



The Cent-I-Gram

Centennial Evangelical Lutheran Church, Kimberton, PA 19442

May 2014

Vol. 18, No. 5



May 4

**12 PM Family Life Team Meeting
Deadline to order Mother's Day geraniums**

May 11

Happy Mother's Day

May 18

**Last Day of Sunday School
12 PM Hospitality Team Meeting
6 PM Game Night**





Centennial Lutheran

Phone: 610-933-1528 - www.centenniallutheran.org

May 2014

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>Sundays — 8:45 AM - Traditional, communion first, third and fifth Sundays 10 AM - Sunday School 11 AM - Informal with Holy Communion</p>				<p>1 9 AM-Exercise 5 PM-Music 6:45PM-Handbell 6:15p-Den 18 6:30PM-GS#438 8 PM-Chancel Ch 8 PM - Pikeland Historical Society</p>	<p>2 7:30 PM - AA</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4 8:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 12 PM Family Life Team Mtg <i>Deadline to order geraniums</i></p>	<p>5 6 PM Pack#170 Wolf Den/Webelos 6:45 PM - Boy Scout Troop #158 7 PM-AA</p>	<p>6 9 AM-Exercise 9:15AM-La Leche League 6:30 PM-Den 170 7 PM-Tiger Den 7 PM - AA</p>	<p>7 5:30 PM- Confirmation 7 PM-Praise Practice</p>	<p>8 9 AM-Exercise 5 PM-Music 6:45PM-Handbell 8 PM-Chancel Ch</p>	<p>9 7:30 PM - AA</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 Mother's Day 8:15 AM Choir Rehearsal 7 PM Boy Scouts #158 Leaders Mtg</p>	<p>12 6 PM Pack#170 Wolf Den/Webelos 6:45 PM - Boy Scout Troop #158 7 PM-AA</p>	<p>13 9 AM-Exercise 1 PM-Grange 6:30 PM-Den 170 7 PM - AA 7 PM-Tiger Den 7 PM-Executive Committee</p>	<p>14 5:30 PM- Confirmation 7 PM-Praise Practice</p>	<p>15 9 AM-Exercise 5 PM-Music 6:45PM-Handbell 6:30PM-GS#438 8 PM-Chancel Ch</p>	<p>16 7:30 PM - AA</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 8:15 AM Choir <i>Last day of Sunday School</i> 12 PM Hospitality Team Meeting 6 PM Game Night Deadline for June. <i>Cent-I-Gram</i></p>	<p>19 6:45 PM - Boy Scout Troop #158 7 PM-AA</p>	<p>20 9 AM-Exercise 6:30 PM-Den 170 7 PM - AA</p>	<p>21 5:30 PM- Confirmation 7 PM-Praise Practice</p>	<p>22 9 AM-Exercise 5 PM-Music 6:45PM-Handbell 8 PM-Chancel Ch</p>	<p>23 7:30 PM - AA</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25 8:15 AM Choir Rehearsal</p>	<p>26 6:45 PM - Boy Scout Troop #158 7 PM-AA</p>	<p>27 9 AM-Exercise 6:30 PM-Den 170 7 PM - AA 7 PM-Church Council</p>	<p>28 5:30 PM- Confirmation 7 PM-Praise Practice</p>	<p>29 9 AM-Exercise 5 PM-Music 6:30PM-GS#438 6:45PM-Handbell 8 PM-Chancel Ch</p>	<p>30 7:30 PM - AA</p>	<p>31</p>

MUELLER'S MUSINGS



When I was at Centennial previously (February, 2008-August 2009), in a May Newsletter I wrote about what it was like to have been Campus Pastor at Kent State University in Kent, Ohio the year of the shootings there of students by the Ohio National Guard. This kind of experience molds a person and influences all kinds of things in the future. It happened on May 4, 1970. Each early May as well as at other times, I recall the horror. I will not write more about that yet again. I will ask and ponder a bit about what molds and influences us in churches.

I raise the issue in part to invite you to remember, especially if you grew up from childhood in a Church and in a Christian environment at home. What was said and done? About what did you question? Were you treated at home and church with “Christian dignity?” Did you have fun? Were you bored? Was your Pastor friendly, stern (mine surely was!), pious, involved in community as well as congregation? Did most of your friends have involvement in a church of some kind? Did you talk about that at all? Do you recall any of this?

As a young adult, did you disappear for a while or keep up your attendance and involvement all along the way? Was there an event which molded or influenced you profoundly in either a positive or negative way? Did you develop social relationships with other congregants? If you married and had children, did you view family with a sense of spirituality?

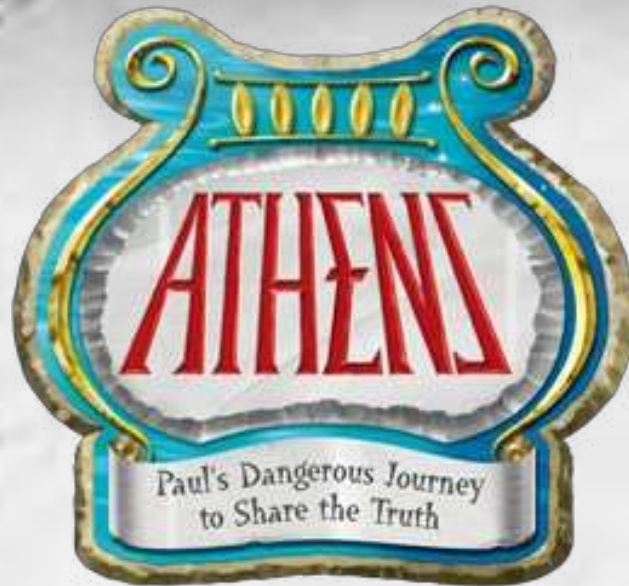
I will not go any further in the lives of older generations among us, of which I am one. Most reading this are still here and may have all kinds of things coming to mind and memory. I do wish, however, to walk with you into the now.

Does any of the above still apply? Has the world around us, especially in a religious manner, changed profoundly? Will the Church at large and Centennial in particular, survive in what is being called, “The Post Christian Era?” What does the advent of the group “Nones,” mean to and for us? “Nones” means, “no affiliation, formal or informal, with institutional religion.” It is often accompanied by a claim to be “spiritual but not religious!” This phenomenon is foreign to no religious expression these days in America, but applies to Roman Catholics, Evangelicals, Main Line Christians, Jews, etc. Some expressions are large enough so as to make losses less noticeable, but the effect is pervasive.

I am actually quite hopeful these days, first and foremost because I trust the promise of Christ Himself that ***“not even the gates of hell shall prevail against the Church,”*** (Matthew 16:18) even if they sure as hell will try. I am also hopeful because most Christians genuinely want to see young folk among them, even if older folk just do not seem to get certain things about them. **We just need to learn how to function more sensitively, compassionately, sacrificially, and effectively. But will we?**

Church Council on April 22, resolved unanimously to make as priority one—not priority alone—ministry WITH young people. There will be more. . . .SOLA DEI GLORIA!

Pastor Mueller



Join us for VBS!

Who: Ages 3 (potty-trained) through grade 5

When: June 23 - June 27 from 6:00 - 8:30 PM

Where: Centennial Lutheran Church



Registration: forms are available in the narthex, from the church office (610-933-1528), or on our website (www.centenniallutheran.org).

Deadline to register is June 1.

Questions: Contact Frances Warren (484-686-8226) or Patt Shumaker (610-296-8761)

Centennial Evangelical Lutheran Church (CELC)

Church Council Minutes

March 24, 2014

Present were Interim Pastor David Mueller, Council Members: Chuck Cantwell, Barbara Cooper, Jody Fleck, Tom Gradel, Ruth Kurylak, John Miller, Phil Rossomondo, Judy Ryberg, Frances Warren, Dave Winning, Karen Winning, Beth Wise and Recording Secretary, Joanne Cantwell.

Council President Dave Winning called the meeting to order at 7:00pm, followed by devotions given by Jody Fleck.

Council term assignments for new Council members are: 3-year terms: Ruth Kurylak, John Miller, Judy Ryberg and Beth Wise. Jody Fleck will finish a 1-year term from an incomplete term.

Council Minutes: In an effort to turn Council Minutes around more quickly, Council members agreed to review Minutes via e-mail and send proposed edits to Dave Winning.

Motion by Phil, seconded by Barbara to approve February minutes as written. Motion carried.

Council Covenant: The Council Covenant was reviewed and discussion ensued. Motion by Chuck, seconded by Phil to remove the preamble to the Covenant. Motion carried. Dave will make changes and redistribute to Council members.

Correspondence: ELCA's "God's Work our Hands" Sunday in September was discussed and will be further reviewed.

Financial status: Motion by Ruth, seconded by Tom, for Finance and Stewardship to create a quarterly financial statement to be shared with the congregation. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Mueller has visited approximately 40 households to date, would like to finish all by end of May and will submit a report to Council at conclusion of visits. Pastor is forming a Transition Team, hopes to have a Call committee in place at end of summer. A survey will be conducted to assess summer worship plans. On Maundy Thursday a Rabbi friend of Pastor Mueller will conduct a seder at Centennial, followed by a communion service. Plans are in process for a special Good Friday service.

Team Reports

Audit

A motion was made by Dave Winning, seconded by Phil to accept Jean Mull, Lois Moore and Ron Allen as auditors for the 2014 audit. Motion carried.

Finance: Tom Gradel moved, seconded by Chuck, that Finance can borrow from the contingency fund as needed. Motion carried. Tom reviewed current budget vs. actuals to date.

Property team is organizing an outdoor clean-up.

Stewardship team is seeking a new chairperson.

(continued on page 6)

(continued from page 5)

Worship team reported that the Projector is now operable. John Miller will seek a new computer operator and will continue work on projection control.

Family Life: Patt Shumaker and Frances Warren will head up Bible School during the week of June 23. Sunday School has been consolidated into a single class.

Outreach (Social Ministry/Missions) has served dinner to Jefferson Place residents, is conducting a Food Drive through Easter and organized dinners for St. Mary's Shelter during the week of March 31. A chairperson is needed for the new Care Team. Dave Winning will review the position of Missions Chair with Nancy Miller.

Hospitality team manages coffee hour on Sundays, is organizing a "Dinner for 8" activity and reported that the Boy Scouts will manage the Easter Breakfast.

Staff/Personnel team will be reviewed by Dave Winning.

Endowment team reported a total of \$57,930.78 in the Endowment fund. This money is being kept separate from the monthly balance sheet and is reported in the Annual Report.

The Congregational Assistance fund is managed by John Vondercrone and Beth Wise.

Old Business:

- A current congregational Contact List is under review.
- CELC's website is being monitored by Rebecca.
- Bios of current Council members will be organized and displayed with photos by Frances, Jodi and Karen.
- Phil will share a list of Thrivent courses available to the congregation.
- The Council Retreat on March 23 was rewarding to all and will be repeated quarterly.
- The "Do Call List" will be reviewed by Council members and Phil will share with the congregation.
- Work continues to organize a Visitation/Care Team.
- Council must appoint an additional member to the Endowment team.

Motion by Dave, seconded by Beth to extend meeting an additional 15 minutes.

New Business:

- Synod Assembly: Interim Pastor Dave, Phil and Patt Shumaker will attend the Synod Assembly on May 2-3 in Franconia. A youth representative is being sought.
- A Membership Audit will be conducted by Beth, Phil, Chuck and Judy following up with Pastor Dave and Denise.
- A Transition team being formed by Pastor, will begin working and will communicate with Council by next Council meeting.

Motion made by Ruth, seconded by John, to adjourn meeting. Meeting adjourned with prayer at 9:20pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Joanne Cantwell, Recording Secretary



Mother's Day geraniums

Deadline to order is Sunday, May 4, 2014
Take the geraniums home after the 11:00 a.m.
service **Mother's Day, May 11**
\$8 each

Give cash or checks to **Carole McCann** or attach payment to order form and place in offering collection plate.
Make checks payable to **Centennial Lutheran Church.**

Please print clearly:

I would like to order _____ pots of geraniums at \$8 each

in memory of _____

in memory of _____

in memory of _____

in memory of _____

in honor of _____

in honor of _____

in honor of _____

in honor of _____

(Your name as you wish it to appear in the bulletin on Mother's Day.)

Telephone number _____

Email address _____

Easter Food Drive

A really big thank you to everyone who donated canned goods and non-perishable items for Jefferson Place, PACS and The Good Samaritan shelter. Our food drive was a success and very much appreciated by our two homeless shelters and PACS. **Karl Kuhl, Dave Winning, Pastor Mueller** and **John Vondercrone** loaded the truck for delivery on Tuesday, 4/22/14 and delivery was made on Wednesday, 4/23/14.

Again, thank you!

Social Ministry Team - Community Outreach

"...open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land."

Deuteronomy 15:11



Thank You for the Music

A special thank you to all the musicians who participated in the music for the Lenten, Holy Week, and Easter Cantata Services, under the direction of Marcella Curtiss. It was a truly worshipful and meaningful time in the church year, and the music added so much to our services. Many hours of dedication, practice, and rehearsals were put into these special services and Easter Cantata. It is with **heartfelt appreciation** that we thank everyone that was involved!

Instrumentalists:

Valerie Capabianco—flute
Denton Stoudt—trumpet
Patt Shumaker—percussion



Soprano Soloist: Erini Pappas
Trio Singers: Erini Pappas, Penelope Pappas, Jade Sheay

Writer of the narration: The Rev. Dr. Edward Treichel

Narrator: Randy Ferree

Handbell Ringers:

John Miller, Frances Warren, Randy Ferree, Amy Perrone, Makinzie Ackroyd, Karen Winning, Denise Ackroyd, Valerie Capabianco, Patt Shumaker, Gigi Mueller

Easter Chancel Choir Singers:

Sopranos: Peg Ferree, Anja DiCio, Carole Stoudt, Frances Warren,
Denise Ackroyd, Jade Sheay, Makinzie Ackroyd, Marcella Curtiss
Altos: Karen Winning, Patt Shumaker, Valerie Capabianco, Gigi Mueller
Tenors: John Miller, Denton Stoudt
Basses: Randy Ferree, Clyde Scheib, Bill Donovan

Vocal Ensemble:

Soprano: Marcella Curtiss
Altos: Karen Winning, Patt Shumaker, Valerie Capabianco, Gigi Mueller
Tenor: John Miller
Baritone: Denton Stoudt

People of Light

On Memorial Day, it is important to pause in gratitude to all those upon whose shoulders we stand. We should remember with great appreciation those who died making helpful, positive contributions — whether large or small — throughout human history. As Christians we should be especially grateful to those whose faith, service and love have enabled us to know the Gospel and its vast implications for the entire earth.

Without our Christian teachers, pastors, missionaries and the ordinary servants of Christ, we would not have the Good News which is like a great light shining in the world's darkness. They have made sure Christ's precious Light has not gone out or been diminished.

Memorial Day is a day for us to think about the people of the Light and to express to God our appreciation for them.





We would like to thank Thrivent Financial for Lutherans' (SM) and those people who have designated Choice Dollars via the Thrivent Choice(R) program. This month we gratefully acknowledge gifts designated by the following people:

Peg Ferree
Randy Ferree
Harry Gladfelter
Vivian Gladfelter
Marilyn Rossomando

If you have any questions about Choice Dollars or how to designate them to our church, please contact thrivent@centenniallutheran.org

Walking with Grandpa and Grandma

I like to walk with Grandpa and Grandma,
 Their steps are short like mine.
 They don't say, "Now hurry up."
 They always take their time.
 I like to walk with Grandpa and Grandma,
 Their eyes see things like mine do ...
 Wee pebbles bright, a funny cloud,
 Half hidden drops of dew.
 Most people have to hurry,
 They do not stop and see.
 I'm glad that God made
 Grandpa and Grandma
 Unrushed and young like me.

—*Author unknown*

List of Shelter Providers

A list is being compiled of congregation members who are willing to provide or may be in need of shelter in the event of a severe storm or other destructive acts of nature, causing power outages or physical damage, making their homes inhospitable. Inclusion in this list is voluntary. The list will be held by the Centennial Church Secretary. Solicitation for and the existence of this list will be announced periodically at church services. Access to the list is limited to those on the list. You may contact Phil Rossomando with any questions (610-458-8549).

BIBLE QUIZ

Complete the following Bible verse: "A gentle answer turns away _____, but a harsh word stirs up _____."

- A. an argument; obedience
- B. wrath; anger
- C. jealousy; resentment
- D. falsehood; truth



Answer: B (See Proverbs 15:1, NIV.)

From the Stewardship Team...

Greetings from your Stewardship Team. Thanks to everyone's continued support, income nearly met expenses for the first quarter of 2014! Receipts for the first 3 months of this year were \$56,692 and expenses were \$60,705. This is a tremendous expression of faith during a time of transition! We are thankful also to the many hands whose time and talents continues to enrich the life of our congregation. And our many important outreach ministries help and touch many.

Your ongoing financial gifts in the coming months will be extremely important. A sound financial position is critical to the calling of a new pastor. We must not only meet our financial commitments, but also rebuild our reserves so we can offer a good candidate a commensurate employment package. Those of us who can increase giving should prayerfully consider doing so. Soon we will move into the summer vacation season, when giving typically drops. Let's each of us find a way to avoid the summer slump!

We would also encourage members to volunteer to help in the work of the congregation. If you see something that needs doing, by all means contact the church office with your ideas and willingness to lend a hand. If you have time available, and want to help but don't know what you can do, just ask! There are an abundance of opportunities. You may inquire about volunteer opportunities by contacting a member of the Stewardship Team (see contact information below) or Church Council (see contact information on page 12) or the church office (610-933-1528).

Please remember, to whom much has been given, much is expected.

Stewardship Team

Ron Allen	ron@allenrenninger.com	484-202-8068
Rick Henricks	rickclu@aol.com	484-433-1237
Tom Gradel	tom@gradel.org	610-469-0421
Phil Rossomando	rossomandop@verizon.net	610-458-8549
Ken Hagman	ken.hagman@habbegger.com	610-399-8999
Dave Winning	dsw43@aol.com	610-458-8147





Meals for St. Mary's Shelter

Centennial did supply dinners for St. Mary's Shelter from Monday, March 31 through and including Friday, April 4, 2014.

Thank you to everyone who helped to supply dinners for the homeless families at St. Mary's shelter. They included **Bill Donovan, Jody Fleck, Denise Ackroyd, Barbara Vondercrone, Donna Anderson, Nancy Miller, Deanna Kalmbach, Sue Nizio, Jerene Gladfelter, Joanne Cantwell, Holly Sollenberger, Dave & Karen Winning, Pearl Kulp,** and **Barb Cooper.**

The shelter really appreciated the dinners that we took to them. The Nuns look forward to the weeks Centennial brings dinners!

A big "thank you" to **Donna Anderson** for organizing and leading our week for the St. Mary's Shelter meals.

And a big "thank you" to **Bill Donovan** for delivering four days out of five and also to **Jerene Gladfelter** for delivery to the shelter.

Social Ministry Team – Community Outreach

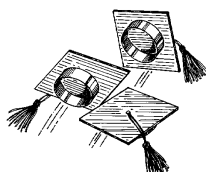
"...open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land."

Deuteronomy 15:11



Graduating this year?

If anyone from your family is graduating from high school or college this year, please let the church office know so that we can congratulate them and print the information in the June Cent-i-Gram newsletter.



- 1 Erin Schaible
- 2 Robert Jorgensen
- 2 Kim Souder
- 3 Brandon Barbone
- 6 John Ackroyd
- 6 Ethan Dabbeekkeh
- 7 Kathy Geiger
- 11 Emily Birdsell
- 11 Sharon Gambone
- 12 Dylan Miller
- 13 Rebecca Page Alvarez
- 13 Adam Dabbeekkeh
- 13 Kim Kryder
- 15 Jackie Skillman
- 16 Caellie Cobb
- 17 Michaleen Allen
- 19 John Vondercrone
- 19 Melanie Wise
- 23 Cora Perrone
- 23 Nicole Simpkins
- 25 Brandy Leininger
- 28 Mark West

"This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Psalm 118:24

Do you notice any missing birthdays?

We want to be sure to include everyone on our birthday list. If you notice that a birthday is missing from our list, please take a moment to let the office know. You can leave a note in the office or sent an email to Rebecca @centenniallutheran.org. Thank you!

MINISTRY LEADERS

Ministry of Administration

Church Council Members

Dave Winning (President)	dsw43@aol.com
Ruth Kurylak (Vice President)	rkurylak@gmail.com
Tom Gradel (Treasurer)	tom@gradel.org
Phil Rossomando (Secretary)	rossomandop@verizon.net
Chuck Cantwell	jmccrc@yahoo.com
Barb Cooper	cooperbarb@aol.com
Jody Fleck	jodyf@cciu.org
John Miller	jr_nsmiller@verizon.net
Judy Ryberg	jdr1220@verizon.net
Frances Warren	franceswarren@verizon.net
Karen Winning	kwinning11@aol.com
Beth Wise	bswise1212@msn.com
Pastor Mueller	demeam63@verizon.net
Joanne Cantwell (Recording Secretary of Council Minutes)	jmccrc@yahoo.com

Property Team Leader: Randy Ferree randy.ferree@verizon.net

Finance Team Leader: Tom Gradel tom@gradel.org

Personnel Committee

Team Chair: ron@allenrenniger.com

Ministry of Worship

Worship Team Leader: John Miller	jr_nsmiller@verizon.net
Organist & Music Director: Marcella Curtiss	marcellacurtiss@verizon.net
Worship Minister: Brad Roth	revjbr@juno.com
Altar Guild Leader: Frances Warren	franceswarren@verizon.net
Acolyte Coordinator: April Cobb	aprilcobb@comcast.net

Ministry of Family Life

Family Life Team Leader:

Ministry of Outreach

Social Ministry Team Leader:

John Vondercrone jvondercrone@comcast.net

Missions Team Leader: Nancy Miller jr_nsmiller@verizon.net

Ministry of Hospitality

Hospitality Team Leader:

Ruth Kurylak rkurylak@gmail.com

Ministry of Stewardship

Stewardship Team Leader: Ron Allen ron@allenrenniger.com

Ministry of Discipleship

Discipleship Team Leader:

Prayer Chain Coordinator:



\$25 PREPAID GROCERY CARD

Purchase a \$25 or \$50 pre-paid Giant grocery card! Available every Sunday. See Beth Wise or Kathy Geiger or contact the church office to buy a \$25 or \$50 pre-paid grocery card redeemable at any Giant Food Store. Giant will donate 5% of the proceeds to support the youth group.

Coming Events

is a weekly publication listing the calendar for the week and telling you about anything special coming up along with general church announcements. This publication will now be posted to the website (usually by Tuesday afternoons) rather than being emailed. You can access it at www.centennialuthera.n.org under the *Coming Events* tab.



Schedule

8:45 AM

Audio: Dave Winning/Volunteer

Sunday, May 4

Deacon: Dave Winning
Acolyte: Sam Perrone
Ushers: Mark Williams, Chuck Cantwell
Counters: Judy Ryberg, Beth Wise

Sunday, May 11

Deacon: Helen Breitegam
Acolyte: Caellie Cobb
Ushers: Mark Williams, Chuck Cantwell
Counters:

Sunday, May 18

Deacon: Larry Shumaker
Acolyte: Shaylan Cobb
Ushers: Carole & Fred Stoudt
Counters: Carole McCann, Kathy Geiger

Sunday, May 25

Deacon: John Miller
Acolyte: Makinzie Ackroyd
Ushers: Carole & Fred Stoudt
Counters: Jean & Randy Mull, Ron Allen

11 AM

Audio: Reggie Ryberg/Volunteer

Sunday, May 4

Deacon: Kathy Geiger
Acolyte: Will Cobb
Ushers: Phil & Marilyn Rossomando

Sunday, May 11

Deacon:
Acolyte:
Ushers: Tom and Joyce Gradel

Sunday, May 18

Deacon: Phil Rossomando
Acolyte: Sam Kuhl
Ushers: Beth Wise

Sunday, May 25

Deacon: Ron Allen
Acolyte: Wyatt Fleck
Ushers: Reggie and Judy Ryberg

Altar Guild: Barb Cooper, Jean Mull, Jan Bird

Bulletin folders and stuffers

1st Thursday of the month: Dora Kling, Joyce Sands
2nd Thursday of the month: Pearl and Dan Kulp, Dora Kling
3rd Thurs. of the month: Alda Scheib, Sue Wambold, Ray, Jr., Dora Kling, Joyce Sands
4th & 5th Thursday of the month: Alda Scheib, Nadine Stevenson, Jackie Skillman, Dora Kling
Substitute: Beth Wise

The *Cent-I-Gram* is published by Centennial: A Church for the Entire Community
Our Purpose Is To Know Christ and To Make Him Known

Centennial Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1330 Hare's Hill Road, Kimberton PA 19442

Sunday Worship 8:45 and 11 A.M., Sunday School 10 A.M., 610-933-1528

**Fax 484-204-9513 - The Rev. David Mueller, Interim Pastor - Rebecca Benecke, Editor
e-mail: Info@CentennialLutheran.Org webpage at: <http://www.centenniallutheran.org>**

Beauty in Brokenness

If you have a need for emergency pastoral care, please call Pastor Mueller on his cell phone at 302-545-3065. You may also call the church office Tuesday-Thursday (between 8:30 AM and 3:30 PM) at 610-933-1528 to schedule a visit.

Leonard Sweet, author of *Strong in the Broken Places*, describes a style of Japanese pottery called kintsukuroi. It's the art of repairing pottery with gold or silver lacquer, leaving the piece more beautiful for having been broken.

God is like a kintsukuroi potter, healing and staying near to the brokenhearted (see Psalm 34:18; 51:17; and 147:3). Instead of ashes, mourning and despair, God provides "a crown of beauty," "the oil of joy" and "a garment of praise" (Isaiah 61:3, NIV).

Although earthly brokenness brings pain, the Master Creator can turn it into something amazing that glorifies him. When life seems to fall apart, remember that our powerful God can make you more beautiful for having been broken.

May 2014

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**I LOVE THE LORD,
for he heard my voice;
he heard my
cry for mercy.**

Psalm 116:1, NIV

