

## INVITATIONS FROM OUR FELLOWSHIP TEAM

The Fellowship team has a few things planned for the rest of the program year and we are excited to have you join us (see below)! This month, on Sunday February 19, we will be having a Soup and Salad Potluck Lunch. You are welcome to bring soup, salad and/or dessert and stay after the 10:00 service for fellowship and a meal. Don't have time to prepare something? There is always plenty of food. Come and join us!



### Looking Ahead:

Sunday, February 19 - Soup and Salad Potluck Lunch

Sunday, March 12 - Spring Card Making Workshop

Sunday, April 2 - Palm Sunday - Cinnamon Rolls served after both services

Sunday, May 21 - End of the Program Year Luncheon - subs & salads served

Please contact me if you would like more information about the Fellowship Team. Thank you for your support. We hope you can join us!

Jennifer Dimmer, Fellowship Team Representative on Church Council



## THRIVE TEAM BEGINS THE EXAMEN(ED) CHURCH PROGRAM

The introductory gathering of the Examen(ed) Church and the Thrive Team from our church took place on January 21 at Marquette. Terry McManus, Louise Mollinger, Karl Pradel, Scott Symes, and Gary and Meg Tackes carpooled into Milwaukee for the breakfast meeting. They met with leaders of the program and other Thrive Teams from the greater-Milwaukee area. An outline of the next 18 to 24 months was presented. Each month the members of the team will be sent resources via email that are intended to deepen their experience of spiritual reflection as well as guiding them through the steps of the program. The Thrive Team is planning to meet monthly, (their next meeting here in Port will be on February 13) using the materials that Marquette has introduced and they will gather with the other Thrive Teams at Marquette again on April 21. Right now the Thrive Team is engaged with "Phase One" of the program which involves being instructed in and practicing both personal and group reflection using the Examen of Ignatius of Loyola. They will share the fruits of their experience with the congregation. Soon they will begin "Phase Two" which involves educational workshops covering topics relevant for church thriving: understanding and adapting to the church's context in today's culture, clarifying our local church's mission and values, and deepening Christian practices. Eventually the team will move into "Phase Three" which has the Thrive Team, church leadership and the congregation discerning potential responses to the months of reflection on church experience, identity, and the program themes. Finally, in "Phase Four" the Thrive Team would help lead the congregation in assessing the experience and identifying elements of the process the church might sustain moving forward. The team is excited about the months ahead.

