

# THE CHRONICLES

*Lutheran Church of the Resurrection*

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Pastor: Jennifer Fuhr  
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August, 2011

While I was reading my devotional book, “*Elogos: Daily Devotions for Down to Earth Disciples*”, this one struck me as interesting. What do you think?

Luke 14:14 “*And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.*”

The process of gift-giving is one laden with social rules one of which is feeling the necessity to return the favor. When we are given a gift sometimes we feel uncomfortable with the inequity of the relationship and we look for a way to “pay it back.” Then it becomes more like a business deal that can end at any moment than a friendship meant to last forever. We can never pay back what Christ has done for us. There is nothing we can do to equal the gift of the cross. To receive it is all we can do and what discomfort we feel at the enormity of God’s grace is best spent as energy to work for justice for the sake of others. By living a life of thanksgiving, we acknowledge the gift without trying to equal it.

First I went and looked at what was going on in Luke 14 and found that this one verse was pulled out of the story where Jesus was eating at a Pharisee’s home when he witnessed the guests picking places of honor to sit for the banquet feast. Jesus pointed out that they should not take places of honor but seats of humility. Jesus said, “When you give a luncheon or dinner, do not invite your friends, your brothers or relatives, or your rich neighbors....but invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed.” These are the ones that cannot repay.

We have to understand that status in ancient world was exhibited and reinforced in the way they lived, clothes they wore, how food was distributed by the Roman government, etc. People knew their place in society; who they were and where they belonged. Here Jesus continues to reinforce a different picture of the kingdom, a different order of things in God’s kingdom. As we continue to be possessed with the pecking order of things in neighborhoods, churches, welfare system, education system, and all of society, Jesus is calling into question the way in which we order the world.

In Christ, we are called to a different way of thinking. So I ask, what is it that moves us as we live in the enormity of God’s grace? How are we working for justice for the sake of others and not in the pecking order of society? Someone reminded me the other day that Christians use “love your neighbor as yourself” as the golden rule. He pointed out to me that we often get the message that loving your neighbor AS yourself means loving your neighbor AFTER yourself. How long do we make people wait for us to share love?

This is a great request. This is an enormous responsibility. This is a challenge to face, personally and communally. Any thoughts? Let me know. Bible Study (devotions) is not always meant to be a one-sided conversation; what do you think?

My prayer: Here is my life, Lord, let it vibrate with ‘thank you’ all my days as you help us to love our neighbor and trust you with ourselves. Amen.

Peace and Joy –  
**Pastor Jennifer**

*"I do not understand the mystery of grace; only that it finds us where we are but will not leave us there."*  
~Anne Lamott

### **NEW MEMBER BLESSING & RECEPTION**

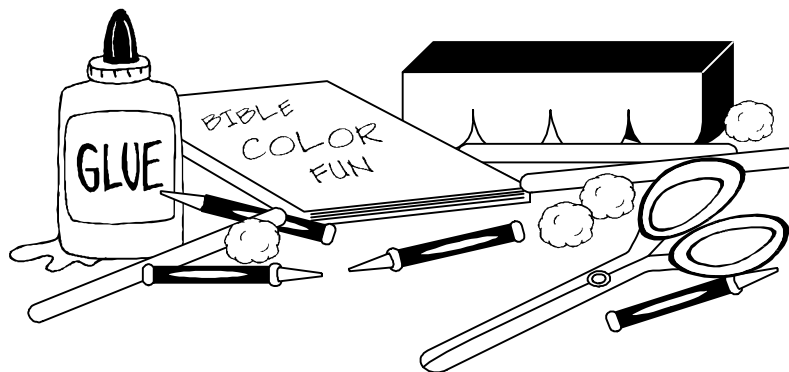
Please be sure to join the LCR family on **Sunday, August 7<sup>th</sup>** as we welcome new members Blaine Nelson and Jerry & Dorothy Tasian to the LCR family.

### **MILESTONE MINISTRY**

**BACKPACK BLESSING** - Yes, it is that time again when school starts and new life transitions begin in our lives as well as in those around us. On **Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>** we will honor this milestone in the lives of our young people as well as adults in our midst. Those attending school are asked to bring their backpacks, lunch pails, binders, or whatever it is they carry to school each day. Adults are asked to bring whatever they need for their daily vocation – laptop, briefcase, Blackberry, iPhone, bag of quilting or knitting materials, work/tool belt, bag of books to read, your favorite pen, etc. This vocational blessing is for everyone! After all, Jesus goes with us to school, our workplace, our home, our neighborhood – anywhere we go.

We will ask God to use our supplies, our equipment, our hands and feet to help the world, and that we would keep God in the center in all that we do and learn.

**HONORING AN ANNIVERSARY** --- On **Sunday, August 28<sup>th</sup>** we will honor and celebrate with James & Victoria Hollinger on their 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. Please join us for fellowship after worship.



### **BACK TO SCHOOL FIESTA**

We thank everyone who contributed financial assistance to LCR reaching their goal of giving \$450 to this great community effort. If you are interested in helping to serve with your hands and feet at the Fiesta on **Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup>**, please contact Pastor Jennifer or Vicki McCuiston at Barnabas Connection. There is work to be done on Thursday, Friday and Saturday as we prepare and serve over 500 students in the area.

## DEER CREEK DEVOTIONS

On **Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup>** LCR will be leading the Deer Creek Worship Service at 3:30pm. All are welcome to come and join in this time of prayer and devotion.

## NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING MEETING

Yes, the 2012 National Youth Gathering is right around the corner. All youth and their parents (youth currently in 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) are invited to attend an **open meeting** about this event on **Sunday, August 21<sup>st</sup> @ 11:00am** (immediately after worship). We need to begin now to get an idea if this is an event we would like to attend as well as see who might be interested in going. We have to begin to register in September! The National Gathering will be July 18-22, 2012 in New Orleans.

WHY GO BACK? IN 2009, 37,000 ELCA YOUNG PEOPLE SHOWED UP IN NEW ORLEANS READY TO HELP REBUILD A STRUGGLING CITY. THEY COMPLETED SERVICE PROJECTS -- PAINTED, TOOK OUT TRASH, RAKED, CLEANED AND MADE REPAIRS. BUT THEY ALSO MADE HUMAN CONNECTIONS. THEY LEARNED ABOUT HOSPITALITY AND HOW PEOPLE OVERCAME ANXIETY WITH AN UNWAVERING FAITH. THEY BEGAN A JOURNEY THAT TRAVELS FAR BEYOND HAMMERING NAILS; A JOURNEY THAT THE PEOPLE OF NEW ORLEANS ARE ANXIOUS TO CONTINUE. THAT'S WHY THE ELCA YOUTH GATHERING IS GOING BACK TO NEW ORLEANS IN 2012. WE HAVE THE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTINUE THE GOOD WORK IN A PLACE WHERE EVERYBODY KNOWS US AS THE "ORANGE SHIRT" PEOPLE. A PLACE THAT WANTS TO HAVE US BACK AND STILL HAS MORE TO TEACH US.

Parents and Youth --- Mark your calendars for this informational meeting and plan to attend the National Gathering in 2012!



## PARENTS NIGHT OUT!

The youth of LCR are treating parents of younger children to a night out on Thursday, August 18!

We will have a movie for the children and also games. So, parents make your plans and leave your little ones with us at 6:30 (or later).

This gives us one way to thank the congregation for all the support they have given to youth. Of course, some adults will also be there to assist the youth.

Make your plans!

## HAMILTON POOL – CONFIRMATION DAY

This event is for the youth in our Confirmation Tribe that will be confirmed on October 31<sup>st</sup> (LCR – Nick Merkord, Sam Ellisor, & Ryley Dove). We will be heading to Hamilton Pool on **Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am to 1:00pm**. We will hike, swim, eat, worship and share fellowship. This is an important event as we will celebrate with one another this milestone in your lives. More information will be sent via email in the coming weeks.

## Prayer List

We continue to pray for all who are ill and recovering and receiving treatments or testing and for Betty Spickler, Pam Longoria, Hugh Ellington, Jim Valentine (father of Jason Valentine), Marjorie Weir (mother of Ron Weir), Dot Currie (sister of Dirk Dierking), Aiden Pederson (friend of Lois Hickman), Chase Hutchinson (grand-nephew of Brenda Moore), Chelsea Livingston (granddaughter of Dorcy Rhea), Samatha Stotland (friend of Brenda Moore), Melissa Larson (daughter of Dorcy Rhea), Colleen Toppett and all care givers that devote their time to care for those they love.

Please be in prayer for our family and friends who are serving our country either stateside or overseas. Pray daily for peace in our world, particularly in Libya and the Middle East, and for all who suffer the consequences of war. We continue to pray for those who are hungry and for those who serve them. Please be in prayer for the Lord to replenish the earth as He sees fit. We also lift in prayer the families that are struggling with separation and divorce. We pray for those affected by tornadoes, floods, earthquakes, wind and dust storms as well as fires.

### **WE CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH! THANK YOU TO.....**

A huge "Thank You" for everyone who helped to make the 4th of July Parade a success. Bunky and Doris for organizing all that needed to be done prior to the parade. The Raska family, without your help and use of your boat our float entry would never have made it into the Parade! Brandon and Natalie for helping with the decorating and riding on our float. Thank you to all who help with decorating and/or donating candy and water to hand out during the parade! It was great to see LCR as one of three churches in the parade. Brenda Moore

Dear Friends in Christ,

The family of Bill Johnson wants to thank all the people who helped to make the Memorial Service for Bill a wonderful day. I would try to name all of them, but I'm afraid I would miss someone. We thank the people who set up and cleaned up, the people who baked so many wonderful things and the fruit that was on the table. We appreciated the special take home plates you made for us, they indeed came in handy. We thank the people who came to church from far and near and those who helped with the service and the placing of pictures and arrangements. We are greatly blessed with great friends and neighbors.

Blessings to all of you,  
Paula Johnson

### **HILL COUNTRY WINE TOUR**

Mark your calendars for this event: **September 25**. We will be leaving right after service and caravan to several of the Hill Countries amazing wineries. Our stops will include but are not limited to: Wimberley Winery, Texas Hills Winery, Becker Winery, and Pedernales Winery. We'll have "Linner" in Fredricksberg. Look for the sign-up sheet at the information table in the Narthex. Any questions, talk to Brenda Moore.

## MEXICAN TRAIN

An event that takes place each month at the church – and is open to all who wish to come and join the fun. In case you aren't aware – this is a dominoes game. If you've never heard of it and wish to learn – come and join us. Whether you are an expert or a beginner – you will fit right in with this crowd of LCR folks. We play on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, beginning at 1:00 pm. The next play date is **August 18<sup>th</sup>**. If you would like to be on the e-mail list of dates, please contact Shirley Schliessmann.

## BEING STEWARDS OF GOD'S MONEY....

### May

#### General Fund –

Total Giving \$7,858  
Expenditures \$9,653

Mission Plan \$8,500

#### Building Fund -

Total Giving \$1,570

Mission Plan \$1,821

### June

#### General Fund –

Total Giving \$6,955  
Expenditures \$10,079

Mission Plan \$7,500

#### Building Fund -

Total Giving \$1,780

Mission Plan \$1,821

*Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all you produce. (Proverbs 3:9)*

### September - Mark Your Calendars! – Watch for more details later.

11 – Rally Sunday

18 – Education Hour begins at 9:00am for all children and adults.

Deer Creek Devotions @ 3:30pm

25 – Wine Tour after worship

\*\*Confirmation begins this month. Please be in prayer for our Tribal Churches as we continue to partner in Christian Education.

	<i>Happy Birthday</i>				Happy Anniversary
08-08	Parker Tise	08-13	Lynn Raska	08-05	Mike & Shirley Schliessmann
08-09	Robin Ellerman	08-14	Jerry Tasian	08-12	Brandon & Emily Merkord
08-10	Jan Erlandson	08-20	Tyler Turk	08-18	Scott & Linda Snyder
08-12	Carol Dierking	08-26	Jennifer Fuhr	08-23	James & Victoria Hollinger
08-12	Carrie Valentine	08-30	Doris King	08-24	Danny & Lois Hickman
08-13	Sylvia Banks				
			CONGRATULATIONS !	Note: If we missed your special day or printed it incorrectly, please notify the church office...	

## VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

		7	14	21	28	
Readers	10:00	Angie Rose	Doris King	Beverly Ladzinski	Melinda Ellisor	
Worship Assistant	10:00	Colleen Kaye	Lois Hickman	Dirk Dierking	Jim Ellisor	
Acolytes	10:00	Hannah Raska	Colten Kilpatrick	Natalie Merkord	Sam Ellisor	
Ushers	10:00	H. Mettenbrink & J. Valentine	Kilpatricks	J. Bradshaw & B. Merkord	Krachts	
Child Care	10:00	Madelyn Raska	Delayne Leonard	Natalie and Emily Merkord	Hannah Raska	
Hospitality	10:00	Angie Rose	Dianne Kilpatrick	Joan Mohr	Brenda Moore	
Altar Guild	10:00	Madelyn Raska	Beverly Ladzinski	Carol Dierking	Brenda Moore	
Counters		H. Mettenbrink & J. Valentine	H. Mettenbrink & J. Valentine	Colleen Kaye	James Hollinger	

**NOTE TO READERS:** The **Scripture readings** for the week you serve **will be in your box** at the beginning of the month. **We encourage you to take them home and read through them prior to your Sunday to share your gift** with the congregation. **Pronunciation Guides are available** – one under the Lectern (where you read) and the other in the Church office. **IMPORTANT MESSAGE: If you can't be present** on the Sunday you are signed up to serve, please remember to **find your own replacement!! This is vital** to making sure all leadership roles are filled each week. Thanks! **J**

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Thanks! **J**