

Pastor Pete's Ponderings

November Reflections

St. Paul writes in 1 Thessalonians 1:2-5 ----

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake.

I, too, give thanks to God for all of you in Badger and in Trinity Lutheran Churches. I cherish your cards, prayers, gifts, and words of support and encouragement during my recent hospitalizations. I am now just about "fully" recovered and getting stronger each day. My eye surgery was successful last week and with the cataract removed, I can actually see out of my right eye. It was a very painless and easy procedure.

Along with St. Paul, I too **give thanks** for your **1)** work of faith; **2)** labor of love; **and 3)** steadfastness of hope --- all in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I also give thanks for all the expressions of gratitude extended to me during October's "Pastor Appreciation Month." I will especially enjoy your gift-card for the Bullpen in Lake Norden. They have great food, and I like to patronize our local businesses as much as possible.

As you read the words of St. Paul, above, from his First Thessalonians letter I wonder if you caught what may be the most important words of faith in the New Testament. "**GOD HAS CHOSEN YOU.**" Did you catch that? Or did it just kind of slip by as you read. Sometimes that happens when we read the Bible.

God has chosen you in Christ Jesus. What a wonderful gift of grace. We don't have to worry about whether or not we're doing enough for God to be pleased with us. God has already decided---he has chosen you. All we need do is receive his decision by faith and live joyously in that faith.

***Blessings to each of You,
Pastor Gene Peterson***

Trinity Lutheran Church Council Minutes

October 6, 2011 - 8 pm

Present: David Carlson, Don Thue, Dan Koistinen, Gerry Koisti, Brandy Aho, Harlan Olson, Pastor Peterson, Rusty Antonen, Mary Pekas, David St. John

Absent: None

Secretaries Report: Rusty motioned to accept and Mary Pekas seconded.

Treasurers Report: David St. John motioned to accept and Dan Koistinen seconded.

Committee Reports:

Evangelism: Suspend the Angel Tree for this year due to a possible potential of 120 children instead of an earlier number of 54. We have a hard time finding people to take 54 in the past, and are concerned about the possible number this year. The Hamlin School District is looking at doing a backpack meal for holidays and breaks for children in need.

Money for Harvest Festival program will be taken out of evangelism budget. Rusty motioned to pay 'Them Guys' \$200.00 and Don seconded. Harvest Festival loose offering and Harvest Festival envelopes will be divided 1/2 for food pantry and 1/2 to East Africa. Gerry motioned and Rusty seconded.

Property: Will get bids to finish siding on church.

No reports: Christian Ed; Finance; Stewardship; Worship and Music

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Thrivent will provide \$300.00 in supplemental funds for the food pantry as part of the Harvest Festival offering.
- Mary motioned and Rusty seconded to set up petty cash fund of \$100.00.
- NALC Mission District Conference will be held October 28-29 in Watertown.
- There will be a joint council meeting in November with Badger at Badger, 7 pm. on Wednesday, November 9th. Regular monthly council meeting to follow.

Adjourn: Rusty motioned and Dan seconded.

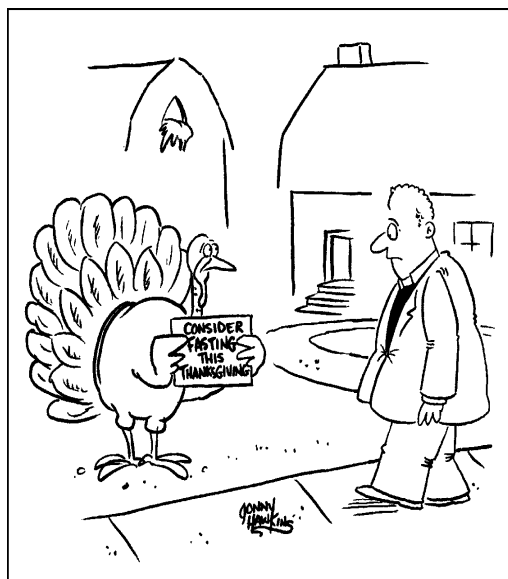
~ Brandy Aho, Secretary

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NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Jocelyn Steffensen
- 4 Shawna (Sowers) Kretzschmar
- 6 Robert Kasten
- 9 Greysen St. John
- 10 Virginia Kasten
- 11 Amy (Riter) Parish
- 13 Shirley Strande
- 14 Angela Jager
- 15 Kirby Antonen
- 17 Sylvia Riter
- 19 Christi Koistinen
- 20 Donna Anderson
- 20 Floyd Arneson
- 22 Unice Jager
- 23 Darin Miller
- 24 Eugene Riter
- 25 Patsy Steffensen
- 26 Bella Ann Kretzschmar
- 27 Sheldon Koisti
- 27 Lila Grape
- 27 Gerald Kasten
- 28 Mike Carlson
- 28 Bee Lee
- 28 Leah Steffensen
- 30 Cyra Schaefer



PRAYER CONCERNS...

- Prayers of thanksgiving for God's blessings
- Service men and women; veterans
- All who are recovering from surgery or illness
- North American Lutheran Church; Bishop John Bradosky
- Upcoming NALC Mission District Conference in Watertown



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Thank You Notes

- Thank you for your Harvest Festival offerings. From the offering, \$565 was given to the Food Pantry, and \$565 was sent to Lutheran World Relief for their work in East Africa where there is a hunger and drought crisis. Thrivent will provide \$300 in supplemental funds for the Food Pantry.
- Thank you to our ladies for making such beautiful quilts! Thank you to all who donated yarn, thread, material, and other supplies. Needy families in the county were given 4 quilts during the year, and the Women's Resource Center was also given 4. Seventy were shipped to Lutheran World Relief for distribution to many needy areas in the world. For some, a quilt will be used as part of their house; for many, a quilt will mean sleeping under a blanket of love and concern from people reaching out to them. Thanks to Don and Sharon Thue for bringing them to Watertown for shipment.

* * *

TLCW News Notes

Thank you to all for helping with the Harvest Festival and potluck dinner. It was a huge success.

Looking ahead, the TLCW will serve supper for Thrivent's annual meeting on November 6 at Trinity.

Ladies, plan ahead for the Christmas party at the Lake Norden Care Center set for December 7. Ladies will decorate the doors, bring gifts for residents, and enjoy lunch together. More light-weight decorations are needed this year. According to the activity director, gift ideas for the residents include toiletries, socks, gloves, or calendars. Please join us for this special time with the residents.

The Sunday School program will be December 18 during the worship hour, and the TLCW will serve lunch following program.

More information on the national organization for women in the NALC will be available following the Mission District Conference in Watertown October 28-29.

Circle meets the second Wednesday of the month; come and join in the fellowship and Bible study.

Evangelism Corner

“THE BRICK”

A young and successful executive was traveling down a neighborhood street, going a bit too fast in his new Jaguar. He was watching for kids darting out from between parked cars and slowed down when he thought he saw something. As his car passed, no children appeared. Instead, a brick smashed into the Jag's side door! He slammed on the brakes and drove the Jag back to the spot where the brick had been thrown. The angry driver then jumped out of the car, grabbed the nearest kid and pushed him up against a parked car, shouting, "What was that all about and who are you? Just what are you doing? That's a new car and that brick you threw is going to cost a lot of money. Why did you do it?"

The young boy was apologetic. "Please mister ... please, I'm sorry... I didn't know what else to do," he pleaded. "I threw the brick because no one else would stop..." With tears dripping down his face and off his chin, the youth pointed to a spot just around a parked car. "It's my brother," he said. "He rolled off the curb and fell out of his wheelchair and I can't lift him up."



Now sobbing, the boy asked the stunned executive, "Would you please help me get him back into his wheelchair? He's hurt and he's too heavy for me."

Moved beyond words, the driver tried to swallow the rapidly swelling lump in his throat. He hurriedly lifted the handicapped boy back into the wheelchair, then took out his fancy handkerchief and dabbed at the fresh scrapes and cuts. A quick look told him everything was going to be okay.

"Thank you and may God bless you," the grateful child told the stranger. Too shook up for words, the man simply watched the little boy push his wheelchair-bound brother down the sidewalk toward their home. It was a long, slow walk back to the Jaguar. The damage was very noticeable, but the driver never bothered to repair the dented side door. He kept the dent there to remind him of this message: Don't go through life so fast that someone has to throw a brick at you to get your attention!

God whispers in our souls and speaks to our hearts. Sometimes when we don't have time to listen, He has to throw a brick at us. It's our choice: Listen to the whisper ... or wait for the brick!

~Submitted by Evangelism Committee

Thanksgiving Eve Service

Wednesday, November 23

7:30 P.M.

Badger Lutheran Church

Followed by Refreshments



FELLOWSHIP DINNER

November 20

Following Worship

Soup and Sandwiches
will be provided.

Watch for a sign-up sheet!

FOOD EVENT



Thanksgiving

"I have never understood why anyone would roast the turkey and shuck the clams and crisp the croutons and shell the peas and candy the sweet potatoes and compote the cranberries and bake the pies and clear the table and wash the dishes and fall into bed exhausted when they could just as easily sit back and enjoy a hamburger or a pork sandwich."

- The Turkey

~ The NewsletterNewsletter

ANNUAL MEETING OF HAMLIN COUNTY CHAPTER—THRIVENT

November 6 - 4:00 p.m.

**Trinity Lutheran Church, Lake Norden
Entertainment by "The Celebration Band"**

All members of Thrivent are encouraged to attend. A meal prepared by our ladies will be served following the entertainment.

In Our Prayers

Remembered in the prayers of the church on Sunday mornings and in our daily prayers during the month of November are the following:

Nov. 6: Rusty & Sherry Antonen, Alex, Emily, Abby and Kirby; Ron Koistinen; Darin Riter

Nov. 13: Eugene Riter; Alan & Jan Arends; Floyd Arneson; Chad & Leona Kretzschmar, Jonathan, Samantha, Bella, Kayla, and Lexie Kranz

Nov. 20: Randy Riter; Jason Arneson; Deano Hartwig; Lloyd Riter

Nov. 27: Shawna and Jerry Kretzschmar, Jade, Chance & Christopher; Travis Riter; Ray & Joan Arneson; Phyllis Hartwig



Thank you so much for all the cards, gifts and calls for our 50th anniversary. All of your good wishes are appreciated very much!

~ Don and Sharon Thue

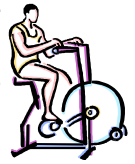


A logo for "Turn Your Clocks Back" featuring a clock face with the words "TURN YOUR" above it and "CLOCK'S BACK" around it.	Daylight Savings Time Ends November 6 Set your clocks back!
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"Healthy Aging"

Are you looking for a place to use exercise equipment? Stop at the Fire Hall Monday, Wednesday or Friday mornings from 9:00 to 11:00.

You will be amazed at what is available for your use at no cost to you. New equipment will be added in the near future. For more information, please call Doris Koisti at 785-3387.



Little Thank-You's

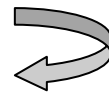
Most of us think to thank the Lord
For big things in our lives -
Promotions, health, increase of wealth,
Or when an heir arrives.
But for the many little things
We're given every day,
We take them, hardly thinking, and
Without a word of thanks:
A tasty meal, fresh-laundered clothes,
A house that's clean and bright;
A button fixed, a torn place sewn,
A restful bed at night;
A tolerant look, a kind word said,
A smile to lift the heart
Are subjects to be thankful for,
And each one plays a part
To show how much we all depend
On love's unselfish arts.
And we should thank the Lord and those
Who serve with loving hearts.

~ Dan A. Hoover





IMPORTANT CHANGE TO NOTE



After having an Angel Tree for several years, the Evangelism Committee has made the decision to discontinue the project. The decision was difficult, and was made as a result of the large number of families using the Food Pantry. If all families signed up for the Angel Tree, there could be a potential of 129 children, a number too large for our small congregation to handle. The Angel Tree began in 1993 with 63 receiving gifts that year.

The original intent of the Food Pantry was to provide food for the hungry, and that will remain their main focus. In addition to the normal food items each unit will receive the week before Christmas, they will receive additional food items to make their holiday meals more complete.

In the past if you purchased a gift for the Angel Tree, please consider giving a monetary donation to help in purchasing additional food items, such as turkey, sugar, pie crusts and filling, cranberries, sweet potatoes, etc.. If you are making a donation, please write "Christmas meals for Food Pantry" on your check or envelope.



**Kindness
Is Never
Out of
Season**

If you still wish to participate in an Angel Tree, you are encouraged to contact Andrea Wright, elementary counselor or Katie Hartz, middle school/high school counselor, at the Hamlin School District (783-3631); or Audrey Poppen at the Hamlin County Court House for their Caring Tree. Audrey may be reached at 783-3867, 8:30 – 1:30 on Tuesdays or Thursdays.

The hungry will make "special Christmas memories" as they feast around their table because of caring people like you. Thanks so much for your part in making this dream come true for them.

The Bible according to kids

Children say the funniest things about Scripture. Here are a few examples:

- "In the first book of the Bible, God got tired of creating the world, so he took the Sabbath off."
- "Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread which is bread without any ingredients."
- "The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterward, Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Amendments."
- "The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him."

~ Reprinted from the Newsletter Newsletter

Marathon Runner

Chrissy Hakeman from Lake Norden recently participated in a Marathon in the Cities. She completed the 26.2-mile run in 4 hours and 50 minutes! Wow, that is moving!

Good job done, Chrissy! What an example you set for us on the benefits of any type of exercise!

Offering Envelopes

New offering envelopes for 2012 will be available in December. If you have not been using envelopes, but wish to have a box, please leave a message at the office, 785-3277.

**Offering
Envelopes**



Students Participate in Music Festival

Eleven schools in eastern South Dakota participated in the Junior High Music Festival held in Lake Preston on October 11.

Participants in the festival band included Abby Antonen and Karen Hakeman from Trinity; and Kaylie Haufschild, Sam Koisti and Molly Koisti from Badger. Participants in the festival chorus included Jade Kretzschmar and Gunner St. John from Trinity and Anna Koisti from Badger.

It was a great experience for the kids, and they presented an excellent concert in the evening.



Larry Clark

Funeral services for Larry Clark were held at Trinity on October 13.


Larry died on October 8 from cancer. Our sympathy and prayers are with his family.

Pastor Lynnette Crase, a niece, and former member of Trinity, came back from Colorado to participate in the service along with Pastor Gene Peterson.


Memorials received include: Trinity Lutheran Cemetery, \$30.00; Sunday School, \$3.00; Food Pantry, \$25.00. Our thanks for these memorials.

Lessons from the Geese - By Milton Olson


Lesson 1 - The Importance of Achieving Goals: As each goose flaps its wings it creates an UPLIFT for the birds that follow. By flying in a 'V' formation the whole flock adds 71 percent extra to the flying range.

 **Outcome:** Those who share a common direction and a sense of community get going more easily and quickly with help from each other to reach their goals.


Lesson 2 - The Importance of Team Work: When a goose falls out of formation it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of flying alone. It quickly moves back to take advantage of the lifting power of the birds in front.

 **Outcome:** If we had as much sense as geese we would stay in formation with those headed where we want to go. We are willing to accept their help and give our help to others.


Lesson 3 - The Importance of Sharing: When a goose tires of flying up front it drops back into formation and another goose flies to the point position.

 **Outcome:** It pays to take turns doing the hard tasks. We should respect and protect each other's unique arrangement of skills, capabilities, talents and resources.

Lesson 4 - The Importance of Empathy and Understanding: When a goose gets sick, two geese drop out of formation and follow it down to the ground to help and protect it.

 **Outcome:** If we have as much sense as geese we will stand by each other in difficult times, as well as when we are strong.

Lesson 5 - The Importance of Encouragement: Geese flying in formation 'HONK' to encourage those up front to keep up their speed.

 **Outcome:** Make sure our honking is for encouragement. In groups and teams where there is encouragement, production is much greater. 'Individual empowerment results from quality honking'.

One Month to Live


If you only had one month to live, you'd want to make the most of it. To laugh and fully engage with the people you love.

To appreciate the little things, the ones that might seem silly to others but that delight your soul, and to give God thanks for allowing you to experience them. Whether it's the smell of buttered popcorn at the theater or the view from a beautiful mountaintop, the taste of our mothers' fried chicken or the way a child's hand feels clinging to ours, we are all blessed with rich moments.

When we thank those around us, it only increases the love between us. When we express our gratitude to God, it increases our capacity to experience a full life without regrets. ~ The NewsletterNewsletter

Each day is a gift.
Have you thanked the giver?

BLESSINGS
FROM
GOD

	Daylight Savings Time
	Ends November 6.
	Set your clocks back!

Gestures of Gratitude

In 2005, a female humpback whale became entangled in a web of crab traps and lines off the San Francisco coast. Hundreds of yards of line rope were wrapped around her body, tail, torso and mouth, weighing her down so much that she struggled to stay afloat.

A fisherman spotted the whale and radioed for help. When rescuers arrived, they determined that the only way to save the creature was to dive in and untangle her. This was a dangerous proposition, as one slap of the tail could be deadly.



Rescuers worked for hours with curved knives and eventually freed the whale. What she did next surprised the divers:

She swam in what seemed like joyous circles, coming back to each person, one at a time, nudging them gently, in what rescuers assumed was a beautiful gesture of thanks.

May you and those you love be surrounded by people who help you get untangled from whatever is binding you and may you always know the joy of giving and receiving gratitude. ~ The NewsletterNewsletter

<p>"Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us." Albert Schweitzer</p> <p>"Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever." (Psalm 118:1)</p> <p>"Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise." (Psalm 100:4)</p> <p>"But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (I Cor. 15:57)</p>	<p>Thank Him Always Never ending King and Savior</p>
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NALC

North American Lutheran Church



Regional Mission Districts are organizing

Congregations of the North American Lutheran Church are organizing regional Mission Districts in various parts of the United States. The boundaries and number of Mission Districts will remain flexible to best serve mission on the local level as the NALC continues to grow.

The NALC constitution explains the purpose of the Mission Districts as: “Congregations shall join in collaboration to fulfill most effectively the ministry and mission of the NALC, normally based on common geographic boundaries.”

Each Mission District will elect a Dean who is a pastor who will work with the NALC Bishop in conducting similar ministry to the Bishop in their regional area. “Deans shall serve as pastor to ordained ministers, their families, and congregations, and will conduct a ministry of teaching and visitation with ordained ministers and congregations,” the constitution explains. The Deans are expected to continue to serve as pastor of a congregation. Eastern South Dakota will form one Mission District.

NALC designated giving opportunities

NALC Great Commission Fund supports missions and evangelism ministries of the NALC as we live out our commitment to be a mission-driven church body. Grants from this fund are made for four primary purposes: 1. Planting new mission congregations; 2. Revitalizing and renewing existing NALC congregations; 3. Training, support and continuing education of missional leaders; and 4. Support for international missionaries and projects.

NALC Theological Education Fund supports NALC’s efforts to provide for faithful Lutheran theological education for its pastors, prospective pastors and lay people. Grants from this fund are made for scholarship support for seminarians, theological conferences and seminars, and support for Lutheran teaching theologians teaching NALC students at non-Lutheran seminaries. Scholarships for international students are also supported by this fund.

Women of the NALC organize

A national organization for women in NALC congregations of the NALC has been formed. They adopted the name Women of the North American Lutheran Church (WNALC).

The group affirmed the desire to be a guiding organization — not a governing organization. Its purpose is to assist local congregational women’s groups in their efforts to move forward in faith and mission, through prayer and evangelism, with the Bible as the ultimate authority of God.

The WNALC strives to link NALC women’s groups together as a community of faith, hope, and love as they focus on their individual organization and to assist them in God’s mission, studies of His Word, service to others in Christ’s name, and fellowship with each other and other Lutheran women. The WNALC is an auxiliary ministry of the NALC. It is committed to the four attributes of the NALC: Christ-centered, mission-driven, traditionally-grounded, and congregationally-focused.

Ethiopian Church Relief Fund helps Christians in western and southwestern Ethiopia who experience persecution by Islamic radicals.

Evangelical Lutheran Mission Society (ELMS) is dedicated to making and mobilizing disciples for the sake of Christ’s mission through congregations locally and globally. The movement will transform members into disciples and congregations into mission agencies, to spread the saving Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in the world. ELMS welcomes members with a strong desire to support and fulfill Christ’s Great Commission. Membership is \$100 a month for a congregation, and \$20 a month for an individual or household. Funds will support training of missionaries, make grants to local and global mission projects, and start new congregations.

Go to www.thenalc.org; download the October newsletter for more information.



Give Praise

Solve this puzzle to read a Bible verse about praising God for all his blessings.

Directions: In each group, underline the word that doesn't belong. Then write the underlined words on the lines below.

1. Give Take Grab	2. peanut praise pear	3. temple house LORD	4. proclaim past present	5. name boy lad	6. ruin destroy make
7. pine acorn known	8. train nations bus	9. done donut muffin	10. Sing Sleep Yawn	11. she him girl	12. sun praise moon
13. tell fast slow	14. red all blue	15. horrible dreadful wonderful	16. acts sisters aunts		

"_____ to the _____, _____ his _____ ;
 _____ among the _____ what he has _____ .
 _____ to _____, sing _____ to him; _____ of _____ his
 _____ ." PSALM 105:1-2, NIV

Answers: 1. Give, 2. praise, 3. LORD, 4. proclaim, 5. name, 6. make, 7. known, 8. nations, 9. done, 10. Sing, 11. him, 12. praise, 13. tell, 14. all, 15. wonderful, 16. acts.
 Give praise to the LORD, proclaim his name, make known among the nations what he has done. Sing to him, sing praise to him, tell of all his wonderful acts. (Psalm 105:1-2, NIV)

THANKSGIVING NAME CARDS

When you set your table this Thanksgiving, use these homemade name cards with a special message for each guest.

What you need:

- Index cards, any size (one per person)
- Markers
- Fall stickers (optional)
- Fall foam shapes (optional)

What you do:

1. List everyone who will be at your Thanksgiving dinner.
2. Fold each index card in half so it can stand.
3. On one side of each card, write a person's name.
4. Decorate around each name with markers, stickers or foam shapes.
5. On the blank side of each card, write a different Bible verse about blessings or giving thanks. Suggestions include 1 Chronicles 16:34; 1 Chronicles 29:13; Psalm 107:8; Psalm 118:21, 28; or 1 Thessalonians 5:18.
6. Another idea is to write one or more words from one verse on each person's card (depending on the number of guests and words). You can write the verse in order and have people read around the table, or you can mix up the words so guests have to put them in the correct order. (Remember to list the Scripture reference.)

"Let us remember that, as much has been given us, much will be expected from us, and that true homage comes from the heart as well as from the lips, and shows itself in deeds." ~ Theodore Roosevelt

"Thanksgiving dinners take eighteen hours to prepare. They are consumed in twelve minutes. Half-times take twelve minutes. This is not coincidence." ~ Erma Bombeck

"Thanksgiving is thanks-living." ~ Submitted by TLC Member

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**Return to:
TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
405 3rd AVENUE NORTH
P.O. BOX 230
LAKE NORDEN, SD 57248**



A ROUND TUIT

This is a Tuit. Guard it with your life as Tuits are hard to come by, especially the round ones. This is an indispensable item. It will help you become a more efficient worker. For years we have heard people say, "I'll do it as soon as I get "A Round Tuit." Now that you have one, you can accomplish all those things you put aside until you get "A Round Tuit!"

GET CONNECTED! Thank you to all who have completed the cards regarding technology. Those who have not returned a "Get Connected" card are asked to do so as soon as possible. The intent is to make better use of technology. If you don't have a computer at home, you will still get a paper copy of the newsletter.

