

THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

of

Resurrection Lutheran Church & School
Newport News, VA

NOVEMBER
2011

From the Pastor's Pen (actually his computer)

Dear Members of Our Resurrection Family, challenged to be WHAT WE ARE by FAITH in Jesus our Savior:

RAISED UP FOR MINISTRY – Reaching UP – Reaching OUT – Reaching IN

During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." "Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. (Matthew 14:25-29)

One of my favorite passages in Scripture is the wonderful story of Jesus walking on the water. But how often have I (and perhaps you, too!) concentrated on Peter's lack of faith as some kind of sad but understandable weakness. As I studied these verses from St. Matthew's Gospel once again, I saw something different this time (*isn't the Holy Spirit just great in how He does things like this!*). I saw poor, maligned Peter take a courageous **first step!** While all the other disciples in the boat would eventually worship Jesus, saying, "*Truly you are the Son of God,*" only Peter's faith had "feet," trusting that Jesus was Lord of heaven, earth and also the sea. **He was bold enough – and trusting enough! – to step out of the boat on the water!**



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From the Pastor's Pen cont.

Which of us (*yes, that means you and me!*) would have, like Peter, climbed over the side of the boat, lowered ourselves to the water, and carefully put our feet down on a stormy, heaving sea to risk that first step? How can we gain that kind of faith, imperfect as it was, that Peter displayed? Let's take a closer look at this familiar Biblical story (*and read the whole story in Matthew 14:22-33*).

First, **the Bible records that Peter was the only one who, upon hearing Jesus' voice, answered Him that night.** Peter, first of all, heard the voice of Jesus calling to be able to respond. **We can only display this kind of faith if we are hearing Jesus call to us in His Word.** How often are you in the Word of God, either through individual study or studying God's Word with others?

Second, **Peter asked Jesus to strengthen his faith.** Peter asked, "*Lord, if it is you, tell me to come to you on the water.*" Jesus' answer was, "**Come!**" Jesus will give us the strength of faith and perseverance we need to heed His call. Remember, in Baptism, God has given us His Spirit! We now operate with "Spirit-power!"

Third, **Peter trusted Jesus.** Peter's experience of Jesus' faithfulness enabled him to trust the Lord in this new circumstance – and in that trust, he obeyed. It is only God's gracious, loving, eternal faithfulness that enables our trusting obedience.

Lastly, **when in his weakness fear overcame Peter, and he began to sink into the water, he called out to Jesus for help and he was saved!** It is not the strength of our faith that saves us. We are rescued and saved when we call out in helpless weakness to Jesus, the only one who can save us.

Peter was a simple fisherman with an extraordinary God-given faith. Like Peter, we will in every circumstance and situation, find Jesus to be faithful to His Word. As we celebrate our 55th Anniversary as a gathering of God's people called Resurrection Lutheran Church & School, may we trust that our Lord is with us, will guide and bless us, and is leading us into a glorious future, as we recall that we are **Raised UP for Ministry – Reaching UP to God through Bible study, the use of the sacraments, and prayer – Reaching OUT to our community in word and deed – and Reaching IN to each other for service and accountability!**

Farmer Brown's pig enjoys eating ... in fact, this is the one thing he spends most of his time doing. He can usually be found under the large oak tree in the corner of the pigpen, because that part of the pen has everything he needs.

In the hot summer, Farmer Brown's pig enjoys the shade of the tree. Although he likes that shady spot, he never bothers to **look up** and see what makes that ground a good place. Under the oak tree is a big mudhole to pig wades around several times a day. The rain that falls from the sky keeps the mudhole filled, but the pig never bothers to **look up and see** where the water comes from – he just enjoys the mudhole!

From the Pastor's Pen cont.

In the autumn, Farmer Brown's pig eats bushels of acorns that fall from the oak tree. He finds them on the ground and gobbles them up **without looking up to see** where the acorns come from – he just enjoys them where he finds them!

Farmer Brown's pig spends his entire life enjoying his blessings **without ever looking up! – never thinking about where all those good things come!** He never gives thanks! We might laugh at him – but when we fail to realize what is the source of all the good and perfect gifts that come to us from on high, **how much more are we like Farmer Brown's pig? How often are we guilty of looking down where our blessings have fallen without looking up to see where they have come?**

This THANKSGIVING (and everyday!), may each of us lift up our eyes and our hearts to see WHERE our many blessings came – and then respond in praise and thanksgiving to our gracious God for ALL His many blessings given to us in love!

Join your congregational family on these Special Days in November ...

- + **Sunday, November 6**, for the celebration of Resurrection's 55th Anniversary. Only two services (8:00 & 11:00 am), with our Guest Proclaimer: Dr. Jon Diefenthaler, President of the SED, LCMS – Worshipers are encouraged to attend the Late (11:00 am) Service, and then stay for the **Congregational Fellowship Potluck**, with a Special Anniversary Program (be sure to fill out and submit those story sheets!)
- + **Sunday, November 20th**: **Voters Meeting at 9:30 in the Fellowship Hall** – all members of Resurrection are encouraged to attend, as Resurrection is YOUR CONGREGATION, and needs your input, opinions, and vote (only two worship services on that day)
- + **Wednesday, November 23rd**, at 7:00 PM – **THANKSGIVING FELLOWSHIP WORSHIP**, with **HOLY COMMUNION**, followed by our traditional **Fellowship Reception**; bring a favorite Thanksgiving "goodie" or finger-food to share
- + **Sunday, November 27th** – A new Church Year begins on the First Sunday of Advent, as we begin our preparations for the Celebration of the Birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Come and Worship, come and worship,
Worship Christ, the King of kings!**

Your Fellow Christ-Follower,

Pastor Hank

Our Lutheran School

Principal's Ponderings:

A Dream, a Hope and a Vision

In August of 1995 the Long Range Planning Committee of Resurrection Lutheran Church discussed the opening of a day school/day care as a part of its outreach ministry. In March of 1999 the Lutheran Day School/Christian Child Care Task Force was established, and explored Lutheran Day School, Christian Child Care, preschool, and child development (ages 2 ½ - 4 years) programs. In July 1999 the task force decided to pursue plans for a child development center (ages 2 ½ - 4 years.) In September 1999 the Child Development Center Planning Committee was established, and plans made for the child development center began with a Mothers of Preschoolers program (MOPS). Playground construction began at this time also. The committee members explored start-up costs, projected income, projected salaries, and a preliminary budget. January 2000 brought about the informational meeting held for Voter's Assembly to include the start-up costs, income, expenses, preliminary budget, purpose, and philosophy for the day school and child care.

One year later in March of 2000 the Voter's Assembly members approved the motion "To establish a self-supporting Child Development Center at Resurrection Lutheran Church." In June of 2000 plans were made to open a (proposed) Christian child care program in September of 2000 in addition to the Mothers of Preschoolers program as the first step towards a full child development center. Fund raising began in earnest.

In September of 2001 the Child Development Center, featuring a Christian preschool curriculum and child care program (ages 2 ½ to 4) was opened. In September of 2002 a 5 Year Old Kindergarten program was added. Long range plans were approved to continue to add a grade a level a year until Resurrection Lutheran School included Pre-school (ages 2 ½) thru the 5th grade.

Resurrection Lutheran School began with the dream of a congregation willing to step out with the message of God's love for its community. Hope soon followed that dream as steps were taken to put that dream into reality and action. Vision, the on-going, on-growing commitment to continue to reach out into our community and beyond, by providing an excellent academic and Christian education for our students, is our view of ministry in action.

As we celebrate 10 years of ministry through our school and child care center we give thanks to God for His blessing on this ministry, for our church family members who had the dream, hope and vision to answer God's command to make disciples, and for our church family who continue to support the school through their prayers, contribution of time and talents and financial gifts.

Our Lutheran School cont.

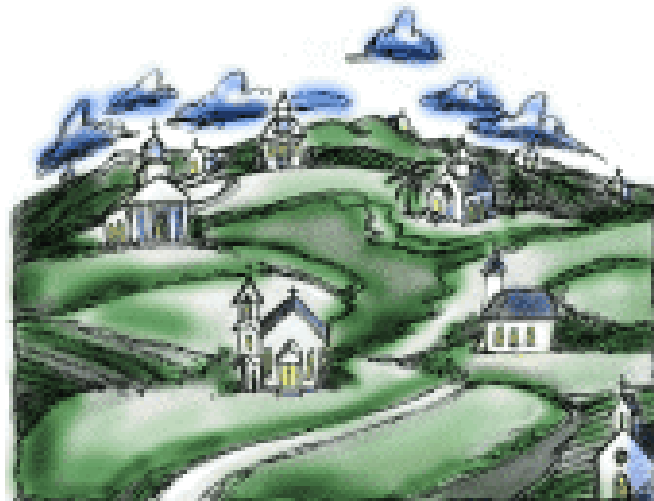
My personal vision for Resurrection Lutheran School and Child Care is this, that we continue to grow in a physical sense, that which can be seen with the human eye, by rejuvenating our current building, by continuing to add a grade level a year until we reach 5th grade, and by becoming more visible to our community at large.

My prayer for Resurrection Lutheran School and Child Care is that its staff, faculty, supporting congregation, students and parents are partners commissioned (by Jesus) to “**make disciples** of all nations, **baptizing them** in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and **teaching them** to obey everything I have commanded you.” Matthew 28: 19 and 20

Blessings!
Ann

THEREFORE
GO
AND MAKE
DISCIPLES OF ALL
nations.

MATTHEW 28:19



Church Boards

Board of Youth Ministry

Giving Hope

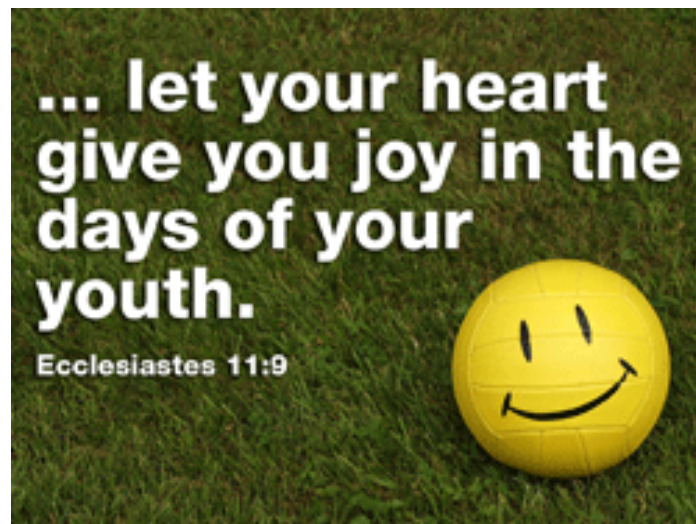
A few weekends ago a group of Senior Youth and parents volunteered their time at the Peninsula Men's Rescue Mission by providing a meal and service to the men staying there. This has been such a rewarding servant outreach opportunity for the youth. The men there are most certainly in need of true hope and a great way to deliver that is in the form of meal.

It is often said that providing a meal to those in need meets the physical and spiritual needs. We can all share that hope because we as Christians have a true hope that never disappoints due to God's love poured out into our hearts by the Holy Spirit (Rom 5:5) .

When the youth and parents volunteer there, that is exactly what they are doing - giving hope in the form of a meal and a helpful hand. That is the wonderful thing about our eternal hope - it leads us to want to share that genuine joy and hope we feel with others who may not know of Christ's love and are down on hard times.

As we celebrate our church's 55th anniversary and look forward with hope may we continue to find ways to be a beacon of that hope in the lives of those who are in need.

- Written by Nicole Feldpausch (Sr. High Youth Counselor)



Board of Youth Ministry cont.

Sr. High Youth Upcoming Calendar for November & December 2011

November	6	6-8 pm	Bible Study	1. P. Ben 2. Nicole F.
	9	7-9 pm	Wednesday – PORT assistance at RLC	1. 2.
	13		No Youth Group	
	20	6-8 pm	Bible Study	1. P. Ben 2. Nicole F.
	27	TBA	Bowling Outing with Emmanuel & Hope	1. 2.
December	4	2:30 – 5:30 pm	Peninsula Rescue Mission	1. 2.
	4	6-8 pm	Bible Study	1. P. Ben 2. Nicole F.
	11	6-8 pm	Christmas Party	1. 2.
	18	6-8 pm	Bible Study	1. P. Ben 2. Nicole F.
	19	6-8 pm	Bible Study	P. Ben & Nicole F.
	25		No Youth Group	

youth group

SCHEDULE

Board of Youth Ministry cont.

Jr. High Youth Upcoming Calendar for November & December 2011

November	6		No Class – 55 th Anniversary of RLC	
	9	7-9 pm	Wednesday – PORT assistance at RLC	1. 2.
	13		Confirmation Class # 5	1. P. Ben 2. Retzlaffs 3. C. Kent
	20	12:30 – 2:30 pm	Confirmation Class # 6	1. P. Ben 2. Retzlaffs 3. C. Kent
	27	TBA	Bowling Outing with Emmanuel & Hope	1. 2.
December	4	12:30 – 2:30 pm	Confirmation Class # 7	1. P. Ben 2. Retzlaffs 3. C. Kent
	11	12:30 – 2:30 pm	Confirmation Class # 8	1. P. Ben 2. Retzlaffs 3. C. Kent
	18	12:30 – 2:30 pm	Christmas Party	1. 2.
	25		No Youth Group	

*Remember! When in doubt, please refer to the Sr. & Jr. High Youth Calendars on **our church website**: www.rlcnn.org for the most up to date calendar of youth group events.



Jr Youth

Board of Fellowship



WEDNESDAY ADVENT SUPPERS & WORSHIP

Supper - 5:45 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Worship - 7:00 pm in the Church

December 7

December 14

December 21



Coffee Fellowship Hosts are needed for Sunday Mornings! Please sign up on the poster outside the sanctuary doors. Small groups, families, and individuals are all welcome to volunteer. Directions are provided or contact any Fellowship Board member for a tour of the kitchen.

P.O.R.T.

People Offering Resources Together

(A Ministry of L.I.N.K.)

Jesus said: "What so ever you do to the least of these my brothers, you do unto me!" Matthew 25:30

Resurrection will be hosting its fifth year of P.O.R.T. from the evening of November 9th to the morning of November 16th. Along with six partner churches we will provide dinner, breakfast, and a warm nights lodging for the homeless in Newport News. We have met with our partner churches, and are now planning for the many duties and details for our P.O.R.T. responsibilities.

THERE ARE MANY WAYS FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH P.O.R.T. WHEN IT IS AT RESURRECTION November 9th – 16th:

UNLOADING – the truck filled with bedding and supplies on Wednesday morning

GREET / CHECK IN GUESTS – usually between 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM – this includes registering guests, bagging and storing personal belongings, etc.

PREPARE / SERVE THE EVENING MEAL ON November 9th – usually between 6:00-8:30 PM – volunteers are needed to prepare the meals, and volunteers are needed to assist in serving our P.O.R.T. guests, visiting with our guests, and cleaning up the kitchen area

OVERNIGHT STAY (8:30 PM – 6:30 AM) – Volunteers are needed to register late arrival guests, and monitor hallways during the night. There must be **at least one volunteer from Resurrection each night between November 9th – 16th**, along with four volunteers from our partner churches: two volunteers stay awake from 10 PM – 2:00 PM, and two stay awake from 2:00 AM – 6:00 AM. **No volunteer should stay up all night. On November 9th, FOUR volunteers are needed from Resurrection to spend the night!**

PREPARE / SERVE BREAKFAST ON NOVEMBER 10TH (usually between 5 AM – 6:30 AM) – prepare a Breakfast meal and serve to our P.O.R.T. guests – clean up the kitchen area

CHECK OUT / CLEAN UP (usually between 5:30 AM – 8 AM) – Check out guests and return their belongings to them. **Clean up bathrooms and all common areas that were used in preparation for Resurrection School and Child Care.**

RELOADING – the truck with bedding and supplies on Wednesday morning, November 16th.

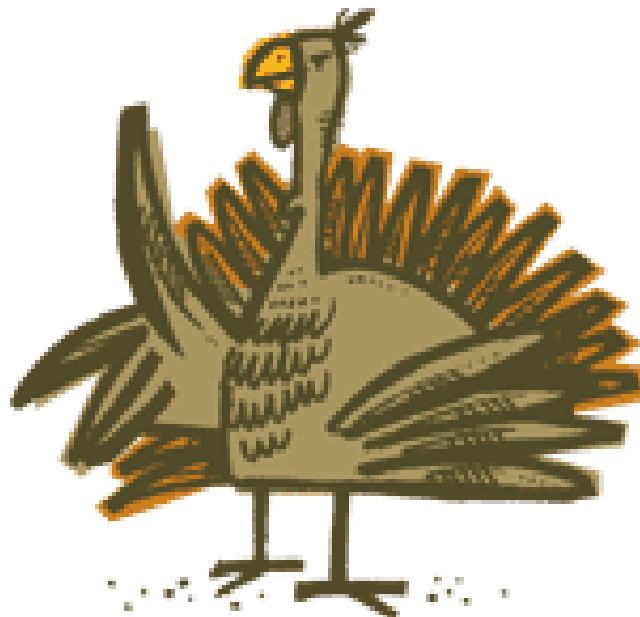
CLEANING UP AND PUTTING BACK TOGETHER – the church back to normal on Wednesday, November 16th.

Volunteers are greatly needed for our P.O.R.T. MINISTRY in NOVEMBER; a sign-up sheet is provided on the Entrance Way Bulletin Board. So please give prayerful consideration to heeding the call of our Savior.

THE THANKSGIVING TURKEY POEM

The turkey shot out of the oven, And rocketed into the air,
It knocked every plate off the table, And partly demolished a chair.
It ricocheted into a corner, And burst with a deafening boom,
Then splattered all over the kitchen, Completely obscuring the room.
It stuck to the walls and the windows, It totally coated the floor,
There was turkey attached to the ceiling, Where there'd never been turkey
before.
It blanketed every appliance, It smeared every saucer and bowl,
There wasn't a way I could stop it, That turkey was out of control!
I scraped and I scrubbed with displeasure, And thought with chagrin as I
mopped,
That I'd never again stuff a turkey, With popcorn that hadn't been popped.

- Author Unknown.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays:

Will Schaffer	11/1
Matthew Ambrose	11/2
Josh Carlson	11/2
Charlotte Helms	11/2
Kaylin Loch	11/2
Larry Dunn	11/3
Alexis Harms	11/4
Joshua Harms	11/4
Charis Bowen	11/4
Alison Cole	11/6
Lena Jackson	11/6
Genna Nowicki	11/6
Doreen Canuelle	11/7
Rachael Waldmiller	11/7
Katelynn Cherry	11/9
Lore McDonald	11/10
Mary Ann Schnell	11/11
Ann Wahlstrom	11/11
Graham Hawkes	11/13
Inge Rumjue	11/13
Casey Holmes	11/14
Christine Ansur	11/15
Sue Hawkes	11/15
Enid Jackson	11/15
Carrie Krans	11/16
Maxwell Kennedy	11/17
Colin Hawkes	11/19
Jack Hayes	11/19
Brenda Neilson	11/19
Elizabeth Holmes	11/20
Aurora Turner	11/21
Kristin Bender	11/24

Birthdays cont.:

Jay Bland	11/24
Dillon Harms	11/26
Samantha Harms	11/26
Gloria King	11/27
John Kratz	11/27
Joanne Langley	11/27
Branden Yarrington	11/27
Jodi Andrews	11/28
Michelle Benders	11/28
Nicole Farr	11/28
Madison Rountree	11/29
Pam Mason	11/30



Birthdays &
Anniversaries
This Month!

Birthdays and Anniversaries cont.

Baptismal Birthdays:

John Hermann	11/1
Wade Palmore	11/1
Sara Wahlstrom	11/1
Olga Carpenter	11/6
Gwen Pfister	11/6
Jerry Weigel	11/6
Noble Lach	11/7
Phil Lindstrom	11/9
Millie Peterson	11/9
Doris Whitehead	11/10
Tony Farr	11/11
Samantha Dent	11/12
Ed Hetzler	11/13
Carol Baugham	11/14
Taylor Malcolm	11/18
Paul Napier	11/19
Jessica Ausura	11/20
Renee Rountree	11/24
Dave Ambrose	11/25
Carrie Krans	11/26
Michelle Benders	11/28
Clayton Lloyd, III	11/28
Charis Bowen	11/30



Anniversaries:

John & Connie Holub	11/4
Jason & Lauren Langley	11/7
Danny & Donna Holmes	11/16
Jim & Traudel Hollingsworth	11/21
Ralph & Mildred Massey	11/23

In honor of the FOOTBALL SEASON –
(and Pastor Ben's Great Passion):
ALL BIBLE FOOTBALL TEAM
(the following compiled by the Texas A & M Fellowship of Christian Athletes)

Offensive Backs

QUARTERBACK: King David

He had unquestioned leadership ability and athletic skills developed herding sheep as an undergrad-uate. And what an arm – just ask Goliath about that!

FULLBACK: Simon Peter

Nicknamed “the Rock” – Fumbled three times the night of Jesus’ arrest, but came back after the resurrection to have a great second half. Carried the ball: the Gospel, right down the middle of the Roman Empire defense

TAILBACK: Paul (formerly known as Saul in his earlier playing days)

The most valuable player in the New Testament Church. After being picked up as a free agent on the road to Damascus, he wound up the church’s leading rusher, carrying the “Word” all over southern Europe

Receivers

WIDE-OUTS: the angels, Gabriel and Michael

Those angels can really fly!

TIGHT END: Goliath

David’s favorite target. Size and ill temper make him the prototypical tight end, effective at blocking and catching the ball against tough linebackers. He just has to learn that the small players can pack a big punch – just ask him about David!



Offensive Line

CENTER: Job

Took a lot of punishment and never gave up. Like most centers, every time he looked up somebody was hitting him in the head!

LEFT GUARD: Moses

Just look at the hole he opened up at the Red Sea! (of course, he had help!)

RIGHT GUARD: Esau

Loved contact and took a lot of punishment, especially from his brother, Jacob. Never got the acclaim or salary of the glamour players in the Bible

TACKLES: Bartholomew and Thaddeus

Jesus named them to his starting offense, the Disciples, but they never got any attention. Team players!

“Defensive Line”

MIDDLE LINEBACKER: Samson

Had a great game against the Philistines. Wouldn't be able to use the jawbone of an ass to take out runners in a game but could probably learn to be almost as destructive with a forearm pad – he did take out a building, you know!

WEAKSIDE LINEBACKER: Thomas

Wouldn't go for fakes, good at reading defenses

STRONGSIDE LINEBACKER: John the Baptist

Ate locust and wild honey for breakfast, and running backs for lunch

DEFENSIVE BACKS: Shadrach, Meshack, Abednego, and Daniel

Played in a heated game against the Babylonian Lions, coached by King Nebuchadnezzar, and never got burned!

“Honorable Mention”

TIMOTHY: an up-and-coming player in the New Testament

Probably took over for Paul at tailback when the older runner retired. Nominated for special teams play.

SCOUTS: Joshua and Caleb

Successfully predicted a big win by Moses' Israelites team over the Canaanites in the Exodus Bowl.

TEAM PHYSICIAN: Luke

Who else??

TEAM STATISCIANS: Matthew and Zacchaeus, both tax collectors

A THANKSGIVING PRAYER

Our Father in Heaven,
We give thanks for the pleasure
Of gathering together for this occasion.
We give thanks for this food
Prepared by loving hands.
We give thanks for life,
The freedom to enjoy it all
And all other blessings.
As we partake of this food,
We pray for health and strength
To carry on and try to live as You would have us.
This we ask in the name of Christ,
Our Heavenly Father.

- Harry Jewell, mid-1900's

