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*THE GOOD NEWS LETTER*  
Of  
*Resurrection Lutheran Church & School*  
*Newport News, VA*

AUGUST  
2011

**From the Pastor's Pen**

What is the point? Why are we here?

As I drove back to church on Jefferson Avenue from a visit to Riverside Rehabilitation I saw something that will stay with me for a long time. As I was thanking the LORD for air conditioning in my car, I drove past a young family near 16<sup>th</sup> Street of Newport News. It was an early afternoon of a hot, hot summer days. This young family was a mother carrying her little baby – the child was probably six to nine months old. My first thought was “it’s really sad that she does not have a stroller to push her baby in.” I immediately began praying for this young family and for all those who are in need.

That scene will remain with me for some time and all I have been able to ask myself over and over since then is this: “what is the point...why am I here?”

As always, I thank God for the direction and gift His Word provides in re-focusing my mind. Read our theme passage for August 2011 with me:

***“For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom His whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being.” – Ephesians 3:14-16***

I can’t go buying a stroller for every young family in need but what can I do? Although earthly things like strollers can be a tremendous blessing – they will not remove or solve struggles individuals are having in any part of Newport News, on the Peninsula, in the U.S. and all around the world.

God’s Word has strengthened me and assured me that His Holy Spirit gives me a peace that surpasses ALL understanding AND gives me His power to take Christ into the world...He helps me understand the point of my life – that HE is going to work THROUGH ME to serve others in need of earthly support and share His love in Jesus for them.



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## From the Pastor's Pen cont.

Here is what God is teaching me right now, in the middle of this hot, hot summer of 2011 in Virginia. It's clear that I can not provide every family with every earthly necessity...like a young mother having a simple stroller for her and her baby.

HOWEVER, by God's grace I CAN get involved with opportunities to serve others out in our community. The Peninsula Rescue Mission is a great start and it's exciting to see youth families as well as individuals from RLC getting involved. I CAN be more involved with this ministry and other ministries in our community to help individuals in need and have the opportunity to share Christ by the unconditional love I have for my brothers and sisters of the human race.

By God's Holy Spirit I CAN continue to be involved with my own family – reading the Bible with Kristin, Lorelei and Miles as we prepare for Small Group Bible Study starting back up in the Fall with Bible Study Fellowship.

By God's protection and staying intimately CLOSE to His Word every day, I CAN be a faithful husband by going to work, helping around the house, spending time with my wife and daughter, being a good owner to Miles...praying as a family, talking about Jesus & our Heavenly Father's will for our lives today, this week, next month and next year here in the Hampton Roads area.

What is the point? Why are we here? To tell the world about Jesus Christ by HOW we love our families. We tell the world about Jesus Christ by SHOWING the world that we love them period. We reach out and help them in any way we can through ministries already in the community OR helping start an outreach to people in need.

We are here to walk with God, be faithful in our duties as spouse, parents, children, students, teachers, pastors & servants. May we – The Resurrection Lutheran Church & School FAMILY - find our strength in God's Word, may we find courage in God's Holy Spirit to know the point of living this life and why we are here in Hampton Roads, Virginia. In Jesus' Name, Amen!

Pastor Ben



i b o w  
my knees  
before the  
Father.  
from whom  
every family  
in heaven  
and on earth  
takes its  
name.  
Ephesians 3:14-15

## Our Lutheran School

Principal's Ponderings:

### **Celebrating 10 Years of Mission and Ministry**

This school year 2011-2012 marks the 10 year anniversary of Resurrection Lutheran School and Child Care and plans are underway to mark this special occasion.

The new school year begins with the Installation of the teachers and staff of Resurrection Lutheran School and Child Care on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Art Umbach will be our guest speaker. Pastor Umbach will also be rejoicing with us as the congregation of Resurrection Lutheran Church will also be celebrating its' 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We praise God for this wonderful occasion of celebration of ministering to our community.

Mini celebrations will take place all through the school year to mark this important milestone in our history. Plans are being made for an Anniversary Dinner, Alumni Night, Uno night, Putt, Putt, Golf night, National Lutheran School's week, marking teacher anniversaries, and much more.

Summer Camp is up and running with an enrollment of 26 students. LEGO Camp arrives the week of July 25<sup>th</sup>. Please see Enid Jackson, Robin Shriner or Ann Ezell for further details.

Thanks to Andy Lewis and his crew for updating our computer lab. We appreciate your time and talent for bring our computer lab up to date. We are looking forward to using the computers for classroom instruction and reinforcement, for Essay writing, research, foreign language instruction (Spanish) and much more.

Our school brochure has a new look! Please pick one up and pass it along to someone you know who is looking for a quality education in a Christian atmosphere for their children. A tri-fold pamphlet is being mailed to 1,800 families in our area to help spread the news about RLS and Child Care. Excitement mounts as we continue to pray for 65 (or more) students in the fall!

Blessings!

Ann



## Opportunity through Difficulty, By Wade Palmore, Congregational President

Are you listening to the news----debt ceiling debates, jobless numbers, future interest rates ---it goes on and on. We, as Christians live IN the World, but are NOT to be OF the World. To be best equipped to minister to our fellow man we DO have to be informed; we should keep apprised of the facts. Along these lines, I would caution us to be wise and discerning when selecting sources of our Worldly information, remember---even the most trusted sources of information usually have a self-interest whether it be financial or ideological. More importantly, we should look to THE BOOK---for example, we are instructed by Paul in 1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18, "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus". "Oh very fine Wade---you have a great Govt job-easy for you to say". Very true, all this talk of jobless rates---there are only two jobless rates we focus on from an individual stand point---it's either 0% or 100%. Fair enough---so we should probably focus energy on helping each other and addressing YOUR REAL WORLD CONCERNS. HOW, WHEN and WHERE---details to follow. Parting shot---Where there is change and discomfort-there is often great opportunity---God would have us find that opportunity and develop it to HIS glory.

Peace, Wade



from the  
Congregational President

## **ABOUT THOSE LUTHERANS ...**

**The following list was compiled by a 20th century Lutheran who, observing other Lutherans, wrote down exactly what he saw or heard:**

1. Lutherans believe in prayer, but would practically die if asked to pray out loud.
2. Lutherans like to sing, except when confronted with a new hymn or a hymn with more than four stanzas.
3. Lutherans believe their pastors will visit them in the hospital, even if they don't notify them that they are there.
4. Lutherans usually follow the official liturgy and feel it is their way of suffering for their sins.
5. Lutherans believe in miracles and even expect miracles, especially during their stewardship visitation programs or when passing the plate.
6. Lutherans feel that applauding for their children's choirs would make the kids too proud and conceited.
7. Lutherans think that the Bible forbids them from crossing the aisle while passing the peace.
8. Lutherans drink coffee as if it were the Third Sacrament.
9. Some Lutherans still believe that an ELCA bride and an LCMS groom make for a mixed marriage.
10. Lutherans feel guilty for not staying to clean up after their own wedding reception in the Fellowship Hall.
11. Lutherans are willing to pay up to two dollars for a meal at church.
12. Lutherans think that Garrison Keillor stories are totally factual.
13. Lutherans still serve Jell-O in the proper liturgical color of the season and think that peas in a tuna noodle casserole add too much color.
14. Lutherans believe that it is OK to poke fun at themselves and never take themselves too seriously.

### **And finally, you know when you're a Lutheran when:**

- \*It's 100 degrees, with 90% humidity, and you still have coffee after the service.
- \*You hear something really funny during the sermon and smile as loudly as you can.
- \*Donuts are a line item in the church budget, just like coffee.
- \*The communion cabinet is open to all, but the coffee cabinet is locked up tight.
- \*All your relatives graduated from a school named Concordia.
- \*When you watch a "Star Wars" movie and they say, May the Force be with you, you respond, "and also with you."
- \*And lastly, it takes ten minutes to say good-bye.

## Church Boards

### Board of Outreach and Social Ministry cont.

Has August turned into "Outreach Month" at Resurrection Lutheran Church and School?

From what I see on the church master calendar I would think August is the official "outreach" month for Resurrection Lutheran Church and School! First we start off with one of the biggest outreach events of the year: Vacation Bible School (August 1-5) Hometown Nazareth: Where Jesus was a Kid sure looks like a great venue to bring unchurched people into our church so we can tell them the great news. Then the Elders have come up with an excellent idea -- a "Prayer Wash." Here is a short synopsis of what they have in mind:

The Board of Elders wishes to extend an invitation to help grow the Prayer Ministry within our church by reaching out to our local community. We invite and ask for the support of the Youth groups, outreach ministries as well as the entire body of Resurrection Lutheran to join in our first ever **"Prayer Wash"**. The Goal is to take a few hours on **06 August, a Saturday morning from 10 am to 1 pm**, and host a free car wash with a unique twist. We will be offering to passerby's an opportunity to request prayer in exchange for a free car wash. In addition to reaching out to the local community we hope to bring attention to Resurrection by presenting a living testament that our congregation is alive and well. Please consider this invitation and let Greg and Pastor Hank know if they can count on your participation. There has a lot of potential as a congregation to just have a great couple of hours enjoying the outdoors as well.

On August 13 the BOSM is going to sponsor an event in which RLC & S members hand out cold bottles of water on a hot day at City Center at Oyster Point. Just a way of sharing God's love and helping a stranger quench his/her thirst. We will start handing out bottles at 1:00PM. I normally never say this but I pray it is really hot that day!

## Board of Outreach and Social Ministry cont.

Later in the month we hope to plant the seeds for a Lutheran Student Movement at Christopher Newport University. Planning for this is not as far as it should be and if you know any CNU students that attend Resurrection please let me know as I would like to talk to them to see if they have any suggestions. Given I graduated from college over 30 years ago I am sure things have changed a great deal.

I hope you will consider helping with one of these outreach missions of Resurrection Lutheran Church and School. Lets face it, every month should be outreach month for our church!

# Share Your Faith in Christ



## **Board of Youth Ministry**

Our emphasis as a church family this month is to “pray, seek and plan” as we prepare for the start of the Fall, school & opportunities to grow in our faith walk and in our service to our community.

Hear God’s Word that directs, empowers and inspires our work in youth ministry together.

***“For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom His whole family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit in your inner being.” – Ephesians 3:14-16***

It is a humbling thought, an awe-inspiring thought that the Creator of all things has provided us the opportunity to be His witnesses about Jesus Christ to the world. It is a daunting task when we begin to see all the different areas we want to improve our youth ministry, mature in our youth ministry and explore new opportunities for the youth of our church family that we haven’t even considered before.

Our goal is to PLANT, CULTIVATE & GROW our youth ministry this year. The first objective, the first task by which we will spiritually challenge the youth will take place through Bible Study, Confirmation & all the activities we will do together in service and social outreach to our community.

The second objective is to challenge youth parents to be involved with their youth in worship on a Sundays, daily devotions – reading God’s Word together at home every day and taking time to serve the world side by side with our sons and daughters in the Name of Jesus.

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

I remember that three years ago, in July of 2008, I moved to Newport News, VA and I was excited about getting to know everyone. Now that it's been three years, I know many of you quite well & I am excited about each of us holding each other accountable – helping one another stay close to God's Word and living out God's love alongside our youth, our sons & our daughters this year. This is going to be an exciting Fall at RLC&S...I look forward to kneeling before our Heavenly Father with all of you youth, parents & families – and experiencing His Holy Spirit empowering us, strengthening us and working THROUGH us to reach the world with the only Name that matters, Jesus Christ. In His Name, let's get to work and have some fun together, Amen!

- Pastor Ben

### **August 2011 Youth Calendar**

August 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> – Monday through Friday: VBS 5:15 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Aug. 14<sup>th</sup> – Sunday: Sr. High Bible Study 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

August 28<sup>th</sup> – Sunday: Sr. High Bible Study 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

\*Keep your eyes open for a 12 month Youth Calendar for Jr. High & Sr. High coming soon to the website, your email inbox & outside Pastor Ben's Door!



## Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Birthdays:

Nicholas Bland	8/1
Nancy Stephens	8/1
Katie Dail	8/3
Carroll Glasco	8/3
Connor O'Neill	8/3
John Byard	8/4
John Forys	8/4
Mark Kohlman	8/4
Rhiannon Heckenberger	8/7
Bernice Henry	8/7
Sam Moyer	8/7
Kassandra Altman	8/9
Graham Rountree	8/9
Alnez Cruz	8/10
Becca Cox	8/11
Rany Dent	8/12
Dave Hommel	8/14
Parker Holmes	8/16
Jerry Langley	8/18
Millie Peterson	8/18
Ari Bridge	8/19
Alverta Nelson	8/19
Steve Castagnola	8/21
Lori Cavanaugh	8/21
Luke Palmore	8/22
Haley Calhoun	8/23
Kelly Londenberg	8/23
Emily Moody	8/28
Tonya Weidenhof	8/29
Paul Gelhausen	8/31

### Anniversaries:

Casey & Becca Cox	8/8
Trevor & Ouida Archinal	8/10
Tony & Linda Farr	8/13
Dave & Chrissy Malcolm	8/14
John & Betty Byard	8/16
Mell & Norma Waldschmidt	8/17
Gary & Cher Funaiock	8/18
Phil & Sheri Yarrington	8/18
Alan & Tonya Weidenhof	8/19
Joe & Esther Loch	8/20
Stacy & Tanja Cole	8/23



Birthdays &  
Anniversaries  
This Month!

## Birthdays and Anniversaries cont.

### Baptismal Birthdays:

John Byard	8/1
John Holub	8/2
Stephen Bowser	8/5
Ed Schroeder	8/7
Mildred Massey	8/9
Caroline Palmore	8/10
Alicia Waldmiller	8/10
Emily Londenberg	8/12
Dale Bowser	8/18
Rita Hollar	8/18
Sam Moyer	8/18
Alan Weidenhof	8/19
Josef Holmes	8/20
Abby Mason	8/20
Earl Parker	8/20
Deni Lewis	8/21
Mark Beazley	8/24
Hal Beazley, Jr	8/27
Rebecca Uenking	8/28
Mike Heckenberger	8/30



