



Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

Newsletter - June 2006

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON SUNDAYS

June 4

PENTECOST & CONFIRMATION

The Easter season is fifty days of rejoicing, and the final day of celebration is Pentecost (which means fiftieth). The color for the day is red – reflecting the flame or fire of the Spirit.

On that 50th day after the first Easter, the Holy Spirit descended with power on the apostles and they began to preach in many different languages to pilgrims from around the ancient world. Their preaching brought many new converts to faith in Jesus. (*Acts 2*)

Since this day celebrates the work of the Spirit and new people joining the first church, it has always been a good occasion for Confirmation.

This year six teenagers will reaffirm the promises of baptism and be confirmed in the faith, becoming adult members of the church.

Dayton Corbiere
Desiree Corbiere
Brian Fitzgerald
Michael Neuse
Nickolas Nystrom
Shelby Saenz

After the 11 a.m. service, you are invited to congratulate them at a reception in Fellowship Hall.

June 11

Holy Trinity & Riverpickers

With the end of the Easter season, we begin a new season in the church year. Sometimes it's simply called the "green season", since the liturgical color is green, symbolizing growth. The Sundays are counted from Pentecost. However, the first (and last) of these green Sundays is a festival.

We begin the season with the festival of the Holy Trinity, which celebrates the revelation of God in three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Our acceptance of this revelation differentiates us from Jews and Muslims –and in that sense defines us as Christians.

This year we celebrate Trinity Sunday with special musical guests: the *Riverpickers*. They play stringed instruments (like dulcimers) that are "picked". The service will have a lot of great music, including some old favorites like *Sweet Hour of Prayer* and *O, How I Love Jesus*. Instrumental music before, during and after the service will include *Old Time Religion*, *I Must Tell Jesus*, and *Morning Has Broken*.

After the service we'll enjoy a light meal with our guests in Fellowship Hall.

June 18

FATHERS' DAY

On the third Sunday in June we'll observe fathers' day so come to church with dad. Being a father isn't easy, so we'll have special prayers for those who are present. We'll also remember in prayer fathers who have gone before us and rest in the Lord.

June 25

Presentation of the Augsburg Confession

If you don't know what the "*Augsburg Confession*" is, then you'd better come to church on the last Sunday in June. Although it was written almost four centuries ago, it still has relevance for church life today. Even Pope Benedict has made reference to it.

Another name you should know is also commemorated on the same day –Philip Melanchthon. While he's not as famous as Martin Luther, he is almost as significant in the history of the church.



Vacation Bible School
July 24 - 28

Where ARE We Headed?

By Bob Schoonover

Every successful business has some type of long range plan to help them focus on the future. Likewise, all churches that experience ongoing growth have a long range plan in place and adhere to it.

For the last two years, LCR has experienced limited growth in all areas, compared to the previous four to five years.

We need to plan for our future. There are a number of areas of concern that need to be addressed. The following four appear at the top of our list, not in any specific order...

Church Mortgage

Four years ago we secured a five year, renewable loan from the Mission Investment Fund, at a six to seven per cent rate. This loan must be renewed in the early part of 2007.

We can do another five year renewable loan, with the same monthly payment of \$3,300.00 per month OR we can secure a 15 to 20 year mortgage with payments of just over \$2,000.00. If we did this we could free up about \$1,000.00 per month to place in a building fund for future use. The congregation needs to make a recommendation as to which way we go.

Membership/Growth

Growth in church membership should be an ongoing process at an annual rate of 15 to 20 members per year at a minimum.

A standing committee (of members outside the council) needs to be formed to address this and put "New Blood" into this. What is being done now is acceptable, but there are many out there looking for a church home

and we need to make them aware of LCR.

An all purpose building

Laura Craig has come up with a number of different building options. These were presented to the council, but no action was taken. Is it not time to hire an architect/building contract to come up with a plan and cost to see if this is something we want to do.

The portables have served their purpose, and the past storm appears to have made one unusable now. To keep them useable will take additional funds. Why not put those funds into a building fund for a better, permanent building?

Day Care

For the past twelve or so years Day Care has been a source of income for the church, but that has changed. In the beginning, we were depended almost totally on Day Care to pay our bills. Now, Day Care has become an additional expense for the church, as we maintain the building for them.

Also, what started out to be a Day Care has now turned into an After School Program, which generates additional funds for day care -- of which we get nothing. Also, the summer program has taken on the look of a summer camp, not a Day Care.

There are a number of ways to approach this. We could redo the contract and make some of these funds available to us. Or, we could take over the after school program. This would generate the same amount of funds we now get from Day Care, plus the big thing: we would RECLAIM our church and be able to use it when we want. With the new elementary school opening in September of 2007 the after school program may be the way to go.

Next...

For each of the four issues identified here, the council needs to appoint a committee chair, let that chair person select a 3-4 person group and give the committee a charge with a time line, and then go from there.

There are probably other areas of importance, but hopefully these four will serve as a start and get members of LCR discussing this.

Let's move on and continue to grow!

Readings during the Green Season

On the third Sunday of June, we'll begin a "continuous reading" of *Mark's Gospel* with chapter 4, verse 26. Back in January, we started reading Mark at chapter 1, but in Lent and Easter most of our reading came from John. Through the summer and early fall we'll read our way through the gospel, usually picking up the reading where we left off the prior week.

So this is a good time to open your bibles and read the second gospel - which is really the oldest gospel. It's the shortest of the four. Personally, I think it could be subtitled *What it was really like to be a disciple of Jesus*. More than the others it gives us insight into their reactions to what Jesus said and did - and how faith and understanding only grow slowly.

On most Sundays the first lesson is somehow related to the gospel while the psalm corresponds to the 1st lesson. What this means is that (1) there is no overall theme for the Sunday; and (2) the theme of the lessons may change from week to week. The basic idea is that we follow Jesus with his disciples and see what he did and said.

For our second lesson we'll read from Paul's 2nd *Letter to the Corinthians*, beginning in chapter 5. (We had read the earlier chapters from this letter at the beginning of the year.) We'll read a selection from each chapter. So if you want the whole story, it would be a good idea to read the entire letter.

Pastor's Page

By Pastor Jeff Lange

The DaVinci Code *The Tip of the Iceberg*

The release of the movie "The DaVinci Code" has brought up the same controversy that surrounded the book. And it has helped make "a perfect storm for religious books", says Lynn Garrett, religious editor of *Publishers Weekly*. "That's especially true right now for books about Jesus, reflecting a continuing fascination with figuring out who he really was."

There has been a general boom in the sales of "Jesus books" that reject or revise Bible teachings, and pose radically different versions of His story. Among the titles that have made it to the best seller list are "*Gospel of Judas*", "*The Lost Gospel*", "*The Jesus Dynasty*", and "*Misquoting Jesus*".

A Beliefnet.com poll suggests that readers are fascinated by alternative Christian histories because they suspect that Christianity as currently practiced is not exactly what Jesus intended.

Would Jesus be disappointed in how Christianity is practiced? In that poll, 19% said the church is too liberal, 24% said too conservative and 11% said too focused on worldly matters. 23% opined that Jesus didn't intend to start a new religion at all. Many believers think something went awry –and Christ wouldn't be happy about it.

So What's the Problem?

Maybe the problem is that most don't know the history of the Bible and the early church. Alternative histories are popular because they provide details about how the New Testament was shaped and the church formed. Most readers have nothing to contrast with the contrarian view. And the

suggestion that there was some kind of conspiracy to suppress some gospels or beliefs adds to the interest.

What's the Answer?

Learn the truth by studying the history.

The development of the New Testament and the history of the early church are well documented. Even the lost or secret gospels are available in books (in some cases incomplete versions) and have always been studied.

The groups on the fringe of the early church that had contrary views are also well known, and have been carefully researched.

What has changed in recent years is that all of this information has been lifted out of church history (and Bible study) courses, and given a life of its own. What was once considered dull by seminary students has been made interesting by new authors.

An Invitation

If this subject sounds at all interesting, then you're invited to join a Tuesday evening study class in June.

We'll look at how the Bible came together –why some books were included and others left out. To counter some of the conspiracy claims, we'll review how the early church was organized and how authority was exercised. And we'll talk about Emperor Constantine's role in the legalization of Christianity –and its reorganization after 325 AD. (DaVinci Code readers will remember Constantine gets a prominent role in the conspiracy theory.)



Tuesdays at 7:00 pm

DaVinci Code – The Answers

You don't have to see the movie to enjoy the class, since we'll be studying early church history and how the new testament came to be.

June 6

What does history really tell us, versus the movie?

June 13

Where did the gospels come from?

June 20

What's the role of women in the Christian Church?

June 27

Jesus is the Son of God -- What difference does that belief make?

The class will provide answers to the questions raised by the movie, and an opportunity to discuss your thoughts with others.

Peter, Paul & Mary Magdalene

This new book is subtitled "*The Followers of Jesus in History and Legend*". Author Bart Ehrman has analyzed the many stories that later admirers told about these three key figures. He includes an amazing variety of stories, including some from the Gnostic and Docetic traditions that were far from main stream Christianity.

His point is that while some of the stories may not be credible (historically accurate), they do tell us a lot about the groups that were on the fringe of the Christian movement. The existence of such groups holding bizarre beliefs led the church to begin to formulate creeds and doctrines. As new beliefs arose, they asked "*what has been believed by most Christians, in most places, since the time of the apostles*". This definition of Christian faith came to be known as the universal (or catholic) faith.

Another response to these diverse beliefs was an emphasis on scripture; i.e. all doctrines must be based on the Bible, as opposed to philosophical speculation. Learning what early Christians said about the foundation of their new religion helps us understand what it meant to be a Christian then - and now.

Sound System at LCR

By Ken Doxtad, Stewardship Team

James 2:17 discusses faith without works, "So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead".

This is a report of the response of generous giving to the sound system. Total contributions have resulted in \$8,000 in the sound system fund. This is approximately 60% of our goal of \$13,000.

The giving to the sound system shows that the congregation of LCR has faith with works.

The response to this need has been tremendous. The responses for past needs have shown the same great spirit of giving. This good congregation has the willingness to help advance God's word and to help other people.

The new sound system will enable us all to better hear the words and music of our Lord here at LCR. We still have more to do to complete our goal of \$13,000, which we need to get the full benefit of the total new sound system.

To the Glory of God, I believe we can reach our goal in a very short time. May God bless us all.

Ladies Night Out

All ladies are welcome to an evening of fellowship for which you don't have to cook. It is an evening of Christian company and good eating beginning at 6:30 pm.

Monday, June 26

Olive Garden
In front of Ingram Park Mall

Monday, July 17

La Madeleine
Huebner Oaks, across from Borders

For more information about Ladies Night Out, please contact Joyce Swartz at 623-2288.

In Memoriam Dave Fallin

Dave passed into eternal life on Friday, May 26, at Saint Luke's Baptist Hospital. His family was with him when he went home to be with the Lord.

A memorial service for Dave will be held on Sunday, June 4, at 4:00 p.m. at the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection.

Dave Fallin Jr. was born October 7, 1927 in Thomasville, GA. to David and Essie Mae Fallin. He was close to his seven sisters and one brother throughout their lives.

Update on Horizon Church and the Daily Bread Ministry

By Rose Barrows

Our partner in the Daily Bread ministry, Horizon Church, has sold their property. They will be meeting temporarily at the Leon Valley Conference Center while they search for a new location.

To maintain the continuity of our service to the needy in our community, LCR will soon become the host site for the weekly distribution of food and other necessary items. The portable building used for this service will be located in the back corner of our parking lot in what is currently labeled as a "No Parking" zone.

This month our members contributed a record \$262 toward this ministry! Thanks and God's blessings to you all. We'll keep you updated.

If you want further information, please talk to Louise Jones or Rose Barrows.

M

Dave quit high school to enlist in the U.S. Navy in 1945, at age 17. He met Norma Bass on a blind date while assigned to the navy Yard in Portsmouth, VA. They married in June 1947.

He transferred to the Air Force Reserve in 1949 and was recalled to active duty in 1951 for the Korean War. He remained on active duty and advanced to the rank of Senior Master Sergeant (E8) prior to his retirement in 1968. Military assignments took him to many places, including Newfoundland, French Morocco, Washington D.C., South Carolina, Illinois, Okinawa and finally, Texas. Dave and Norma decided San Antonio would be home for their family and bought the Shadow Valley house in 1967. It was a happy and warm home.

Dave was always quick to make friends, put others at ease and assist someone in need. His easy going way and friendly personality were comforting and contagious. Many young people thought of him as their "second Dad".

Dave and Norma attended LCR shortly after daughter, Tonia, and her family joined in 1990. Norma attended until her unexpected passing in 1994, just before their 47th wedding anniversary.

Dave continued to make many contributions to LCR and most often made good things happen from "behind the scenes", although on one occasion he was persuaded to step into the spotlight and play the part of Hermes in the 1993 "Walk Through Jerusalem". He did a great job!

In 1999, Dave invited Joyce Swartz to visit LCR for the "Bring a Friend to Church Sunday" and that was the beginning of a beautiful relationship for his remaining years.

God blessed Dave Fallin, and made him a blessing to all of us.

A Letter of Thanks

Dear Pastor Jeff and LCR Family,

Thank you very much for the loving and caring support you gave to our mother, Elise Seeholzer, during her lengthy illness. She enjoyed your cards and visits, and she knew you were praying for her, which always lifted her spirits.

We also deeply appreciate the outpouring of support given to our family upon her death. The offers of food, the cards, visits, flowers, phone calls and attendance at her funeral service showed the number of friends she had at LCR... and that is a blessing to us.

Pastor Jeff was always attentive to Elise's and our needs, which helped so much. She enjoyed the musicians of the church coming to visit her at the nursing home, and she toe tapped along with their spirited music!

She loved God and she loved this congregation. Again, thank you so much. God bless you all.

*Mary Ranney
Elise Hammond
Helen Edler*

Congratulations Graduates

This week marks the end of a school year for most of the students in our congregation. Along with the ending comes a new beginning for several of our young people—Graduation!

We'd like to congratulate the following young people on a job well done, and wish them luck in the future.

Whitney Faile

Daughter of Tonia and Gary Faile
John Marshall High School
Whitney is planning to work for awhile before entering college.

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

- 5 - Tim & Jennifer Randleman
- 19 - Bob & Jan Schoonover
Gary & Tonia Faile
- 26 - Carly & Kurt Montgomery
- 28 - Bill & Jan Nobiling

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Jonathan Hernandez

Son of Linda Nicholas
William Taft High School
Jonathan will attend Stephen F Austin State University, Nacogdoches, Texas in the fall.

Micah Jenkins

Son of Keith and Pat Jenkins
School of Excellence
Micah will begin his studies this fall at San Antonio College.

Justin Linaberry

Son of Bonnie and Mike Linaberry
John Marshall High School
Justin will attend the Hallmark Institute.

Congratulations also go to Bruce Fitzgerald III

Son of Bruce Fitzgerald Jr. and Laura McFall
U.S. Marine Corps Boot Camp
San Diego, CA
Bruce will be going to North Carolina for training following a short leave at home.



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

- 1 - Rick Skidd
Molly Cude
Andrea Hemenway
- 9 - Carly Montgomery
Vicky Whitaker
- 14 - Ophelia Lastra
- 17 - Steve Cichonsky
- 18 - Travis Hayden
- 20 - Robert Lopez
Rod Chisholm
- 22 - Carol Reaves

Date	Deacon	Lector	Communion Assistants
June 4	Mareta Gochee	Jane Martinez	Sean and Marie McMaughan
June 11	Sean McMaughan	Carly Montgomery	Mareta Gochee Bob Schoonover
June 18	Rick Barrows	John Craig	Sean McMaughan Dean Winter
June 25	Tonia Faile	Joyce Swartz	Erik and Ellen Nystrom
July 2	Mareta Gochee	Michael Forbes	Tonia Faile Rick Barrows

Date	Ushers	Greeters	Altar Guild	Sunday Church Cleaners	Saturday Church Cleaners
June 4	Roy Ronnfeldt Ted Berquam	Joyce Swartz Margie Perales	Jeannette Smith Janie Saenz	1st Sunday Pat Jenkins	2nd Sat. June 10 Volunteer Needed
June 11	Stephanie Pepo John Schwab	Rita Gochee Janie Saenz	Margie Perales Jane Martinez	2nd Sunday Ophelia Lastra	3rd Sat. June 17 T. Faile & J. Swartz
June 18	Bill & Bonnie Howells	Helen Rauch Audrey Trautman	Tony & Bess Teschendorf	3rd Sunday Ken & Janice Doxtad	4th Sat. June 24 Bob Schoonover
June 25	The Jenkins Family	The Nystroms	Lorena Guerrero Juanita Talamantes	4th Sunday Jane Martinez	