

the Beacon

The LORD is my light and my salvation.—Psalm 27 Volume 1, Number 3

Lighthouse Lutheran Church
501 3rd Ave., Freedom, Pa.

The Reverend Dennis R. Whalen, Pastor
Sunday Worship 9:00 A.M. www.lighthouselutheran.org

It has been our pleasure July 17 and 24 to welcome the Reverend William Beck as guest pastor during the vacation of the Whalens. Pastor Beck encourages us to rejoice in the possibilities open to us to follow our Lord in service to our chosen community.

During the past three months Pastor Whalen has been our faithful leader as we have entered the waters of founding a congregation, and he has delivered sermons which challenge us in the Christian life. We have been blessed by those who have read the Sunday morning Scripture passages—Julie Whalen, Tom Kuny, Lorrie Kuny, Cindy Morris, and Julian. Head usher Jack Dewar has enlisted the help of Norm Amsler, Bob Morris, Alex Frantz, Kurt DeHaven, Jim Hoffman, and Mel Roush in directing Holy Communion and collecting the weekly offerings. Amos Eppihimer has unfailingly provided inspirational music. Julian, Denny, Katarina, Lexi, Amanda, and TJ have served as acolytes. The important task of leading Sunday School has been taken on by Pastor Whalen, Julie Whalen, and Cindy Morris. Julie Whalen, Katarina, Lexi, Jocelyn, Julian, and Denny have given us great pleasure with the beauty and precision of their bell-choir offerings. Tom and Janet McClintick serve as the Altar Guild. The people who meet for the after-worship social time are grateful to several of our members who have

supplied goodies, coffee, tablecloths, napkins, and plates to make the fellowship even more enjoyable—Lorrie Kuny, Julie Whalen, Kurt and Carol DeHaven, Jack and Ginny Dewar, Loretta and Alex Frantz, Michele Weidner, Norm and Roberta Amsler, Dee and Larry Phillips, Janet and Tom McClintick, Amanda, Katarina, Lexi, and Jocelyn. Tom Kuny, TJ, Julian, Zach, and Megan worked together to mount on the property-line fence two large Lighthouse Lutheran signs which were contributed anonymously by one of our members. Pastor Whalen, Norman Amsler, Tom Kuny, Cindy Morris, Carol Nicoletti, and Dee Eppihimer guide our affairs at the monthly church council meetings.

Beginning with this issue of *The Beacon*, a biography of William A. Passavant (1821-1894) carrying the title, "Aflame!" is offered. Although a gifted pastor and editor, he is best known for his tireless work in establishing hospitals, immigrant stations, schools, and, with Theodor Fliedner, the order of Protestant deaconesses. He founded hospitals in Milwaukee, Chicago, Jacksonville (Illinois), and Pittsburgh and orphanages at Mount Vernon (New York), Germantown, Boston, Zelienople, and Rochester. He founded the Connoquenessing Academy at Zelienople and Thiel Hall at Water Cure (later Greenville's Thiel College). He also founded the Pittsburgh Synod.



Pastor Whalen's Message

Everyone seems to look forward to summer vacation. For many people, the summer vacation is a time to get away from the daily grind and re-energize our bodies by resting and relaxing someplace other than home. During this time away, we attempt to forget about the demands from work or school as well as the problems occurring throughout the world. We look forward to summer vacation as a time to unwind, and that is usually how we feel after we return from our summer destination. We feel rejuvenated and composed. Vacations are an important part of a healthy lifestyle. As a matter of fact, many studies indicate that an annual vacation dramatically reduces the risk of heart attack (30% in men and 50% in women). Our bodies simply need to take a break, relax, and recharge. The fact that our bodies need downtime should come as no surprise to most of you. Actually, most of you have either already taken or will soon be leaving for a summer vacation. You already recognize the importance of resting.

God also understands the importance of rest. After working for six days and creating the heavens and the earth out of nothing, God rested on the seventh day (Genesis 2:1-3). Was God overworked and exhausted from the labor of creation? Absolutely not! God is almighty and all-powerful. Instead, He had just completed a great work – the work of Creation, and He paused in delight over that which He had made. The world was perfect and beautiful and very good.

We must remember that all of mankind is created in the image of God. In resting on the seventh day from all labor and delighting over His works, the Architect was displaying a pattern for all of mankind to repeat. From the beginning of time, God set apart this day of rest from all of the other days of the week and made this particular day *holy*. He sanctified, or set apart, one day out of seven. Unfortunately for us, we cannot experience the perfect and beautiful world that God originally created. I would go as far as to say that we cannot even imagine what the world was like upon its creation. For now, that world is gone and left us when Adam and Eve sinned against the LORD God. However, that world will once again come for those in Christ Jesus. We know this through the words from Scripture. This is the purpose of rest every one day out of seven. God has set apart this one day to read His Word and look forward to our ultimate goal in life: History will have a consummation, that is, there will be an end to this world followed by an eternity of living with and worshipping Christ in a perfect world. The day of rest is a day to remember,



ultimately, where we will all live the rest of our lives (Hebrews 4:1-13).

Rest is important and not only do our bodies and minds require it, but also our souls. When we dismiss the necessity for time off, or we do not truly relax and enjoy that time away, our physical and mental health become beaten down and weak. Our bodies and minds will soon remind us of the importance of rest. The same may be said of God's desired rest for us one day out of every seven. While we live on earth, each of us needs to spend one day out of the week focusing on the promised rest to come. In 2 Peter 1:3-15, Peter opens his letter reminding the readers of "[God's] precious and very great promises," chiefly the promised return of Jesus Christ. He reminds the readers later that "I think it right as long as I am in this body to stir you up by way of reminder." This type of perpetual encouragement is exactly the refreshment our faith needs one day out of every seven. When we dismiss the necessity for spending time in God's Word and worshipping Him, our faith can become beaten down and weak. As such, we become vulnerable to Satan's lies and begin to question the Truth – all of which has disastrous consequences.

Enjoy your annual vacation this summer. Relax and rejuvenate your body. You need it. Your physical and mental well-being thrive upon this annual rest. However, please do not neglect refreshment for your soul which revitalizes and invigorates your faith. You need it. Your faith thrives and grows upon this weekly rest – just as God planned it.

Vacation
Destination:

Mystic Seaport
Mystic
Connecticut





Getting Acquainted

This is the second in a series of articles about our members, offered to help us learn more about our fellow Christians at Lighthouse Lutheran Church.

—delightfully authored by Tom

Tom Kuny and Lorrie Barto both grew up in Economy Borough and graduated two years apart from Ambridge High School. Tom continued his education by attending Penn State University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Mineral Engineering. He then moved to another nation, West Virginia, and began his career with USS Mining. After a decline in business, Tom returned to western Pennsylvania and pursued a second BS degree in Electrical Engineering Technology from Point Park College. Upon completion, Tom accepted a position with Berthold Systems, which sells and services radiation gauging. After nine “glow in the dark” years, Tom accepted a position with Micro Motion, a division of Emerson. Tom has been employed at Emerson for the past fifteen years, travelling around western Pennsylvania approximately 43,000 miles a year, selling flow meters to all industry segments.

After high school, Lorrie attended Bradford Business School in downtown Pittsburgh where she received her secretarial certification. Upon an early graduation, she accepted a position with an international insurance firm, Alexander & Alexander, working in Human Resources in downtown Pittsburgh. She later transferred to their corporate offices in Towson, Maryland for a short while. Lorrie returned to western Pennsylvania in 1986 and began working for QED Communications, starting out in Human Resources. She was then promoted to the position of senior vice president’s assistant. After nine wonderful years in Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood, Lorrie gave birth to their son, TJ, and devoted her life to caring for him.

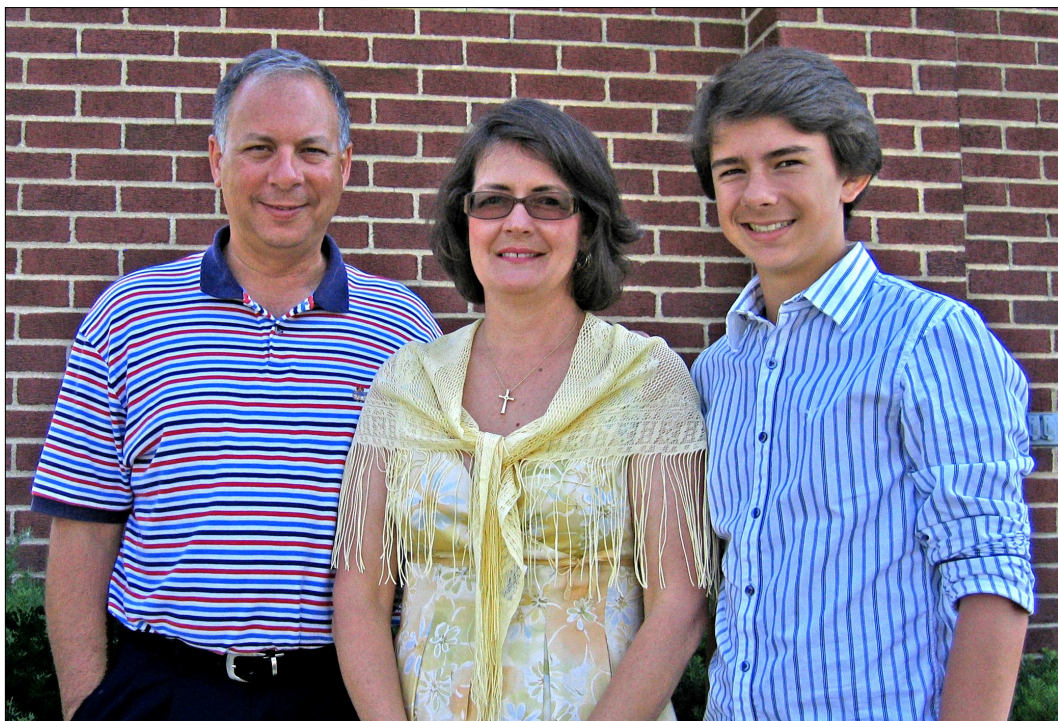
TJ, Thomas Richard Kuny, was born in March of 1995 and changed the lives of Tom and Lorrie forever. TJ instantly became the center of the Kuny family. He has grown into a young man showing particular interest in sports, his favorite being baseball. TJ has played on tournament teams since the age of six and has also played soccer on “cup” teams. He enjoys travelling to the southern US beaches as well as Erie.

Tom’s interests include baseball, softball, fishing, and golf. Volunteer work has always been an interest as well. Tom has served on the Economy Volunteer Fire Department and Ambulance Service for fifteen years. He has served as president and coach for the Quaker Valley Recreation Association, and as vice president for five years and president

for five years on church council at Rehoboth Lutheran Church. A recent interest in wine making has included the entire family from fermentation and filtering to bottling and even drinking. Our extended families become so excited when a new batch is ready for taste-testing as they are more than willing to partake!

Lorrie is the consummate volunteer, from giving of her time as T J's homeroom representative during his elementary school years to her current role as treasurer for the QV Baseball Boosters. She's devoted her free time to serving on multiple committees at their former church, such as Fellowship and Bright Beginnings Pre-School and has served as Christian Education teacher, VBS director and assisted with a musical ministry group. In recent years, she's been involved with raising funds for two national organizations, Crohn's & Colitis Foundation of America and Tuberous Sclerosis Complex. She enjoys gardening and walking their six-year-old cock-a-poo, Nittany. Go Penn State!

Both Tom and Lorrie joined forces with Christian volunteers in late winter 2006, travelling to Biloxi, Mississippi to assist those whose lives were affected by Hurricane Katrina, the costliest natural disaster in the history of the United States. An extremely humbling experience to see first-hand the enormous devastation; but rewarding to help strangers in need.



An Older Person's Prayer

(written in 2001)

Dear Lord, as I get older,
I feel an added strain.
Help me to keep my tongue in check
About each ache and pain.

Teach me to listen patiently
To others who relate
In great detail what they endure,
And what is now their fate.

It isn't easy getting old,
Remaining sweet and nice.
I want to teach just everyone
To honor my advice.

But then my friends would disappear,
If I cannot admit
That maybe sometimes I am wrong,
At least a little bit.

It's always fun to be in charge,
Just help me comprehend,
That as the day folds into night,
I'll truly need a friend.

Amen

—Dolores Fruth

Church Council Meeting Highlights

June 23, 2011, 7:30 P.M.

as taken from meeting minutes.

Pastor Dennis Whalen, Norman Amsler, Tom Kuny, Cindy Morris, Carol Nicoletti, and Dee Eppihimer were present.

Following devotions, the minutes of the May 19, 2011 meeting were presented and accepted.

Dee Eppihimer, Treasurer, presented the May financial reports. It was moved by Carol Nicoletti, seconded, and approved to accept the report.

It was moved by Tom Kuny, seconded, and approved to open a savings account to which 50% of the checking account funds will be transferred.

Pastor Whalen presented his report for 5-20-2011 through 6-23-2011.

The members of the Constitutional Steering Committee are Lorrie Kuny, Alex Frantz, Gerry States, Carol DeHaven and Pastor Whalen. At their first meeting on June 22, 2011, the structure of the current Constitution was discussed. The committee began the process of clarification and recommendations for changes to the document. The next scheduled meeting is June 29, 2011.

Discussion of a salary for organist Amos Eppihimer was postponed till the November Council meeting.

A "wish list" will be developed by Pastor Whalen to guide members who wish to purchase items for Light-house Lutheran Church. This list will be displayed on the bulletin board and appear in *The Beacon*.

Several options were discussed concerning the use of altar flowers: Continue use of the artificial flowers and purchase real flowers for special Sundays; have weekly delivery of two arrangements to be contributed by members through a sign-up list; have members purchase and bring two arrangements each week. No action was taken.

The full minutes of future Council meetings will be posted on the bulletin board.

It was moved by Pastor Whalen, seconded, and approved to create an Evangelism Committee. Pastor Whalen will request volunteers for the committee.

Pastor Whalen will develop a charter to be signed by members at the church picnic.

Pastor Beck will preach July 17 and 24. Following Pastor Beck's recommendation that selected members of the congregation lead services in the absence of the pastor, on September 25 Norm Amsler will serve as preaching minister, and Tom Kuny will serve as presiding minister.

It was moved by Pastor Whalen, seconded, and approved to form a Fellowship Committee. This committee will also serve as an emergency committee for funeral dinners. Suggestions for fellowship activities include a summer picnic and a golf outing.

Pastor Beck will bring Pastor Whalen's ordination papers on July 17. They will be signed by Elder Norman Amsler and will have the church seal applied.

Aflame!

The attempt, in retracing the life of William A. Passavant, to recreate in one's mind a picture of that era, must meet with limited success, so different was that time from our own. He was born in Zelienople, Pennsylvania in 1821 of parents whose marriage thirteen years earlier had been blessed by the bride's father only on condition that the newly-weds consent to leaving a privileged life in Europe to make their home on land which he had purchased in the wilderness of western Pennsylvania. It was for this reason that Zelig, aged twenty-two, and Louis Phillippe Passavant, thirty-three, after a sea voyage of nearly four months (!) and an overland journey of five weeks, arrived at Count Detmar von Basse's Bassenheim estate in 1808.

William was the Passavants' fifth and last child; two brothers and two sisters had preceded him. His mother was a prolific letter writer, and these letters give fascinating glimpses into their family life. Two written in 1824 to her eleven-year-old son Detmar tell of the child who was to become such an illustrious figure of 19th century Lutheranism:

Little William . . . is making such a noise about me that it is hard to write a sensible word. He has brought the tin watering-pot upstairs on which he is striking with a stick to imitate the sound of his favorite instrument, the drum. . . . At table, he behaves . . . much better than I expected and his dear little prattle amply compensates for the unavoidable trouble he gives.

And two months later—

The little creature is afraid of nothing. Yesterday evening he made his escape unperceived through the store into the street and walking up to Mr. Beltzhooover's large horse he seized it by the tail!

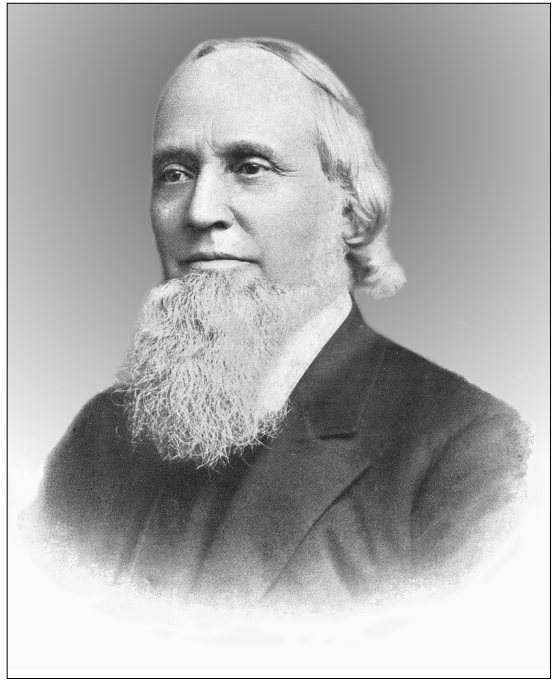
In those days there was no public school in Zelienople, but William attended the local subscription school and was also, as were his brothers and sisters, educated at home by Zelig.

In 1836, when he was fifteen, he made the journey to Jefferson College in Canonsburg. In addition to pursuing his studies, he taught in some of the surrounding mission Sunday

schools. Of this, one of his former classmates remembered William with the following words:

His memory is still cherished in the hearts of some who remember his living fidelity and earnest instruction. He was hearty, too, in amusements which were innocent and healthful. Our little company . . . were mirthful and affectionate, and never quarreled with one another.

Two Lutheran publications, the English language *Observer* and the German language *Kirchenzeitung* expressed views which the young Passavant found attractive, and he spent much time canvassing the area around the college soliciting subscriptions to the papers. In 1837 he began gathering information for a Lutheran almanac, a work which he was finally able to bring out in 1842 while a student at Gettysburg Seminary.



The Reverend William A. Passavant

His graduation from Jefferson College was delayed by the sudden death of his brother Detmar in the autumn of 1839. He completed his final term at Canonsburg in the late summer of 1840. During this time he was busy with a Lutheran Sunday school which he had organized at Pigeon Creek, fourteen miles from the college. Beginning at 5 o'clock every Sunday morning, he would travel by horse or on foot to the old Bethlehem Lutheran Church. A letter to his mother at the time of his graduation reveals his tender feelings for this work:

You may well imagine that it was not the most pleasant thing to bid farewell to my little school in the country, especially as I never expect to see the place again. During the summer I traveled three hundred miles in going out to that school and things are beginning to look a little brighter than when it was commenced. A prayer meeting has been established and is making no little stir in the neighborhood and the room where it is held is generally filled. This is the first thing of its kind ever established in that congregation and I trust that its influence may be felt to the salvation of souls.

Traveling by stage from Pittsburgh for two days and two nights without rest, William Passavant arrived at the Lutheran theological seminary in Gettysburg in early November, 1840.

Gettysburg Seminary had been established in 1826 by the General Synod, a body which desired an independent American Lutheran Church, but failed to understand the specific contents of the Lutheran faith. The tendency of the age was toward a blending of the different strands of Protestantism, and although every professor was required to declare, "I believe the Augsburg Confession and the catechisms of Luther to be a summary and just exposition of the fundamental doctrines of the Word of God," Gettysburg's first professor, Dr. S. S. Schmucker, a graduate of the Presbyterian Seminary at Princeton, had not seriously studied Lutheran theology and was an outspoken advocate of Reformed doctrine. Henry E. Jacobs, in his *History of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the United States*, characterizes the seminary of that time in these words:

[There was a] lack of cultivation of any decided form of church life. There was a tendency to deprecate sacred learning as relatively unimportant, and to throw all stress upon devotional exercises. Young pastors uninstructed in the modes adopted by the Lutheran Church . . . readily adopted the methods of other churches.

Through letters to his mother, we learn that William found life at Gettysburg satisfying in many ways. He expressed a high regard for Dr. Schmucker both as a teacher and as a man. He studied New Testament exegesis and Schiller's *Thirty Years War*. He did find the characters of the Hebrew language "outrageous." Only nine hours of classes a week gave him ample time for private reading and study; however, he missed the closeness between professors and students which he had enjoyed at Jefferson College. A missionary society had four stations in the mountains which were supplied by students. William appreciated the opportunity they afforded to preach to different kinds of people and to bring the Gospel to the area's spiritually needy.

During the spring vacation of 1841 while canvassing for the *Observer* in Maryland and Virginia, William looked in on the General Synod about to meet in Baltimore. He met the Reverend Abraham Reck of Indianapolis, who impressed him greatly and with whom he had an extended conversation about the pastor's work for the Church in the West.

In July, 1841 as part of a canvassing effort sponsored by the Pennsylvania Bible Society, William and a fellow student at the seminary traveled for ten days in the mountains, distributing Bibles to the inhabitants. Of this experience he writes:

The roads were so rocky and narrow that it was with the greatest difficulty that we drove our little carriage. Such scenes as we witnessed among the poor charcoal burners in the Alleghenies! Some of the people had no idea of such a book as the Bible; others, when requested to show us their Bible, would bring out some religious book which they said in all simplicity was a "kind of a Bible."

A few Catholics told us they “had no use for a Bible ” they had “their prayerbook and other good reading in the house. ” Some wept for joy when we presented them with a copy of the Scriptures, while others called us a set of speculators and would have nothing to do with us or our books.

William’s companion on that trip was William Eyster. Many years after the experience, Dr. Eyster offered this reminiscence:

Those ten days of close association and intimate friendship in a good and blessed work revealed to me more fully the lovable Christ-like spirit of my friend than many days or years of more casual acquaintance could have done.

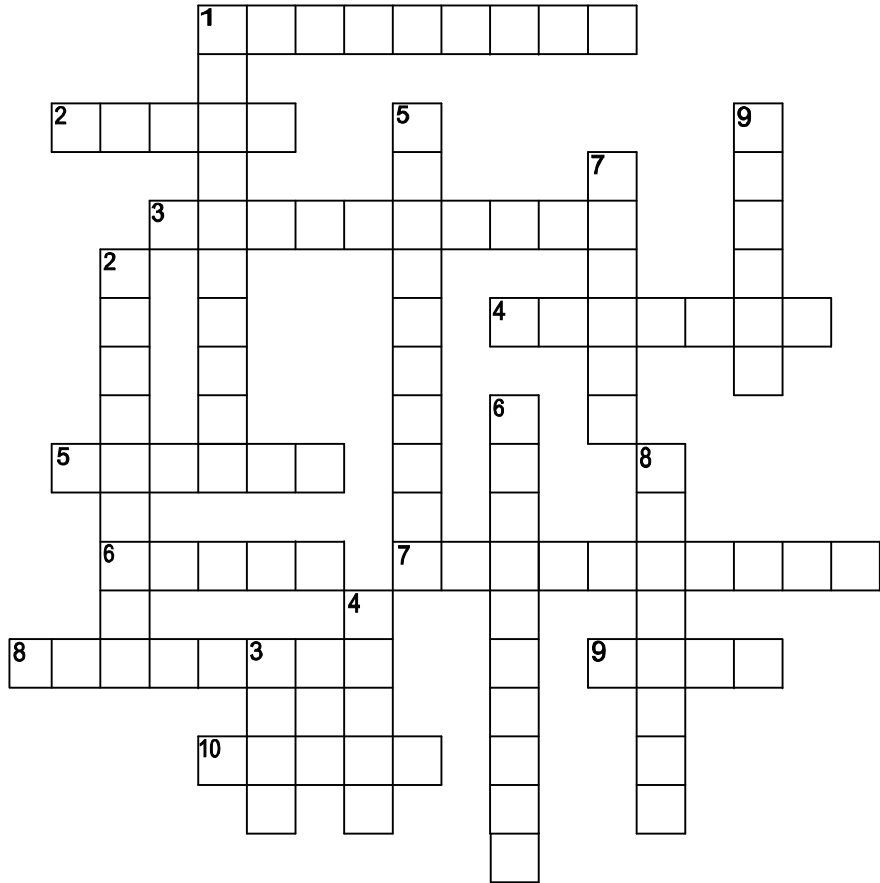
For four years William had been gathering information for a Lutheran almanac, which he was at last able to have published for 1842. Its thirty-two pages contained numerous statistics—deaths of ministers, a list of Lutheran periodicals, of synods, of ministers and their post office addresses, as well as many articles on a variety of subjects of interest to Lutherans, such as “Luther’s Celebrated Prayer,” “Christ, Our Example,” “The Theological Seminary at Gettysburg,” “Foreign Missionary Society,” and “Parent Education Society.” Number two was issued the following year. After this, others continued the work that he had started.

William’s journal of these years reveal a young man of very deep religious sensibilities. His preferred reading at this time, in addition to the Bible, were the writings of John Wesley and other authors of the Methodist persuasion. He also favored the position of the German Pietists. This view was bolstered by the mode of worship then prevalent in the Gettysburg churches. Revivals and emotional “mourners’ bench” conversions were part of the “new measures” then prevalent. As will be seen, these preferences of Passavant would later be modified by orthodox Lutheran doctrine.

A work dear to his heart was the raising of funds for an English Lutheran Church in Cincinnati, a project which he successfully promoted with several articles written for the *Observer*. His abilities as a writer were noticed by the editor of that paper, Dr. Kurtz. In early 1842, he was asked to serve as interim editor during a temporary absence of Dr. Kurtz. William sought the advice of his parents on this important matter. Zelig replied that she would prefer that he finish his seminary course, but that if he did accept the offer, it should not be for more than one year. She also advised against his name being “blazoned forth in the *Observer*” as this would create a “prejudice against [him] in the minds of most of the ministers of the West.” William’s father feared that close contact with Dr. Kurtz would make William even more “Methodistical.” On April 1, 1842, William accepted the offer.

To Be Continued . . .

**COMPLETE THE CROSSWORD PUZZLE,
USING INFORMATION FROM THE ARTICLE ON WILLIAM A. PASSAVANT.**



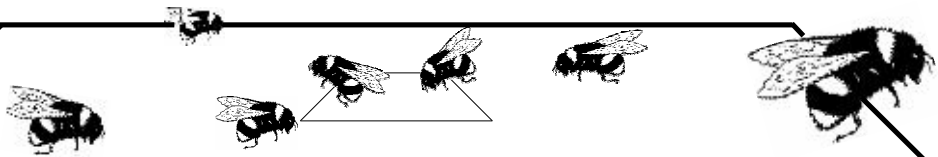
ACROSS

- 1. Lutheran church where young William Passavant organized a Sunday school
- 2. Animal commonly used for transportation in early 1800s
- 3. Birthplace of William Passavant
- 4. Early publication of William Passavant
- 5. Common native language of early American Lutherans
- 6. Common mode of travel in early 1800s
- 7. Location of a Pa. Lutheran seminary
- 8. Bought a large tract of land in western Pa.

- 9. Young William 's favorite musical instrument
- 10. William Passavant 's father

DOWN

- 1. Detmar von Basse 's American estate
- 2. William Passavant 's college
- 3. Speed of sea travel in early 1800s
- 4. William Passavant 's mother
- 5. Town where W. Passavant attended college
- 6. W. Passavant left for seminary from this city.
- 7. Zelig Passavant 's father and son
- 8. Early English language Lutheran paper
- 9. Type of school where William Passavant taught while attending college



BIBLE BEEHIVE

Each of these Bible verses has at least one “be” in it. Some of the other words have been left out, too. See how many verses you can complete without looking up the Bible references.

1. And ____ kind to one another, tenderhearted, _____ one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. Ephesians 4:32
2. Finally, ____ _____ in the Lord and in the strength of his power. Ephesians 6:10
3. Do not ____ _____ in your own eyes; fear the LORD and turn away from _____. Proverbs 3:7
4. Ask, and it will ____ given you; _____, and you will _____; _____, and the door will ____ opened for you. Matthew 7:7
5. For where your _____ is, there your heart will ____ also. Matthew 6:21
6. Do not worry about anything, but in _____ by prayer and supplication with _____ let your requests ____ made known to _____. Philippians 4:6



ZUCCHINI BREAD

- 3 eggs
- 2 cups sugar
- 3/4 cup oil (canola oil)
- 2 teaspoons vanilla

Mix together, then add:

- 2 cups shredded zucchini
- 3 cups flour
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 cup crushed pineapple, drained
- 1/2 cup white raisins
- 1 cup chopped nuts

Pour mixture into 2 greased bread loaf pans.

Bake at 325° for 1 hour.

Can be frozen for later use.

Submitted by Roberta Amsler



MUSINGS

If you like stories with happy endings, read on. And the best part of this story is that not only is it true (the gentleman will probably be teaching Sunday School in Conway this week) but is one which recalls the wondrous ways in which God works to fulfill His promises.

Eight years ago, during a visit with his wife to New York City, a man found a cell phone in a cab. By calling one of the phone's stored numbers he was able to get the owner's address from her room-mate. As he was packaging the phone for mailing, he felt led by God to include an audio cassette on the book of Romans and a note requesting that she read John 3:3. Just recently, the man received a very articulate letter from the woman who had left her phone in that cab eight years earlier. It seems that in rummaging through some of her belongings that were in storage, the woman had come across the old envelope containing the cassette and note. She decided to send belated thanks to her benefactor. "Benefactor" is putting it mildly. At the time she recovered her phone, the woman had been on temporary assignment to New York as an exotic dancer, an occupation which was providing her with a very comfortable living. She could scarcely believe that anyone would care enough for a complete stranger to send her the Gospel along with her lost possession. The note and cassette had changed her life, and at the present time she is involved in Christian ministry to women involved in the same lifestyle which had ensnared her. Who knows how far the waves have spread from that one package containing the priceless message of God's love for humanity!

Do you ever wish that you had kept your mouth shut? So do I. But I suspect that when we get to Heaven, we'll learn of many more times when we should have opened our mouths and hearts to share the Good News of Christ's sacrifice for our eternal redemption.

We would not be unwise to include in our prayers each morning a request to be used of God *that day* to increase His Kingdom on Earth. And we should get ready to be amazed.

Mel Roush



Getting Acquainted

Some additional things that Lorrie Kuny would like you to know about Tom, TJ, and her.

Some might deem Tom and my meeting as chance, others fate; but God had a plan for us upon returning to Beaver County from two neighboring states in 1986. Several years later on New Year's Eve, we committed our lives to one another before God. Who would even consider getting married during December in western Pennsylvania? Because Tom proposed on New Year's Eve a year earlier, in addition to planning a wedding reception, our thoughts turned to a New Year's Eve party for family and friends. If my memory serves me correctly, all the guests willingly stayed to ring in the New Year at the stroke of midnight, and we danced the night away! Inching our way to twenty-five years soon, perhaps another New Year's Eve anniversary celebration would be appropriate. What do you say Tombo?

So often, people we meet ask about TJ's nickname. They try and guess what the initials stand for. Thomas Joseph? Thomas James? While pregnant, we opted to be surprised at the sex of the baby, so there was no way to know if we'd have a boy or girl. But, in the back of my mind, if it were a boy, I suggested naming him after Tom and refer to him as TJ. Tom disagreed. Long story short, our son's birth name is Thomas Richard after his father and his maternal and paternal grandfathers whose first names are Richard. Yes, I know, TJ will be forced to repeat that story over and over. I think his name and related story suit him well.

I often think of the Bible verse from Ecclesiastes 3:1 which refers to a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven. What were the chances that both Tom and I returned to our early childhood homes in the mid-1980's, developed a friendship and later married . . . Years later, the Kuny and Whalen families' paths crossed. Everyone hit it off right from the start, enjoying so many wonderful activities together both in and outside of church. In 2011, Pastor Dennis has become our worship leader, spiritual advisor, role model, and dear friend. We are truly blessed beyond words . . .

God's light is so bright, shining a path for us all at Lighthouse Lutheran Church!

Lorrie Kuny