

THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

of

APRIL
2011

Resurrection Lutheran Church & School
Newport News, VA

He Is Risen and Lives - Therefore:

- quit going about gloomy and dejected as though you were going to God's funeral, but know that He lives and shall forevermore ...
- quit living your life with the attitude and expression that you have little or nothing, when a living Lord guarantees that you have the greatest gifts that one can possess ...
- quit looking at all the obstacles and problems about you, the wind and the waves that surround you, and look up to see the living God and know that He still reigns and rules ...
- quit worrying about whether the government is doing all it can for you and know what God has done and what He will continue to do for you in all your needs...
- quit playing around with God's Word and know that He who lives will carry out that Word to the letter ...
- quit finding an excuse for staying home from church and from serving God when He not only sees you, but also knows how feeble that excuse really is ...
- **do know** that as a child of the living God you are the most blessed and fortunate of all people ...
- **do know** that you did not choose God, but that He chose you, that you might be His own, live under Him, and serve Him ...



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| From the Pastor's Pen | 2 |
| Our Lutheran School | 5 |
| Church Boards | 6 |
| Easter | 8 |
| Birthdays and Anniversaries | 14 |

"Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

From the Pastor's Pen

Outreach is a word we have heard quite a bit for the past year and a half here at Resurrection Lutheran Church & School. World Missions is a ministry we support as the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. As Christ-followers, these two ways of reaching the world in the Name of Jesus – outreach and world missions – are things that we agree are tangible ways of faith in action (remember March's memory verse from James 2:17 & 18b?).

However, there is a third word that goes hand in hand with these two ways of reaching the world. A word that used to make me cringe & cower in fear. That word is...
EVANGELISM.

I want to share a story of one of the many times I found myself volunteering (or perhaps my parents volunteered me) in middle school & high school for an evangelism project in Hamlin, New York.

It was a Saturday morning when we began and although we were paired up in groups of two or three I found myself being the one who would knock on the door of some complete stranger's house. The evangelism began with "casual, ice-breaker questions" which didn't exactly encourage a comfortable conversation. The "ice-breakers" I was equipped with by the Evangelism Committee went something like this: 1) Hello my name is Ben Dolby and I worship at St. John's Lutheran Church. 2) If you were to die today & God asked you why He should allow you into eternal paradise, what would your answer be? 3) (IF the conversation ever got to question: 3) Would you like to know Jesus Christ better? We invite you to visit us at St. John's have a great day!

For the most part I wouldn't even finish question # 2 before the door was quickly shut or people politely retreated after responding that they didn't feel comfortable having this conversation. Of all the houses I "visited" that Saturday morning and afternoon from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. only one was a visit that we Christians would measure as a success. The reason this visit was a success? This family ***already had a relationship with St. John's*** but had not been attending for a few months. They ended up appreciating the visit even though they (like me) felt awkward about question # 2.

From the Pastor's Pen cont.

The point of sharing this story is not to suggest that Evangelism should be limited to those who we haven't seen in a while and genuinely miss them at worship on Sundays; it is the fact that this poor approach to Evangelism does not begin with RELATIONSHIP BUILDING. If we simply go door to door, today even more than when I was a youth, people are skeptical of strangers and will not hear what we have to say. Also, to discuss very important issues about faith, eternal life & God's love for us in Jesus Christ... **we need to communicate to a person or family that they are worth more than two minutes of our time on a Saturday morning.**

This month we are celebrating the gift of God's Salvation that we have been given from God to share with the world. This month we are called to renew our efforts in our personal lives AND in our lives as a church family to reach out to people we know and see how they're doing in their faith walk. **We're called to reach out to people we don't know and build a relationship with them – simply BE their friend and allow the Holy Spirit to open up doors of conversation as we travel down the road of genuine friendship.** I want to assure you that this is not some strategy I thought of on my own...it comes from a really good source:

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

I would like to share one more story with you. In May of 2004, just before I left home to begin my four years of Seminary I went to the Indy 500 with my dad and my best friend Rob. Just outside the main entrance to the Indianapolis Motor Speedway there was a man on a street corner with a megaphone, a huge sign that said “Repent you sinful nation!” and a message that God was calling us to repent of our sins.

At first I didn't think anything of it because I'm used to public confession and absolution of sins on Sunday mornings in worship with my fellow Christians. However, as soon as this man pointed at me and blared into the megaphone “YOU! YOU! You are going to hell if you do not turn from your life of wickedness!” As a Lutheran, I know that I am a horrible sinner in need of repentance, God's forgiveness and grace every day. **But this guy didn't know me at all.** I was a fellow Christ-follower and he was assuming that I was someone who did not, by the power of the Holy Spirit, know Jesus as LORD and Savior. **I was a fellow Christ-follower and he offended me**

From the Pastor's Pen cont.

with his evangelism approach. Imagine how unbelievers and those who do not know Jesus would have formed an opinion of Christians based on this witnessing by a Christian.

When we read in Acts 1:8 that we are God's witnesses to the ends of the earth, *it's not just about having the correct message that Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth and the Life. It's just as important to share the love of Christ in the relationships we build with those who do not yet know Him as LORD and Savior.*

May we celebrate God's gift of salvation by sharing it with our friends, especially our friends who do not know Jesus. May we share the Good News of Jesus Christ with the world by first building relationships so they can see we care about them just as much as we care about sharing the correct message of salvation in Christ alone. In Jesus' Name, Amen!

- Pastor Ben Dolby



Our Lutheran School

[Jesus said to her,] “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” John 11: 25 and 26. NIV

Shirley Brandt was a beloved friend, co-worker and teacher here at Resurrection Lutheran School and Child Care. She taught our 5 Year Old Kindergarten class for six years. Shirley was called home on March 14, 2011 after a lengthy battle with Cancer. Her talent and enthusiasm for teaching young children will be sorely missed. Her joy in sharing the Gospel message will long be remembered.

In speaking with her students about her illness, death and eternal life with Jesus, the question was asked, “When you get sick at school what does Mrs. Ezell do?” “She calls your parents, they pick you up and take you home so they can take care of you,” was the reply. The explanation continued, “Ms. Brandt was very sick, she is God’s child, He took her home to take care of her.” The conversation that followed was very comforting, it was reassuring to listen to the students bear witness to the truth they had been taught in Religion class, Devotions, Chapel, and in most cases their homes. Let me share some of their thoughts with you:

1. Death is sad. It’s okay to be sad. We miss people when they die.
2. Doctors do everything they can, but sometimes when a person has Cancer Jesus calls them home, especially when He knows He will do a better job of taking care of them. Ms. Brandt doesn’t hurt anymore.
3. (I love this one!) Maybe Ms. Brandt is playing Air Hockey in heaven.
4. Heaven is a beautiful place. It has diamonds, rubies, emeralds, and everything is covered in gold. Best of all Jesus is there.
5. Ms. Brandt is talking to Jesus, maybe she is sitting in His lap.
6. I think she is petting my dog and visiting with my Grandparents.
7. Jesus will bring her with Him when He comes to pick up the rest of us.

What a witness to the truth of Easter! The gift of God is eternal life! Death is swallowed up in Victory! The victory won for us by the death and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus. Shirley believed this truth, lived it and taught it. We rejoice that she is living this truth, now, in heaven with Jesus.

Easter Blessings!

Ann

Church Boards

Board of Christian Education

Vacation Bible School

Wanted: Vacation Bible School Director!

We are blessed to have a vibrant VBS program at Resurrection. It is the most anticipated event during the summer months. Last year we had close to 85 participants every night and an equal number of volunteers. This level of volunteer participation is phenomenal. Many people are willing to help in a number of specific functional areas (Music, Family Groups, Market Place, Drama, Meals, etc.). Many volunteers have committed to serving again this year. **But... we have a challenge. We don't have a VBS Director for this year.**



Board of
**CHRISTIAN
EDUCATION**

We need your assistance in three ways: 1) Please pray for our VBS ministry and volunteers, 2) Talk about the program with your ministry friends and 3) Prayerfully considering accepting the position of VBS Director.

For more information, please contact Pam Hammond or Chip Retzlaff.

Wanted: Vacation Bible School Director!

Case for Christianity Webcast

The survey results are in and the Case for Christianity Webcast, held on March 12th, was a positive experience for many. Thank you to the numerous Boards who supported this event. Additionally, BOCE received requests to continue this form of ministry. Look for additional events to be scheduled in the future.

Please Keep Our Confirmands in Your Prayers

The following students are registered and attending Confirmation Classes at Resurrection for the academic year of 2010 – 2011. Please keep these students in your prayers as they study God's Word and learn more about what and why we believe as Lutherans.

8th Graders: Zac Andrews, Collin Bridge, Alex Londenberg, Michelle Parker, Bella Petro

7th Graders: Andrew Bender, Ari Bridge, Graham Hawkes, Kaylin Loch, Matthew Uenking

6th Graders: Taylor Blaha, Jacob Blankinship, Jacob Carlson, Katelyn Cherry, Tamara Dunn, Dantae Erving, Zach Kent, John Retzlaff

**May God continue to bless and strengthen the
growing and maturing faith in these young saints!**

Please PRAY FERVENTLY for our College Students

| | | | |
|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| * Lindsey Hammond | * Brandon Yarrington | * Abby Mason | * J. C. Cotter |
| * Mike Titus | * Sara Wahlstrom | * Michelle Brandt | * Christine Anzur |
| * Jason Martin | * Nicki Davis | * John Napier | * James Brandt |
| * Kevin Hammond | * Kayla Morgan | * Geoff Mason | |
| * Suzanne Schindler | * Alicia Waldmiller | * Mary Wahlstrom | * Genna Nowicki |

Parents and Students: the Church Office is especially seeking our college students' cell phone numbers (**for texting purposes!**). The pastors still email out a weekly devotional to all our college students, and try to stay in contact with them via email and texting. **Please call or email the church office (596.5808 / info@rlenn.org) with this information as soon as possible. Also, if we have inadvertently left someone off our college student list, please notify the Church Office as soon as possible: 596.5808.** The College Visits to our in-state College Students have begun!

Easter

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE:

Sunday, April 17th **Palm Sunday (Sunday of the Passion) Services**, with the Palm Processional by the Sunday School youth, the Palm Sunday hymns and lessons, with Holy Communion celebrated (*worship services at the regular times*)

April 21st ... 7:00 PM **Maundy Thursday Holy Communion Service, with the Stripping of the Altar**

April 22nd ... 12 NOON **Good Friday Noonday Service with the “Table Communion”
7:00 PM **Good Friday “Tenebrae” (*“from Light to Darkness”*) Service****

EASTER SUNDAY

Resurrection of Our Lord — April 24th, 2011

- 6:30 AM** **Easter SON-Rise Service** (*scheduled to be held on the Front Lawn of the church, weather permitting; will be held in the Sanctuary in poor weather*)
- 8:00 AM** **Early Easter Festival Worship with Holy Communion**
- 9:15 AM** **Easter Fellowship Breakfast** (*Fellowship Hall -- approximate time, with breakfast following the Early Festival Service*)
- 10:00 AM** **Sunday School Opening** (*in the Sanctuary*)
- 10:15 AM** **Easter Egg Hunt** (*on the Front Lawn of the church – parental participation is required for younger children*)
- 11:00 AM** **Late Easter Festival Worship with Holy Communion**

INVITE AND BRING A FRIEND, RELATIVE, CO-WORKER OR NEIGHBOR –

SHARE THE GOOD NEWS OF EASTER:

JESUS IS LIVING AND REIGNING!

Easter cont.

AN EASTER COOKIE RECIPE

Prepare this recipe with your children or grandchildren – keeping the instructions in front of you all the time. This will give the meaning of EASTER to kids that they will never forget! God bless you – and when you open the oven on Easter morn, just CELEBRATE! This recipe is to be made the evening before Easter Sunday morning.

You will need:

| | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 cup of whole pecans | pinch of salt |
| 1 tsp. vinegar | 1 cup of suger |
| 3 egg whites | zipper baggie |
| wooden spoon | tape |
| your Bible | |

Preheat oven to 300 degrees. **This is important – don't wait until you're half-done with the recipe!**

Place pecans in the zipper baggie and let the children beat them with the wooden spoon to break them into small pieces. Explain that after Jesus was arrested, He was beaten by the Roman soldiers: read *John 19:1-3*.

Let each child smell the vinegar. Put 1 tsp. vinegar into a mixing bowl. Explain that when Jesus was thirsty on the cross, He was given vinegar to drink: read *John 19:28-30*.

Add egg whites to vinegar. Explain to your children that eggs represent life. Explain that Jesus gave His life to give us new life: read *John 10:10-11*.

Sprinkle a little salt into each child's hand. Let them taste it and brush the rest into the bowl. Explain that this represents the salty tears shed by Jesus' followers, and the bitterness of our own sin: read *Luke 23:27*.

So far, the ingredients are not very appetizing. Add 1 cup of sugar. Explain that the sweetest part of the story is that Jesus died because He loves us. He wants us to know Him as the Savior and belong to Him: read *Psalms 34:8 & John 3:16*.

Beat with a mixer until stiff peaks are formed (this may take up to 15 minutes). Explain that the color white represents – in God's eyes – the purity of those whose sins have been cleansed by Jesus: read *Isaiah 1:18 & John 3:1-3*.

Recipe Continued on Page 10 →



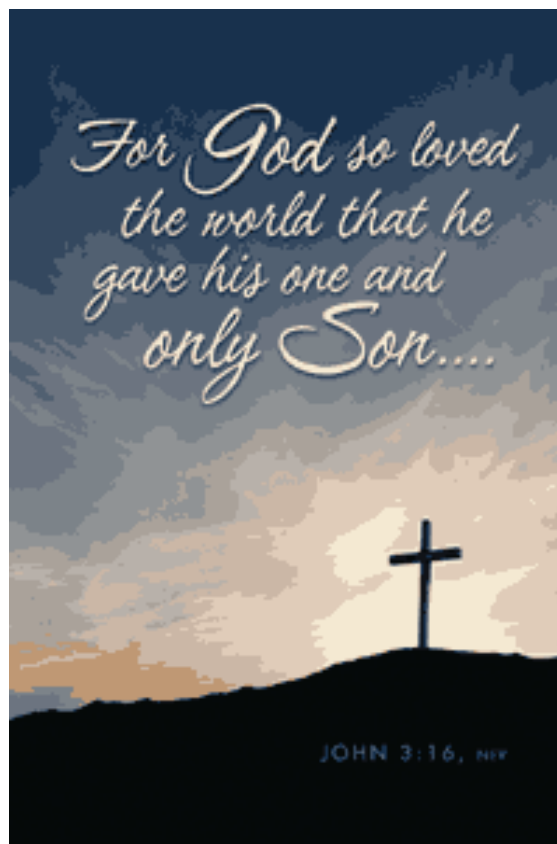
Easter cont.

Fold in the broken pecans. Drop by teaspoons onto a wax paper-covered cookie sheet. Explain that each mound represents the rocky tomb where Jesus' body was laid: read *Matthew 27:57-60*.

Put the cookie sheet in the oven, close the door, and turn the oven OFF. Give each child a piece of tape and seal the oven door. Explain that Jesus tomb was sealed: read *Matthew 27:65-66*.

GO TO BED! Explain that they may feel sad to leave the cookies in the oven overnight. Jesus' followers were in despair when the tomb was sealed.

EASTER MORNING: CELEBRATE – and enjoy the cookies!



A SPRING MEDITATION

Pastor Kenneth Chafin tells us being in beautiful east Texas one lovely April Sunday. Wild flowers, azaleas, redbud and dogwood trees had put on their glorious Spring colors. Yet Dr. Chafin had not taken time to fully absorb the spectacular scene before him. Basically, he was tired from the previous week, which had been stressful. On this first day of the new week, he was mentally preparing himself to preach in a large church and thinking of his schedule to follow.

He and his wife decided to walk to the church along with their four-year-old daughter, Nancy. Nancy's short legs made it difficult for her to keep pace with her parents. Furthermore, her attention was captivated by the blooming flowers and trees all about her. Her eyes came to focus on one spectacular dogwood tree in particular. She stopped to study its lovely blossoms. Then she decided that the tree needed to be addressed. *"Hi, tree!"* she said with a friendly smile. Dr. Chafin said that word of acknowledgement to the tree made him ashamed of himself. *"I had been in such a hurry to get to church,"* he later wrote, *"that I had missed my Creator's sermon growing by the sidewalk."*

Perhaps this Spring we need to not only take time to *"smell the roses"* but to thank God often for the loveliness of creation. And, if no one is around, we might even say *"Hi!"* to a tree or two!



I HELP MY CHURCH TO LIVE!

I Help My Church To Live: I AM THERE EVERY SUNDAY!

My presence is important. I am there! When I joined Resurrection, I promised to be there. I didn't join the church to stay away from it. I AM THERE!

I Help My Church To Live: I PRAY FOR HER EVERYDAY!

I want every blessing and grace, health and power for my church, Resurrection. I pray for her as naturally – as normally – as I do for my dearest ones. I help my church, for I PRAY FOR HER!

I Help My Church To Live: I CONTRIBUTE!

I do not let others pay my way anymore than I permit them to buy my clothes, feed my family or pay my taxes. I CONTRIBUTE AS THE LORD HAS GIVEN TO ME!

I Help My Church To Live: I SERVE!

If there is something I can do to help carry out her mission, I am willing and able to do my best. I love Resurrection, and will help her live by BEING PART OF HER LIFE, MINISTRY AND MISSION!!

I HELP MY CHURCH TO LIVE!



RESURRECTION'S WISH LIST

(and how YOU can make these wishes come true!)

The Lenten time of the year is a genuine time to consider the word "sacrifice:" Jesus' great sacrifice in leaving heaven and becoming a human for us, and His sacrifice on the Cross for our sins, plus His disciples' sacrifices following Jesus' resurrection to get the Good News out to all people. Your special gifts of love make a difference in the various ministries of Resurrection Lutheran Church and School. Should your gift be in memory or in honor of someone, please notify the church office with this information: info@rlcnn.org or 596-5808. Requested for Resurrection's many ministries:

1. **Trustee Use Fund** (*this fund supplements the operating budget for the upkeep of the church building and grounds - any donations appreciated!*) - **Specific Funding is requested for:**
 - a) a **commercial Ice Machine** for the Kitchen\$1,880.00
 - b) **bathroom repairs** approximate cost = \$2,500.00
 - c) **Security System (a Door Entry System)** \$1,800.00
 - d) **gas tankless water heater** \$3,500.00
 - e) **large rock to prevent mulch washing away; small rock for rock bed** \$600.00
 - f) **flower bed for the Memorial Gardens** \$400.00
2. **Projector for the Youth Room (Rm 120)** – to assist in LYFR worship, Bible studies, and meetings (youth, Church Council, WIGS, etc.) as the congregation is getting more and more accustomed to using slides, videos and electronic presentations (*approximate cost is \$800.00*)
3. **Gifts for the Building Fund** – all gifts, of any amount, are appreciated as we continue to seek monies to improve our facilities and begin a Capital Fund Campaign / Facilities expansion project
4. **Tile for Individual Classrooms** – approximate cost per classroom is \$2,500 - \$3,000
5. **Banners – Banner Poles & Stands:** for use in our worship services (*cost is variable; please contact Pastor Hank or the Church Office*)
6. **Gifts for our Resurrection School and Child-Care Ministry,** as they continue to minister to many families both within our community of faith and in our Peninsula community
– more funds may be available if you are a Thrivent member

When making your gift, please use a Memorial Envelope (on the Usher Table or the Information Table in the Church Office Lobby), or place your gift in an envelope with clear instructions for the Counters. Your sacrificial gifts are greatly appreciated!

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays:

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Frieda Rapp | 4/1 |
| Callie Turner | 4/1 |
| Marge Buchanan | 4/2 |
| Earl Cassell Jr. | 4/2 |
| Lauren Rummel | 4/3 |
| Jona Lewis | 4/4 |
| Marty Heckenberger | 4/5 |
| Mell Waldschmidt | 4/5 |
| Paige Bland | 4/6 |
| Joelle Durren | 4/6 |
| Betty Devan | 4/7 |
| Lindsey Hammond | 4/7 |
| Cameron Weidenhof | 4/7 |
| Seth Hommel | 4/8 |
| Kendall Loch | 4/8 |
| Kirsten Loch | 4/8 |
| Kimberly Moody | 4/8 |
| Loree Hearne | 4/9 |
| Jason Jackson | 4/9 |
| Kristin Dolby | 4/11 |
| Joan Wildblood | 4/13 |
| Becky Horne | 4/15 |
| Bob Whitehead | 4/15 |
| Lenore Whitehead | 4/15 |
| Cher Funaiock | 4/17 |
| Jeff Andrews | 4/18 |
| Daryl Calhoun | 4/18 |
| Michael Carlson | 4/18 |
| Margo Schaffer | 4/18 |
| Stephen Bowser | 4/20 |
| Shawn Bender | 4/22 |
| Iris Riebsam | 4/22 |
| Diane Black | 4/23 |
| Joyce Hermann | 4/24 |
| John Holub | 4/24 |
| Betty Byard | 4/26 |
| David Shriner | 4/26 |
| Pam Hammond | 4/28 |
| Johanna Beazley | 4/29 |
| Anna Erving | 4/30 |



Anniversaries:

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| John & Sue Gerke | 4/2 |
| Larry & Debbie Dunn | 4/3 |
| Bob & Lenore Whitehead | 4/4 |
| Bill & Hilde Ruezinsky | 4/7 |
| Patrick & Carol Forys | 4/8 |
| Steve & Kate Kvaternik | 4/8 |



Birthdays &
Anniversaries
This Month!

Baptismal birthdays:

| | |
|-----------------------|------|
| Molly Banks | 4/1 |
| Paige Bland | 4/1 |
| Alnez Cruz | 4/1 |
| Seifi Retzlaff | 4/1 |
| Kellen Smith | 4/1 |
| Norma Waldschmidt | 4/1 |
| Matthew Ambrose | 4/2 |
| Frieda Rapp | 4/3 |
| Hilde Ruezinsky | 4/3 |
| Dick Taylor | 4/3 |
| Jason Hollar | 4/5 |
| Ricki Lindstrom | 4/8 |
| Ralph Massey Sr. | 4/9 |
| Charlotte Helms | 4/10 |
| Mary Ashleigh Uenking | 4/10 |
| Sara Hellbaum | 4/11 |
| Michelle Porter | 4/11 |
| Dottie Huttenburg | 4/13 |
| Alison Bender | 4/14 |
| Enid Jackson | 4/15 |
| Tyler Andrews | 4/16 |
| Mari Jo Ellis | 4/16 |
| Jona Lewis | 4/18 |
| Jenny Gelhausen | 4/21 |
| Patricia Grunow | 4/21 |
| Christine Anzur | 4/23 |
| Emily Moody | 4/25 |
| Brian Jackson | 4/27 |
| Cameron Weidenhof | 4/28 |



APRIL is ...
CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION
MONTH

Did you know:

- + every 12 days a child dies from abuse or neglect in Virginia
- + every 4 days a child aged 19 or under is murdered in Virginia
- + every 5.5 hours a victim seeks shelter from a domestic violence program, but is DENIED ENTRY DUE TO LACK OF SPACE
- + every 3 hours a child witnesses an act of domestic violence
- + every 2 hours a child is served by a domestic violence shelter
- + every 2 hours a new family arrives at a domestic violence shelter
- + every 75 minutes a child is abused or neglected
- + every 55 minutes a juvenile commits a violent crime
- + every 14 minutes a call is made to a domestic violence or sexual assault hotline
- + in an average moment, there are over 7,500 children in foster care in Virginia

Data is provided by the VA Dept. of Social Services, the VA State Police,
and the VA Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence Data Collection System