

651-487-7752 • rosevillelutheran.org

THE TABLE

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR THE FRIENDS
AND MEMBERS OF ROSEVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH

SEPTEMBER • OCTOBER • NOVEMBER • 2021



CONNECT ON SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 12!

*RLC Rally and Reunion Sunday
Outdoor Worship at 9:00 and 10:30 am
Picnic and Activities to Follow!*

Connect with other RLC friends as we start off our new season with a Reunion and Rally Day. This is a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to experience Roseville Lutheran Church and show how we are striving to be a Community United by Grace.

Outdoor worship will take place in our south parking lot at 9:00 and 10:30 am, followed by an all-American picnic including hot dogs, chips, rice krispie bars, and water! There are several fun activities planned like lawn games, giant Jenga, an a Chili Tasting contest.

We can't wait to see you all and have this time to connect on Sunday, Sept. 12.

CONNECT • EXPLORE • ACT

Lauren J. Wrightsman, Senior Pastor

As we gather together in worship and our shared mission this fall, we will be gathering under the theme: **Connect - Explore - Act**. Within this issue of The TABLE, you will see the many ways in which we, as a people of God, are called to live into our mission and vision as we focus on ways we connect as a people of God, explore our faith and shared ministry, and find new ways to act out this love in the ways in which we live our lives.

How will we do this? We have a perfect example for us in the scripture itself. The story of Jesus and Zacchaeus:

Then Jesus entered and walked through Jericho. There was a man there, his name Zacchaeus, the head tax man and quite rich. He wanted desperately to see Jesus, but the crowd was in his way—he was a short man and couldn't see over the crowd. So he ran on ahead and climbed up in a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus when he came by.

When Jesus got to the tree, he looked up and said, "Zacchaeus, hurry down. Today is my day to be a guest in your home." Zacchaeus scrambled out of the tree, hardly believing his good luck, delighted to take Jesus home with him. Everyone who saw the incident was indignant and grumped, "What business does he have getting cozy with this crook?"

Zacchaeus just stood there, a little stunned. He stammered apologetically, "Master, I give away half my income to the poor—and if I'm caught cheating, I pay four times the damages."

Jesus said, "Today is salvation day in this home! Here he is: Zacchaeus, son of Abraham! For the Son of Man came to find and restore the lost." (Luke 19:1-10, The Message)



CONNECT continues on Page 2...

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP PLAN AT RLC

SUNDAY, SEPT. 5 OUTDOOR WORSHIP AT 9:00 am
SUNDAYS, SEPT. 12, 19, 26 OUTDOOR AT 9:00 & 10:30 am
EVERY SUNDAY LIVE STREAM AT 9:00 am
CABLE AT 6 PM WED, 2 & 10 AM THURS, 10 AM SUN

FAITH IS A RELATIONSHIP

Chris Hagen, Interim Associate Pastor

The whole congregation of the Israelites set out from Elim; and Israel came to the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after they had departed from the land of Egypt. The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger." – Exodus 16:1-3

Six weeks out and 40 years to go, they already complain! Enslaved in Egypt, punished for being Hebrew, starved, worked to literal death, leaderless and hopeless, the Lord saved them and delivered them. But memory deceives, duping to recall what we want to believe. "If only we had died in the land of Egypt, lounging around pots of fat flesh and feasting every night." God has a future they cannot imagine, a world of grace ready to grasp – and they want to go back.

So it is with uncertainty. Life and prosperity and peace promised, but faint hearts prefer surety even if it is numbing and dreary.

It's common to speak of faith as something to possess, such as "I have faith." More properly, faith is a relationship, something we live into. Faith is that orientation and confidence, expecting God to do God's part, that leads us into an uncertain future.

We are emerging from dark dens of quarantine hibernation to once again bask in the life we remember. But things have shifted in the past year and a half. History happened, things were not on-hold. God is offering a future we can hardly imagine, a world of grace ready to grasp.

These past months RLC has explored what our vision statement means, "A Community United by Grace." During the season of Lent, "Lift Every Voice" was a series of listening and conversation around racial reconciliation here at RLC and in the Roseville Community. It was followed by a several gatherings such as the VIBE Block Party in June. Worship has shifted to virtual formats alongside in-person services, requiring adjustments to how worship is presented. The Inclusion Task Force is conducting a series of small group conversations on the place of LGBTQ+ in our congregation and ministries. The role of committees, task forces, staff



CONNECT continued from Page 1

In this story, we discover that Jesus connects with us right where we are. Zacchaeus, short in stature, had climbed a tree to see Jesus, little did he know that Jesus would actually see him. But see him he did! Jesus called up to Zacchaeus and said, "Hurry down! Today I will be a guest in your home!"

In this short narrative, Zacchaeus moves from being an observer, to an active participant in the story and ministry of Christ. While everyone else grumbled that Zacchaeus (of all people!) was being called out to, I am sure Zacchaeus' was also caught off guard by this invitation. Not only was he being called to act and serve as a host to Christ, he was being called out of a tree to explore the possibilities that lay before him as a called child of God.

He was stunned and he starts to stammer out an awkward apology for who he is.

I imagine Jesus placing his hand on Zacchaeus' shoulder, tugging him close and saying those words of blessing, those words of hope. "Today, salvation will come to you! I have come to find and restore the lost."

We never get to read what happens next. There is no narrative that speaks to the sudden dinner party at Zacchaeus' home. His wife and servants were probably flustered by this change in their normal, daily routine.

But that is the way Christ works. Christ enters in and connects with us in unique and wonderful ways. Christ asks us to explore with him the possibilities of his endless grace; and, Christ asks for us to act with the same boundless, fathomless grace and hospitality that he shows to all people.

Think of all of the people that found themselves connected to Christ's message of hope and healing. Grace and forgiveness: the leper; Lazarus; the woman at the well.

Think of how the people who experienced his miracles, were touched by his hand, were given bread and fish were asked to explore a new way to see the world!

And then think of how they were stirred into action. The woman at the well couldn't keep it a secret, she ran and told others! The leper went off and told others of this man named Christ. What stories and testimony did Zacchaeus give? What did he tell his grandchildren of this great, wonderful, life-changing experience he shared with Christ?

We don't know the individual "second acts" of these stories, but we know the shared one - the one we share as a people of God, connected through our baptismal promise. Throughout the centuries the people of God have explored new ways to speak of salvation, mercy and grace. Throughout the centuries the people of God have acted in new ways to speak more fully into their shared story.

The proclamation of salvation is ours to also share.

It took courage for Zacchaeus to get down out of his tree, out of his place of safety. May we too, hear the call of Christ, take leave of our comfort zones, and embark on a journey that ends with grace.

The invitation is ours, what happens next is in the power and leading of Christ.

"Hurry down," Christ calls. "I wish to dine with you today."

Blessings,

Lauren J. Wrightsman
Senior Pastor



The
proclamation
of
salvation
is ours
to also
share.

and church groups continues to evolve as new expectations and methods continue to emerge.

"A Community United by Grace" is so much more than a collective of members. It is the Holy Spirit moving RLC into a wider vision of this church's place in the world.

God is leading us into a wilderness of uncertainty. Yet from the beginning God has promised to be with us and guide us, as God did for the ancient Hebrews with a pillar of fire by night and pillar of cloud by day. Things are changing, but God gives a wise church council, conscientious staff, willing members and tremendous resources for RLC's future.

Pastor Chris

CONTINUES →

LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR: PUT POLITICS ASIDE

Joe Zeigler, Congregational President

In a recent survey, some members shared that they feel RLC has become “too political” by promoting discussions on issues of racism, equality and inclusion in our community. So, let’s put politics aside.

Our mission at Roseville Lutheran Church is two-part: Love God. Love your neighbor.

For part one, as a congregation we celebrate love of God through worship, fellowship and Christian study – including children’s Sunday school, youth ministries and adult education programs.

Part two of our mission requires that we look outside our congregation. God calls us to love our neighbors, opening our eyes to needs in the community and responding with compassion, kindness and generosity. This is the driving force behind RLC outreach efforts, like supporting Central Park Elementary students and their families through tutoring and food packing programs, and sharing our gifts through strong partners like Keystone, Bridging, Project Home, Loaves and Fishes, and Meals on Wheels. We are making a difference, but the needs persist for many in our community.

If we are to attain the RLC vision of a community united by grace, it is essential that we continue to seek out those in need and to help them. Disproportionately, our neighbors who are most in need are people of color and members of the LGBTQ+ community.



Keystone reports that 76% of those who use their services, including food programs and crisis support, are people of color. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, LGBTQ+ are twice as likely to struggle with mental health issues, including depression and substance abuse; 86% of LGBTQ+ youth report being harassed or assaulted at school.

God calls each of us to help others in need. Awareness, understanding and acceptance is essential for us to answer that call. Politics is not what prompts RLC to discuss racism, equality and inclusion. Rather, we are motivated by Christian compassion and a desire to treat each individual with dignity and respect.

As Christians, we must continue to embrace and celebrate the diversity of God’s creation. To that end, RLC will continue to explore how we can make our community more welcoming and accepting for all people. Among other efforts, Our Neighbors and Me (ONAM) is leading discussions on racism and social justice, and the Inclusion Task Force is examining how to build a church and community that treat each person as Christ would.

I invite you to get involved. Watch your email or visit the RLC website for upcoming events, or please contact community engagement director Diane Sell (dsell@rosevillelutheran.org).



www.rosevillelutheran.org/letter-from-leadership

RLC Lay Leaders and Staff

Pastors

Lauren Wrightsman, Senior Pastor
Chris Hagen, Interim Associate Pastor
Rolf Olson, Visitation Pastor

Music Ministry

John Helgen, Director
Martha Mutch, Organist
Lori Haaland, Handbell Choirs

Children’s Ministry

Julie Hanson, Director of Children’s Ministry
Tammy Heiple, PMO, Nursery Coordinator

Student Ministry

Audrey Dontje Lindell, Director of Youth Ministry
Abby Matter, Deacon, Director of Faith Formation

Ministry Support Staff

Dave Booms, Church Administrator
Laurel Hofeldt, Director of Finance and Data
Diane Sell, Director of Community Engagement
Rebecca Bedner-Faris, Director of Development
Daniel Pederson, Communications Manager
Beth Daniel, Receptionist/CYF Support
Kelly Birkmaier, Financial Assistant
Tammy Swanson, Financial Assistant

RLC Preschool

Jenifer Johnson, Director
Lori Kristiansen, Preschool Teacher
Debbie Strobeck, Preschool Asst. Teacher
Rachel Lawson, Preschool Asst. Teacher
Shana Pearson, Preschool Teacher
Katie Gerhz, Preschool Asst. Teacher
Renee Olson, Preschool Asst. Teacher
Laurie Miller, Childcare Teacher
Shama Dahal, Childcare Teacher
Melissa Kidd, Childcare Teacher

Child Care House

Jenifer Johnson, Director
Shyama Dahal, Assistant
Laurie Miller-Hedeen, Assistant

Hospitality Ministry

Connie Marchio, Hospitality Manager

Facilities Ministry

Ian Agner, Campus Manager
Arlen Rystrom, Building Engineer
Shelton Ingram, Custodian
Greg Saiko, Custodian

Endowment Committee

Mike Dolan
Judy Ekern
Kevin Peterson
Audra Engebretson
Carrie Hefte-Hanton

Nominating Committee

Randi Lundell, Chair
Dave Werner

Congregation Council

Joe Zeigler, President
Rebecca Field, President Elect
Val Velde, Vice President
Mary Peterson
Kevin Hanson
Heidi Larson
Linda Hanson
Kris Olsen
Bill Metzger

Ministry Team Chairs

Georgia Nygaard, Adult Ed
Gena Mickley, Children’s Ministry Advisory Board
Roxanne Schultz, Christian LIFE
Dave Tetzlaff, Mission & Outreach
Lilian Wassell, Youth & Family

CALL COMMITTEE

Apply Online by Sept. 13

We are forming a Call Committee as we search for our next Associate Pastor at Roseville Lutheran Church. We are looking for people to be on this team. More info and an application can be found at www.rosevillelutheran.org/call-committee.

PURPOSE: To identify, interview, and propose a candidate for call as Associate Pastor.

The Call Committee represents RLC to prospective candidates, who are themselves interviewing RLC through the Call Committee. The process is 3-way: RLC, the candidate and the St. Paul Area Synod. The synod represents the ELCA in the process and has vested interest in securing the best possible candidate for RLC.

REPORTS TO: Roseville Lutheran Church Council.

TIME COMMITMENT: To identify, interview, and propose a candidate for call as Associate Pastor.

September - December 2021 (estimated)

1-1/2 hours in weekly or bi-weekly meetings (a combination of zoom and in-person).



WELCOME IAN AGNER!

Ian Agner, Campus Manager

We are delighted to welcome Ian Agner to the RLC staff as our new Campus Manager. Ian started in August and is already getting involved in the day-to-day operations of the Roseville Lutheran campus. Here are a few words of introduction from Ian:

My name is Ian Agner. I'm 31, and currently living in Chaska. I've worked with The Maintenance Team for 7 years now, in two different stints. In my time with the company I've worked as a grounds and building technician in the field, dispatched and coordinated service in our main office, and most recently work directly with specific clients as a facilities manager. I've seen a little bit of everything when it comes to our company and our business. My free time is spent with my dog, Kratos, playing basketball, watching good movies, or playing board and card games with friends. I'm not significantly traveled, but I do love trips to Colorado. I have both friends and family living there so mountain camping or weekend trips are a few ways I'll spend time away from home. You could convince me to do or help with almost anything as long as there is pizza involved. Otherwise I'm a fairly mellow and somewhat boring person to tell the truth. Maybe easy going is a more flattering way to say it? I'm excited to expand my horizons and work with a new group of people. I hope I can help and contribute positively while I'm exposed to a whole new world here at Roseville Lutheran Church.



EXCITING FALL SEASON AHEAD

*Rebecca Bedner-Faris,
Director of Development*

I am excited for my first fall season at RLC as we navigate our new normal together as a community united by grace. Our fall theme is to Connect, Explore, and Act, and I am looking forward to all the ways that we will see this theme come to life. Members throughout the congregation will have many opportunities to connect with each other, staff and church leadership.



As we continue to explore new opportunities for us to connect together as a community, we are planning for Rally Day in September. This event will be fun for the whole family and a way to bring everyone back together after so much time apart. Stay tuned for more information!

This will also be my first First Fall Stewardship Campaign at RLC. I am looking forward to this time as we think about the blessings that we have been given, and about how our gifts further the mission of RLC here at church in the community.

If I have not met you yet, I hope to see you in person this fall at worship or one of our upcoming events! Please take the time to introduce yourself to me. I am still learning names and faces and would love to be connected with you!

Rebecca Bedner-Faris
Director of Development

ROSEVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH
A COMMUNITY
UNITED BY GRACE

RLC YOUTH

Audrey Dontje Lindell, Director of Youth Ministry

Our high school youth group **RLC Youth** (formerly known as *FLOCK*) will kick off on Wednesday, Sept. 22 at 7:30 pm. We meet weekly Wednesday nights for an hour and half for fun and fellowship – and candy, of course! All RLC high school youth (grades 9-12) and friends are invited to join us anytime. Look for our online “High School Ministry” registration during September or contact Audrey with questions.

RLC Youth will meet outdoors to begin, and will move online or to appropriate indoor locations as weather and Covid safety requirements allow. Join our weekly email list or our youth text list to stay in the loop! Email Audrey (adontjelindell@rosevillelutheran.org) to join the weekly Youth Update newsletter for a brief overview of each week’s high school programming. You can opt-out anytime. Youth (and parents) are also invited to join our weekly text list by texting @RLCYOUTH21 to 81010. Make sure to follow the short instructions you receive to register your name.



SERVE SUNDAY: GRAD PACKAGES

Planned for Sunday, Oct. 17

Help us show our love for our recent high school graduates by packing care packages with us at 10:00 am on Sunday, Oct. 17 in the Activity Center (as Covid safety restrictions allow – otherwise keep an eye out for our alternative activity or location!) Our current youth shop for useful, goofy and tasty surprises beforehand – all you have to do is show up ready to decorate, pack, and pray over our supplies.

If you’re a parent of a recent grad, keep an eye out for an invitation (via email) from Audrey to share your child’s current information so that we can include them in this great tradition.



Connect
Explore • Act

BAGELS @ DAWN

Thursdays This Fall

It’s back to school and back to bagels! Beginning Sept. 23, high school youth (grades 9-12) and friends are invited to join us weekly at the upper entrance at RLC



between 6:45 and 7:45 a.m. on Thursday mornings for a tasty breakfast, time with friends, any last-minute homework, and a short morning devo led by peers and congregation members before heading to school. When Covid safety restrictions allow, we will begin meeting at the St. Paul Bagelry. Audrey will help organize rides to RAHS from the church if needed.

If you would like to lead a devo for our youth one week, contact Audrey!

MEA GETAWAY

October 21-24

Our fall high school retreat will be Oct. 21-24. We travel to Camp Castaway in Detroit Lakes for a long weekend. This is a great time to get away, relax, enjoy the beautiful lakeside camp, spend time with friends, and reflect with God. MEA Getaway always has great music, delicious food, and an incredibly fun program.

Look for our online registration coming in September.

Children, Youth and Family Ministry Calendar
Here’s What We’re Planning for this Fall at RLC

WEEKLY PROGRAMS:

Sundays	RLC Kids (3 year olds through 6th grade)
Wednesdays	Family Blessing Worship, Confirmation (7th - 9th Grade) RLC Youth (9th-12th Grade)
Thursdays	Bagels @ Dawn (9th-12th Grade)

SPECIAL EVENTS AND RETREATS:

Sept. 12	10 am - 2 pm	RLC Rally & Reunion
Sept. 15	6:30 pm	Confirmation Leader Training
Sept. 22	7 pm	Confirmation Orientation
	7:30 - 9 pm	RLC Youth Begins
Sept. 23	6:45 am	Bagels @ Dawn Begins
Sept. 26	9 and 10:30 am	3rd & 4th Graders receive Bibles in Worship
Oct. 3	9 and 10:30 am	RLC Kids Begins
Oct. 17	10 am	Serve Sunday - Grad Care Packages (No regular CYF programming)
Oct. 20		No Confirmation (MEA Break)
Oct. 21-24		MEA Getaway
Nov. 12-14		7th & 8th Grade Confirmation Retreat
Nov. 19	6-9 pm	Parent’s Night Out
Nov. 24		No Confirmation (Thanksgiving)
Dec. 1	7 pm	9th Grade Parent Meeting
Dec. 4	9-11 am	Candy Cane Breakfast (tickets required)
Dec. 5		Pajama Day
Dec. 8	7 pm	Confirmation Prayer Stations
Dec. 11	9-11 am	RLC Kids Christmas Program Rehearsal
Dec. 12	10:30 am	RLC Kids Christmas Program
Dec. 15	7 pm	Confirmation Fellowship Night

CONFIRMATION 2021-2022

Abby Matter, Deacon

Confirmation is right around the corner and I am happy to say that we will be back in person this fall! It is an opportunity for 7th through 9th grade youth to learn and grow in faith and fellowship. While Confirmation has been an hour and a half in the past, we are going to shorten it to an hour (7 to 8 p.m.) If small groups want to stay and continue to talk past 8 p.m., they are more than welcome to do that. We feel as this is a good change that we will ask for feedback on and access at the end of the year. Please feel free to let me know how this is working for your child(ren) and your family as we go along.

REGISTRATION AND FEE: All students must register EACH year they participate in Confirmation. Please have your child registered online by Wednesday September 1st. At the time of registration, we ask for a \$75 payment per student. This fee helps cover the cost of supplies as well as special activities and events. The fee can be paid online or a check can be dropped off at RLC with "Confirmation - (Child's Name)" in the memo line. If you are in need of scholarship, please email Abby at amatter@rosevillelutheran.org

CONFIRMATION BEGINS SEPT. 22: Our first night of Confirmation will be Wednesday, September 22nd at 7 p.m. ONLINE. A Zoom link will be sent out in advance. You will be given important information and dates at this time so it is essential that BOTH parents and students are in attendance. Small group leaders will also be there so parents can meet their child's leader.

RETREATS: We are planning to offer retreats again this year! The 7th and 8th Grade Retreat will be November 12-14 at Camp Wapo in Amery, WI. Ninth graders are invited to attend MEA Getaway at Camp Castaway in Detroit Lakes October 21-24. Mark your calendars as we would love to have you join us!

There are many opportunities for parents and adults to be a part of this important stepping-stone of our youth's faith. If you are interested in helping out in any way, contact Abby at amatter@rosevillelutheran.org.



MIDDLE SCHOOL SUNDAY MORNINGS

New Look This Fall at RLC!

Sunday mornings are going to look different this fall for our 5th through 8th grade youth. Fifth and sixth graders are invited to participate in RLC Kids. See Julie Hanson's article for more detailed information about what that will look like.

Seventh and eighth graders are invited to help with RLC Kids at the 9 or 10:30 service. If you are with preschoolers and kindergarteners, you would spend the entire service downstairs with them in 45 A&B. If you are with first through third graders, you would start in worship, leave after storytime with them and head to the Activity Center for 20-25 minutes before returning to worship. If this is something you are interested in trying, contact Julie Hanson at jhanson@rosevillelutheran.org. And of course, I hope to see seventh and eighth graders on Wednesday nights for confirmation!

WEDNESDAY NIGHT IS CHURCH NIGHT

Our plan is to offer families a Wednesday evening option for growing in their faith together. We plan to invite families to join us for a simple meal and Family Blessing service. Dinner will be served and as families eat around their tables a pastor will give a short recap of their message from Sunday. We will have activities for the families to do that reinforce this message, along with a service component. Families will need to register for the meal to ensure we have enough food. A free will offering will be asked. Due to Covid safety concerns, we are waiting to see what and when we can offer this option for families. Please keep looking at the RLC website for updated information and announcements about this.

It is going to be a challenge get up from the couch and actually get out the door on a Sunday. It has been a very stressful year and very challenging in a lot of ways! If you can't make it on Sunday, maybe Wednesday night works for you! Stay tuned!



FIRST COMMUNION WORKSHOP

Interested in a Fall Workshop? Contact Julie!

We normally hold a First Communion Workshop for any child that is ready to understand what Communion is, just before Holy Week in the spring. We will be doing that again on Saturday, April 9th. This workshop is from 9-11 and combines learning with some fun activities. This is usually geared for a 3rd grader or older, but certainly can be for younger students.

We missed this workshop last year due to Covid and are wondering if there is interest in a fall workshop, or if families can wait until April. Please let Julie Hanson know your interest at jhanson@rosevillelutheran.org

CANDY CANE BREAKFAST

Save the Date: Saturday, Dec. 4 from 9:00 to 11:00 am

Mark your calendars for Saturday, December 4th from 9-11 a.m. for our Candy Cane Breakfast! Tickets can be purchased for this event beginning in November. This is a fun, kid-friendly way to start the Christmas season! Kid friendly brunch is served in a kid-friendly way. Invite Grandma and Grandpa, Aunties and friends to join you for this very special morning!



RLC KIDS THIS FALL

Julie Hanson, Director of Children's Ministry

Before we had to shut down programming in March 2019, many parents told us that being at church for over 2 hours each Sunday, attending both worship and Sunday school was just too long of a time commitment. To address this challenge, we are offering RLC Kids on Sundays at two different times during Worship, at 9:00 or 10:30. Parents will choose which service they will most likely attend and register their children for RLC Kids at that time.

Our plan is to start RLC Kids on October 3rd, to allow families to adjust to back to school and fall routines. For safety purposes, we may go outside for RLC Kids as the weather allows. Currently, as this is written we will invite all kids to leave worship after Storytime and join us for fun and activities, rejoining their families toward the end of each service.

This will allow kids to experience both Worship and RLC Kids – the best of both worlds!

This will give kids the opportunity to participate in communion, baptisms and prayer with their family. Worshipping together as a family is an important part of our faith. While the Sunday School time apart from worship is much shorter, the whole experience of worship and RLC Kids time will be more meaningful.

There will be an online video that talks about how this new format will work, on our website for your viewing. It will be on the Children's Ministry page (go to the top of the home page, click on Ages and Stages, then Children's Ministry)

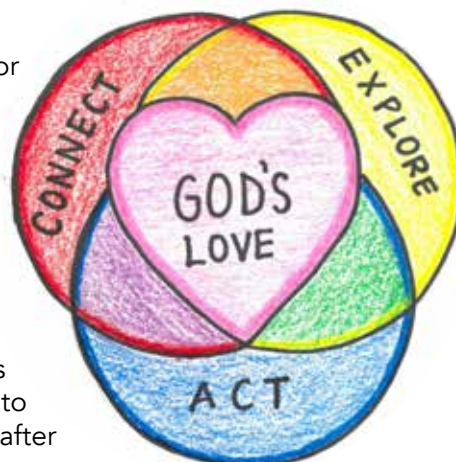
We will continue to offer serve opportunities to build a dresser or make Kitchen bundles for Bridging, as well as other service events on Sundays.

Plans are ever changing! As we begin to gather together again our hope is that we can be more meaningful and intentional with what we do. We are doing everything we can to make our building safe and germ free. We know the Covid virus and all its variants are still around. We understand families with young kids are hesitant to expose them to another group or gathering. We will offer things for you to do at home that correspond with our weekly Storytime if you choose to worship at home.

We walk together with you to help your kids grow in their faith, and as such want to support parents in any way we can. We have missed you, and look forward to seeing you this fall!

CONNECT, EXPLORE, ACT ON GOD'S LOVE

Our new mission statement for Children's Ministry post-pandemic is to Connect, Explore and Act on God's Love. We will be talking about ways we can connect with one another and with God. We will explore what the Bible says and ways to learn more about Jesus and his teachings. We will find ways to Act to help others and show God's love to everyone we meet! This should be a fun and meaningful way to reconnect with each other and with God after being away for so long!



3RD AND 4TH GRADERS TO GET BIBLES!

Recognition Planned for Sept. 26 Outdoor Worship

Due to the pandemic shut down, many of our 4th graders did not receive a Bible as a gift from the congregation when they were 3rd graders. We handed out Worship bags to some that contained a Bible, but not all of the kids got them. This year we would like to formally present your 3rd and 4th grader with an Adventure Bible. Parents will present the Bible to their student in the outdoor worship service at either the 9:00 or 10:30 on Sunday, Sept. 26. This will fulfill part of the baptismal promises made at their baptism: "As they grow place in their hands the Holy Scriptures and provide for their instruction in the Christian faith." If your 4th grader got a Bible last year when we handed out the Worship bags, please bring it with you so we can formally recognize your student too. There will be a sign up for Bibles so we are sure to have enough and to make nameplates for each student.

We will include Bible basics and help students learn about their Bibles in RLC Kids on Sundays in October, probably outside if the weather permits. Please have your kids bring their Bible to church with them each week they attend.



GRANT TO PRESCHOOL PROVIDES SAFE AREA TO LEARN AND PLAY

Jenifer Johnson, RLC Preschool Director

Thanks to the Endowment Fund, the preschool received a grant to provide a fence for the courtyard between the Preschool Entrance and Upper Lobby Entrance. The preschool is grateful to have a safe space for students to play and learn outside.

Spots Still Open. Register Today!

In addition, we still have spots available for the 2021-22 school year! A child needs to be three or four years old by Sept. 1, and toilet trained to register. To learn more about our preschool you can go to our webpage for more information at <https://www.rosevillelutheran.org/ages-and-stages/rlc-preschool/>. If you would like to schedule a tour or have further questions, please contact our preschool director at 651-488-6887 or RLCPreschool@rosevillelutheran.org.

To register you can go directly to this link:
<https://bit.ly/PreKReg2021>



ADULT EDUCATION AT RLC

Plans for Fall 2021

Your Adult Ed Committee at RLC has been hard at work assembling thoughtful opportunities for you to take part in during the coming months. The venue and format in which these discussions take place may need to adjust as Covid conditions dictate. Please follow our worship livestream at www.rosevillelutheran.org/worship/stream and our eBlast for all the up to date announcements.

As of Sept. 1: Sunday Adult Ed events will take place at 10:10 am under the tent in the courtyard area off the north parking lot.

SEPTEMBER 19 WITH PASTOR CHRIS HAGEN

Time Travel: Seeing ourselves within the Bible narrative and experiencing events as they happened.

The Bible is the story about God. When reading a story, we get caught up in it. One way of reading the Bible is as story, finding ourselves caught up in the story and in doing so, meet God. The incident of Genesis 33:1-11 is Jacob confronting his brother after years of falling out and animosity. The famous Good Samaritan story, Luke 10:25-37, is tension and risk on many levels, with God seemingly absent.

SEPTEMBER 26 WITH PASTOR CHRIS HAGEN

Power of the Holy Spirit and Elemental spirits of the Universe.

Power used and abused is one of the arching drama themes of literature and history (along with love and adventure). Colossians 2:6-15 (among others) mentions "elemental spirits" whose power work beyond human influence. Acts 1:1-11 is the promise of power when the Holy Spirit comes upon, introducing the ability to confront and overcome nebulous, hidden forces.

OCTOBER 3 WITH PASTOR LAUREN

Connect-Explore-Act

Join us as Pastor Lauren explains the ways in which we are encouraging all members and friends to live out the ways in which we love God and neighbor and how we create connections, explore our faith and consider how our actions of faith lead and guide us

OCTOBER 10 WITH REBECCA BEDNER-FARIS

Introduction: Rebecca Bedner-Faris, Director of Development

Join us as we meet Rebecca Bedner-Faris, Director of Development at RLC. She will share more about her new role at RLC and plans for the coming year. You are encouraged to bring any questions or feedback

OCTOBER 17 WITH MARC PROKOSCH, JD

*Central Americans at the Border:
The Asylum and Immigration Process*

Why are so many Central Americans at our southern border? Is there a border crisis? What do they want? What is the difference between asylum and immigration? How can good parents send their kids on such treacherous journeys? Immigration lawyer Marc Prokosch will help us get a better understanding of these and other questions.

OCTOBER 24 WITH NANCY OLSON

ELCA – A Sanctuary Church? What it Does and Doesn't Mean

In 2019, the ELCA in assembly voted to become a "sanctuary denomination." What does this mean? What factors led to this decision? What changes, if any, does this mean for the ELCA's ministry with immigrants?

OCTOBER 31 LED BY DR. JIM BOYCE

*Hearing the Scriptures on Loving the Neighbor:
RLC Seeks to Welcome Persons of Diverse Gender Expression*

Based on the witness of Scripture, Roseville Lutheran Church has adopted a mission statement that affirms our commitment to "Love God" and "Love our Neighbor." This statement not only affirms who we are as God's people, but also calls us to continuing discernment about how we can be more intentional in welcoming persons of many identities and backgrounds, especially those persons who express different gender identities.

As part of this discernment, we seek to understand what the Scriptures have to say about how we journey faithfully as God's people. Virtually all Christians hold the Scriptures as inspired and authoritative for faith and life. Yet from the beginnings of the church the interpretations of Christians have often differed on matters of life and practice. Hence the church has needed to constantly hear the Scriptures not as isolated texts, but within the total witness of Scripture. One of the clear teachings of Scripture is that its witness to what God is about among us is never set in stone, but takes shape as the Spirit works among us to help us live out the experience of God's people in ever-changing circumstances. That is certainly true for us today as the people of RLC as we seek to be faithful in discerning what it means to Love the Neighbor and be a community that welcomes persons of diverse sexual expression.

NOVEMBER 2021 WITH DR. MARY JANE HAEMIG

*1520 and 1521, Key years for Luther's
reformation – and key insights for today*

The reformation did not end in 1517! These four sessions will look at Luther's major insights, writings, and activities in the years 1520 and 1521. His insights remain important and thought-provoking for us today.

NOVEMBER 7: Appeal to the Christian Nobility: Luther rethinks the whole matter of Christian vocation.

NOVEMBER 14: The Babylonian Captivity of the Church. What are sacraments? What are they for? Who controls them? Luther completely revamped thinking on this and reversed what the medieval church thought.

NOVEMBER 21: The Freedom of a Christian. Christians are free – but for what? And what does Luther have to say to Americans who value freedom?

NOVEMBER 28: The New Testament. Luther's translation of the New Testament broke new ground, but not for the reasons people often think. Luther's approach to translating shapes our approach to the Bible today.

RLC READS 2021-22

Save This Book List for the Coming Year!

After a year of Zoom discussions, we're looking forward to being together in-person again at some point to share our love of reading! Our plans were to meet at church on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:00 PM to talk about books and life and how we're all doing. (This will change as Covid conditions warrant). So, get your library card out of your pocket, look up your e-books online, and/or take a trip to your local book store. Contact Robert Bergstrom at rcbergstrom@comcast.net to join in the discussion. Here are the books we'll be discussing from September 2021 through May 2022 with our RLC friends:

SEPTEMBER 13 – Nathan Harris:

The Sweetness of Water

(I hope you have time to read this one by Sept 13. If not, start reading the others!) Oprah and President Obama agree that this is one of the best books of 2021. Featuring an unforgettable cast of characters, this novel is set in post-Civil War Georgia, and is both beautiful and harrowing, gripping and moving. (368 pgs)

OCTOBER 11 – Kao Kalia Yang:

Somewhere in the Unknown World

This award-winning local Hmong author has written the very personal stories of fourteen inspiring refugees who now call Minnesota their home. From Syria, Bosnia, Thailand, Liberia, and elsewhere, these mini-memoirs will remind you of how difficult and frightening it can be to leave everything behind and start over in a new country. (272 pgs)

NOVEMBER 8 – Mary Robinson:

Climate Justice

Written by the former President of Ireland, this book tells a series of true and uplifting stories about the battle for climate justice waged by ordinary people (mostly women) from Biloxi, Mississippi to rural Uganda...Stories that are powerful, humane and hopeful. With all the wildfires, droughts, storms, etc., we need some hope for our environment. (176 pgs)

No December book...Merry Christmas!

JANUARY 10 – Richard Lischer:

Open Secrets

With the subtitle, "A Memoir of Faith and Discovery", the author describes his early career as a Lutheran minister in the small town of New Cana, Illinois. With his newly-earned PhD, full of ideas and ambitions, the pastor and his flock take some time to understand each other, and it's all told with humor, insight, and love. (256 pgs)

FEBRUARY 14 – Katherine Stewart:

The Power Worshippers

This deeply-researched book is subtitled "Inside the Dangerous Rise of Religious Nationalism." Stewart reveals the inner workings of the Religious Right and traces its influence to every aspect of American life. It's both a warning and a wake-up call. (352 pgs)

MARCH 14 – Louise Erdrich:

The Night Watchman

The winner of the 2021 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction, this powerful novel is based on Erdrich's grandfather, who was a night watchman. The memorable characters take us from Turtle Mountain Reservation in North Dakota to the tough streets of Minneapolis. We see them working to preserve their Native American treaty rights while also struggling with impulses of human nature, desire, and ambitions, all bound together by strong family connections. (464 pgs)

APRIL 11 – Jon Meacham:

The Hope of Glory: Reflections on the Last Words of Jesus on the Cross

The award-winning author admits this is "a devotional work, not a scholarly one". It seems like the perfect book for us to be reading during Lent and discussing on Monday of Holy Week. Meacham uses historical and theological insights to explore Jesus' message of love in his final words as recorded in the Gospels. (144 pgs)

MAY 9 – Jonas Jonasson:

The 100-Year-Old Man Who Climbed Out the Window and Disappeared

We finish the year with a Swedish novel full of fun, laughs, and adventure! This enjoyable book has been compared to Forrest Gump and has sold over six million copies. You'll find out where the 100-year-old man goes, learn his fascinating backstory, and follow his adventures with criminals and goofballs. (384 pgs)

RLC MEN'S BREAKFAST

Join in the Conversation!

First and Third Saturdays of the Month



Men: Please join the conversation with other RLC men twice per month (or whenever you can) for Bible study, discussion of current events, etc. Usually about 15 -20 guys meet on the first and third Saturdays, 8:30 am, in room 40. Coffee, juice, and bagels served. For the summer we met outside and enjoyed the beautiful mornings, but starting in September we move inside (as Covid conditions allow). Want more details? Contact Pastor Rolf Olson at rolson@rosevillelutheran.org or 651-442-8867.

RLC SCRAPBOOKING

Second Friday of the Month

Come one, come all, we are back to crafting at RLC! We will be scrapbooking (or whatever craft you can carry) at RLC from 7:00 pm to midnight on the second Friday of the month. Covid conditions permitting, we hope to start in October. Feel free to contact Gena for details, genashawnone@comcast.net. She will send an email reminder as well as any cancellations due to scheduling conflicts. We hope you can join us, friends are always welcome! We look forward to crafting with you.



connect • EXPLORE • ACT
LOVE GOD • LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

**Diane Sell, Director
of Community Engagement and Care**

*...and let us consider how to stir up one another to love
and good works, not neglecting to meet together,
as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another,
and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.*

– Hebrews 10:24-25



I hope you have had some time to reconnect with family and friends and neighbors this summer! It has been so nice to engage in family gatherings and vacations this summer. It has been great to reconnect with friends from school and ministry. Re engaging after such a long time of isolation is something that I didn't realize how much I needed! I have never looked forward more to the state fair than I have this summer!

As we jump into the fall I am reminded once again that God created us to live in community together. We were not created to be alone. When we are together as the body of Christ the apostle Paul reminds us to stir up one another in love and good works. We have learned over the pandemic that zoom meetings cannot hold a candle or should never take the place of the "face to face" gatherings. The energy and encouraging presence are life giving!

ENGAGEMENT EXPERIMENT!

If you are still reading this, I would like to try an experiment on engagement. Ready? Send me an email right now and give me one word on how pandemic life was for you. Just the first word that comes to your mind. Please do this right now. dsell@rosevillelutheran.org

I look forward to hearing from you and thank you in advance. I will respond back to you.

Isolation and separation have been tremendous detriments to our nation's mental health. It is time (carefully and wisely) to rebuild our community through some hands-on, high-touch opportunities! You will see opportunities to gather as a church through our fall events RLC Rally and Reunion on September 12 and Oktoberfest on Friday October 15th. I hope to see you there, but I also want you to think about the immediate mission field God has placed you in. How can an external focus bring new energy and meaning to you? Many of you already have an external focus, then I ask you what "new energy" and meaning can this outreach bring you this coming year? How will your existing engagement change your heart or challenge you? Who could you bring along so that others could experience this too?

I look forward to reconnecting with you! God's blessings to you and your family!

Diane Strandquist Sell

Director of Community Engagement and Care (NEW Position!)

OKTOBERFEST

**RLC Community Wide Event
Planned for Friday, October 15
5:00 to 8:00 pm**

Mark your calendars now
and look for more details to come!

- German Cuisine
- Carnival games
- Beer Garden "Libation station" (cash bar for beer and wine)
- Mark Stillman and his roaming accordion!
- Face painting and more!

This event is free (except for the cash bar) and open to all. Invite friends and neighbors! Please look for an online sign-up on Oct. 1 so we can get a head count. Questions or those willing to assist contact Diane Sell at dsell@rosevillelutheran.org.



GRIEF SHARE

Support Group Meetings Begin Sept. 13

GriefShare is a support group that meets weekly for 13 weeks beginning Monday September 13. The weekly class will run from 6:00 - 8:00 pm each week and you can sign up at www.rosevillelutheran.org/griefshare. You will find it to be a warm and caring environment and you will come to see your group as an "oasis" on your long journey through grief.



There are 3 key parts to your GriefShare:

1. Video Seminar encouraging, information-packed videos featuring leading grief recovery experts.
2. Support Group that will have small group discussion about the weekly video content.
3. Workbook Journaling and personal study exercises that reinforce the weekly session topics.

For more information, please contact our coordinator, Diane Sell at dsell@rosevillelutheran.org or 651-487-7752.

SERVICE OF GRIEF AND HEALING

7:00 pm, Wednesday, Oct. 5

This will be our 3rd opportunity to gather as a community. Join us in the Worship Center as we gather our community and continue to process the past year. In Matthew 11: 28, Jesus says this "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

These services will include time for reflection and prayer. We will have different areas in the worship space open to reflect and pray or be prayed for. Each service will have reflective music, scripture, readings, a short meditation and time for you to meditate and pray.



TANZANIA

RLC Scholarships

Help Tanzanian Students in 2021

In spite of the worldwide COVID pandemic, Tanzanian schools remain open this year following appropriate local health guidelines. Over fifty members of RLC's companion congregation in Ng'ang'ange are eligible this year for scholarships funded by generous gifts from RLC members.

Ng'ang'ange is a rural village that depends primarily on subsistence farming. The students benefitting from RLC scholarship support are gaining the knowledge and skills they need to improve their lives. Their education enables them to take advantage of many opportunities beyond what is available in their village. Many of these students will need ongoing scholarship support in order to continue their schooling in the future.

BEGA KWA BEGA: SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

This ministry is part of the Bega Kwa Bega program at the Saint Paul Area Synod. Through it RLC is living out our vision to be A Community United by Grace with our brothers and sisters in Tanzania.



IMMIGRATION TEAM

An RLC Subcommittee of ONAM

Scripture tells us to “welcome the stranger and sojourner in our midst.” To that end, a new immigration team began meeting in February 2020 and reconvened in January 2021. Many immigrants live in Roseville and surrounding areas, impacting everything from the schools to business to neighborhoods among many other aspects of community life. Questions have arisen about the impact of immigration leading to controversy. Many people have the mistaken notion that immigrants are a drain on state and local resources. A closer look, however, reveals that immigrants and refugees actually make Minnesota stronger. Besides our biblical call to welcome the stranger, there are practical reasons as well why we should do that. Among them:

- Demographic changes. Minnesota is aging. New immigrant workers are needed to support public programs such as Social Security and Medicare.
- In Minnesota, immigrants and refugees (both documented and undocumented) contribute \$1.8 billion in state taxes, \$381 million in federal taxes, and \$227 million in local taxes.
- Immigrants provide critical essential worker jobs in construction, health care, engineering, and technology among others
- Entrepreneurial spirit.

UPCOMING SUNDAY EDUCATION HOUR AT 10:10 AM

- October 17** – Immigration attorney Marc Prokosch will explain the immigration and refugee process especially as it concerns Central America
- October 24** – Nancy Olson will detail factors which led to the ELCA's decision to become a sanctuary synod and what that means.



OUR NEIGHBORS AND ME

Upcoming Discussions Are Being Re-Scheduled

The RLC “Our Neighbors and Me” (ONAM) Team has been meeting and planning several important discussion opportunities for this fall at Roseville Lutheran Church. With the recent changes in Covid conditions, these events are being re-thought or rescheduled. The importance of these discussions lends them to an in-person format. Some of the things coming in the future include a discussion group for the book “Me and White Supremacy.” We look forward to having Dr. Karen McKinney with us again to lead us in a couple of discussions as well.

HAVE YOU SEEN THE FLOWERS?

Many THANKS to RLC's Lively Landscapers

We Less than a year ago the terrace to the west of the South Entrance to the Commons had overgrown arborvitae. If you were not familiar with RLC's entrance, it was hard to find. Last fall the Lively Landscapers took on the project of removing the arborvitae, mending the soil, and this Spring began planting perennials and annuals in hopes of putting color to the church entrance. WOW.... what a difference a year makes. Please take time to enjoy the flowers on your when into the Commons. As one RLC member said, “Those flowers put a smile on my face and in my heart!”

Many thanks to this year's Lively Landscapers: Julie & Tim Hanson, Julie & Rich Wendland, KJ Bach, Kathy Pedersen, Linda Satrom, Joanne Otis, Jan Brudvig, Martha Mutch, and Dave Werner. If gardening interests you, the Lively Landscapers is always looking for new gardeners for a one-year commitment. Contact Julie Hanson at jhanson@rosevillelutheran.org for more info.



RLC RALLY AND REUNION

Sunday, September 12 at RLC

Outdoor Worship at 9:00 and 10:30 am

Picnic Lunch and Activities to Follow

WHERE: RLC South Parking Lot

PARKING: If you attend the 9:00 am service, please plan to move to the east side of the parking lot following the service to allow others to park for the 10:30 worship. Please follow the direction of the parking lot attendants.

As we begin a new season together we need to celebrate like at a reunion. Catching up with our RLC family and friends. Bring your lawn chair, a hat, some sunscreen and your smile!

PICNIC LUNCH

Join us following the 10:30 worship service for our picnic lunch! Connie and her team are catering an all-American picnic including hot dogs, chips, rice krispie bars, and water! This meal will be served beginning at 11:15 am.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES

- Lawn games
- Giant jenga
- Chili Tasting

RLC'S BEST CHILI CONTEST

We have some great cooks lined up! If you are a chilli lover you will be able to "taste test" some of our members best chilli recipes. A panel of judges will vote for the best chilli of 2021 at 1:30 pm! Taste-testing will begin at 11:00 am and go to 1:00 pm.

RLC RALLY AND

WORSHIP • PICNIC • GAMES • CHILI TASTING

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 REUNION

Sunday Outdoor Worship at
9:00 and 10:30 AM
PICNIC AND ACTIVITIES TO FOLLOW

COVID CONDITIONS WILL DICTATE CHANGES

Follow Us on Facebook and See our Website for Latest Details.

With the ever-changing Covid situation, some of our activities may need to shift online, outdoors, or may be postponed. Please see our website: www.rosevillelutheran.org for all the latest information. If you have any questions about an event cancellation or location, please call the church office.

Outdoor Worship Sept. 12, 19, 26

9:00 and 10:30 am

www.rosevillelutheran.org/outdoor-worship