

# THE CHRONICLES

*Lutheran Church of the Resurrection*

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January 2016

There is something fun and exciting about starting a new year. Wall calendars start with a new and inspiring picture. For those who use planners there are lots of days of opportunity and hope as you begin to plan ahead. It's also a great time to look back. On New Year's Eve some of us will have spent time looking back and remembering the year.

2015 has been quite a year for Lutheran Church of the Resurrection. We have journeyed through the transition of a new pastor, our first year in Renewal/Redevelopment, and have stepped together into God's call for us in Wimberley. We have come through two devastating floods and stepped forward to be an active part in flood recovery through the lunch program. We have also been involved in cleanup, the Second Line event and offered a service on the winter solstice for those who are not feeling festive during the Christmas week.

I'm excited about 2016. I am always surprised by what God is teaching us and calling us to do. I am never surprised by God's faithfulness on the journey.

***Lamentations 3:21-23 This is what comes to mind, and therefore I have hope: Because of the Lord's gracious love we are not consumed, since his compassions never end. They are new every morning -- great is your faithfulness.***

As we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord and the season of Epiphany, let's take time to name the places where God surprises us and teaches us and wraps his arms around us to calm our fears.

Do you have a New Year's Resolution? Maybe you would like to read through the Bible or created time in your daily schedule to read scripture and pray. I would suggest that you write it into your day planner or set a daily reminder on your electronic calendar. Then, as you go through your day or week write down where you see God showing up to guide, comfort or surprise you. That would be a fun calendar to look back on at the end of the year. Let's create a calendar together at church of all of our surprises and celebrate God's faithfulness in our lives.

In Christ,  
Pastor Becky

# Council Corner

## **COUNCIL News at a Glance**

Council met on Dec. 21 - highlights of items discussed:

**Mission Investment Plan** – We fine-tuned the 2016 budget that was presented during the Congregational meeting, taking note of suggestions from members of the congregation. The final budget will be distributed prior to our Jan. 10 Annual meeting, and voted on at the meeting.

**2016 Missions** – Council is preparing a survey for members to indicate what organizations/projects they would like to see LCR support this coming year.

**Upcoming** – Congregational Annual Meeting Jan 10, Healthy Congregation Workshop Jan. 30 and Bishop Tiemann coming to LCR worship Feb. 14.

President – Blaine Nelson  
Vice President – Autry Burns  
Secretary – Chris Weaver  
Treasurer – Mary Rodgers  
Member-at-Large – Shirley Schliessmann  
Advisor (non-voting) - Jo Anne Miller  
Pastor – Rebecca Sogge

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

### **CONGREGATIONAL MEETING**

**Sunday, Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> following worship** we will have our Congregational Meeting. Topics to be discussed are: Mission Investment Plan for 2016 (Budget), and voting on the slate of Council officers. The annual report will also be distributed. A quorum is needed for voting so please plan to attend this important meeting.

### **PRAYER SHAWL MEETING**

**The next Prayer Shawl meeting will be on Sat. Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> at the church at 9:30.** Call Pat Ehrhart at 512-964-0800 with any questions.

### **CAREGIVERS WORKSHOP**

At LCR on Mon. Jan. 18<sup>th</sup>, see article below for more info.

### **COUNCIL MEETING**

The next Church Council Meeting is Wed. Jan. 20<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. New members are invited.

### **DEER CREEK ALLIANCE**

LCR is scheduled for worship at Deer Creek on Sun. Jan. 24<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm. Please join us as we celebrate our faith with the Deer Creek residents.

### **HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS WORKSHOP**

The Healthy Congregations Workshop #3 will be held on Jan. 30<sup>th</sup> from 9am-3pm. All adults are encouraged to attend. See the attached flyer for more details.

# 2015 Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee (Chair Autry Burns, Patti Gibson, Jo Anne Miller, Shirley Schliessmann and Al Strobel) presented the following slate of candidates at a congregational meeting Sunday, December 13, 2015. The congregation will vote on the proposed candidates on January 10, 2016. Included below is a note regarding the council president situation.

## Congregation Council (All terms begin February 1, 2016.)

President: Blaine Nelson (1-year term\*\*)  
Vice President: Dianne Kilpatrick (2-year term)  
Secretary: Chris Weaver (2-year term)  
Treasurer: Patti Gibson (No term limit)  
Member-at-large: Danny Hickman (1-year term)  
Member-at-large: Don Isler (1-year term)  
Member-at-large: Shirley Schliessmann (2-year term)

**\*\*President:** The committee was unsuccessful in finding a candidate. Due to the special circumstances of Redevelopment and the importance of continuity and experience in the current situation, the committee proposes that Blaine Nelson be allowed to serve as president for one additional year (She has already served on council four consecutive years, the maximum stipulated in LCR's constitution.) Blaine has agreed to be nominated for this additional one-year term. Nominations from the floor for this position—and all positions—will be accepted at the January 10 meeting.

## 2016 Nominating Committee (All are one-year terms, to begin February 1, 2016; candidates are not eligible for consecutive re-election.)

Dianne Kilpatrick (Chair, as part of her council vice president duties)  
Danny Hickman (representing council)  
Paula Johnson  
Brandon Merkord  
Angie Rose

## 2016 Southwest Texas Synod Assembly Voting Delegates (April 29-May 1, San Marcos)

Autry Burns  
Blaine Nelson

## CAREGIVERS WORKSHOP

The Spiritual and Emotional Support Committee for Br3t (long term recovery committee formed after Memorial Day Flood) is holding a workshop for "Caregiver Fatigue." It is a Prevention & Resilience Workshop presented by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. The workshop is on Mon. Jan. 18<sup>th</sup> at LCR from 8:30am-4pm. Snacks and lunch will be provided. Registration needs to be completed by Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> – this can be done by emailing Cookie Hagemeyer at [cookiemon1@gmail.com](mailto:cookiemon1@gmail.com) or contact Maureen in the office.

## Caring for Our Neighbors ~ LCR's Spirit of Giving Continues

As the saying goes, *A picture is worth a thousand words*, and these photos clearly tell the heartwarming story of a group of people working together in a spirit of giving and gesture of generosity to help those who are less fortunate than we. On December 13, about 35 LCR members—from ages 5 to 85—spent the coffee hour assembling gift bags for the men who gather daily at the Catholic Church hoping for work and/or coloring Christmas greeting cards for LCR's shut-ins, far-away friends, and residents of Deer Creek Care Center.



Thanks to the kindness and compassion of all who contributed items and/or helped with bag assembly, that hour of intergenerational effort yielded 20 Christmas gift bags for the men and brought to life the words of Mother Teresa of Calcutta: *We cannot all do great things, but we can all do small things with great love.* Each gift bag contained daily essentials: work gloves, crew socks, hanky bandanas, band-aids, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, disposable razors (thanks for counting them all, Josie!), shaving cream, deodorant, pocket combs, and a candy cane with a tag saying, *We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a new year filled with God's blessings.* From the members of the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection.



In the photo to the right, posing with Blaine Nelson and Pastor Becky are several of the day laborers who received the bags on December 19 or 22. The men's thankfulness and their friendly interaction with us made this a gratifying and heartwarming experience—despite the early morning hour and nippy weather. Not shown in the photo, Chris Weaver and Shirley Schliessmann also helped distribute the bags to the men.



**By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.**  
– John 13:35

## Hear That Train A'comin'?

Get ready to get on board with LCR's Mexican Train dominos game group beginning January 21, 2016. We play at the church every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month at 1:00 p.m. Whether you're an old Train hand or have never played in your life, we hope you'll join us. It's easy to catch on after only a few instructions—and **ALL** are welcome (that includes men)! It's not an "LCR Only" group so bring a friend, bring a neighbor. You can expect a fun afternoon of leisurely play (unlike bridge, no pressure!), light conversation and snacks.



## Wimberley on Wheels (WOW)

Wimberley on Wheels is a new service in town. They offer a free transportation service for anyone 55 years and over. This is a door-to-door car service open from Monday through Friday 8am-5pm. It differs from CARTS in that this is for individuals who are physically unable to wait for a vehicle. They are also looking for volunteer drivers. The drivers get to pick and choose which rides they can provide from a website. All drivers will get additional liability insurance.

This is only for residents of the 78676 zip code and the transportation is limited to Wimberley, San Marcos, Kyle and New Braunfels. For information, call 512-847-1780.



We continue to pray for all who are ill, recovering, receiving treatments or testing; and for Doris King, Beverly Ladzinski, Mitch and Estelle Hill, Tyler Proue, Ginny Bouzard, Kay Ann Stenson and Lyla Miller (relatives of Jo Anne Miller), Melinda Pace, Molly Trebus (friend of the Sogge family), Lora Hall, Zachary Doan, Lynn Kimrey and Richard Polk (friend of Whitney Cargill with cancer), and Robert Sherman (bone cancer).

Please be in prayer for our family and friends who are serving our country either stateside or overseas.

## Directory Updates

Updated directory pages will be distributed in February 2016. If you have changes or corrections for your own listing, please give them to Maureen in the office by January 31, 2016.

**WE CAN'T THANK YOU ENOUGH!**



Thank you to all who helped decorate the Christmas tree and church on December 13<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you to Emily Merkord and Enid & Don Isler for the beautiful addition/arrangement of poinsettias in the sanctuary.

Thank you to Colleen Kaye for finishing the twelve quilts that had been incomplete; this was a big job and required a lot of work!

During Advent all of our new members participated in the Advent candle lighting ceremony and we appreciate their participation. Thanks to Ann & John Fox, Rebecca & Corey Heidt, Pat Ehrhart, and Mikki Sogge.

Thank you to the the Trail of Lights helpers who made the evening of Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> so special: Pastor Becky, Al Strobel, Blaine Nelson, Shirley S., Lois & Danny Hickman, Brandon Merkord, Mikki Sogge, Don Isler, Gayle & Ron Weir, Whitney, Suzannah & Savannah Cargill, and The Raska Family.

Thank you to all who supplied snacks and flowers on recent Sunday mornings: Mary Rodgers, Angie Rose, Joan Mohr, Shirley S., Pastor Becky, Lois & Danny Hickman, and the Burtschells.

 <b>HAPPY BIRTHDAY</b> 				<i>Happy Anniversary</i>	
1-02	Shirley Schliessmann	1-17	Don Isler	1-1	Ann & John Fox
1-03	Billie Navarro	1-25	Dorothy Tasian	1-29	Gayle & Ron Weir
1-09	Arturo Flores	1-29	Joan Mohr		
			<b>CONGRATULATIONS !</b>	<b>Note: If we missed your special day or printed it incorrectly, please notify the church office...</b>	

## VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

	Jan. 3	Jan. 10	Jan. 17	Jan. 24	Jan. 31
Assistant Minister	Chris Weaver	Blaine Nelson	Lois Hickman	Rebecca Heidt	Corey Heidt
Acolyte	Abigail Burttschell	Claire Valentine	Ben Raska	Aiden Boger	Vincent Gordin
Reader	Arturo Flores	Autry Burns	Vincent Gordin	Natalie Merkord	Jo Anne Miller
Ushers	Don Isler/Arturo Flores	Travis/Colten Kilpatrick	Raska Family	Al Strobel/Mikki Sogge	Merkords
Altar Guild	Pat Ehrhart	Dianne Kilpatrick	Shirley Schliessmann	Chris Weaver	Pat Ehrhart
Greeter	Enid Isler	Angie Rose	Jo Anne Miller	Joan Mohr	Blaine Nelson
Counters	Tamela/Arturo Flores	Jason Valentine	Shirley S./Jo Anne Miller	Joan Mohr/Jo Anne Miller	Brandon Merkord

**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 Lecturn (where you read) and the other in the Church office. Feel free to take and use them whenever needed.

**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! 😊

### Schedule for bulletin folders

- January 6 - Blaine Nelson
- January 13 – Shirley Schliessmann
- January 20 – Paula Johnson
- January 27 - Pat Ehrhart