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# *THE GOOD NEWS LETTER*

of

*Resurrection Lutheran Church & School*  
*Newport News, VA*

FEBRUARY  
2010

## **From the Pastor's Pen**

### **Our Heritage**

As we celebrate the 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Resurrection Lutheran Church and School this month, we are blessed to see how God has clearly walked with us through the difficult times and the joyful times as a congregational family.

When we speak of ourselves as a family, we are identifying ourselves as a united body of people. We are united by the common foundation, our God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. When we define ourselves as a family here at Resurrection it also identifies our self-awareness. As a family, we are aware that we are far from perfect. So whatever warts, flaws, drama or frustrations come up among us or between us, we are still a family.

Psalm 67:5-7 (selected verses) reads *“May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you...and God, our God, will bless us. God will bless us.”*



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## **From the Pastor's Pen cont.**

Our heritage, what we celebrate as a church family, as brothers and sisters in Christ at Resurrection is an awareness of God being with us through these many years here in Newport News. We continue to celebrate in the midst of economic, social and world hardships because we echo what the psalmist declares, "God will bless us."

Now we don't proclaim that statement because God is some Genie who will grant us earthly wealth or prosperity because we call on the Name of Jesus Christ. We are confident God will bless us because God has been blessing His people ever since He created all things; as well as when He promised to send the Messiah in Genesis 3:15 as our first parents fell into sin. God blessed us when Jesus Christ took our sins and the sins of the whole world to the cross. God blessed us when Jesus rose from the dead to defeat sin, death and Satan for our sake.

As we look back throughout the course of world history, we see that God has blessed us by His grace, by His forgiveness and by His constant presence. As we look back on our Resurrection church history in Newport News, we see that God has been with us every step of every day by His gracious love.

Our heritage that we have is a gift from God. Now that we've recognized the blessing of 55 years, what are we going to do with the next day, the next year...the next 55 years?

The example of Jesus Christ in a Gospel lesson out of our January worship provides us with the answer and our responsibility as we look to the future of our God-given heritage.

***"From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'...And He (Jesus) went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom and healing every disease and every affliction among the people."***

***– Matthew 4:17, 23***

## From the Pastor's Pen cont.

As Christ-followers, we look to Jesus for the model of our earthly journeys. As we celebrate our heritage here at Resurrection Lutheran Church and School, may we celebrate God's blessings given to us by SHARING His love and forgiveness throughout ALL of Newport News, ALL of Virginia and the entire world as Jesus did in Galilee, Jerusalem and the entire world.

When we look at our heritage and we ask each other "what do you see?" We can confidently answer, "I see a gift God has given to me that I need to share with the world...and I'm going to start with my neighbor next door, my classmate at school and anyone the LORD brings across my path."

Our heritage is God's free gift in Jesus Christ. There is a world that sleeps in while we celebrate God's forgiveness on Sunday mornings. There is a family going hungry when we pray before the potluck meals we share at our congregational gatherings. God has blessed us these many years. May we take this heritage, this gift of faith and God's constant presence and give it freely to others as it was given freely to us, in Jesus' Name, Amen!

Pastor Ben Dolby



## Our Lutheran School

Principal's Ponderings:

***"...but the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:13***

"Love, love, love, that's what it's all about!" God is the very heart of our education program here at Resurrection. His love for all people, especially His little children, is reflected in this place. It is a very vital part of our program and shared with each child in our care. It is our primary mission to help bring each child and their family into a loving relationship with their Lord, and to nurture them as they grow in their faith.

As I walk down the hallways of our school and hear the teachers sharing the love of God with their students, it is of great comfort. When I hear the children sing, "Jesus Love Me" or "Jesus Loves the Little Children", during chapel I get goose bumps as I look at their faces and see the love of God reflected there. When I hear the children say, "I forgive you", when they have been hurt by another, I hear and see the love of God in action. It is indeed what it's all about – love, God's love for us, our love for God and our love for one another.

May we all continue to grow in His love, be filled with His wisdom and live in and under His grace!

Blessings!

Ann

Monthly Ideas for Students:

1. Feb. 2<sup>nd</sup> is Groundhogs Day – Read the story of the groundhog and its shadow.
2. Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> – Norman Rockwell's birthday. Check out one of Norman Rockwell's books from the library and read about one of your favorite paintings.
3. Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> – The National Weather Service Day. Find the weather report in your local paper and track the weather for one week.
4. Feb. 12<sup>th</sup> – Abraham Lincoln was born on this day. Make a stove pipe hat out of construction paper. Did you know that Lincoln kept important papers and letters in his!
5. Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> – Valentines Day. Make someone a special valentine.
6. Feb. 17<sup>th</sup> – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is observed. How did Martin Luther King, Jr. help African-Americans?
7. Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup> – George Washington's birthday. Read about the cherry tree.



## Church Boards

### Board of Elders

#### Prayer Life

Trevor Archinal Chairman of Board of Elders

The eight weeks of before service prayer exercise with your pew mates is now over. Like most things we only hear a few reactions at the extremes of like or dislike, which always leaves the question how did most people actually feel and react to this.

Praying relatively publically and offering personal prayer requests is for most Lutherans hard and uncomfortable. We knew that this would be an "outside of comfort zone" event for many. But also realized that, we were on solid ground in that as brother and sisters in Christ, we are to support each other and one of the significant types of support is to pray for each other. In order to effectively pray for each other, we need to know what the others needs and challenges are, and this requires free communication.

Most all, will at some time confront a situation when they have a request where the prayer book is not a good option. In these cases I hope and pray, that each and every one of us has a least one person they are willing to offer a personal prayer request. Who you make your request to is up to you, it can be one of the pastors, an elder, or another Christian friend.

At the most fundamental level, there were two points of this prayer exercise:

- 1) It is OK to ask a prayer request of a fellow Christian
- 2) It is also OK to pray together and for each other.

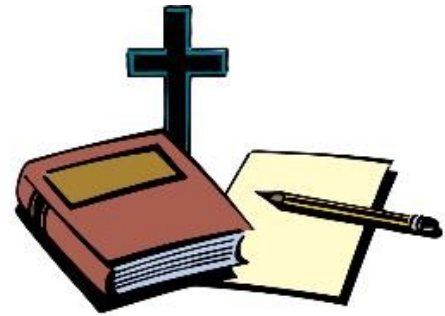
From the elders perspective based on the points above, I consider this exercise a success. But, like most of our faith journey, this is just a small step toward a more active prayer life.



## Board of Christian Education

*“After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.” Luke 2:46*

We are blessed with talented ministry leaders providing for our Christian education needs. Through their dedicated service and leadership, we are able to realize the truth of the example set for us by our loving savior Jesus Christ.



Board of  
**CHRISTIAN  
EDUCATION**

The Board of Christian Education administers 5 primary ministry areas: Sunday School, Adult Education, Young Adult Ministries, Small Group Ministries and Vacation Bible School. Sunday School, under the supervision of Connie Hayes, implemented a new curriculum series this year called “Buzz” with very positive results. Thom Rake leads out Adult Education programs which recently started a new study called “Boundaries”. Young Adult Ministries is led by Rhiannon Heckenberger and Pastor Dolby. They average 12 members and meet the first three Fridays of every month. Pam Mason is our Small Group Ministry lead. We have 4 active small groups and invite everyone to get plugged into a group. Look for new groups to form this winter and early spring. For the past three years, Pam Hammond has served as our VBS coordinator, directing the program to unparalleled success. VBS has become a major outreach event for our church.

This spring will bring a number of changes to our Board of Christian Education. We will be challenged to fill vacancies as Connie, Pam Hammond, and Chip step down from their positions. Please contact Chip Retzlaff if you have a desire to serve our congregation in any of these BOCE positions.

May your walk with Christ never end and may you continue to grow in his Word daily.

Peace,

Chip

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## Board of Christian Education cont.

### RLC Adult Education

Currently we are in the midst of the *Boundaries* series with Andy Lewis and Ann Ezell. I have solicited feedback from many people with an overall positive response and appreciation for its practical and biblical application. From this and the healthy class size which includes some new and/or renewed attendees, it appears to have been a good curriculum choice for Resurrection Lutheran.

The spring will bring Adult Education into the Lent series by Pastor Dolby on liturgy entitled, *Why We Do What We Do: A Study & Conversation about our Worship Practice*. One of my objectives as Adult Education Coordinator was to make sure our heritage and identity as Lutherans was not lost in our pursuit of biblical education. While we are *Christian* first we must acknowledge that our Lutheran views and practices have not only produced a theology but a culture, within the body of Christ, which reflects an elevation sorely missing in the pragmatism of today's evangelical church. Therefore, I am deeply appreciative toward Pastor Dolby for this educational endeavor and am looking forward to the impact and insight this series is going to provide toward our education as believers and Lutherans. It will offer a platform for not only the necessary apologetics, or why we do what we do, but the polemics as to why certain forms are less desirable and less reflective of a deep theological cause. It will also help us understand our liberties in the matter and develop an overall reinvigoration toward the kinds of worship formally expressed by Lutherans.

Finally, we are in the midst of reviewing an 8 week teaching/training curriculum on evangelism to be instituted this summer. I have been involved or am familiar with many evangelistic programs that help believers learn how to share the gospel and at times have not been satisfied with the overall approach of many of them. However, the one that is now being considered is possibly the best I have encountered. I look forward to providing more information about this exciting class that will help you become comfortable in both your conscience and practice as it relates to sharing the gospel with others.

## Board of Youth Ministry

*“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things? – Romans 8:31-32*

*“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.” – Philippians 4:6*

I just finished writing up my first “To Do List” for this week and I have twenty seven items I’d like to get done in the next two days for youth ministry and pastoral work in general. As I finished counting up all the things I need to get done I began thinking out loud, “how on earth am I going to accomplish all this” as I stared at the long list.

What happened next was certainly an act of God because if it was up to me I would’ve gotten right to task # 1 on my list. Instead of diving right into my work I found myself dropping my pencil and bowing my head in prayer. As much as my human instincts wanted to say “ready, BREAK!” and treat the time of prayer like a team huddle before a sports play, God’s Hand kept my heart open, my eyes closed and my hands folded so I wouldn’t rush into my work by myself.

**Prayer is not something we do to appease God so He’ll help us out, prayer is where we MEET God, get to know Him better and grow closer to Him in our faith relationship.** How are we going to learn to trust God with the big things in life – college decisions, family struggles, our eternal salvation – if we are unable to trust Him with the small things in life like our daily tasks?

However many items I get crossed off my “To Do List” today, this week and in every week of my life – it really is a meaningless activity when I seek to do it apart from our Creator, Savior and Provider...apart from THE SOURCE of earthly life AND eternal life.

How about you? Do you start your mornings off with prayer as an individual and with your family? Are you able to take five minutes to pray for God’s peace and strength before you being your homework?

We just spent the month of January focusing on our prayer life, our daily conversation with our LORD God. May we continue to raise the bar of expectation with one another in our prayer lives so that we grow closer and more intimate with our God. Do you have a lot to do today? The best way you can tackle those tasks is to lay them down at the Altar of our God, spend time seeking His guidance, strength and wisdom so that you can see Him working through you in your every day tasks. After all, if our God is for us then who could be against us?

In Jesus’ Name, Amen!

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## **Board of Youth Ministry cont.**

### **Upcoming Youth Events for your information:**

*\*As ALWAYS, when in doubt...*

***CHECK our Church WEBSITE!!!***

#### **Sr. High Youth**

February 5<sup>th</sup> Saturday: Souper Bowl Fundraiser Preparation

Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Family Weekend

Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Bowling outing

Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Bible Study 6 to 8 p.m.

Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> Saturday: Servant Outreach

March 6<sup>th</sup> – Sunday: Bible Study 6 to 8 p.m.

March 13<sup>th</sup> – Sunday: Social Event TBD

March 20<sup>th</sup> – Sunday: Bible Study 6 to 8 p.m.

March 27<sup>th</sup> – Sunday: Servant Outreach

#### **Jr. High Youth**

February 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday: 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. – Confirmation Class

Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Bowling outing

Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday: 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. – Confirmation Class \*Looking for Substitute teachers as Pastor Ben & Kristin will be out of town!\*

Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> Saturday: Servant Outreach

March 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday: 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. – Confirmation Class

March 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday: Social Activity TBD

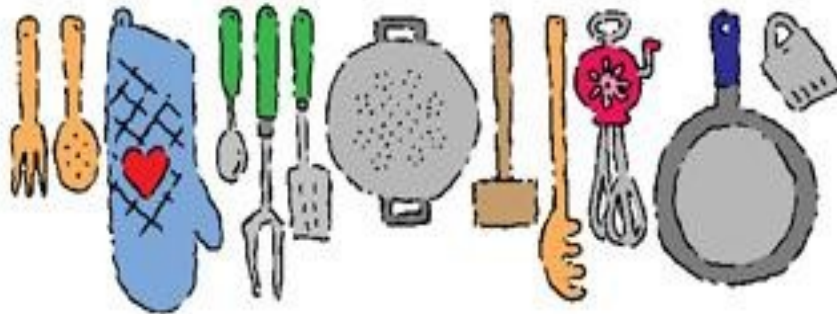
March 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday: 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. – Confirmation Class

March 27<sup>th</sup> Sunday: TBD Servant Event

## Board of Fellowship

**Thank you to every RLC&S member and friend who donated gifts, money and coupons to the recent Kitchen Shower. \$378.00 was raised, with a promise of another \$200 yet to come! Special thanks to the Women In God's Service group and Roy Larsen and his Boy Scout Troops for their generous donations and gifts. The Board of Fellowship is very grateful for your support and willingness to give generously. We hope you will enjoy the new appliances, knives, pots, pans and utensils that will be used to generate hospitality and fellowship among our members and visitors here at the church and school. May these items and the cooks who use them be blessed in His service!**

### Thank You!



## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Birthdays:

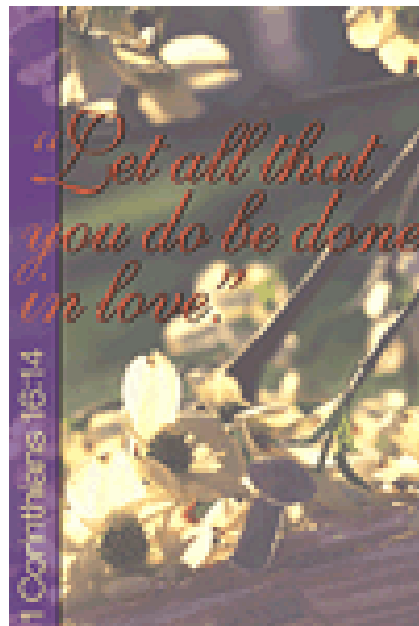
Denise Turner	2/2
Jason Lloyd	2/3
W. Marshall Miller II	2/3
Jake Malcolm	2/4
Glen Titus	2/4
Kate Kvaternik	2/5
Bill Grunow	2/6
Ricki Lindstrom	2/10
Dick Hellbaum	2/11
Chip Retzlaff	2/12
Shirley Brandt	2/13
Tanja Cole	2/13
Tyler Andrews	2/15
Carol Forys	2/15
Dan Kennedy	2/16
Hunter Price	2/16
Dantae Erving	2/20
Jake Blankinship	2/21
Kayla Morgan	2/21
Treassa Huffstetler	2/22
Dawn Napier	2/22
Nikki Davis	2/23
Laurie Glasco	2/24
Michelle Collier	2/25
Dorit Cornwell	2/26
Marcia Geisert	2/27
Madison Holub	2/27
Diane Lach	2/27
Kyle Everleth	2/28
Michelle Porter	2/28
Sue Schulte	2/28



## Birthdays & Anniversaries This Month!

### Anniversaries:

Daryl & Susan Calhoun	2/5
Bob & Charis Bowen	2/11
Jeff & Jodi Andrews	2/14
Earl & Margaret Parker	2/18
Jim & Bernice Henry	2/19
Chris & Roxanne Kohlman	2/26
Brad & Pam Mason	2/27
Tom & Michelle Porter	2/29





**Baptismal Birthdays:**

Kevin Lach	2/1
Sandra Steuck	2/2
Glen Titus	2/4
Debbie Dunn	2/8
Luke Everleth	2/8
Marissa Porter	2/9
Shirley Brandt	2/13
Brian Harrison	2/14
Tammy Morgan	2/14
Jenna Napier	2/14
Chrissy Malcolm	2/17
Geoff Mason	2/20
Joe Rosso	2/22
Lisa Carpenter	2/23
Dorothy Searls	2/24
Jason Lloyd	2/29

