	2
3  9:00 AM SS  10:30 AM Worship	4  6:30 PM Stephen Ministry	5  6:30 PM Shrove Tuesday Meal  7:00 PM Evangelism Meeting	6  7:30 PM Ash- Wednesday Worship @ TLC	7 10:00 AM Banners & Quilting  6:00 PM Christian Ed Meeting  7:00 PM Choir	8	9
10  9:00 AM SS  10:30 AM Worship	11  7:00 PM Parish Planning	12  7:00 PM Stewardship Meeting	13  6:30 PM-Meal 7:30 PM Lenten Worship @ TLC	14  10:00 AM Banners & Quilting  7:00 PM Choir	15  <b><u>9:00 AM</u></b> <b><u>Newsletter</u></b> <b><u>Deadline</u></b>	16
17  9:00 AM SS  10:30 AM Worship—	18  6:30 PM Stephen Ministry  Secretary— Off	19  12:30 PM Women’s Council	20  6:30 PM-Meal 7:30 PM Lenten Worship @ PLC	21  10:00 AM Banners & Quilting  7:00 PM Choir	22  <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">—PPC Retreat—</div>  Secretary— Off	23
24  9:00 AM SS  10:30 AM Worship  12:00 PM Harvest Meal	25  7:00 PM Spiritual Life Meeting	26 9:30 AM WELCA @ Phyllis Warner’s House  7:00 PM Properties Meeting	27  6:30 PM-Meal 7:30 PM Lenten Worship @ PLC	28  10:00 AM Banners & Quilting  7:00 PM Choir	29	 <b>LEAP YEAR</b>



# Valentine's Word Search Puzzle



## Valentine's Day

U X J R D L W V F E F T P G Y H I V F L  
 K T F W O B G D D C M L A R L F T R J G  
 G Q H Z Y M B I Z Y X I A Y H H E A C D  
 Q I O R W C A N D Y L D C A T U G X P S  
 U M T N O H G N I A T F O N N D W L E J  
 H O H H I D L E C L O E S D E M S S I K  
 A M W B O Y F R I E N D S R E W O L F F  
 G B O F C W E O S I C C I G T R U S G T  
 Y I R G H P J M M C H A T P R V J W F J  
 P Y R A U R B E F A O N B O U Q U E T T  
 J E A L M B B P F E C D R Z O C W E D N  
 I A E O F I C T E V O L U W F W W T R A  
 F M B Y M R K F G E L E F W N D K H A C  
 D O Y U S A I N T V A L E N T I N E C N  
 W N D O R U L E Y M T I R V C F L A X N  
 Z X D T U D N M N O E G U N F P U R V C  
 V G E R F R I E N D S H I P U V O T W R  
 C N T L O K S R V Q L T V O A Y Z P P O  
 O N A P Q F Z R D F Y L C Z H P K A I O  
 Z N D J U H O O Y H L I R D Y Q O L R H

- |                 |             |            |                     |
|-----------------|-------------|------------|---------------------|
| arrow           | be mine     | bouquet    | bow                 |
| boyfriend       | candlelight | candy      | chocolates          |
| couple          | cupid       | date       | dinner              |
| february        | flowers     | fourteenth | freundschaftskarten |
| friendship      | girlfriend  | heart      | i luv u             |
| im yours        | kiss me     | love       | lupercalia          |
| red             | romance     | rome       | roses               |
| saint valentine | sweetheart  | teddy bear | venus               |



### Happy Birthday

Feb 1	Westley Jewett
Feb 4	Rob Piergies
Feb 5	Louise Sand
Feb 6	Michael Behnken
Feb 8	Mary Ellen Hoover Glenda Craft Colin Freeman
Feb 9	Ralph Drew
Feb 14	Shaun Warren Scott Warren Christine Stupp
Feb 16	Damon Shell
Feb 17	Vicki Blevins
Feb 18	Anna Behnken
Feb 21	Charlotte Barnett
Feb 22	Bud McNew
Feb 23	Tara Corder
Feb 24	Marla Warren



### Baptism Anniversary

Feb 4	Hailey Stupp
Feb 7	Michael Stubbs
Feb 8	Rachel Keener Jillian McKinley
Feb 10	Douglas Keener
Feb 12	Daniel Jordan II
Feb 13	Rulynn Shiverdecker
Feb 14	Steven Keener
Feb 17	Jayden Behnken
Feb 22	Thelma Burton Matthew Shiverdecker
Feb 28	Bonna Lee Behnken Michael Behnken



### Happy Anniversary

Feb 5	Joseph and Susan Koeller
Feb 10	Jeffrey and Tara Schamel
Feb 23	Andy and Sandy Antil

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,



Happy New Year from Jeremiah's Letter. This year our Office Administrator and Food Pantry Director is moving out of state, and JLI will be looking to fill both of these positions. Training and transition time for each job is included with these gratifying positions. JLI runs mostly off of volunteers who want to serve Christ in the Dayton community. Both jobs are very rewarding.

The Food Pantry Director keeps the pantry running smoothly while overseeing volunteers at work in the pantry. The position also includes seeing new opportunities to increase food donation, filling orders when volunteers are not available, and occasionally making changes to ensure efficiency. The JLI pantry serves about 25 people a month. The days and hours are negotiable with the Executive Director, Terry Bruns.

The second position at JLI is an Office Administrator. This is a job that needs one person for 4 hours a week. The duties include general office work such as filing, answering the phone, letter writing, and keeping track of existing data bases, such as the amount of food that goes out of the pantry and volunteer hours. JLI helps the needs of the people in Dayton. We are centrally located downtown Dayton since most of our clients are located here. Our key roles are bringing the love of Christ to those who need it through food and basic needs, mentoring, and laboring in love through physical work of upgrading homes when people have no where else to turn. Volunteering is a great way to help our community be a better place to live, and serve Christ our Savior. If you have any interest or questions about this or other volunteer opportunities please call Terry Bruns at (937) 331-9440.

In Christ's Love,  
Terry Bruns  
Executive Director Jeremiah's Letter, Inc.



**Shrove Tuesday**

**Dinner-** Tuesday Feb 5<sup>th</sup> the youth will be having their Pancake dinner. The theme this year "Crazy Hair" so come with your



craziest hair for food, fun, fellowship, and music. Donations will be accepted with the proceeds going to paying for our youth to go to Camp this summer. If you have any non-stick pans or griddles that we could use that evening, please contact Pastor Jamie.



**Board of Stephen Ministry**

Stephen Leaders: Danny Jordan, Mike Schamel & Pastor Jamie Vannoy

**Plans Finalized For The First Offering Of The Hauck Spiritual Gifts Inventory Course To Congregation**

- The Congregation has several options of dates from which to register for the first offering of this opportunity. Through this course we can grow in our understanding of what the Scriptures say about the spiritual gifts that we have been given to each of us by the Holy Spirit at our Baptism—and how to use them to serve the Body of Christ.
- Give prayerful consideration to your participation. This opportunity is one of many that resulted from the deliveration of the Ministry Task Force...to renew, redirect and revitalize the Congregation's response to Christ's mandate in the Great Commission.
- All members will be invited and encouraged to complete this course. It will be offered on an ongoing basis.
- The first offering of this 8-week course will begin during the week of February 17, 2008, as follows:

-Sundays-9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.,  
commencing February 17.

-Wednesday afternoons,  
commencing February 20.

-Other weekday options may also be added.

**This scheduling allows participants to make up a missed session at an alternate time during the same week!**

- The sessions will be led by Stephen Ministers and Stephen Leaders.

**New Stephen Minister Training Continues**

The Holy Spirit continues to equip and empower our trainees to serve the Congregation after their Commissioning in the Spring. They have just completed the unit titled "Ministering To Those In Grief". Keep Mary Jane Albrecht, Janet Hegwood, Phyllis Shiverdecker and Beth Vannoy in your prayers.

**Two Male Stephen Ministers Are Currently Available To Serve**



**NEWS FROM THE SOUTHERN OHIO SYNOD**



Along with things that affect the ELCA and our Southern Ohio Synod, the synod likes to keep us informed on things that affect our daily lives. Recently they sent information regarding the future change in television broadcasting requiring companies to change from analog broadcasting to digital. This could affect a lot of families that have older televisions that might not work once this transition is made.

If you have an older set you will need a converter in order for your sets to pick up the new broadcasting. (If you have satellite or cable service this **will not** affect you.) The government has made \$40 coupons available to be used toward the purchase of the converter that could cost between \$50 and \$80. To request a coupon you can apply on-line at <http://www.dtv2009.gov> or call the 24-hour hotline at 1-888-388-2009. Anyone who has a set not connected to satellite or cable TV may need the converter.



We want to thank all of our church family for all the cards, visitation and prayers on the passing of Mom.

Many shared some of their memories of Mom, which we will cherish.

We thank all those who prepared the funeral meal. It brought some closure to the funeral day in a less formal way. The day started at the church and ended at the church. It seemed fitting.

We want to thank Susan Fink for being the organist. Her playing of some family favorite hymns made for a lovely service.

We also thank Beth for assisting with communion.

Pastor Vannoy, we thank you for a beautiful service. The stories about Mom that you told, brought smiles & tears.

Memories of Mom will still bring smiles & her passing will still bring tears, but our faith will carry us through, remembering God's promises.



Martin & Joan Hanshew  
Michel & Mary Pierron  
And family

**STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner**--meal begins at 6:30pm and there are plenty of things that need done to prepare

**I.H.S (2nd Monday of the month)**--Feb 11th

**Week of Feb 17th--Haugk Spiritual Gift Inventory** begins...sign up and participate in finding out your Spiritual Gifts and how you can plug into PLC

**Loving Harvest Meal**--Sunday Feb 24th following worship a potluck and stuffing bags for the walk a few weeks following



**Where does our money go?**

This is a question many of us ask ourselves when we think of the money we give to the church, more specifically the money we send off in Benevolence. Benevolence is the monies we send off to the Synod and the ELCA so that other ministries outside of our local communities can exist.

We had someone from the Synod Stewardship Team come our council meeting in Dec to help us understand this and we were shown a DVD that really helped put some of these questions to rest. Let me share of these revelations with you:

**Why do we give?** Our main reason comes to us in the beginning of Psalm 24 when it says, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it." We give because God has blessed us and entrusted us with it to do what is right. One of the greatest composer's J. S. Bach signed many of his compositions with "Soli deo Gloria" which means "Glory to God alone" realizing that God had blessed him with the gift of music and he wanted to give back by writing many Lutheran Hymns.

**What do we give?** For every dollar we give to Benevolence...91cents goes to support local ministries around the congregation. The other 9 cents supports broader missions through the Synod and ELCA. We have 10,885 congregations in 65 Synods that are in 9 geographical regions through the U.S and the Caribbean.

**How is the money spent?** Mission Support is the main area. Mission Support would Global Ministries, supporting New Congregations, and also various Leadership Trainings. 80% of mission support is funded by undesignated/

unrestricted giving. So if you personally give \$100 to go toward helping Katrina Victims, all \$100 dollars go to that ministry because we have agency like LWR and LDR that assist with those type of issues year round.

I hope this has cleared up some thoughts of where our monies go when they leave our church. Many times people get upset with Synod staff or don't like decisions the ELCA is making and so they withhold money as a way to say they're not happy. Besides being completely against the gospel, this is also the way the world operates (i.e if you don't like something don't give them money and that will show'em). Staff people receive salaries and bad decisions are still being made, but ministries are being hurt. The area that suffers when we act this way are the ministries throughout the world.

So as you look at where you are giving and what you're giving to remember that the monies we give beyond our church is going to a good cause. It's going to further God's Kingdom and that's a good thing. Psalm 24 begins simply but speaks profoundly: "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it."

**Evangelism**

**Director: Alan Ernst**

**Board Members: Mary Louise Kidwell, Norman Warner, Judy Schamel, Kindra Esterline**

—Plan now to be a part of our next Loving Harvest Events.

Join us as we invite our Brookville neighbors to join us in worship at Providence. We will again need walkers, stuffers and prayers. Please let a member of the Bd. of Evangelism know how YOU will help! Our next Loving Harvest Walk will be held on Saturday, March 8, at 9:00 a.m. We will have a carry-in and bag stuffing gathering following worship on Sunday, February 24.



—Providence will have a booth at the Community Picnic again this summer. Watch for more information soon on how you can be a part of this community outreach!

**Board of Stewardship****Director: Matt Ernst****Board Members: Tim Esterline, Danny Jordan**

As the new head of the Board of Stewardship, I am looking forward to this year. I see opportunities for giving our time in the community, our hearts in God's service, and showing the love we share through Him. I am excited about continuing our journey towards understanding all of the ways God has gifted us, and how we can use those talents to his glory.

There are many events which have caused a few changes to the Stewardship calendar this year. Firstly, because of the upcoming Stephen Ministry program to help us identify our Spiritual Gifts, we will be holding off the Time and Talent surveys until we grow in our understanding of our gifts. Secondly, with the changes, (at the time I am writing this, the proposed changes) to our fiscal year, we will be moving the stewardship program from the fall to the spring to allow the budget, or Ministry Plan if you prefer, to effectively reflect the giving commitments of the congregation.

I don't know about you, but I feel that I just evaluated my giving and don't see the benefit of running the program again so soon. Looking things over, we will be holding off the program until sometime around March of 2009. This gives us an opportunity to utilize the numbers we just received for a full budget.

Speaking of budgets, I have often noted a similar thought I would like to discuss. We all budget our personal finances to avoid overspending. We base our budgets off of our income, and make choices to shop effectively within those guidelines. When we fail to account for things correctly, our savings suffers. According to conservative financial planners you should have three months' salary in your savings for emergency funds. Now, I don't know about you, but I don't think I have ever achieved that goal, though it would be nice.

Churches on the other hand have a much more complicated method of "budgeting". There is no pay check to base its budget on. From week to week, income varies on giving and attendance. Even with committed giving we do not have a stable income for the church. While we share certain "necessities" with the church, such as electricity and heat, the church also budgets for intangibles such as ministries, outreach, education, and other programs. These intangibles are not set in stone. There are no bills every month for them. In fact, you are never "forced" during the course of a year to pay for those intangibles. I have heard these called goals, and that is a very accurate term for them. These are our goals to help in the community, they are our goals to help in the world, and they are our goals to bring the word of God to more people. Whether it is fighting hunger or providing someone to listen to someone in pain, these are our ministry goals.

If we can achieve all of our goals is directly related to our inbound offering. Over the last year I have witnessed each and every board sacrifice some of their ministry goals to keep our funds available to pay the necessities. Their sacrifices are not new, nor are they uncommon for churches. It would be rare for a church to be able to achieve every one of its ministry goals. So, why not cut back on our ministry if our goals are forever out of reach? Should we continue to budget for items we have been unable to obtain?

For several reasons, it is vital to a church to budget slightly ahead of estimated giving. We have a desire for growth as a congregation. Whether it is spiritual growth or additional members, we hope that there is opportunity to have an increase beyond estimates. In my discussions with Dr. Grimm, our guest for the Consecration Sunday program, he told me that if a church is putting money into a nest egg it is doing something wrong. Why? It is failing to utilize the money given to the glory of God to expand his love and message. Putting the funds in the bank sounds attractive, but they fail to achieve the purpose for which they were given. I am not saying every week we run out and spend exactly what we brought in, but I am saying that we budget beyond our estimates to give us the opportunity to utilize those funds as they are needed, when available.

Endowments are wonderful things, don't misunderstand me on that. They are ways of ensuring long term financial help for the church, or specific programs. Offerings however are gifts for the church to use actively in our mission, not to sit in bank accounts with no purpose.

Our budget lays out where we want our focus to be as a church. This is the reason many call it a Ministry Plan. It provides guidelines for our spending, and allows every member of the congregation to see the breakdowns of the costs of ministry. It should NEVER be viewed as a "have to spend", but as opportunities to use based on the giving of the congregation.

One of the items the board will be looking at when we meet is to find a method to keep the church informed about the expenditures of the Boards, as well as our inbound offerings. I know this is a hard subject for many, but we have done it in the past with success, so we hope we can find something that works for everyone. Knowing the giving and knowing the costs will help all of us understand our part in Providence's ministry.

I am starting a new section at the end of the Stewardship articles. Below you will find a list of Stewardship opportunities in our community. These opportunities are there for anyone who wants to support or become involved in the community. Participating in these organizations or attending events will help us give even more to our community, and I hope that you take an opportunity to look over it for anything that interests you.

Your verbose Brother in Christ,  
Matt Ernst

*(Continued from page 10)*

examples (no matter how old we are) by our actions of speech, love, and faith. We can be examples by living life as fully and purely as we can always giving thanks to God for what we have been given. We can look at the statistics and look for patterns of attitude and try and correct, but most of all we can keep doing God's work on this earth and let

God decide our effectiveness.



Let us go into this year looking back to learn from our mistakes and looking forward to see where God is calling us to care.

God Loves You & So Do I,  
Pastor Jamie Vannoy



**Prayer Requests:** Betty Brown, Barb Hall, Harry Campbell, Todd Fraley, John Jordan, Mary Catherine Warner, Josh Dale, Pat Moran, Mary Jacobs, Clara Porter, Bill Porter, Paula Daniel, Dorothy Keener, Sibyl Moyer, Bob Ripp, Cathy Harmon, Charlene Ernst, and Lucille Baker.



**Lenten Worship Schedule-** This year we have decided to do combined mid-week services with Trinity Lutheran Church in Brookville. The schedule is as follows with meals beginning at 6:30pm and worship at 7:30pm.



Wed Feb 6<sup>th</sup> (Ash Wednesday)--@ Trinity Lutheran Church  
No meal at this service

Wed Feb 13<sup>th</sup>--@ Trinity Lutheran Church  
Wed Feb 20<sup>th</sup>--@ Providence Lutheran Church  
Wed Feb 27<sup>th</sup>--@ Providence Lutheran Church  
Wed Mar 5<sup>th</sup>--@ Providence Lutheran Church  
Wed Mar 12<sup>th</sup>--@ Trinity Lutheran Church

Thurs Mar 20<sup>th</sup> (Maundy Thursday) we will have our own services.

Fri. Mar 21<sup>st</sup> (Good Friday) --@ Trinity Lutheran Church

Combined choir to sing at this service

Sat Mar 22<sup>nd</sup> (Easter Vigil)-- @ Providence Lutheran Church

Combined choir to sing at this service



**Council Retreat-** Fri Feb 21<sup>st</sup> and Sat Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> are the dates for this year's Council Retreat. The focus this year will be the taking the 8 hour Haugk Spiritual Gift Inventory that's being offered to the Congregation and seeing how these insights can help us vision for the future.



**Fish Volunteers needed-** Fish (the local food pantry) is in need of volunteers to work. If you are interested in doing this please contact Pr. Jamie and he'll get you the information.



**Help us solve the mystery!!**

In the process of sorting through some of the old paraments, we have found a banner that looks as if it was from one of the church families during World War II. It is a white banner with a red border and has two blue stars in the center. It is the kind of banner families put in their windows to indicate that they had family members serving in the military. This family would have had two members. We have been told that several Providence families had two members in the armed services. Does anyone know the history of this banner? IF one of those families donated the banner to the church and would like it back we would be glad to return it to them. Please contact Janet Hegwood, 962-4424, if you know the history of this banner.

# The Providian

All Things are initiated with God

February 2008

## Pastor Jamie's Jot-Downs

**Waste no more time arguing what a good person should be. Be one.**

*"Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity." 1 Timothy 4:12*

This note and passage I started with is something I think we can all reflect on. One of the biggest criticisms in the Lutheran Church is that we really like to TALK about things, but it takes awhile for us to DO things. I understand we like the balance of power that our structure or committees gives us, but why do our committees become a place where things can



just sit, get discussed and not get done. Unfortunately, this happens a lot but it doesn't have to be this way.

In the spirit of Confession as we approach the Lenten Season this month I confess this to you. I constantly wrestle with the fact that I'm in ministry at such a young age. At the ripe old age of 31 I'm a little younger than many of my colleagues in the Dayton Conference and Southern Ohio Synod and at times that makes me very self-conscious of what I do and say. Can I use this analogy in a class or a sermon?, can I talk about this



music group and people get what I'm talking about?, and so on and so on it never ends if I let it. Many people that are my age and in ministry are youth and family ministers or some typed of team ministry, but I'm a solo pastor and I am an everybody

pastor. The average age of Providence is at least my parents age if not my grandparents age.

I'm okay with that because I was raised by my grandparents and parents but it is still intimidating and scary at times when trying to feel effective. Maybe that's what it boils down to... effectiveness. That's the name of the game being effective. That's why we fill out reports, and count our numbers, and look at attendance...to see how effective a person or the church is. Statistics are important in the big picture and the overall picture of a synod, region, or denomination; it's not important in the local parish. What is important is that we are answering God's call to love our neighbors and to spread God's Word in our time on this earth.

I tell you this to let you know that I'm vulnerable too. I have doubts, insecurities, and worries just like the next person...but we can do this. We can listen to what God is calling us to do here at Providence and we can do our part to make our local community and our world a better place. We can set