

M A R C H 2 0 1 1

TABERNACLE LUTHERAN CHURCH

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA



Tabernacle Lutheran Church

**5843 Spruce Street
Philadelphia, PA 19139**

(215)748.5533

www.tabernacleweb.org

TabernaclePhilly@gmail.com



✧ Transformational Ministry ✧

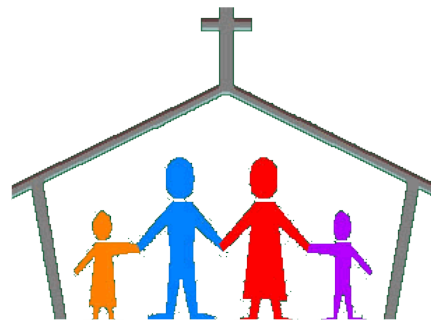
TABERNACLE CONTINUES THE TM PROCESS

What is the expected outcome of TM?

The anticipated outcome of the TM process is that Tabernacle will be able to develop and implement a mission strategy that will work in our urban context!

Prayerfully, our participation in this process will enable us to:

- Identify our strengths and weaknesses
- Redefine and clarify our mission objectives
- Make our worship services more exciting
- Improve our Christian education programs
- Identify community needs
 - Cultivate individual member's spiritual gifts
 - Develop a closer relationship with God



*A Look Into
In This Month's
Edition:*

<i>From the Vicar</i>	<i>p 2</i>	<i>Fun & Games</i>	<i>p 6 & 7</i>
<i>Christian One-Liners</i>	<i>p 3</i>	<i>From the Pastor</i>	<i>p 8</i>
<i>Friday Night Word</i>	<i>p 3</i>	<i>Ash Wednesday Devotion</i>	<i>p 9</i>
<i>Biblical Stewardship</i>	<i>p 4</i>	<i>Calendar</i>	<i>p 10</i>
<i>Old-Fashioned Gospel Night</i>	<i>p 5</i>	<i>And Much More...</i>	

Quick Calendar

Sunday: 9:30 Sunday School, 10:30 Worship

Tuesday: 10 am Bible Study, 7 pm Tabernacle Interdenominational Choir

Wednesday: 7 pm Bible Study, 7 pm Choir

Thursday: 7 pm Prayer Group

Friday: Friday Night Word (see calendar for schedule)



From the Vicar...

Thank you to everyone at Tabernacle for your prayers as I travelled to Vietnam, Cambodia, and Thailand in January along with a group of people from LTSP (The Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia).

I was able to learn a lot about our brothers and sisters overseas as we visited churches, seminaries, temples, and attended the Asian Lutheran Conference.

Many of you were able to see my presentation last month, however if you weren't able to be there, feel free to ask me any questions about the trip. If you have access to the internet, you can also see a short video that I put together that has the members of the trip sharing their experiences as well as some video footage of the trip.

<http://vimeo.com/19615372>

If you're interested in the photographs, you can also see those online here:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/fluffish/collections/72157625873023137/>



PASTOR RODGERS IN ACTION



Yolanda F. Foreman & Tabernacle Interdenominational Ministries Inc.

Al Hunter Jr. submitted this photograph of our pastor hard at work as he helped to clean out the church building in January.

Presents

Friday Night Word



Guest Speaker:
Rev. Purnell Wright
Victory and Praise Ministries

March 11, 2011
7:30 PM

CHRISTIAN ONE- LINERS



SUBMITTED BY
LUCILLE RODGERS

Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember, Moses started out as a basket case.

Some people are kind, polite, and sweet-spirited...until you try to sit in their pews.

I don't know why some people change churches; what difference does it make which one you stay home from?

We're called to be witnesses, not lawyers or judges.

Be ye fishers of men. You catch 'em, God'll clean 'em.

Don't put a question mark where God put a period.

God doesn't call the qualified, God qualifies the called.

Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.

When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.

Biblical Stewardship

Keys to a Happy Life

By Mark Quade, former ELCA Staff

(<http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Discipleship/Stewardship/>)

But I fear that somehow you will be led away from your pure and simple devotion to Christ, just as Eve was deceived by the serpent. 2 Corinthians 11:3

“I need to simplify my life!” Ever said that?

Sometimes—when we’re weighed down by the excess baggage and unproductive distractions of life-- we look for an out. It’s easy to fall into a routine of spending too much time on things that are just not important aspects, and before too long we’re asking “why?” When everything just gets to be too

much, I like to call our reaction the *Declaration of Simplification*: “I need to simplify my life!”

The Apostle Paul, in his second letter to the church in Corinth, could certainly see the Corinthians’ cluttered lives were in need of re-direction and simplification.

The church was weak and full of conflicts. The followers of Jesus were surrounded by idolatry and immorality. They struggled with their faith and life-style. They fell prey to false teachings. Paul feared the Corinthian Christians were being led away from their “pure and simple devotion to Christ.” But Paul also knew that he might be able to help—by coaching the Corinthians back to a simpler, more uncluttered life that focused on Jesus.

Paul could be writing to any of us – and indeed he is! How easy it is whenever we fall prey to the deceptive influences of this life to forget that we only need turn to the Word of God for guidance. In this case, we have Paul’s reminder to re-focus on what is important. We

face the very same forces of the world that misled the early Christians in

Corinth. Our lives become cluttered with all things worldly—a busy schedule, family responsibilities, community and church opportunities. Before long we feel like there’s no time left to breathe, and at some point we realize we need to do some re-ordering.

An article in *New Scientist* magazine cited what it called “10 keys to a happy life.” As I read the list, I recognized some stewardship touchstones:

- Understand that you need enough money to be comfortable.
- Limit your desire for things.
- Cultivate friends and family.
- Get religion.
- Be generous.

“If we listen closely, we might even hear echoes from Paul’s admonition to make a correction in our life’s path and re-focus on what is important.”

Similarly, the cover story of an

issue of *Parade Magazine* highlighted *The Paradox of Choice: Why More is Less* (Ecco Publishing, 2004) by Swarthmore College psychology professor Barry Schwartz. The author asks: “Could our unprecedented material abundance actually be a cause of unhappiness?” Not surprisingly, his answer is “yes.”

Schwartz cites this paradox: “Here we are, living at the pinnacle of human possibility, awash in material abundance. We get what we say we want, only to discover that it doesn’t satisfy us. The success of 21st century life turns out to be bittersweet. And I believe that a significant contributing factor is the overabundance of choice.” So what does Schwartz suggest we do to re-order the priorities in our lives? These four steps— with ***Continues on Page 5...***

...*Continued From Page 4*

explanations from Schwartz included—are his suggestions:

- **Choose Where to Choose.** “Decide where in your life choice really is important. Limit your options when the decision is crucial.”
- **Learn to accept Good Enough.** “Settle for a choice that is ‘good enough’ rather than searching for the elusive ‘best.’”
- Don’t worry about what you’re missing. “Limit how much you think about the choices or options you reject. Teach yourself to be content with the choices you’ve made.”
- **Control your expectations.** “It may be a cliché to say, ‘Don’t expect too much, and you won’t be disappointed’ – but it is good advice to follow if you want to be more satisfied with your life.”

Some common—and familiar—themes emerge from the *New Scientist* magazine list and Barry Schwartz’s book. Put money and things in their proper places. Be generous and don’t fret over what you’re missing. If we listen closely, we might even hear echoes from Paul’s admonition to make a correction in our life’s path and re-focus on what is important.

Paul’s closing words in his second letter to the Corinthians are still fitting for us today: “Rejoice. Change your ways. Encourage each other. Live in harmony and peace. Then the God of love and peace will be with you.”

Old-Fashioned Gospel Night

Whatever happened to the Old-Time Gospel?

Treat your parents, grandparents, neighbors, and friends to an enjoyable evening!

You’re cordially invited to a night of fond memories and fun, featuring artists who will take you back to the old-time gospel.

Saturday, March 19th, 2011

3 pm - 7 pm

Tabernacle Lutheran Church

Doors open at 2:45 pm

Tickets \$10 per person

For tickets call: 215.494.6338, 215.472.3421

Special Guest: Pastor Hersey L. Cole, Sr. MC of One Accord Ministries, Philadelphia PA

A benefit hosted by Helping Hands Ministry, Inc.

PO Box 5244 Yeadon, PA, 19050

All proceeds will go towards Assisted Living Home Project for the Elderly

FUN & GAMES

Bible Wordsearch

The Large Sheet

Wordsearch 183

Acts 10:9-19

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

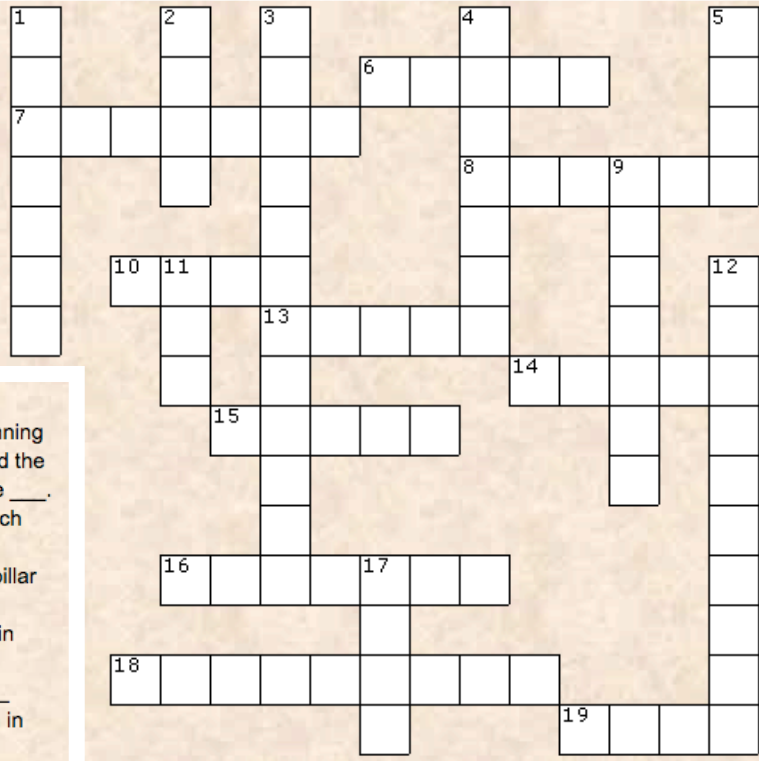
ANIMALS NOON
 BIRDS OPENED
 CORNERS PETER
 DOWN PRAY
 EARTH REPTILES
 EATEN ROOF
 FELL SHEET
 FOUND SIMON
 GOD SPIRIT
 HEAVEN SPOKE
 HOUSE STAYING
 HUNGRY STILL
 IMPURE STOPPED
 JOURNEY THINKING
 KINDS TIMES
 KNOWN TRANCE
 LARGE UNCLEAN
 MEAL VISION
 MEANING VOICE
 CORNELIUS
 WONDERING

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

Psalm 57

MORE PUZZLES AT: <http://biblewordgames.com> COPYRIGHT 2010 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Crossword Puzzle

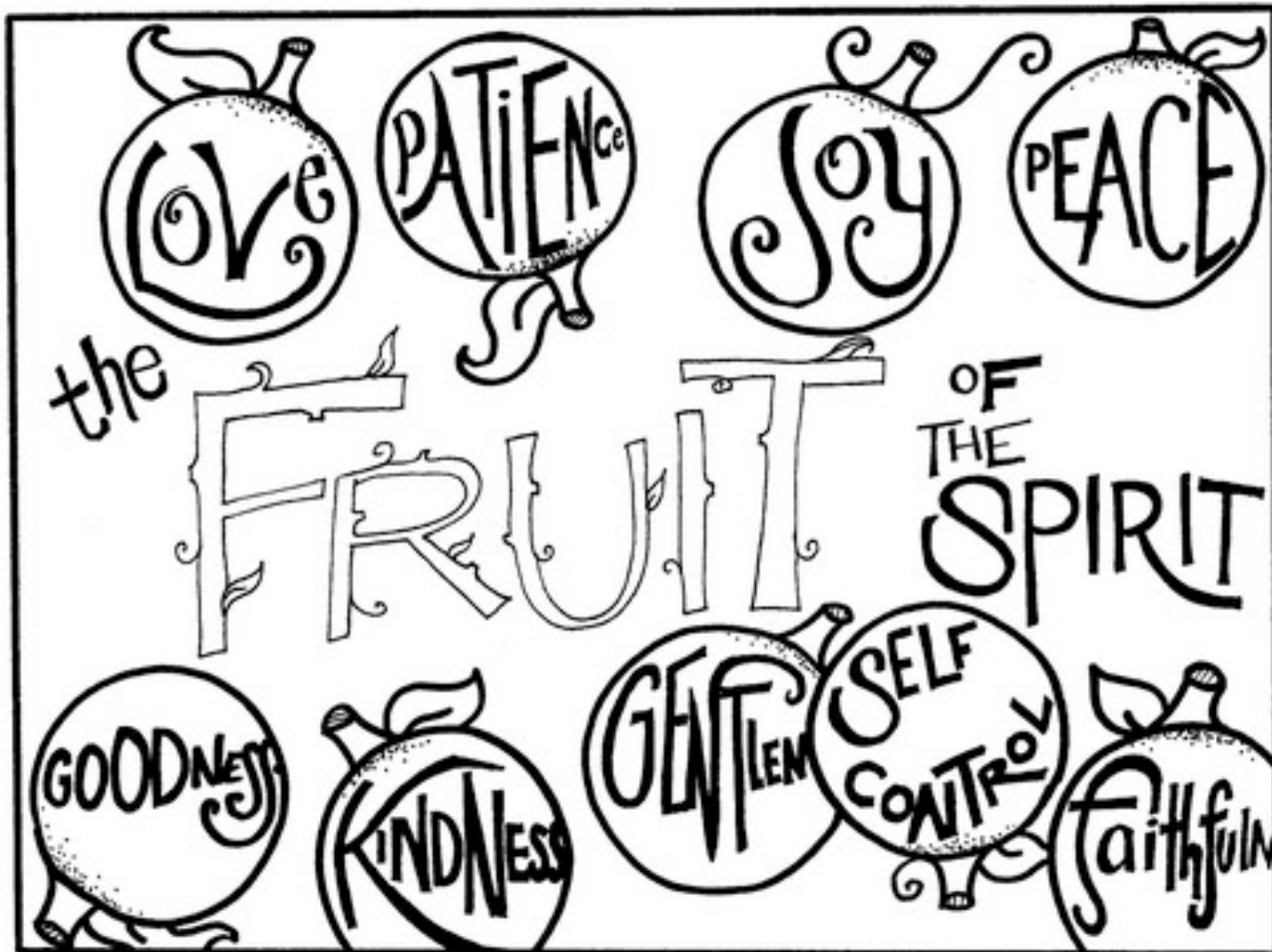


ACROSS

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|---|
| 6 Tower site | 16 Abraham's firstborn son | victim |
| 7 Wife of Isaac | 18 Adam's and Eve's garments (2 words) | 3 In the beginning God created the ___ and the ___. |
| 8 Where Noah's ark landed | 19 Son of Adam and Eve | 4 First patriarch |
| 10 He killed Abel | | 5 Lot's wife became a pillar of ___ |
| 13 City destroyed by fire | | 9 God's sign in the sky |
| 14 Biblical unit of length | | 11 Noah's ___ |
| 15 He dreamed of a stairway to | | 12 Oldest man in Bible |
| | | 17 Father of Seth |

DOWN

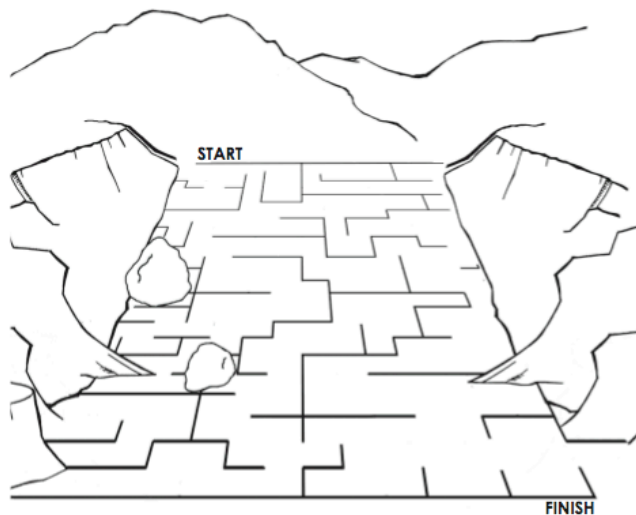
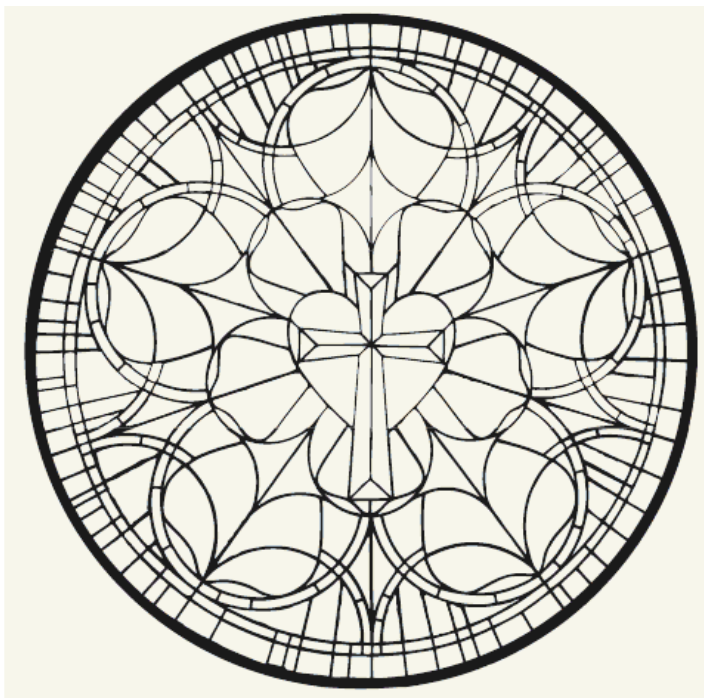
- 1 Eden tempter
 2 First murder



Mandy Groce '11

ministry-to-children.com

You can trust God, too! Go with Abraham through the wilderness to find a new home.



From the Pastor

Dear friends:

Greetings in the name of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ! My mind is filled with thoughts of transformation these days. Perhaps that is because the Transformational Ministry training is helping me to see and experience transformation in a very personal manner. Likewise, the TM process is also showing me that transformation can also happen for a congregation, but not without a price. If Tabernacle is to be “transformed”, then the process of transformation or change must first be evidenced in us.

During the past year, I along with the members of our prayer ministry have been coming together on Thursday evenings and asking God to change our church into the type of church that he is calling for in this day and time. However, I can admit now, that I didn’t fully understand what we were actually praying for until recently. I now realize that we were really asking God to change us. It is becoming evident, that God has chosen to satisfy that request, starting with the pastor. Ouch!

As I look around at our church and its ministries, it seems that the only constant is change! God is sending us new partners to do ministry and has given me new duties and responsibilities along the way. I never imagined that I would be leading Tabernacle through the Transformational Ministry process while coaching Pastor Owen Griffiths and the members of Faith Lutheran through the TM process at the same time. And needless to say, serving as the Dean of the Central Conference was not in my plans either. However, we prayed fervently for change, and God answered. I am therefore reminded of the old saying; “be careful for what you pray for, because you might get it”.



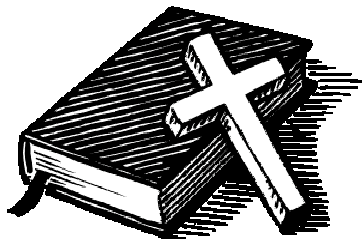
As we approach the Lenten season, rest assured that we are praying that God will continue to transform Tabernacle. With this thought in mind, and in our present context, it seems uniquely appropriate that the gospel lesson for the first Sunday in March, is taken from the 17th chapter of Matthew, which describes divine transformation, the transfiguration of our Lord. Hopefully, this text will remind each of us of the awesome transformative power that belongs to God alone.

It is my sincere belief that the same power that was at work on the Mount of Transfiguration is also at work in us, reflecting the brightness that God would have us to be in a world filled with darkness so that he might receive glory, honor and praise. Keep praying and stay blessed. Change is on the way!

Pastor Rodgers

LAY AND ASSOCIATE PREACHERS SCHEDULE

1/16/11		SAM BARHAM
2/20/11		PAT MOORE
3/20/11		MARY STEWART
4/17/11	PALM SUNDAY	REV. DANIEL WOLLO
5/15/11		SAM BARHAM
6/19/11		MARY STEWART
7/17/11		PAT MOORE
8/21/11		REV. DANIEL WOLLO
9/18/11		SAM BARHAM
10/16/11		PAT MOORE
11/20/11		MARY STEWART
12/18/11		REV. DANIEL WOLLO



If your assigned Sunday is inconvenient, please contact the minister with whom you wish to switch and indicate the change on this schedule. Thanks.

Ash Wednesday Devotion



On Ash Wednesday, worship leads us to contemplate the brevity of every life on earth. Even as we remember our mortality, we hear Isaiah's words, calling us into the fullness, beauty, healing and light of earthly life. As we turn toward God's creatures with love, seeking to provide what is needed for their lives, we discover that we have turned also toward God, who welcomes us with open arms. We humble creatures cannot control what lies beyond this world; that power belongs to God. The joy of our lives is serving one another, delighting in God's presence and trusting in God's future.

Almighty God, may we fast this Lent from the pride and fear that keep us from one another. Help us recognize that true worship of you means true love for one another. Open our ears to hear you say, "Here I am" when we turn toward one another in generous love.

Amen.

March 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2 Choir Practice Bible Study 7 pm	3 Prayer Group 7 pm	4	5
6 Sunday School: 9:30 am Worship: 10:30 am	7	8 Bible Study 10 am	9 Ash Wednesday: Lent Begins Choir Practice Bible Study 7 pm	10 Prayer Group 7 pm	11	12 Council Meeting 10 am
13 Worship: 10:30 am	14	15 Bible Study 10 am	16 Choir Practice Bible Study 7 pm	17 Prayer Group 7 pm	18	19
20 Sunday School: 9:30 am Worship: 10:30 am	21	22 Bible Study 10 am	23 Choir Practice Bible Study 7 pm	24 Prayer Group 7 pm	25	26
27 Sunday School: 9:30 am Worship: 10:30 am	28	29 Bible Study 10 am	30 Choir Practice Bible Study 7 pm	31 Prayer Group 7 pm		

Upcoming Events:

- March 5th: Synod sponsored breakfast at Tabernacle. Guest speaker: Rev. Dr. Albert Starr, ELCA Exc. Dir. Multicultural Ministries
- March 9th: Ash Wednesday Services: noon & 7 PM
- March 10th: Preaching With Power event at Reformation Lutheran. Special music by TIC and the Reformation Gospel Choir
- March 11th: Friday Night Word at Tabernacle, 7:30 PM
- March 13th: TM meeting with Rev. Stuart Luce at 1:30 PM
- March 25th: Friday Night Word at Tabernacle, 7:30 PM

Don't see your event on the calendar?

Notice something missing?
Submit events for the next newsletter by March 29th!
