

THE GOOD NEWS LETTER

of

Resurrection Lutheran Church & School
Newport News, VA

JANUARY
2012

From the Pastor's Pen

"For The Faithful of the Congregation"

Dear Fellow Redeemed, of the Family Called Resurrection Church & School,

Too much of the time my sermons and newsletter articles are directed to the weak of faith and the unfaithful. **I want to reverse that order here.** This article is **not** addressed to those who have to be begged or patted or pampered before they will attend worship or Bible study or be involved in any of our outreach or service projects. This is **not** for those who only give to the church their excuses, and grumble the most while doing the least. **These words are for the faithful and dedicated of God's flock:**

Our vocabulary is just not large enough to tell all of you wonderful Christians how much you are appreciated! It matters not how many meetings will be called, I know that you will be present. The weather – nor any amount of company – are able to cause you to treat lightly your responsibilities. You have no more time than others, but somehow you manage to find time to serve both your Savior and others. I appreciate you even more because you demand no special attention or praise for your service – and you do not consider being "regular" or "faithful" to God a grievous burden or a feat of great valor. You all are indeed an example to our younger members and an inspiration to all of us! Thank you for your commitment of faith to your Lord and to His Church – and may God continue to bless your inspired efforts. In fact, I would like to offer my sincere thanks to all those who, through their gifts of time, talents and treasures, have enabled Resurrection to carry out the many ministries and programs that we have accomplished for our Lord in this place ...



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* To **all who made our Advent preparation and Christmas celebration so meaningful:** those who decorated, baked, prepared food, cleaned up, led our music, shared anthems and solos, performed on their instruments, shared the Christmas story – especially our Sunday School youth!; to those who directed and helped with the Sunday School Christmas Service, wrote services, typed services, printed services, collated and stapled services, etc. – the list goes on and on and on and on ...

THANK YOU ALL!

* To our **Child Development Center and School Director, Ann Ezell, and a wonderful Staff: Denise Ambrose, Carol Baugham, Marsha Snyder, Charlotte, Helms, Debra Waldmiller, Kim Kozenski, Susan Deck, Sandra Steuck, Enid Jackson and Ruth Cooper,** who have made our school & child-care ministry so successful, and who continue to bless our children with their faith and example! **THANK YOU ALL!**

* To our **Organist: Rich Peltz;** the **Director of our Choirs & accompanist: Elizabeth Palmore,** and, of course, the many members of the **Sanctuary Choir, the Songs of Praise Worship Team, Sunday School Choir** – for their beautiful musical offerings not just at Christmas but throughout the year! **THANK YOU ALL!**

* To the members of the **Altar Guild, the Usher Staff, the Worship Assistants (Lay Readers), the Acolytes,** those who **share Children's Sermons, the Audio/Video Ministry Teams, the Greeters, the Fellowship Hosts,** those who **provide transportation to fellow saints to our services, the Counters, the Tape Hosts** (delivery people taking DVD'S of our services to our shut-in members), the **Communion Assistants, the Nursery Assistants,** those who gave **flowers for the Altar, the Friday Saints – did I leave anyone out??** – who serve faithfully and joyfully week after week throughout the year! **THANK YOU ALL!**

* To our new staff person in the **Church Nursery, Tiffany Spragans,** who has made quite an impact with our younger saints on Sunday mornings! **Thank you!**

* To our outstanding **Sunday School Superintendent, Teachers and Staff, Adult Bible Study Coordinator and Leaders, Confirmation Teachers, Communion Preparation Class Leaders, and Vacation Bible School Director(s) and staff,** who prepare weekly lessons throughout the year to enrich the lives of those who attend these classes! And to those who **lead our Small Groups,** and to the **dedicated members** who are part of this ministry of growth in God's Word, fellowship and accountability. **THANK YOU ALL!**

* To the **Leaders and helpers** involved in our **Youth Programs: the Sr. L.Y.F.R. and the Jr. L.Y.F.R.,** who provide nurture, leadership and assist our youth with their many activities during the year! **THANK YOU ALL!**

* To those who **cut the grass, weeded and trimmed the bushes** and kept up the **Bluhm Memorial and the Memorial Azalea Gardens, planted new bushes and flowers, spread mulch, raked leaves, picked up tree branches,** etc. – **THANK YOU ALL!**

- **To those who mended, cleaned, painted, built, plumbed, wired, and did what was needed to be done to keep our facilities up and operating, WE ARE MOST GRATEFUL TO GOD FOR YOU ALL!**

* To our **Porch Visitors** and their ministry of reaching out to our church guests; to those who offer prayers to God as part of our **Prayer Ministry;** to those who **prepared and shared meals for the sick, lonely, and mourning** through our **Helping Hands Ministry and the Funeral Committee;** to those who **visit, send cards, and call our Shut-In and Homebound Ill members;** all of you make a difference in the lives of people!

From the Pastor's Pen cont.

* To those who **write articles** for our newsletter, and those who **edit it, run it off, assemble, staple and mass-mail** "The Good News Letter" to our members! **THANK YOU ALL!**

* To our **Church Officers and Board Chairs**, and the **members of our Boards and committees**, who strive to lead us into mission and ministry as we seek to share God's love with each other and our community, for their faithful and dedicated service: **THANK YOU ALL!**

* To the **dedicated members** who stay and clean up the Communion ware after worship, who turn off the lights, check the building, and lock the doors. **THANK YOU ALL!**

* To a wonderful, dedicated and hard working (*and often unappreciated!*) **Church Staff:** Pastor Ben Dolby, Mrs. Ann Ezell, Mr. Richard Peltz, Ms. Ann Wahlstrom, Mrs. Elizabeth Palmore. You give freely of your time and talents, often working overtime to get items ready for the congregation! **Truly all of you are God's gift to our parish!**

Thank you all so much! Please know that your contributions do not go unnoticed. You all are gifts of our Gracious God, and are very much appreciated! I thank God for all of you! And thank you for sharing the love of God with our community and with me!

And HAPPY NEW YEAR to all at Resurrection – May God bless another year of ministry in His name!

Cleanliness Shows Our Pride

It is disturbing to me that we sometimes take so little pride in God's House, resulting in clutter and messiness. When you use the YOUR Church Building – and especially the CHURCH NURSERY and the KITCHEN, it is imperative that you clean up and restore the area to better than its original order!

Please remember that: 1) we cannot afford to hire a fulltime sexton to go behind you and clean up (*and our cleaning service only cleans some areas of the building only once a week!*), and 2) someone else must use the room or area after you are finished!

A clean and hospitable church building – dedicated to God's glory and for use in His Kingdom – is only possible with your help!

Pastor Hank

P.S.: Please let me take this opportunity to say **THANK YOU to all of you at Resurrection** - from Rita and I to our church family – for all the love and kindnesses you have shown to us, not only this Christmas season, but throughout the past year! The gifts received, the words of love and support, the cards shared have all been deeply appreciated. The love we have for each of you in our congregational family cannot be expressed in words! Thanks to all of you – God bless all of you! – and again, the most blessed of New Years, as we share together the love and forgiveness which Jesus alone can bring, and seek to share that love in our community!



Homeless Outreach

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!"
Resurrection will be hosting **P.O.R.T.** at **Trinity Lutheran Church** on Saturday, February 4th from 5:00pm until 6:30am, Sunday February 5th. We will be providing dinner, breakfast, and a warm night lodging for the homeless in Newport News. Your help is needed in providing food, help serving and clean-up of dinner, people to stay overnight and help serving and cleaning up breakfast and cleaning up Trinity Lutheran. **Volunteers are greatly needed for our P.O.R.T. MINISTRY; a sign-up sheet is provided on the Entrance Way Bulletin Board. So please give prayerful consideration to heeding the call of our Savior.**

Church Boards

Board of Youth Ministry

Now that the Christmas season has passed we journey through Epiphany, the season where we focus on the revelation of "who" Jesus is – both true God and true man. However, as I write this in December my mind is largely stuck on the preparations for Christmas ... you know the lesser important stuff such as: the gifts, the travel, the time off, the parties ... but also another aspect, a far greater aspect: wanting to share the wonderful news with friends who don't know the real joy of Christmas.

Recently I read a blog entry from a sister in Christ and she focused on verse 7:11 in Matthew "If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who work for him!"

The excerpt from my friend's blog:

"As a mama, I get so excited when I'm shopping at Christmastime and see a gift that I know my child will love. You know, not just a toy that they would probably like for a while, but something that their little heart would leap for joy at opening on Christmas morning. It's rare to find such a good gift, but so fun when you do.

It makes me think of a Bible verse in Matthew that says that if we, who are so full of imperfections and so far from having the pure heart of God, love to give good gifts to our children, how much more does God desire to give good gifts to us?! It warms my heart to think that at one of those moments when I think my heart will burst with love for my children, that He feels the same, and more, for us. And not only when we're behaving.

I love Christmas! If I opened a box on Christmas morning with a winning lottery ticket, it couldn't possibly come close to the value of the gift received by the world on the very first Christmas."

When I read that, it touches my heart for many reasons. I can completely relate to that joy of finding the perfect gift for someone and yet knowing that joy pales in comparison to the love God feels for us is touches my spirit to the core.

By now, most of us have stowed the Christmas boxes back in the attic, we've taken the Christmas cards off the wall, and some of our gifts may be old news by now. But let us pray that Jesus' light enters us each and that we find opportunities to share his perfect gift, no matter what the season, with those who do not know the true joy of what happened Christmas morning. Let us put extra focus this Epiphany season to reveal who Jesus is to our friends and family that do not know, so they too can experience that wonderful life giving gift.

Sincerely,

Nicole



Board of Christian Education

RLC Adult Education

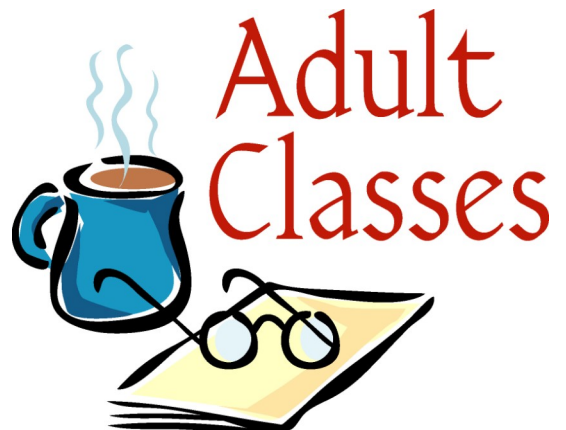
Winter greetings and may God's blessing in your endeavors to become more thorough disciples of Christ manifest itself immeasurably! This year, in the adult education Sunday school, we start out with a bang.

First, Tevor Archinal has restarted his long-running class in room 127 with a study in the book of Philippians. This will be a traditional verse by verse bible study. In this short (four chapters) Epistle Paul gives thanks for and encouragement to, the church in Philippi. Paul teaches and demonstrates how to live "*in the joy of the Lord*" in all circumstances even imprisonment & persecution.

Secondly, in the fellowship hall, Pastor Ben Dolby will be leading a 7 week study called "Discovery 101". The class is "geared towards the new(er) but will be aimed at the current members who will be attending as well". Pastor Ben's objective is to develop a "new culture in how we train new family members as well as hold each other to the high standard expected of Christ's family".

Finally, Pastor Ben's class will be followed by **Pastor Hank Hollar** teaching the adults in the fellowship hall during Lent. Pastor Hank brings years of personal and theological development to the table. So it appears that we will be privileged, as a congregation, to have 13 continuous weeks of face to face pastoral teaching in the adult Sunday school setting beginning with Pastor Ben's curriculum and culminating with Pastor Hank's seasoned personal and theological insight.

All of us, if we claim Christ as our Savior, are directed by God's Word to be a disciple; that is to mature in the Word. This year begins with many opportunities for such. May it be that you exercise your faith in taking advantage of these gifts being offered.



EPIPHANY . . .

Epiphany was known in the early Christian centuries as the Feast of Manifestation, the “Theophany,” and even as the “Feast of Light.” Second only to Easter in importance, **Epiphany** was observed in the Eastern Church from the second century AD on. It celebrated **the fact** that God became man more than the **date** of Jesus’ birth. Later the Western Church’s observance of Christmas overshadowed **Epiphany**, the “Old” Christmas (even today, the Eastern Orthodox Churches celebrate “Christmas” on January 6th, our date of celebrating Epiphany).

Early Christians in the East may have set the date of **Epiphany** to replace a popular festival, just as Roman Christians probably chose a date for Christmas that replaced a popular pagan festival.

In the Eastern Church, **Epiphany** became a day to receive new members through Baptism. Those being baptized were called “*illuminandi*” – those who were about to be enlightened by Christ, the Light of the World.

Epiphany celebrates the Good News that Jesus, God’s Son, has come into the world to bring righteousness into our world and to reveal the unimaginable depth of God’s love.

The Magi discovered the revelation in a baby lying in a humble manger. John heard that revelation in a voice at Jesus’ baptism. And a merry wedding party at Cana experienced that revelation in a special gift of wine.

In the Lutheran Church the **Epiphany** and the **Epiphany Season** extends from January 6th through the Sunday of the Transfiguration, the climactic conclusion of this part of the Church Year.



Wish List

RESURRECTION'S WISH LIST (and how **YOU** can make these wishes come true!)

As we enter a brand new year – as we celebrate God's great gift of His love and forgiveness and grace, wrapped up in the person of His Son and our Savior, Jesus Christ. YOUR special gifts of love make a difference in the various ministries of Resurrection Lutheran Church & 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.

DID YOU KNOW ... that through the generous gifts of Resurrection members, the following items on the **Congregational Wish List** have been gifted to the church: a gift to purchase an **Ice Machine** for the Kitchen - a **Projector for the Youth Room** – a **Mini-fridge** for the Youth Room – gifts for **Resurrection School** and the school's **Scholarship Fund** – and gifts for the **Trustee Fund**. Thank you for your gifts of love!

Requested for Resurrection's many ministries:

1. **Playground Improvement** – Specific Equipment: a second “Skyward Summit” – climbing equipment for children; cost is approximately \$490.00 plus shipping
2. **Flat Screen Computer Monitors** – 17 inches or larger (*can be donated if you have one lying around*)
3. **Used Equipment / Used Computers** (*with software documentation so we are legal*)
4. **Funds for Needed Software & Hardware in general – some current needs:**
 - + **Windows 7 Upgrades** for 2-3 computers
 - + **Replacement Computers** @ \$500.00 each – three are needed
 - + **Server Computer (NAS)** @ \$800.00 – only one needed
5. **Gifts for Capital Improvement (Infrastructure)** – all gifts, of any amount, are appreciated as we continue to seek monies to improve our facilities
6. **Tile the Hallways of the Church** – approximately \$20,000.00, which includes installation costs
7. **Tile the Individual Classrooms** – approximate cost per classroom is \$2,500 - \$3,000 which includes installation costs
8. **Banners – Banner Poles & Stands:** for use in our worship services (*cost is variable; please contact Pastor Hank or the Church Office*)
9. **Gifts for our Resurrection School and Child-Care Ministry,** as the school continues to minister to many families both within our community of faith and on our Peninsula community – **more funds are available if you are a Thrivent member and you designate the school as a recipient of your gifts**

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!

Red Cross Blood Drives at Resurrection in 2012

The next Blood Drive will be Tuesday, January 10, from 2pm - 8pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Dates for the rest of the year have been scheduled:

Tuesday, March 6

Tuesday, May 8

Tuesday, July 10

Tuesday, September 11

Tuesday, November 6

You are the most important person at each of the donations, whether you give a pint, double red blood cells, assist with food, visit with donors, help with set-up or facilitate clean-up.

There is always a critical need for blood, and it cannot be manufactured. If you are unable to donate in January, encourage a friend to come. The faces are friendly, the food is free, and the Red Cross always has a special gift for you.

In January donors receive a soup mug and spoon plus a recipe card from Chef Cat Cora. Our goal is *50 donors* for each Blood Drive this year.

Choose to give.

More information at www.redcrossblood.org or at the Resurrection website www.rlcnn.org



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays:

Jane Crosby	1/1
Pastor Hank	1/2
Don Buchwald	1/7
Kris Titus	1/7
Debbie Dunn	1/8
Ken Fellenstein	1/8
Hailey Benders	1/8
Roy Larson	1/9
Nancy Carlson	1/10
Geoff O'Neill	1/10
Jenna Napier	1/11
Dick Taylor	1/12
Brian Jackson	1/15
Geoff Mason	1/15
Tammy Morgan	1/15
Kory Erving	1/16
Chrissy Malcolm	1/17
Michelle Lloyd	1/19
Dorothy Searls	1/19
Donna Holmes	1/20
Marissa Porter	1/20
Bob Bowen	1/21
Kevin Altman	1/22
Tony Farr	1/22
Evelyn Hungerford	1/25
Nigel Brown	1/28
Ron Reck	1/28
Debbie Altman	1/29
Dianne Moyer	1/29
Ouida Archinal	1/31
Katelyn Bridge	1/31
Mary Ashleigh Uenking	1/31

Anniversaries:

Michael & Belynda Parker	1/1
Kelly & Christy Londenberg	1/2
Bonnie & Bob Stanfield	1/9
Roy & Frances Larson	1/17
Ton & Jeannie Rummel	1/19



Birthdays &
Anniversaries
This Month!

Birthdays and Anniversaries cont.

Baptismal Birthdays:

Harold Beazley	1/1
Nicole Farr	1/1
Karen Hughes	1/1
Frank Jackson	1/1
Christy Londenberg	1/1
Mary Sorenson	1/1
Esther Loch	1/5
Kris Titus	1/7
Marie Rosso	1/9
Genna Nowicki	1/10
Elizabeth Palmore	1/17
Lily Brown	1/25
Max Kennedy	1/27
Lauren Bowser	1/28
Evelyn Hungerford	1/28
Betty Titus	1/28
Hank Hollar	1/30
Ken Fellenstein	1/31
Gerald Harrison	1/31



Small Groups

WHERE ARE YOU PLUGGED IN THIS FALL, as many of our **GROUPS begin anew?**

“SING TO THE LORD A NEW SONG, FOR HE HAS DONE MARVELOUS THINGS!” The Sanctuary Choir invites all who wish to lift up their voices to the Lord to be a part of this leading / singing ministry, which adds so much to our worship. **Practices have begun: each Tuesday at 6:30 PM.** Plan to come out and be a part of *“singing to the Lord a new song ...”*

The **WOMEN IN GOD’S SERVICE – LWML (WIGS)** meets the **second Monday evening of the month at 7:00 PM in Room 120** (Youth Room). All the ladies of the congregation are invited to be a part of **WIGS** and in their service to the Lord through Resurrection Church! **Child-Care is provided if requested before-hand** – call Marcia Geisert – 310.6721.

THE YOUNG ADULTS OF RESURRECTION have begun a whole new schedule of events this Fall. All in their 20’s & early 30’s are welcome! Please join us; we’d love to have you! See Pastor Ben for more information (596.5808)

THE SONGS OF PRAISE WORSHIP TEAM (SOPWT) invites you to be a part of leading our Sunday PRAISE Services! The SOPWT practice each Wednesday evening, beginning at 6:30 PM (for the musicians) and 7:00 PM with the Praise Choir. **CAN YOU PLAY AN INSTRUMENT? Come and join us! DO YOU LIKE SINGING MORE MODERN CHRISTIAN SONGS? Come and join us! WE ARE ALWAYS LOOKING FOR MORE VOICES AND INSTRUMENTALISTS!** Please keep this in your prayers or let us know if you have a candidate we can contact.

The **SR. LYFR (Lutheran Youth Fellowship, Resurrection):** **ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO BE A PART OF THE LUTHERAN YOUTH FELLOWSHIP, RESURRECTION!** Meetings consist of Bible Study on 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 6:00 PM with servant outreach events and social events the 2nd and 4th weekends of the month. **This is subject to change month to month; please visit the Resurrection Website www.rlcnn.org regularly** to stay up to date! Contact Pastor Ben Dolby (596.5808) for more information on meetings or Sr. High activities.

The second Saturday of every month at 8:00 AM is set aside for the MEN'S GROUP, RESURRECTION gathering, featuring their traditional breakfast of sausage gravy and biscuits. All the men of the congregation are invited to join in for a great breakfast, fellowship, a Bible or topical study – and the projects accomplished by the **Men's Group, Resurrection members. **Bring a friend – share in good food, fellowship and the Good News on Saturday!** Our next gathering is **Saturday, October 8th at 8:00 am** – our project for the month is cleaning up the courtyard.**

The **JR. LYFR (Lutheran Youth Fellowship, Resurrection)**: Dates of upcoming servant opportunities & social events are posted on the web calendar. **This is subject to change month to month; please visit the Resurrection Website: www.rlcnn.org regularly** to stay up to date! Contact Pastor Ben Dolby (596.5808) for more information on Confirmation class or Jr. High activities.

The SR. MOMENTS MINISTRY is open to any saint who is 55 years old and older who enjoys fellowship, food, and service in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. The **SR. MOMENTS** sponsors socials and fellowships, and service projects, normally meeting on the **Third Sunday of the month**. For more information on meetings or activities, please see or call **Ricki Lindstrom at 826.1457** – **or watch for their activities being announced in the Bulletin Announcement Sheet.**

RESURRECTION SMALL GROUPS meet all over the Peninsula for **fellowship, spiritual growth, discipleship and accountability!** Each group has an **“empty chair”** – waiting for **your** participation! **See or call Pam Mason (357.0828), Pastor Hank or Pastor Ben for more information, OR call the Church Office (596.5808).**

The **FRIDAY SAINTS** cordially invites their Resurrection family to join them **every Friday** or fun, fellowship and service! The **FRIDAY SAINTS** meet on Fridays (of course!!), beginning at **9:00 AM** to put together the Sunday Bulletins, the Newsletter, mass mailings, etc. **You are invited to be a part of the fun and fellowship and service!! – and help is always needed and appreciated!**

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS: 1) every Sunday morning at least two **ENRICHMENT AND GROWTH ADULT CLASSES** are offered during the **Sunday Education Hour** (beginning at 9:30 AM) - **be a part of growing in God's Word!** Details on the various classes are in the Sunday Bulletin! 2) the **WEDNESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY** at 6:30 AM!

WHY NOT JOIN A GROUP TODAY!

Be a part of growth and fellowship through our GROUPS!

Well Known Proverbs

A first grade teacher collected old, well known proverbs. She gave her class the first half of the proverb and they had to come up with the rest. Let's see how you compare to them.

As you make your bed so shall you.....**mess it up.**

Better be safe than.....**punch a 5th grader.**

Strike while the.....**bug is close.**

It's always darkest before....**daylight savings time.**

You can lead a horse to water but.....**how?**

Don't bite the hand that.....**looks dirty.**

If you lie down with the dogs, you'll.....**stink in the morning.**

An idle mind is..... **the best way to relax.**

Happy is the bride who.....**gets all the presents.**

A penny saved is.....**not much.**

Laugh and the whole world laughs with you, cry and.....**you have to blow your nose.**

Children should be seen and not....**spanked or grounded.**

When the blind leadeth the blind.....**get out of the way.**