



Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

Newsletter - September 2007

Spaghetti Luncheon

*After Worship
Sunday, September 23*

The Fellowship Committee is inviting you all to be their guests at an Italian luncheon after the service on the fourth Sunday of the month. It's their way of thanking you for your support of our other fellowship events during the year.

We hope our visitors and newer members especially will join us for lunch so they can get to know more of the members. Sitting at a table is a good time for conversation.

What did Jesus do after worship at the synagogue - the Jewish church? He went to lunch with a group and the gospels record a variety of people at those meals. And the conversation was interesting.

The early church continued the custom of worship and then a meal. So, staying for a fellowship lunch is almost part of the worship service from the beginning. Mark your calendar and plan to join us on the 23rd.

Help Wanted:

Church Cleaners & Bulletin Preparation

*Wonderful details
on Page 2*

What do you really like about your church?

And why is that important?

There are probably many different answers to that first question, depending on who you ask. But if a small group of members were to talk it over, a few things would probably stand out.

But why do we want to know? Because what you, our members, value most about our ministry and life together defines who we are. Thus, it's a way of identifying our strengths so that we can build on them – the things we're capable of and are good at. It's a means of focusing our attention on our potential as we look forward to the future.

Second, we'd like to know what attracted you to our church and got you to join. That's a way of learning how we might attract others in the future. It will help us to communicate with others about our church, letting them know some of the positive things about our ministry here.

Talking About Your Church

We'll be inviting you to attend an informal, small gathering of members and have a conversation about our church. The conversation will be organized around a discussion guide with a few leading questions, such as...

1. What or who first brought you to Resurrection?
2. Why did you decide to join?

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Serving Schedules

Help Wanted: Bulletin Preparation

While we have faithful volunteers who collate, fold, and staple the Sunday bulletins, we are in need of someone who could put the "original" together on their computer. It's basically a "cut and paste" task, but using computer files instead of scissors and paste.

Files of hymns, services and even the Bible are readily available in the church office - but could easily be transferred to your computer, should you choose to volunteer.

How big a job is it? Probably at least two hours (if you're technically challenged, like the pastor). If you'd like to know more about this opportunity, please speak to Pastor Jeff.

A sincere "thank you" to everyone who helped make Vacation Bible School a big success.

VBS is a lot of work, and we did it! There were about 55 people who served as teachers, helpers, workers, contributors, cooks, set-up and clean-up staff, and in other ways, too. We thank everyone who helped and contributed – and everyone who invited and brought children. It's really good to see so many members of all ages working together.

Go to our website and check out the pictures of our VBS. The snap shots of the opening show our church almost full – children, teens and adults. There were 31 children and 15 teens – and also a lot of adults. More than half the children were visitors and friends.

Thanks to you all !!!

Help Wanted: Church Cleaners

Our current "cleaning staff" includes about 15 members (individuals or families). However, with some recent retirements, we have a few openings.

On Saturday, it takes an hour or two to vacuum the sanctuary, clean windows and check the bath rooms. The volunteers clean once every other month. We could use two more "Every Other Month Saturday Church Cleaners".

On Sunday after worship it takes about an hour to straighten up things, clean out the coffee pot and vacuum fellowship hall. We could also use two more "Every Other Month Sunday Cleaners".

By the time you read this, our Property Chairman will be far away on vacation. So if you might like to have your name added to the honor role of cleaners, please speak to Pastor Jeff. He'll thank you profusely, answer questions and pass your name on to Ted.

ABOUT YOUR CHURCH

Continued from Page 1

3. Why have you stayed at Resurrection - what aspects of the congregation's life bind you to us?

4. Are there other aspects of our life and ministry that are also important to you?

A "recorder" at each gathering would make notes so that we could construct a picture of our church as our members see it. That in turn tells us what is important to us – and identifies the strengths we have to build on.

By the time you read this, some group conversations will have already taken place. We'll announce opportunities to talk about your church in the Sunday bulletin.

ELCA National Meeting

The Tenth Biennial Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) acted on a variety of topics, including:

- * affirmation of the five-year initiative, "*Book of Faith: Lutherans Read the Bible*," a commitment to immerse ourselves in Scripture
- * celebration of the hunger ministry of the ELCA and the growing support for this ministry which reaches \$20 million annually
- * a social statement on education
- * the ELCA's financial future

The assembly acted on proposals regarding social concerns such as HIV and AIDS, the situation in Darfur, Sudan, the Iraq War, military veterans, and the conflict in the Holy Land.

The assembly made no change in the church's standards regarding homosexuality. That standard is that practicing homosexuals can not be ordained. Pastors in a homosexual relationship are subject to church discipline, and the discipline is usually removal from the ministry (defrocked). The church does not permit pastors to bless same sex unions.

However, the assembly did pass a resolution, after a long debate, asking bishops to "*demonstrate restraint in disciplining*" pastors and congregations who have violated the rules. This one resolution has caused a lot of controversy – and was the only action of the assembly to get any publicity. Although currently there are no 'sentencing guidelines', many feel that some bishops will demonstrate too much restraint in applying discipline. This subject will probably be raised again at the next meeting in two years.

Louise's Class Sunday Morning 9:30 - 10:30

Adult class led by Louise Jones
In the back classroom

Now studying Matthew

Jesus' intent wasn't to bring peace to the earth but peace to our hearts.

We develop this peace through the study of God's word, prayer, discussion and fellowship. This, in turn, leads us down the path of spiritual growth.

Spiritual growth is exciting. We discover it through Group Bible study, which involves mutual learning from one another. Our Bible is an inexhaustible resource. In group study, many eyes see many things that can be applied to life situations.

This is our goal for the study of Matthew on Sunday mornings. Our door is always open for anyone to join us in our Sunday morning spiritual journey.

*In Christ's love,
Louise Jones*

Children's Classes Sunday Morning 9:30 - 10:30

Location depending on age...
Ask around for where to go

While the adults are in their Bible study classes, the children are busy learning about the Bible, too. Classes are led by different members of the congregation, and are both fun and educational for the children. For more information, contact Pat Hemenway or Pastor Jeff.

Dean's Class Sunday Morning 9:30 - 10:30

Adult class led by Pastor & Dean
In Fellowship Hall

*The Good Book - Reading the
Bible with Mind & Heart*

Join Pastor Jeff & Dean Winter on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am as they lead a discussion of the book by Pastor Peter J. Gomes, "The Good Book - Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart."

Here is how Pastor Gomes describes his book: "The theme of this book is the risk and the joy of the Bible: risk in that we might get it wrong, and joy in the discovery of the living Word becoming flesh. It is around this theme that I formulate three basic questions which the thoughtful reader brings to the Bible: What is it? How is it used? What does it have to say to me?"

Join us as we wrestle with how to draw from the Bible lessons to apply to contemporary problems and issues in our own lives.

Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays, 6:30 pm
at Louise Jones' house

Wednesday night is the highlight of the week for some of us. Presently, we are studying Isaiah's Prophecies and correlating them with New Testament scripture -- an exciting study.

New members are always welcome to share God's Word with us. Contact Louise Jones for more information, 681-2830.



Building Committee Report

By Bennie Wehmeyer

Progress has been at a slow pace for the Building Committee this summer. Most of our time has been spent just waiting while the folks at Mission Investment Fund (MIF) prepared preliminary plans for the new building.

In July, Bill Benzinger of MIF sent us three different preliminary floor plan drawings for the new building. He also forwarded two different elevation sketches. One of these used the same roof pitch as the sanctuary and for the other he used a pitch that made the height of the new building only as high as the existing structure.

The committee reviewed these drawings and then we returned them to Bill Benzinger with our comments and suggestions. We also sent along a floor plan drawing of our own that he can use to get a better idea of our needs.

The committee is presently waiting on the second draft from Bill. When those plans arrive (hopefully in the next few days) we will meet again and try to determine what it will cost to construct such a structure. We need to have that figure in hand before we can go on to the next step in the process.

Pastor's Page

By Pastor Jeff Lange

We continue our "Walk with Jesus"

In our "continuous reading" of Luke's gospel, we're getting close to Jerusalem and Jesus is thinking of what he must face there. He says the standard for being His disciple is high; *Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.* Then he says you should *count the cost* before you make a commitment. (September 9, Luke 14:25f)

For the second lesson, we'll read from the shortest of St. Paul's Letters. *Do you know which one it is?*

On the next Sunday (September 16), we'll listen to Jesus tell two parables – one very familiar and the other less so. You've seen stained glass windows and pictures of Jesus, the good shepherd, but not one of the woman sweeping the floor. (If you don't get that reference, read Luke 15:1-10) The lessons for that Sunday are all about repentance and forgiveness – and joy.

Then on September 23rd, it's the Parable of the Dishonest Steward (Luke 16:1-13). At first reading it is disturbing, for Jesus uses as an example a man who is clearly dishonest – some would call him a crook. Yet Jesus says there is something about him worth imitating.

As part of the sermon, I'll define the word "steward", implying that we are

stewards, for everything we have ultimately comes from God and has been entrusted by Him to us.

In the same chapter, Jesus tells the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31) which we'll read on September 30th. The rich man is condemned to Hades because he selfishly used what he had just for himself, ignoring the needs of those less fortunate. Remember, last week we learned that we're all stewards of what God has entrusted to us. The parable implies that the Lord does hold us accountable for what he has entrusted to us.

Yes, in this part of the gospel – as Jesus gets closer to Jerusalem – he seems to become more demanding. In the next couple of Sundays He'll say we are servants who are expected to do their duty. Then he'll talk about being grateful: A saving faith is a grateful faith.

One of the reasons we read the gospels in church the way we do – just picking up this week where we stopped last Sunday – is to get the whole message. It's easy to be selective – and only read the portions of Jesus' sayings we like, skipping over any in which Jesus makes demands. But by just following the Master in our readings, we realize that He would be our Lord – and that He does make demands of us.

On Monday of that week, He pronounced divine judgment on the Temple itself, declaring it corrupt. With the authority of God, he overturned the tables of the

money changers – drove out those who bought and sold. After that cleansing, he treats the temple as His own base of operations.

In His teaching, he spoke as Lord and king throughout that week, all the way to the cross. We have listened to Jesus – to the truth. And he told us the truth about ourselves - and the truth about what God expects from us.

"Sin" & "Sins" Only a Grammatical Point?

Have you ever noticed the shift back and forth between the singular and the plural in the opening prayers? Did you realize that the difference is more than just singular (one sin) and plural (many sins)?

When the plural "sins" is used, the obvious is meant. All those thoughts, words and deeds that are contrary to God's law, as explained by Jesus - the particular sins of commission (what we have done) and omission (what we failed to do). A synonym for sins is transgressions - stepping over the boundary set by God.

But in the opening prayer, the singular "sin" doesn't mean a single mistake. Rather it describes a condition: *We are in bondage to sin.* In other words, our particular sins are simply symptoms of a bigger disease. Hence we say, we

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cannot free ourselves from that disease of sin.

There is a dark power or reality beyond myself that leads me naturally to go my way rather than God's way. *The very thing I know I should not do, I somehow end up doing.* (A paraphrase of St. Paul) I'm not just a sinner because I sin, but I sin because I'm a sinner.

What difference does it make?

The view the prayers seem to **argue against** is "If I'm a sinner only because I sin, then if I could stop sinning I wouldn't be a sinner anymore." If sins simply are the result of my momentary mistakes, I should be able to correct them and stop sinning. If I just try hard enough, then I can be holy. But I don't think that works - at least it didn't for me or St. Paul - and he probably tried harder than I do.

But if, as the prayers and the Bible imply, sin is a disease that has infected all of us, then we can't make it by trying harder. If you're sick, you need a doctor. The physician who specializes in that "sin disease" (or is it an epidemic), is Dr. Jesus.

The point is *If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves* - If you think you're not "sin-positive" - then you're kidding yourself. Those individual sins are symptoms of a bigger problem that we can't solve on our own - we really need the Lord's help.

So in the opening prayers, we're not only confessing last week's mistakes, but we're also acknowledging that we have a problem with sin that we can't work out all on our own. So we begin the service by saying, "Jesus, we really need your help". Yes, I need forgiveness for last week, but I also need God's help for this week. So after hearing a word of forgiveness, I stay for the rest of the service to get some help by listening to God's word, by singing and praying, and by coming to communion for renewed strength.

Feedback for the Church Council

How your voice can be heard

If you have an idea you'd like to share, we'd like to hear it. It could be a suggestion - something you think your church should be doing, but isn't. Or maybe it's even something you don't like that's just been bothering you. Whether it's constructive criticism or a suggested improvement, we have a way for you to pass it on - and be heard. We believe it is a process that will strengthen the church as the body of Christ, reminding us that all members of the body are of equal value and importance. We'd like to know what you believe would help us move forward in our mission. The process has three steps:

1. Please speak to either Pastor Jeff (681-4750) or Ken Doxtad, our president, (863-3447) and share your thoughts with one of them. Think of it as godly conversation about your church. Then they'll suggest what to do next. While in a few cases they may be able to handle it, perhaps with additional conversation, in most cases they'll make arrangements for step two.

2. In most cases they'll schedule a half hour meeting with Ken, Pastor Jeff and a member of the council. Often your suggestion will deal with an area assigned to a specific council member, so together we can discuss your thoughts and hopefully answer your concern. However, there may be cases where you decide that you'd like to proceed to the next step.

3. If you wish, your suggestion or concern can be presented to the council. It can be listed on the agenda for discussion and you may (or may not) participate if you wish to do so. There may be occasions when more than one member has raised a similar issue; then they can be consolidated into one agenda item.

The point of the process is to allow individual members to provide input - both positive and negative - to the church council. It is an opportunity for you to express your feelings and thoughts - for your voice to be heard.



Jesus In Charge

By Bob Schoonover

And God placed all things under (Jesus') feet and appointed him to be head over everything in the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

Ephesians 1:22-23

The author speaks about Jesus being the head of the church. We can imagine that there may have been some leaders who were acting as if they were in charge and that perhaps some one needed to remind them who really was in charge, that person being Jesus.

If we read Ephesians closely we see that Jesus is not only head over the church but indeed Jesus is head over all things for the sake of the church. What might it mean that Jesus is head over all things FOR the church?

In today's context we hear it as a reminder that the church has been established to be a servant presence in our world. God has not gifted us with the HOLY SPIRIT so that we can be the moral police or the judge and jury of sin and brokenness among us. NO, God has called us to be a people who declare forgiveness of sins and embody God's love, peace, and acceptance of all.

Let us remember, Jesus is in charge so we are set free to love and be loved. Jesus is in charge so that it's OK if we forgive the unforgivable. Jesus is in charge so we can let go of our fears and anxieties and submit our lives to his gracious leading. Jesus is head over everything for our sake SO THAT we can know and embody God's kingdom in our world today—now that is GOOD NEWS.

Stewardship Campaign

By Bob Schoonover

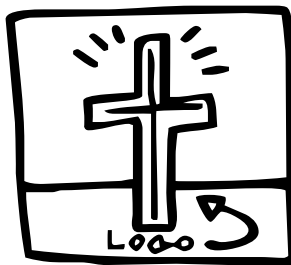
The 2007 Stewardship campaign at LCR will run from October 28th (Inspirational Sunday) until November 18th (Celebration Sunday!). The theme for this year's program is taken from Galatians 5:22-23 and Matthew 7:24.

The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

And Matthew 7:24, *Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.*

Look for the Rainbows depicting God's love throughout the campaign.

Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable -- if anything is excellent or praiseworthy -- think about such things. Phil 4:8



Fundraiser for Rare Disease

Do you know what ataxia telangiectasia is?

Can you run 63 marathons in 63 days?

Ataxia telangiectasia (A-T) is a rare, progressive, neurodegenerative childhood disease that affects the brain and other body systems. The first signs of the disease, which include delayed development of motor skills, poor balance, and slurred speech, usually appear during the first decade of life.

A-T has an unfortunate local connection in that San Antonio residents Amy and David Madison have three children with A-T: Braun, 26, Jamie, 24 & Andy, 20. Since A-T doesn't manifest itself for several years, the Madisons did not know about A-T until after their three children were born.

The "A-T River Run" is a non-profit fundraiser and awareness activity for A-T (Ataxia Telangiectasia). There is a 5K run, a 1K run, an auction, entertainment and other activities. Families and friends of all ages are welcome. The sign-up fee for participants 12 and over is \$25, but runners can seek sponsors for additional support. Children under 12 are free but can still be sponsored as a runner or participant. You can sign-up on-line (<https://www.communityatcp.org/NETCOMMUNITY/SSLPage.aspx?&pid=198&srcid=321&tab=2>) or see Dean Winter for more details.

The event takes place the morning of Sept. 22 at the Rockin' R, which is in Gruene on the Guadalupe River. As part of the run, Tim Borland, a long-distance runner, is running 63 marathons in 63 days to raise funds for AT - and break some world records in the process. He starts at Disneyland's Minnie Marathon and ends at the New York Marathon. The A-T River Run is the local event for the national A-T Children's Project (www.atcp.org).

Ladies Night Out is BACK

Monday, Sept. 24, 6:30 pm

Summer is leaving and the kids are back in school and it's time for the ladies to resume our monthly 'get-togethers'.

On September 24, we will be going to the Casa Real, located at 6868 Ingram Road (right next to Chuck E. Cheese at 410 and Ingram Rd). In October we will be going to the Acadiana.

You do NOT have to be a church member to join us. Please bring friends.

See you at 6:30 pm each time!

For questions, recommendations, suggestions, etc. please call Joyce at 623-2288.

ANNIVERSARIES

JULY

- 4 - Bob & Mary Ranney
- 5 - Rod & Marge Chisholm
- 7 - Doug Olson & Mary Blackbore
- 10 - Bill & Laurie Grace
- 19 - Bernard & Jennifer Arulanandam
- 22 - Bill & Laura Craig

AUGUST

- 1 - Dean & Jenny Winter

Please tell Sue (below) if you know of any additions or corrections to these lists.

Newsletter Editor :

Sue Pichotta 641-7717
sue@icons-icons.com

BIRTHDAYS

JULY

- 1 - Bruce Fitzgerald III
- 6 - Ashley Hemenway
- 9 - Sandy Cichonsky
- 12 - Juanita Talamantes
- 13 - Helen Aude Bob Curtis
- 18 - Nicholas Hernandez Ellen Nystrom
- 19 - Sharon Smulders
- 23 - Charles Teas
- 26 - Justin Hemenway
- 27 - Jennifer Arulanandam
- 31 - Erik Nystrom John Schwab

AUGUST

- 5 - George Autobee
- 8 - Citlalli Escamilla
- 9 - Kathy Schwab
- 12 - Russ McFall
- 17 - Cathy Hayden
- 22 - Rick Barrows Laura Deckert
- 26 - Daniel Schauer
- 27 - Maria Reyes
- 30 - Micah Jenkins
- 31 - Rob Hayden David Hammond

SEPTEMBER

- 1 - Marion Wehmeyer
- 2 - Jonathon Hernandez
- 3 - Bennie Wehmeyer
- 4 - Laura Craig Elizabeth Rupert
- 9 - Diane Talamantes
- 10 - Sally Schwab
- 11 - Marguerite Hammond
- 15 - BW Schurade
- 18 - Paul Conti
- 19 - Ronnie Oldham
- 22 - Roy Ronnfeldt
- 26 - Dorothy Rieger
- 29 - Erica Deckert

Date	Deacon	Lector	Communion Assistants	Basket Carriers
Sept. 2	Tonia Faile	John Craig	Dean Winter Bob Schoonover	Kayla & Elena
Sept. 9	Sean McMaughan	Ophelia Lastra	Tonia Faile Mark Laneman	Beverly & Kattia
Sept. 16	Bob Schoonover	Dorris Curtis	Sean McMaughan Carly Montgomery	Elena & Laila
Sept. 23	Dean Winter	Jenny Winter	Tonia Faile Mark Laneman	Kattia & Grace
Sept. 30	Erik Nystrom	Joyce Swartz	Dean Winter Carly Montgomery	Beverly & Kayla
Oct. 7	Tonia Faile	Mary Ranney	Erik & Ellen Nystrom	TBA

Date	Ushers	Greeters	Altar Guild	Sunday Church Cleaners	Saturday Church Cleaners
Sept. 2	Tony & Bess Teschendorf	Valda Towles Janie Saenz	Jeanette Smith Janie Saenz	1st Sunday Margie Perales	
Sept. 9	Stephanie Pepo Tom Robinson	Jeanette Smith Helen Rauch	Margie Perales Jane Martinez	2nd Sunday Volunteer Needed	2nd Sat. Sept 8 Bernie & Dee Schurade
Sept. 16	Corbiere Family	Mary Ranney & Mary Tate	Tony & Bess Teschendorf	3rd Sunday Lorena Guerrero	3rd Sat. Sept 15 The Schwabs
Sept. 23	Bernie & Joe Schurade	Ken & Janice Doxtad	Diane & Juanita Talamantes	4th Sunday Juanita Talamantes	4th Sat. Sept. 22 Bill & Laurie Grace
Sept. 30	Josh Miller Andrea Hemenway	Erik & Ellen Nystrom	Check with Lorena	5th Sunday Laura Craig	5th Sat. Sept. 29 Dean Winter