



**Welcome!**  
**Transfiguration Lutheran Church**  
**Bold Women's Day**  
**March 1, 2009**

**We invite you to celebrate Bold Women's Day with us today, by honoring four women who, indeed, act boldly in their faith within our community: Maggie Harris, Claire Kremer, Julie Locey, Margy Mayk, Florence Rohrbaugh, and Janet Shove.**

Women who act boldly in their faith in Jesus Christ are everywhere and come from all walks of life. Some dedicate their life to the works of their faith. Many are homemakers and caregivers. And yet others are professionals with careers. Most volunteer many hours for both their church and community. Some are bold in conspicuous and visible ways while others are bold in quiet yet strong ways.

**Bold Women's Day** celebrates all the women, and the many and diverse ways in which they act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ. These women represent all women who use their faith as the blueprint for their activities.

We thank all of you, and we honor you.



Transfiguration Lutheran Church  
Irondequoit, NY  
585.467.2150  
[www.tlcgrowinginrace.org](http://www.tlcgrowinginrace.org)



### **Maggie Harris - Maggie's Kids with Lutheran Community Ministry**

Maggie Harris, a deaconess in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, has been director of Community Lutheran Ministry, Inc., since its founding in 1989. She is a graduate of Valparaiso University where she was consecrated a Deaconess in 1979. Immediately after graduation, she worked in St. Louis at a nursing and rehabilitation facility for stroke patients. Then she moved on to Tennessee where she ministered to families of prison inmates in Memphis. Before moving to Rochester in 1989, she also worked in Omaha Nebraska where she ministered to street gangs. In 1989, St. Matthew's Lutheran Church here in Rochester asked her to manage a then faltering project called Job Employment Training (JET) that they were sponsoring. This was the beginning of what was to become Community Lutheran Ministry on Joseph Avenue.

Maggie works with school age children in the Joseph Avenue neighborhoods, often nearly single handedly. She provides arts and crafts programs, helps, encourages, and prods the children to do their homework. She also provides cooking instruction and dance classes (particularly liturgical dance). Community Lutheran also provides emergency food, clothing and furniture for area people in need. She works at the center seven days each week!

On a typical day, 25 to 30 kids attend the center after school, with the highest numbers when she teaches her cooking class. In the summer the Community Lutheran Ministry provides summer camp for the kids. In the winter Maggie oversees drives for hats, mittens, scarves, coats and warm clothing of all kinds.

Maggie relentlessly provides the young children a safe place to congregate after school, do homework, learn, socialize, and food when they are hungry. Many of these kids come from homes where violence and drugs are the norm. Often, the Rochester Police Dept. releases troubled youth to her care and supervision.

Anyone who witnesses her love and example cannot help but be deeply touched by Maggie and her kids. Maggie, we thank you and honor you for the example of joy and caring you have set for all of us, and for the good seeds you sow for the future.

### **Claire Kremer - Jail Ministry with Northeast Story Book Project**

Claire came to Rochester in 1951 to attend the University of Rochester and has been here ever since! She tirelessly worked for over 31 years at Wayne County's Social Services and Office of the Aging. Claire digs in wherever she is needed, and boy has she been needed! Some of the volunteer activities for which she has been involved include Charter member of AAUW Wayne County, Geneva League of Women Voters, regional & local family planning boards, Health Systems Agency sub-area council, Literacy Volunteers of Ontario County, and Geneva Concert Series. She is especially active in the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester where Claire has volunteered on the Diocesan Council, Commission on Ministry, and chaired the Nominating Committee.

Claire performs all of her roles with kindness, thoughtfulness and compassion. She attends Trinity Church in Geneva having been born and raised an Episcopalian. She served on the vestry and is an occasional organ supply for several small churches in the area.

Most recently Claire can be found working hard at Jail Ministry. She learned about a

project aimed at women in a state prison in Texas, and then she worked to get a similar program started in the Ontario County Jail called the Storybook Program. Claire found a ministry sponsor in the Northeast District of the Episcopal Diocese of Rochester.

Originally created for women, the Jail ministry now serves both genders as volunteers visit men and women in jail on a monthly basis. Inmates select children's books for their own children, read them on tape, and then the books/tapes are delivered to their children who are at home. Now the children can have a bedtime story read by their absent parent thanks to Claire and the Storybook Project. Claire would love to see a project like this get started here in the Rochester area. People interested in starting a project like this should contact her for advice and help.

When Claire is not volunteering, she can be found cross stitching, traveling (to Switzerland, Italy, France, Kenya, Egypt, Soviet Union, China & England), or caring for her own daughter who is battling a chronic serious illness. She is a mother to three daughters, a grandmother to 6 grandchildren (including a granddaughter US Army soldier), and has 2 beloved cats.

### **Julie Locey - Bishop Kearney High School Principal**

Julie was raised in a strong Italian, catholic family. Her mother and grandmother passed many of their faith-related traditions on to her, and she continues to pass them on to her own children. Julie and her family attended church regularly and lived their faith through word and action. Julie became a certified teacher, and her first teaching job was at Holy Cross School in Charlotte, NY. From there she has never looked back!

Working in catholic education is her ministry - her vocation. She believes that God put her at Holy Cross for a reason, and that He continues to place her in situations and environments where she can best serve students. All of her energy and activities (outside of her family) are dedicated to helping young people. Julie knows that faith and education go hand-in-hand in the formation of our young people, and she dedicates her life to making that happen.

By focusing her efforts on catholic school Julie promotes spiritual development for her students, as well as academic and social development. Julie's friends and coworkers describe her as walking boldly in her faith every day by helping young people know that they are valued and loved - not only by their families- but by their God. Julie's faith is an innate part of her. All of the decisions that she makes that impact her students are filtered through her beliefs and the beliefs of the Catholic Church.

Julie is a person who does not seek recognition for her contributions. To the contrary! Like most humble people, when asked, Julie says, "I am really just doing what I am called to do when I am called to do it. I love my job, and I love the fact that what I do, hopefully, has a positive impact on others." Julie is treasured by her family, friends, coworkers, and students. These days Julie is cherished as the Principal of Bishop Kearney High School where she leads every inch-of-the-way by example.

### **Florence Kelly Rohrbaugh - Christian Ministry & Community Volunteer**

Florence grew up on Manitou Rd. on her grandparent's farm which was a mile or two from Concord Lutheran Church where she attended, baptized, and confirmed. Florence was always active at Concord where she sang in the choir and participated in youth programs. It was at Concord that she met the new pastor – John Rohrbaugh, just out of seminary, and a year later they married. They moved to NYC where John was an assistant Pastor. Florence volunteered at each church they served as they transferred from New York City to Nanuet, Buffalo, and then to Transfiguration Lutheran Church in Irondequoit. She is a mother to Diana, Ellen, John and Tom.

One of Florence's specialties is music, so she has been in choirs most of her life. As a minister's wife Florence has participated in almost every aspect of caring for the church and congregation in all different types of programs as well as pitching in where needed with congregational issues. Over the many years she taught Sunday school, participated in Lutheran Church Women, and led the group making quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

Florence contributed to scouting as a Den Mother for Pack 183, she's been active in PTA, publicity chairman for the Eastridge Lancer Marching Band, and volunteered with all sorts of school musicals. In early 1980 Florence went to work at Monroe Community Hospital where her time in the Cashiers Office was spent working with patients' personal finances. She was affectionately called the "Money Lady".

Florence is also a steward of God's earth and she has worked with several environmental groups to clean up the Irondequoit Bay. When one of the last remaining Indian trails in NY State at Mendon Ponds Park was bulldozed, Florence (with the help of Lee Robinson) formed the Mendon Ponds Natural Historical Association to educate the public to the importance of the natural life around us. As a result Mendon Ponds was named by the Dept. of the Interior as a Natural History Landmark.

Since retiring, Florence has become active in many different community activities, particularly those having to do with public safety. She has taken classes at the Irondequoit Police Academy, volunteered in organizations sponsoring bike rodeos, Night-Out-Against-Crime, Neighborhood Watch, and educational programs at the libraries. Transfiguration is grateful for having Florence as part of the TLC team for so many years as she served by the side of her husband Pastor John, as well as her attention to the preservation of our congregation's history.

### **Janet Shove - Christian Ministry & Community Volunteer**

Janet was brought up in the catholic faith and attended catholic schools where her religion and faith were nurtured on a daily basis. She married her husband Bob 58 years ago and they have one son. Janet's son participated in the Boy Scouts Troop 183 which met and was active at Transfiguration Lutheran Church. At the time, she made good friends with Hilde Crews (their children were friends) and Hilde encouraged her to attend TLC services with her and participate even more. Janet joined Rachel's Circle and even closer friendships were formed through teamwork, projects, and laughter.

Over the years Janet has served wherever she is needed. She loves all people, so working on receptions and doing volunteer work is second nature to Janet. She sings in

the TLC Choir, works tirelessly with Rachel's Circle on receptions and dinners as needed, and Janet pitches in on bake sales, and the 7-11 ice cream socials as well. Janet joined in with the folks at Reformation Lutheran Church to work with the S.E.E.D.S. program (program for mentally challenged adults), and she spent some years working with the Sunshine Camp Program in Rochester. Janet even took a neighborhood family under her wing helping them through hard times with meals, clothing, and budgeting. Making afghan blankets is also another hobby that Janet turns into service by providing them where needed.

Janet is a true example of faith in motion and we see her pleasure in giving to others. Her friends, family, and community are made better by Janet every day through her spiritual friendship.

**Margy Mayk - Co-founder & Director of Step by Step of Rochester, Inc.**

When I was little, too young to go to school, my mother sat on my bed in the morning and said to me:

"...Now say, 'Good morning Sweet Jesus, I love you.'"

I remember the early morning sun shining through my eastward window,  
I remember feeling love and warmth.

When I was in high school, I bought a booklet with photos and inspirational sayings.

I remember one page that meant a great deal to me, and still does:

An aerial photo of a Vermont mountainside covered with green trees;

In a small opening was a lone white church with its steeple.

I remember the saying: ***"I sought to find the face of God,  
I climbed the topmost steeple.  
God declared, 'Go down again,  
And dwell among my people.'"***

I remember, every night, after saying family bedtime prayers, we kids would kiss our Mom and Dad,

And they would always say, "Good night, and God Bless." It's a phrase I grew into...

I remember saying it to them, as a young adult still living at home (even going into their bedroom later than they would approve of my being out, hoping they were actually asleep.)

And I'd bend down and kiss each one on their head and say those words & they replied:

"Good night, and God bless you... its' very late."

I remember countless times, countless people, countless places that gave me a sense of God's Enduring Love...calling me forth...

I pray that I have, and still am living my life (all 59 years of it):

***Seeking, Discovering, Receiving, and Believing in God's Unbounded, Unconditional Love:***

For me...for my family, my neighbors past and present,  
for people in my faith communities where I grew up and ever since,  
for those with whom I've worked, as a bookkeeper and then bank teller in my early 20's,  
and for the people for stood in line to get their paychecks cashed...

I remember **Desiring** to follow the call of God's enduring love to gradually move away from the safety and comfort of hometown...to see and to search.

I remember **Learning** from the women with whom I lived my almost 18 years as a Religious of the Cenacle

...women whom I loved deeply for they loved God's love into me.

and from the women and men and youth who came to the Cenacle Houses of Prayer in which I lived and worked sharing simply the message Jesus gave us the night before he died: **"As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.**

**Live on in my love...This is the commandment  
I give you, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'**

I remember that part of the journey took me far from the home where I lived 'til I was 25.

**Moving** 9 times in 11 years.

**Living** in 7 different states adds up to quite a journey.

**Arriving** at the Cenacle Retreat House here in Rochester where I lived and learned and loved the women and men who came in search of God's grace of healing forgiveness.

**Struggling** together to grow in "Recovery" from all of the "isms" which plague us today...

**Seeking**, as I have for so many years, the healing and wisdom of God who longs to love us into wholeness...

I hope that I am living life in the "**Question**" that became very real to me on a 37-Day Retreat when I was 35 years old. Those words of Jesus from the night before he died brought me to and left me with the **question**:

**"But what does it mean to Live on in Your Love so that others may know that You love them?"**

Over time (almost 18 years) this question called me away from the safety and love lived with my Cenacle Sisters into a life simply as "neighbor" in an inner-city neighborhood.

This question called me from more traditional ways of "Living God's Love for Others" into an individual quest for the meaning of "Loving my neighbor as myself."

When I open my heart to the "Questions" I always receive countless blessings and rewards...

Like the ones I've already mentioned.

Likewise, now, as I said "yes" to the call of the Question of living God's Love more simply;

I was once again blessed with a new companion on this new leg of a life-long journey.

Pat Merle shared this quest to live simply and yet in ways that make a difference in the lives of other women along the way,

**and together we began Step by Step of Rochester.**

Rewards and blessings such as seeing each day as a new opportunity to experience God's enduring love.

The people of St. Mark's & St. John's Episcopal church who gave us a "home" to begin the work

The supporters, volunteers, and staff; The women and their families whom we sought to serve but from whom we learned so much,

Step by Step has worked with 4,500 women in their efforts to rebuild their lives.

My neighbors, some of whom I know by name, others whose names I do not know

The blessing for which I am most grateful, is the grace of each day, to seek the opportunities

to **live God's love so that others might know that God loves them.**

I live this gift in the brokenness of my own inability to live lovingly and tenderly

Rather I'm far more like an over-sized puppy set loose in a fine china shop...  
not a pretty sight...

The thought of being nominated for an award, because of a gift that God has given me  
(the gift of God's Love) seems incongruent.

I am humbled by, and grateful for God's call to the grace of love...

And I thank you for this reminder of just what a calling "i" have received.

Please pray for my faithfulness

-Margy

The congregation of Transfiguration Lutheran Church  
in Irondequoit, with Women of the ELCA, give thanks  
to God for all our Bold Women of Faith.

Thank you for joining us today!  
Go in Peace, Serve the Lord

---

Transfiguration Lutheran Church  
3760 Culver Road  
Rochester, NY 14622  
585.467.2150

Web: [www.tlcgrowinginrace.org](http://www.tlcgrowinginrace.org)  
Email: [wof@tlcgrowinginrace.org](mailto:wof@tlcgrowinginrace.org)