

## The Sign of JONAH

2013 Lenten Services based on the scholarship of Dr. Reed Lessing

**Wednesday and Thursday Services will be at 4 and 7 PM.**

*A Jonah Bible Study will be held each Wednesday at 4:45 PM.*

A soup supper will be available at 6 PM each Wednesday, and Maundy Thursday.

ASH Wednesday with Communion & Ashes

First Wednesday in Lent

Second Wednesday in Lent

Third Wednesday in Lent

Fourth Wednesday in Lent

Fifth Wednesday in Lent

Maundy Thursday with Communion

Good Friday

Easter Sunday 10 AM

February 13<sup>th</sup>

February 20<sup>th</sup>

February 27<sup>th</sup>

March 6<sup>th</sup>

March 13<sup>th</sup>

March 20<sup>th</sup>

March 28<sup>th</sup>

March 29<sup>th</sup>

March 30<sup>th</sup>

God is Calling

Saved in the Storm

Our Providing God

Praying from the Belly of the

Great Big Fish

The God of the Second

Chance

About Face

On the Same Page

The Answer!

The Sign of Life

All Services will be held at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Chassell

### Hunger is the Confirmation Project for Lent

The Confirmation classes decided to study World Hunger for Lent. They will share some of what they learn in reports to the congregation. It is the request of the confirmation classes that all Lenten offerings should go to World Hunger.



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Chassell, MI 49916  
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**Intentional Interim Pastor Chuck Fluegel**  
Phone: 920-203-5037  
E-Mail: [cfluegel1@new.rr.com](mailto:cfluegel1@new.rr.com)

Church Secretary: **Heather Cote**  
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Financial Secretary: **Betty Kalliainen**  
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Please Call

Are you sick? Are you hospitalized? Are you housebound? Are you in need of Pastoral Guidance? We appreciate your call to let us know that you or a loved one may be in one of the above situations. Don't hesitate and don't assume that someone else has already told us. Someone could unintentionally be neglected.

## **Gratitude**

By Kristiina Vanhala

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

1/1/13. Happy New Year! When a new year arrives, I like to reflect on the milestones/highlights of the previous year AND I like to acknowledge the gifts in my life. Some years, I'll write them down. I've even listed the alphabet and written as many good things that begin with each letter as I can. I've heard of people keeping a gratitude journal – writing down something that they are grateful for at the end of each day.

Gratitude was a big part of my Uncle Ron's life. That was a part of his program. Pastor Otto Sotnak was a dear friend to my uncle, and at his funeral he imagined my uncle spending his last hours thanking God for "this new experience". You see, my uncle was paralyzed by the gunshot that eventually took his life and because he wasn't found for several hours, he would have had a lot of time to talk to God. We can never know for sure, but knowing my uncle, it's likely true that he spent at least some of his final hours in gratitude.

I imagine we are all grateful for family, friends, etc. We know those moments when we are grateful for making it through a close call – not running out of gas, making an appointment on time, missing that deer that jumped out, or any number of events or situations that turn out our way. But what about the stuff that doesn't?

I remember hearing someone say once that she was grateful for a difficult situation because it was an opportunity for her to grow. My response at the time was, "Gag me!" Now, I can say I understand and agree. I have found again and again that giving thanks for the tough stuff and really meaning it can open the door to healing and change. In a recent conversation amongst friends, we were talking about the winter darkness and how difficult it is. A woman in the group spoke up and said, "I like the darkness at this time of year. It makes the Christmas lights stand out - especially the candlelight on Christmas Eve." This time my response was, "Wow!" Could we really enjoy the warmth of the summer sun without the darkness of a cold winter? Can the gifts in our life taste as sweet without the challenges? What about the gift of humility? I know I need to be reminded that I am not in charge – I don't always get my way. What about how our difficult days put us in touch with the human race – the reminder that we are not alone? Without our struggles, could we really connect with others? With God? While I will never be grateful that my uncle was killed or that my family suffered, I will always be grateful for how it changed me. I am also grateful for an uncle who set such a beautiful example of how to live life.

Often, it's not until we're on the other side of things that we see the gifts. I know that we are at a difficult place as a congregation. Some are hurting, some are confused, and some are anxious to move on. I believe that this time is an advent of waiting for a gift that we cannot yet see. It is my belief that 1,5,10 years from now we will look back and see that this time was actually a gift!

This poem is framed and on my wall. It helps me when things don't go my way.

## **Native Blessing:**

Bless these our circumstances,

Bless the hardship and the pain,

Bless the hunger and the thirst,

Bless the locusts and the drought,

Bless the things which do not turn out right,

Bless those who take all and give not.

In these circumstances, find growth.

In growth discover clarity

In clarity, an inner vision.

(From *Spirit Walker*, Poems by Nancy Wood)



## WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

DATE	USHERS	LECTORS	HC ASSISTANTS	ACOLYTES
<b>Sunday, February 3:</b>	Bill and Nancy Binroth	Bill Binroth	Victoria Baker	Jonathon and Lily Baker
<b>Sunday, February 10:</b>	George and Betty Uuro	Nancy Paananen	Bill Binroth	Alia Palosaari
<b>Sunday, February 17:</b>	Fritz and Marvyl Wilson	Marvyl Wilson	Heather Cote	Emily Cote
<b>Sunday, February 24:</b>	Sue Wiles and Paulette Archambeau	Sue Wiles	Mary Jurgensen	Maggie Gaunt

## COFFEE SERVERS

<b>Sunday, February 3:</b>	Fritz and Marvyl Wilson, Larry and Walleen Falstad and Evelyn Lecelius
<b>Sunday, February 10:</b>	Dan and Kathy Finni and Linda and Dave Kantala
<b>Sunday, February 17:</b>	Dennis and Judy Karvako, Judy Harkonen and Patti Kananen
<b>Sunday, February 24:</b>	

## ALTAR CARE

<b>February:</b>	<b>Roberta Noetzel</b>
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## Sunday School Teachers

<b>Pre-school</b>	Kristina Mechlin
<b>Arts and Crafts</b>	
<b>Cooking</b>	
<b>Storytelling</b>	

All children in pre-school through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are invited to attend HTLC's Sunday School program.

## REACH OUT AND TOUCH SOMEONE



### In Our Prayers

Arneson, Mary  
Aittama, Lucy  
Baker, Marge  
Barrette, Sandy  
Behm, Addie  
Behm, Zachary  
Belkanen, Jean  
Besonen, Mary  
Brey, Eva  
Britz, Roy  
Cummings, Keegan  
DeForge, Russ  
Ecke, Barbara  
Ecke, Marie  
Fetherling, Tony  
Fillmore, Jim  
Ford, Jonathan  
Gilbertson, Curt  
Hainault, Ethan  
Howard, Goldie  
Hyatt, Alfred  
Hyatt, Wayne  
Johnson, Jayna  
Kautto, Gladys  
Lanala, Katie Ann  
Luusua, Bertha  
Manninen, Wesley  
Markham, Harold  
Mattson, John  
McKenna, Tim  
Miller, Chris  
Montroy, Kurt  
Monroe, Patti  
Monroe, Virginia  
Olson, Ana  
Roberts, Amy  
Ronan, Grace  
Sanregret, John  
Sauvola, Eleanor  
Schwenk, Don  
Seppala, Kay  
Siller, Janelle  
Slade, Chris  
Szyszkoski, Judy  
Tormala, Mary  
Twardzik, Ellen  
VanKleeck, Todd  
VanTassel, Angie  
Vertanen, Darrel  
Vollmar, Jim, Jr  
Wisti, Laurie

Julia Hongisto  
**Houghton Cty Medical Care**  
1100 West Quincy Street  
Hancock, MI 49930  
Birthday: November 7

Patrice Juopperi  
PO Box 194  
South Range, MI 49963  
Birthday – March 21

Elvie Kangas  
**Bayside Village - #103-1**  
832 Sicotee  
L'anse, MI 49946  
Birthday – December 23

Gisela (Gigi) Kangas  
**Shulstad Leisure Living**  
PO Box 84  
Baraga, MI 49908  
Birthday: July 30



Happy Birthday

Margaret Martin  
**PortagePointe**  
520 Campus Drive  
Hancock, MI 49930  
Birthday – October 1

Florence Naumes  
c/o Kathy Vertanen  
4487 Green Glen Drive  
Youngtown, OH 44511  
Birthday – March 12

Alice Norberg  
**Heritage Manor #301**  
401 E. Montezuma Ave  
Houghton, MI 49931  
Birthday: March 6

Mabel Shandley  
**Houghton Cty. Medical Care**  
1100 West Quincy Street  
Hancock, MI 49930  
Birthday: August 29

Edna Thompson Rm 5A  
**Cloverleaf Health Care**  
275 N San Jacinto Street  
Hemet, CA 92543  
Birthday – January 9

Betty Wolff  
**PortagePointe**  
520 Campus Drive  
Hancock, MI 49930  
Birthday – September 5

**If you would like someone added to the Prayer list prayer cards are available in the office.**

**You can also fill out the blue card that is in the pews and return it to the office or place it in the offering plate.**

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**If you know of someone that should be on or taken off the Prayer List please let the office know. Thank you ☺**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Sgt. McKinley Anderson**  
217 West Orange Street  
Troy, AL 36081  
Birthday: February 23

**Lt. Gazvoda Rudy**  
8336 Magic Lef Road  
Springfield, VA 22153  
Birthday: March 3  
Son of Ludd and Carol  
Gazvoda

**PVT Devin G. Holombo RN #233**  
(New Address)  
Grandson of Paulette  
Archambuea

**Sgt Jaakkola, Travis W**  
138 Parnell Rd.  
Hubert, NC 28539  
Birthday: December 21  
Son of Wayne and the late  
Florence Jaakkola

**SSG Melinda S. Knight**  
PSC 3 Box 366  
APO AP 96266  
Birthday: October 4

**Katie L. Maynard**  
18 Natchez Lane  
Fredericks, VA 22406  
Birthday: July 10  
Niece of Dennis Kotila and  
Gayle Lampinen

**TSGT Justin Perfetti**  
(New Address)  
Birthday: March 2

**Pvt, Velmer, Matthew**  
2/69 AR  
6590 Luzon Street Box 2244  
Ft. Benning, GA 31905  
Birthday: March 25

**ATAN Winsor, Autumn**  
1668 D Street, Box #65  
Andrews, AFB, MD 60762  
Daughter of Ron & Joyce  
Winsor

**HN Winsor, Erik**  
1<sup>st</sup> LAR BN, DELTA CO  
Camp Pendleton, CA 92055  
Birthday: July 12  
Son of Ron & Joyce Winsor



**Happy Birthday**

Sgt. McKinley Anderson  
February 23

Paul Tussing 02/03  
 Mary Lou Morris 02/04  
 Bertha Rossberg 02/04  
 Dominique DiVito 02/05  
 Jeremy Lassila 02/07  
 James Niemi 02/07  
 Mary Jurgensen 02/09  
 McKenna Lane 02/09  
 Lynn Hietala 02/10  
 Robin Anderson 02/11  
 Gladys Kautto 02/11  
 Alia Palosaari 02/11  
 Erica Archambeau 02/13  
 Hugo Harkonen 02/13  
 Margaret Panke 02/14  
 Shaylynn Hendrickson  
 02/15  
 Claudie Spiroff 02/15



Jonah O'Clair 02/16  
 Douglas Hamar 02/17  
 McKinley Anderson  
 02/18  
 Jessica Lane 02/18  
 John Hruska 02/20  
 Lorraine Lassila 02/20

Steven Rivard 02/20  
 Chuck Kautto 02/21  
 Larry Hermanson 02/22  
 Logan Kyro 02/22

Kenneth Lassila 02/22  
 Callie Aittama 02/23  
 Arthur Byykkonen 02/24  
 Jewel Laux 02/24  
 Bonita Neveau 02/25  
 Victoria Baker 02/26  
 Kim Oldt 02/26  
 Jim Perander 02/27  
 Anita Walikainen 02/27  
 Cheri Laux 02/28  
 Judd Schaaf 02/28  
 Blayd Lewandowski

### **Financial Peace University Continues!**

Holy Trinity will continue to hold FPU classes thanks to the support of the council and congregation. The 2012 class **paid off more than \$12,000 in debt!** If you are in debt or just want to feel better about the way you handle money, FPU is for you. The spring sessions cost nothing. Fall classes require a membership kit that costs about \$100, although help is available if someone can't afford the cost. The kit purchase includes lifetime membership to FPU classes all over the country and FPU Central online

FPU is so much more than getting out of debt. Together we have found people who have fun together, teach each other about money and life, and learn together. Some of us have no debt and are looking to plan a better financial life in the future. Some of us are working to get our heads above water. The important part is that we are finding peace and contentment about how we handle our money and how we work in our families. **It's not just about debt and money, it's about spiritual peace!**

Holy Trinity will be holding Financial Peace University Reunion and Preview Sessions on Wednesday, March 13, and May 8, 2013. There is no cost. Current FPU members or visitors are welcome, and you do not need to be a church member. Bring a snack or salad. Light main course provided.

**Fall Class Sessions will start on Wednesday, September 11, 2013.**



**Friday, February 15, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.**

Sloppy Joes, hotdogs, buns and popcorn and juice will be provided.

Please bring a snack to share!

Please watch for details. The movie title will be announced soon!

## **A SERVICE OF HEALING**

**Sunday, February 10, 2013**

Many ELCA congregations are adopting an occasional healing service in their churches. The ELW cranberry hymnal has arranged suggestions for a Healing Service on page 276 in the front pages of the new Hymnal. People who participate come with very special focus and needs.

The blessing calls for God's presence with strength and comfort in the time of personal, interpersonal and community suffering. God promises wholeness and peace in the midst of our community.

Our Lord Jesus healed many as a sign of the reign of God come near. Our Lord then sent His disciples to continue this work of healing- with prayer, the laying on of hands, and anointing. In the name of Christ, the great healer and reconciler of the world, we now entrust to God all who are in need of healing.

### **A Healing Service will be Offered for All Those Who Desire It**

Jesus sought out those who felt tired, broken or sick. It is no surprise that almost everyone in our community feels weighed down by some issue or other, and maybe multiple issues. So Holy Trinity Lutheran Church is preparing a special healing service for a portion of the Sunday morning service on February 10<sup>th</sup>.

Many are weighted down by sickness. Others are bothered by a breakdown in family communication. Others sense a personal need for forgiveness. Others sense special needs in our community. Bring your special needs to our healing service. You will receive prayer and a blessing tailored to your identified needs.

## **A CHRISTMAS GIVING THANK YOU**

Nine families (35 individuals) had food cards and gifts this Christmas because of the contributions of money, toys, hats and mittens given by our Holy Trinity family.

Thank you for your expressions of love for area families. Twenty six Fruit Baskets and Jean Pekkala's delicious tarts were delivered to shut-ins.

Thank you to all who shopped, wrapped and delivered the gifts and baskets.

The Service and Witness Committees

### **Simply Giving Offered** **By Thrivent Financial**

We thank everyone who has supported **Holy Trinity Lutheran Church**, with talent and financial contributions and look forward to support from all of our members in the year ahead.








If you need a convenient way to make regular offerings, we encourage you to check out our electronic giving options.

As the pace of life speeds up, you may find electronic giving a most welcome way to make contributions. Please contact the church office for more information 523-4315 or [htlc@up.net](mailto:htlc@up.net).



**Thrivent Financial**  
**for Lutherans®**



~ February 2013 ~						
◀ January						March ▶
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 Happy Groundhog Day! 
3 10:00 Worship and Sunday School  7:00 p.m. Confirmation 8:00 pm A.A.	4	5 9:00 Quilting	6	7 Noon O.A.	8	9 10:00 a.m. Building and Property Committee Meeting 
10 10:00 Healing Worship and Sunday School  7:00 p.m. Confirmation 8:00 pm A.A.	11	12 9:00 Quilting	Ash Wednesday Service 4:00 p.m. Bible Study 4:45 Soup Dinner 6:00 Service 7:00	14 Noon O.A.  Happy Valentine's Day 	15  Family Movie Night 6:30 pm	16 Bldg. Use V. Baker 10:00 a.m.
17 10:00 Worship and Sunday School  7:00 p.m. Confirmation 8:00 pm A.A.	18 	19 9:00 Quilting 7:30 Council Meeting Church Council 	20  Service 4:00 p.m. Bible Study 4:45 Soup Dinner 6:00 Service 7:00	21 Noon O.A.	22	23
24 10:00 Family Worship No Sunday School  7:00 p.m. Confirmation 7:00 pm A.A.	25	26 9:00 Quilting	27  Service 4:00 p.m. Bible Study 4:45 Soup Dinner 6:00 Service 7:00	28 Noon O.A.	Notes: January 27 – Annual Meeting following 10:00 Worship Service.  **Save the Date!!** Building and Property will be having a Soup & Sandwich Lunch on March 18, 2013	

### Temple Talk of 12/23/12

By Kristiina Vanhala, Task Force Member

#### Who is Pastor Chuck and why is he here?

Pastor Chuck is an intentional interim assigned to this congregation by Bishop Skrenes after the pastoral vote in August. The congregation's "no" vote indicated a lack of trust and/or communication between leadership and membership. Until we complete the interim process, we will not be presented with another candidate. We need to examine and heal from our past and prepare for the future so we will have a successful call process, so our next minister can come to a thriving healthy congregation, and so he/she can experience success with us as we move toward our future.

Pastor Chuck specializes in this area because of his training and experience, and arrived in early November to begin the interim process.

\*Continued

\*Continued Temple Talk of 12/23/12

**What is an intentional interim?** (all information in this section taken from the ELCA website!)

“No congregation ought to begin a search for a pastor until it has carefully thought about the direction it wants to move and the kind of pastor it needs.”

“The intentional interim process is designed to help a congregation to determine its own vision for the future in order to determine what the Holy Spirit is calling it to be and to do. By going through a structured process, the congregation is better prepared to begin its search.”

“When a congregation moves from one pastor to another it's a "prime time" for reflecting on the chapter of its history just concluded and to seek to understand where God is calling it to go in the future.”

“It is a critical moment to make decisions that will determine the future of a congregation, shaping its identity and mission for years.”

“The congregation is intentional about the way in which it intends to move through the period of time from the leaving of one pastor to the start-up of the ministry partnership with the new pastor.”

“An intentional interim period — that God-given "in between time" — is an excellent opportunity for a congregation to reflect and re-view its past for the meanings of its heritage and history and a time to project its future in a pro-active way.”

### **What is a task force?**

A temporary grouping for the purpose of accomplishing a definite objective.

The council appointed a task force to work this process with Pastor Chuck as directed by the bishop.

### **Who is on the task force?**

The task force consists of: Judy Karvakko, Doug Mechlin, Kristiina Vanhala, Marvyl Wilson, Pastor Chuck, Pastor D.J. from Gloria Dei

### **What has the task force done?**

We have met 4 times in the past 2 months, and we met with the council this week to share our ideas. Because Pastor Chuck serves as a facilitator and does not direct us, we as a group had the challenge of discerning our direction. We've had some wonderful and thoughtful dialogue and have some exciting and meaningful possibilities in the works. Our energy is positive and hopeful.

Some things we've come up with are:

- Our label! We all gasped when the bishop referred to us as a church in crisis! We may have experienced a time of crisis in August when we did not call a minister – BUT – a church in crisis? NO! That is NOT who we are! We have too many really good things happening here to hold onto that label! We have determined that we are a church “In Transition with a Mission”!
- The task force identified the need for healing. We will have a healing service on February 10. This will be an opportunity for members to voluntarily bring any part of their life that is in need of healing and receive a confidential pastoral blessing. More information will come soon!
- Education/Communication. We need to understand how our church works. What are the committees? What do they do? How do we function as an organization? We need to understand for ourselves as a committee, AND we need to educate our membership.

We will keep you informed as the work unfolds.

### **What can you do during this time?**

We know that this time is uncomfortable. We ask that you trust your elected and appointed leaders. Be patient. Pray. Know that we are working to discern God's will for the benefit of all.

Most importantly: Remember that we walk by faith and not by sight. God is in charge! While we all want to know where we are going and when we'll get there, we need to remember that He will lead us through this “between” time, and rest assured, we will come to be better than we've ever been.



## The shrinking church – Submitted by Pastor Chuck Fluegel

### Congregations look for solutions as they face declines in membership, attendance

When Joyce Gibbs began attending Zion Lutheran in Phillipsburg, Kan., in 1954, the congregation had to set up extra chairs in the aisle during worship services. In 1964 a new building was constructed to accommodate the rapidly growing congregation.

"We were really a thriving congregation. We had good attendance, an active junior and senior Luther League, a couples group ...," said Gibbs, who lives in rural Phillipsburg, with a population of about 2,500.

Today, Zion's average attendance has dwindled to about 50 and Sunday school is now a one-room class with a handful of mixed-aged youth. Lorna Paulus, the pastor who divides her time between Zion and nearby [St. John Lutheran Church](#) in Kensington, Kan., attributes the decline to several factors, including the loss of industry in the town, elderly members who have died and lack of young families coming up behind them.

Now, Zion is in conversation with three other rural congregations about merging. "I think for all of us we see it as necessary to our future," said Paulus, who has served Zion for 15 years. "If we don't do something, we won't be here in another generation."

Zion's story is one that echoes across the country as [ELCA](#) congregations look for ways to deal with declines in membership and participation.

Nearly 30 percent of [ELCA](#) churches reported an average worship attendance of fewer than 50 people in 2010. From 2003 to 2011, average weekly worship attendance dropped 26 percent. And from 2009 to 2010, [ELCA](#) membership decreased 5.9 percent, the sharpest rate of decline among mainline denominations, according to the [National Council of Churches](#).

"Since the inception of the [ELCA](#), we've seen decline every year, and it has accelerated over the last five years," said Elizabeth Eaton, bishop of the [Northeastern Ohio Synod](#). "It doesn't matter where a congregation is situated, we have congregational decline in every demographic, every geography."

It's no news flash that the [ELCA](#) is shrinking. But where is everyone going? And more importantly, where do we go from here?

#### **Losing our religion**

What we're seeing is not just a backlash against hymnals and potlucks. Nearly every U.S. Christian denomination has seen membership declines in the past two years, including Southern Baptists, who seemed invincible in the '70s, '80s and '90s.

And in 2012 the [Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life](#) reported for the first time that the number of Americans identifying as Protestant dipped below half, to 48 percent. Only Roman Catholics seem to be hanging on, which experts attribute to a growing Latino population.

When it comes to actively practicing religion, which includes worship attendance, the numbers are down across the board. "Of every measure or religious tradition or practice we track in surveys, none of them is going up," said Mark Chaves, professor of sociology, religion and divinity at [Duke Divinity School](#) in Durham, N.C.

"Part of the story is changes in family demographics. The main group that attends church is traditional families and older people. People are marrying later, having fewer kids or having no kids at all. That means the demographic subgroup that typically attends church is a smaller subgroup of the population," he said.

Fifty years ago not only were traditional families more plentiful, but organized religion had more clout.

"It used to be a cultural expectation to say you were going to church. We didn't have to do anything. We could

just sort of coast," Eaton observed. "But we're not part of the establishment anymore. The rug has been pulled out under us."

Robert C. Johnson, pastor of [Norwood Park Lutheran](#) in Chicago has experienced this within the congregation. "People have allowed Sunday mornings to be crowded with many other things, such as children's sports. Even when activities don't take place on Sundays, people are so tired from Saturdays that on Sundays they just want to stay home and sleep," said Johnson, who sees an average of 30 people in worship, according to [ELCA](#) statistics.

Eaton added: "Eighteen- to 35-year-olds aren't seeing church as really relevant to what they need to get done. They want meaning in their lives but don't necessarily see the church as providing that."

Lutherans also face a challenge because of the church's central and northern European roots. When many [ELCA](#) congregations were planted, Scandinavians and Germans were migrating to the U.S. in droves. Now, Lars and Gretchen have scattered and neighborhoods have become more ethnically diverse. Meanwhile, churches are still catering to their charter members.

Neil Harrison, director for Renewed Evangelizing Congregations, said, "Too often not only are people out of relationship with each other, but especially congregations are out of relationship with their neighbors and community."

### **HTLC Welcomes New Members Jason and Michele Sarafin and their daughters Jaden Elizabeth and Chloe Isabella ages eight and five.**

Jason was born in Toms River, New Jersey. He attended Michigan Tech for a BS in Electrical Engineering and Technology. He fell in love with the area and never left. He is employed in ETT at Osmose Holding Company in Hubbell.

Michele is a native Yooper and grew up in Gogebic County. Michele attended GCC and UW-Superior earning a BS in Secondary Education. She also obtained her Masters in Guidance and Counseling at NMU. She was hired as a Social Studies teacher at Baraga HS in 1997 where she continues to work today as a teacher, counselor and advisor.

As a family, the Sarafins enjoy skiing, swimming, skating, Zumba, volleyball, basketball, art, music, Girl Scouts, 4H and snowmobiling (Jason). They all are also active at HTLC. The girls have been enjoying Sunday School and VBS. Michele has sang in our choir and has taught Sunday School.



New Members Are Joining

## From HTLC Council

- Building and Property is planning a Soup and Sandwich Fundraiser on March 18, 2013. The proceeds will help to defray the cost of improving the entrance ways by the office and by Fellowship Hall.
- Quilters have been having a problem with not enough storage space. The Building and Property Committee is going to build them new deeper shelves this Spring.
- A new vacuum has been donated to the church for Wendy to use from the Youngs.
- Looking into "Looping" the church for the hearing impaired. It is a special wiring system that works with most hearing aids to help people hear better without the "feedback".
- People are needed to sign up to shovel snow on Sunday mornings. A sign up sheet will be put up on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.
- The Christmas and Advent services were reviewed and the congregation seemed to like the new service.
- Lenten Evening Services will be the Holden Evening Service. Services will be at 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm. A Bible Study will be at 4:45 and a Soup and Bread Supper will be served at 6:00 pm.
- A large print copy of the ELW will be ordered and hymns will be available to those who would like larger print music.
- The Task Force has been planning a Healing Service for February 10, 2013. All are welcome to participate how they feel so moved.
- A bulletin board will be purchased for outside of the HTLC office that will post all Committee Meeting Minutes.

\*A full set of HTLC Council minutes is available in the office. You may pick up a set or have a set mailed to you if you would like.

### Year-To-Date through Dec. 2012 (Reported Qtrly)

\$137,966.00	Budget thru December 2012
\$166,544.07	Total Contributions thru 12/2012
<u>\$ 45,430.99</u>	<u>Total Directed Contributions</u>
\$121,113.08	Available for General Fund

### Total Contributions for December, 2012

\$11,497.17	Budgeted amount for each month
\$ 18,188.04	Total Contributions for December
<u>\$ 3,761.51</u>	<u>Total Directed Contributions for Dec.</u>
\$ 17,426.53	Available for General Fund Checking