



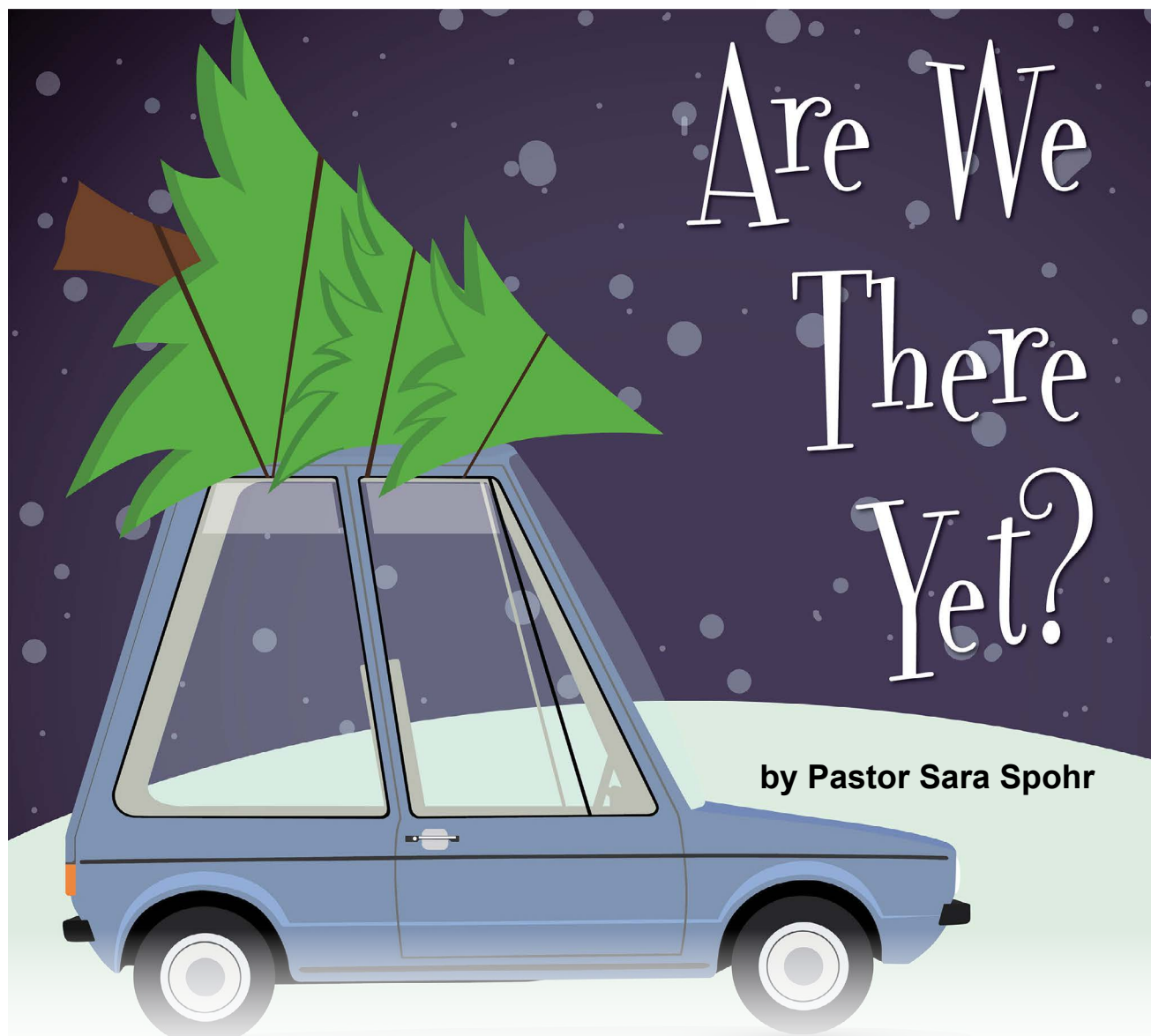
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The Table

A Gathering of Good News
for the Friends and Members of
Roseville Lutheran Church

December 2015 - February 2016



by Pastor Sara Spohr

“Are we there yet?” You know that question. Usually it comes from the back of the vehicle, from a young and restless traveler. Sometimes it comes five minutes into the road trip, but usually, no matter how long the drive, that infamous cry “are we there yet?” comes at about the 2/3 mark. We’re ready to be there; the wait, the anticipation, and the excitement have gotten the best of our patience, and we just want to get to the main event.

This sentiment is not just reserved for young children on road trips. We all know this feeling well. Waiting for employment, waiting for the right relationship, waiting for finances to get on track, waiting for peace among family members, waiting for peace in our world, waiting for forgiveness, waiting for a child. The list could go on and what we all really want to cry out is this: “Are we there yet?”

Into the desperate cry of “are we there yet?”,

God speaks beautiful words of hope:

For a child has been born for us,
a son given to us;
authority rests upon his shoulders;
and he is named

Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.
(Isaiah 9:6)

The people of Isaiah’s time were crying out too, the “are we there yet” of their time was enduring violence, a refugee crisis, and a displaced identity. They were crying out to God for deliverance, they awaited a savior. Isaiah proclaims that God is at work, that even in the waiting there is hope.

There was hope in Isaiah’s time and there is hope for our time, too. Let’s gather together this advent to ask the question “are we there yet?” and to respond with courage and confidence that God is already at work and he is delivering a savior.

Advent Expectation

by Pastor Lauren Wrightsman

Advent is a time of waiting. It is a time of expectation. It is an exciting time for young and old alike as we await the celebration of God born to us in the birth of Jesus Christ.

I find myself being in my own time of “Advent expectation” as I anticipate my joining in ministry with you as your Lead Pastor. It is an “Advent expectation” in so many ways...

- I wonder, with expectation, the gifts that will be brought forward in the name of Christ as we gather together as a people of God
- I wonder, with expectation, the people I will meet and journey with in the years ahead
- I wonder, with expectation, how the ministry of Jesus Christ will impact those whom we serve together

That first Advent, more than 2,000 years ago, was filled with mystery. Feet were made weary by a journey traveled and prayers of hope and expectation were sung along the way. As the Holy Spirit moved and angels spoke - Mary, Joseph, shepherds and wisemen were led to the place where God’s gift to all of creation came down in the form of a precious child. There in the small town of Bethlehem the Christ child was born. It was something that had never happened in the history of the world. God among us! Our Emmanuel! Our Savior! Our Lord!

This Advent season, as we join our voices in singing and as we hear from the scriptures the mystery of the Incarnation – of God come down – may we also join in the journey. The journey of waiting, expectation, hope, and mystery. May we pause to consider how, as we travel to the manger in Bethlehem, how we are part of this great mystery of grace, faith and love born to us.

ADVENT cont’d. on page 2.

Worship with Us!

Traditional: Saturdays, 5:00 p.m.

Contemplative: Sundays, 8:00 a.m.

Traditional: Sundays, 9:00 a.m.

Praise & Worship: Sundays, 11:00 a.m.

President’s Message

The new program year is off and going strong at RLC. There are and have been many things going on: children’s and youth activities, LIFE Ministry activities, multiple music groups, 10:10 discussions, breakfasts with Connie and her dedicated servers, many groups and committees volunteering their time and talents to serve - and a new pastor is arriving. Those are just a few that come to mind; check the kiosk display in the commons for up-to-date postings. I encourage you to find a way to plug in and get involved. If you already are, keep your eyes open for a new face and invite them to join you, or just share a cup of coffee and get to know their story.


Council has been busy with the call process and addressing some transitions, along with keeping an eye on finances. We’re running just slightly behind our budget at this point; nothing that has us overly concerned, but we’re still behind. If you were able to attend the June congregational meeting, you heard about a significant reduction in our budget for Mission and Outreach. Much of their funding comes as a percentage of our general offering, and we just weren’t projecting enough giving to enable us to continue previous levels. M & O has asked us to find ways to return to that previous level. It’s fair to say council would love to be in a position to grant this request, along with addressing some of the other outstanding needs of our church and community.

So as we come out of our focus on steward-

ship in November and enter the busy Christmas season, I’d ask you to take a moment and think again about what it means to be a grateful giver. That’s the phrase that Grace Duddy used, and I hope you had a chance to hear her; she has a way of making it personal. I hope I’m not sounding heavy-handed here, and those who know me realize I’m about as far as one can be from a professional fundraiser, but the health of RLC is really important to me and my family. So I’m asking you to take a moment to think and pray about what RLC means to you, and what you can give in return to support Christ’s ministry here, in all of its many forms. Then fill out and return your intent to give cards, as that is the primary way we make budget projections for the next fiscal year.

Now that Pastor Wrightsman is here, take the time to get to know her. I think you’ll agree the call committee did a good job. And with that I’ll sign off by noting that if you have any other thoughts or concerns, please feel free to drop me a note in the office, catch me in church, or grab one of the other council members or staff, and we’ll do what we can to address it.

Grace and peace to you all,



Dave Hofeldt

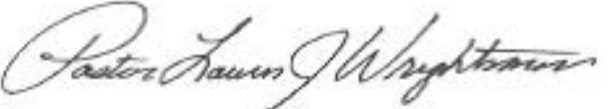
ADVENT, cont’d.

This Christmas my hope is that you will somehow recognize in this whole story of stars and shepherds, of wise men and stables, God’s ongoing declaration that he wants you to know how much he loves you and how much he wants you to love him. That’s the whole crux of this age-old story of Mary and Joseph and the babe born in Bethlehem - that God is love and his love intends to smash the wall that divides you from him and he from you. This old, old story is really brand new when it comes to you and me. It’s not a story that is stuck in history, but it’s actually an on-going saga that has you and me as players in God’s drama of redemption and renewal.

This Christmas may you discover more fully the God whose intention is to give you life in all its fullness and joy. And in that discovery may you be drawn ever closer to the one who came in order that you and I might have eternal life.

I am excited to join this journey with you! May you, and your family, be filled with “Advent Expectation!”

Soli Deo Gloria,



Pastor Lauren J. Wrightsman

RLC Endowment Fund: The Gift That Keeps Giving

by Sarah Richter, Endowment Committee

The best investment with the least risk and the greatest dividend is giving.

— John Templeton, investor and philanthropist

Many years ago, members and friends of Roseville Lutheran (RLC) began an endowment fund to help enhance and extend the ministries and outreach of the congregation. Over time the fund has grown to more than \$400,000 through individual donations, estate plan gifts, memorials and proceeds from the Love Light sales each year. With each contribution, donors entrusted their dollars to help meet the future needs of RLC and our community.

While the principal of gifts remain in the endowment fund in perpetuity, the earnings are distributed as grants twice annually. Since 2005, the fund has distributed more than \$97,000 in grants. Grants from the endowment fund are awarded for seed money, education, capital projects, missions, benevolence, worship and music. The following grants were awarded in 2015:

- RLC Youth and Family Ministry for the Slovakia youth participation in summer trips
- RLC Youth and Family Ministry for the Slovakia Mission Trip leadership retreat
- RLC Stewardship for the Run, Walk, Roll and Gratitude Weekend events
- RLC Outreach for Veterans Day Worship
- RLC Library for renovation and upgrades
- Banyan Community for the afterschool program
- Bridging, Inc. for the RLC Dresser Build

One grant helps 50 families

Bridging is a local nonprofit organization serving the greater Twin Cities. Through the effective reuse of donated items, Bridging improves lives by providing quality furniture and household goods to those transitioning out of homelessness and poverty. RLC has partnered with Bridging since it opened its furniture bank warehouse in Roseville in 2006. Each year, Bridging helps more than 12,000 families “furnish their homes with hope.”

Rich Straumann has volunteered with Bridging, Inc. for several years, helping with RLC’s Big Wrap events and using men’s ministry for dresser builds. When he learned that Bridging’s goal was to provide a dresser for each client’s bedroom (more than just one per home), Rich knew RLC could help meet that need.

Through a grant from the endowment fund, as well as matching funds from Thrivent Financial, Rich organized the October Dresser Build project in conjunction with the Mission & Outreach Ministry Team’s annual Big Wrap. Dozens of volunteers across all generations helped to build 50 dressers.

Learn more and invest in RLC

When founding the RLC endowment fund, donors did not know how their gifts would ultimately be used, but they trusted in God’s plan and the ministry of the church. Today, they would be proud to see how their gifts have impacted hundreds of lives.

If you would like to learn more about the endowment fund and supporting the legacy of RLC through the endowment fund, contact Mike Dolan, Endowment Committee Chair.

With Gratitude

I’ve heard it said that at the very heart of Christian faith is gratitude, and I completely agree with that statement. Therefore, I say thank YOU! As chairperson of the stewardship committee, but more importantly, as a fellow member of this church, I am grateful for each and every gift you have made and for every Intent to Give card that was filled out during our ‘Gratitude Weekend’ stewardship response. Every gift and commitment you make to Roseville Lutheran is an investment in the future of this church and its community. Without your time, talent, and treasure, there is no Roseville Lutheran Church.

The Intent to Give cards are especially helpful to the Executive Committee, because they provide a clearer picture as to how much RLC can expect to receive in the coming year. This, in turn, allows for more accurate ministry development, which ultimately helps us better plan the mission, programs, and outreach to fit the gifts received.

Again, thank you for all you do for this church of ours! Your gifts, of both dollars and time and energy, are critical to helping keep Roseville Lutheran a vibrant and wonderful place of fellowship, outreach and worship!

With Gratitude,
Greg Johnson
Stewardship Committee Chairperson

P.S. If you haven’t turned in your Intent to Give card, please do so by December 15 so that we can take advantage of every opportunity to grow our ministry in the coming new year!

RLC News & Notes

Finance Office

by Laurel Hofeldt,
Director of Finance & Data

Thank you for your generous giving to RLC. Over 95% of our ministry is funded by free-will offering. Your gifts make sharing the message of Christ's salvation possible. Thank you!

Giving to our ministry plan is \$13,938 less than we had budgeted as of September 30, 2015. Total year-to-date expenses exceed receipts by \$52,706. The budgeted year-to-date deficit is \$45,003, meaning we are \$7,703 below our expected position at the end of the first quarter of

the fiscal year. Please prayerfully consider what the ministry of RLC means to you and your family and how you will continue to support the vision God has laid before us.

Monthly financial summaries are available on the website at www.rosevillelutheran.org/about/publications. If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Laurel Hofeldt at lhofeldt@rosevillelutheran.org.

Roseville Lutheran Church September 2015 Month-End Financial Summary

Church Operations 2015-2016						Prior Year	
	September Actual	September Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance	2014 September Actual	2014-15 YTD Actual
Giving	91,896	96,799	274,703	288,641	-13,938	101,605	278,025
Other receipts	9,095	9,428	23,518	17,725	5,793	8,707	16,235
Total Receipts	100,991	106,228	298,221	306,367	-8,146	110,312	294,260
Expenses	122,277	120,397	350,927	351,370	-443	132,658	334,311
Net	-21,286	-14,170	-52,706	-45,003	-7,703	-22,346	-40,052

Number of Givers 2015-2016					Prior Year	
	September (4 Sundays)		YTD through September		2014-15 YTD Thru Sept	
	# Givers	Avg Gift	# Givers	Avg Gift	# Givers	Avg Gift
General Fund	489	187	598	463	656	415
Bldg Designated	84	71	106	182	100	159
M&O	16	146	19	189	18	120
Piano Fund	0	0	0	0	24	658
Other Designated	23	122	60	200	95	211
Endowment Fund	4	20	6	29	8	59
All Other	0	0	1	100	1	100
Total	505	204	613	510	690	473

Fund Balances 9/30/2015		
Available Cash & Short-Term Investments		
		355,043
Designated/Restricted Funds:		
Building Fund		47,350
Kitchen Fund		197,272
Memorials		43,300
Other Funds		126,643
Total Designated/Restricted		414,566
Preschool:	Current Yr	1,427
Child Care:	Current Yr	-3,768
Operating Fund:	Current Yr*	-52,706
*Note: Cumulative Operating Surplus as of 06/30/2015 = \$6,194		

Endowment Fund		
Cash		12,219
Investments		392,989
Total		405,208

Ongoing Events and Groups

Prime Time

On December 10, join us at 11:45 in the Social Hall for entertainment by Kevin Doeley, Ven-triloquist. We will enjoy a meal of Italian salad, tortellini alfredo with sweet peas and bacon, bread and butter, sausage ravioli, and spumoni ice cream.

On January 14, our entertainment will be Senior Saxes. The meal will be savory roast beef sandwiches, salad, a potato dish, buttery corn, and desserts.

Our February 11 entertainment will be Allen and Matt, and our meal will be chicken a la king, spinach salad, peas and carrots, and desserts.

Prime Time provides fun, faith, fellowship and food to RLC senior members and friends. All are welcome. To make reservations, please call the church office at least a week prior to Prime Time at 651-487-7752 or sign up at the Welcome Desk. Cost is \$7 per person.

Rebecca Circle

Join our study! We meet monthly with our meetings from 10 a.m. - noon in the RLC library.

December meeting: December 8 (second Tuesday); hostesses are Marge Jessen and Jean Larson. January meeting: January 19; hostesses are Mary Schultz and Judith Hazen. February meeting: February 16; hostesses are Elaine Sime and Dorothy Tostengard.

Come join us for refreshments, discussion, prayer, and study. Contact Mary Schultz at 651-644-1534 or mh8gaschultz@q.com with questions.

The Rose Enkas

The Rose Enkas provide support and fellowship for widows at their monthly luncheons.

We will meet for lunch on Friday, December 11, at 11:30 a.m. at The Little Venetian at 2900 Rice Street, Little Canada (phone 651-486-7719).

The January date is Saturday, Jan 16 at 11:30 a.m. at Pippin's Restaurant, 2905 Snelling Avenue North, Roseville (phone 651-639-0633).

The February date is Saturday, Feb. 20 at 11:30 a.m. at Panda Garden Restaurant, 1706 Lexington Avenue North, Roseville (phone 651-488-5505). Call Kay Shurson at 651-766-6930 or Lori Bergman at 651-635-9563 for more information.

Simply Giving

An easy, generous choice

The Simply Giving Program is a simple, reliable way to make your regular contributions to the congregation through automated giving.

Contact the church office for more information.

Christian LIFE

Looking to Get Involved? LIFE Ministry Has Opportunities for You!

LIFE Ministry plans fun events throughout the year to help you connect with others at RLC.

We hope that you will find something that piques your interest and that you will join us for one or more of our fall events.

We plan a variety of events for women, men, couples, families and the church at large.

Here are some things to watch for - please join us!

Hoppin' Helpers Family Fun Fest

Using our bodies to have fun and do God's work!

Wear your silly socks, have fun and help others at our Family LIFE Ministry event in January. Please join us Saturday, January 30 from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. for a fun afternoon of activities! We'll have inflatables such as a Jump-house and a 35' long x 18" foot high 2-lane Obstacle Course climb, crafting stations with creations to enrich Meals on Wheels deliveries, photo booth, music, hula hoops, games and more. We'll have drinks and snacks too.

This is a family event, so a parent or guardian needs to be present. Children aged Preschool through Grade school.

Admittance fee: pack of adult white sweatsocks or donation (recommendation \$5 or more) to benefit 363 Days Ministry. 363 Days Ministry is the recipient of our big Family Serve Sunday - Serving Sandwiches event on Sunday, January 30 and donations help feed and clothe the homeless.



LIFE Ministry Winter Ladies Card event

Ladies - join us on Friday, February 12, from 7 p.m. until midnight for snacks and stamps! We will be making cards for others in our RLC family. No stamping experience needed and supplies will be provided. We will have sample ideas out and ready to stamp and assemble or get creative with what we have to make your own creations. You will be able to make a card or two for yourself to share with someone special to you and we will donate the rest to RLC to send to shut ins and friends who need a smile to remember that we are thinking about them. Prizes and creative fun provided! Please RSVP to Gena Mickley at genashawnone@comcast.net with questions and to reserve a spot.

All-Church Theater Event

Come to the History Theater to see the newest production, "Watermelon Hill." Bring your spouse, partner or good friends. This play is based on the book "Shadow Mothers" by Linda Back McKay. It's a heart touching story placed in 1965 in the Twin Cities.

From historytheatre.com: 1965. Imagine yourself as a teenage girl - pregnant and unwed. After a painful confession to your mother, you are sent away to the Catholic Infant Home on Cathedral Hill to deliver your baby and give it up for adoption. You are given a new name and strict

instructions: "Do not reveal your real name. Do not discuss this episode in your life with anyone. Have your baby, go back to school, and make a fresh start - as if nothing ever happened. Once you leave this place, you must never look back."

But that's impossible. Decades later, three courageous women relive their shared experiences at the home, personal moments of love and loss, and reunions with the children they never forgot.

There will be a post play discussion at the theatre and then we will go out for dinner. Watch for more details to come.

Monthly Women's Event: Scrapbooking and Crafts

Never can find time to get your craft projects done? Here's a friendly, welcoming ladies group that meets at RLC each month. Bring your scrapbooking projects, electronic scrapbooking (accessing the RLC wifi), stamping, cards, jewelry making, grading papers, knitting... if you can bring it, you can do it!

We meet in the RLC lobby on the second Friday of every month, from 7 p.m. - midnight; join us anytime during the session. Grab your

girlfriends or come by yourself, grab a project, and join us for an evening of crafts, snacks and making friends! All are welcome, and the more the merrier! Our monthly dates are posted on the RLC calendar. Our upcoming winter dates are December 11, January 8, and February 8, with more dates on the website. Mark your calendar. Need more info or want a reminder? Contact Gena Mickley at genashawnone@comcast.net.

Ladies Event - MN RollerGirls

Join us Saturday, April 9 at 6:30 p.m. at the Roy Wilkins Auditorium in St. Paul for a fun night with the girls! This double header will include two exciting matches with the B-Team, the Minnesota Nice, followed by some of the best derby in the world when our Minnesota RollerGirls All-Stars battle it out on the track. The Minnesota RollerGirls All-Stars have been competing against the best in the world, competing in the World Championships in 2006, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2014!



photo courtesy www.theroy.org

Adult Education

Back to the Basics . . . and Beyond

Scripture—Prayer—Worship—Catechism—Confession—Community & Mission—Music
Art—Faith—Stepping Stones—Baptism—First Communion—Confirmation

So those who received the word were baptized . . . and they continually devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles, to sharing in community, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. Acts 2:41-42

Sunday 10:10 Faith and Fellowship

Each month we are focusing on a separate theme of the “Basics” In September and October we focused on Scripture and in November on Prayer. We continue in December with a look at Worship. We begin on November 29.

“Singing the Lord’s Song”—The Bible and Worship
November 29 in Room 40; led by Dr. Jim Boyce

From the beginning of Genesis to the end of Revelation, the Bible envisions worship as the heartbeat of God’s people. The Old and New Testaments agree that the chief commandment is to “love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and mind.” As they entered the promised land, their leader Joshua distinguished the Israelites from the nations around them by their worship of the Lord God: “As for me and my house we will worship the Lord!” The collection of the Psalms—with its praises, thanksgivings, confessions, laments, and prayers—has modeled worship in its meaningful reflection of the life stories of God’ people. Our theme verse for the year notes that early Christians celebrated the Resurrection by gathering regularly for “breaking bread together and prayer.”

December 6 - No 10:10 Faith and Fellowship
We join in welcoming Pastor Lauren Wrightsman.

Worship as Repentance
December 13 in Room 40; led by Walter Sundberg

The fundamental act of Christian worship is to come before the Lord and confess our sins, to examine ourselves,” as Paul says in First Corinthians 11. In response to our confession, God forgives our sins. Too often in the church today, this elemental act of worship is forgotten or de-emphasized. We will look at the sources in history, especially the Reformation.

Christmas Hymn Sing
December 20 in the Social Hall; led by John Helgen

Come request and sing your favorite Christmas hymns!

January’s Focus is Mission and Outreach
All sessions in Room 40

363 Days Food Program
January 10; led by Allan Law

Allan Law, a retired teacher from Minneapolis, goes out every evening from 9:00 p.m.–5:00 a.m. to deliver sandwiches. He distributes an average of 1,600 sandwiches a night to individuals, shelters and locations serving the homeless. In addition, Allan distributes sandwiches that provide an extra meal for overnight residents to ten Twin Cities partner organizations serving the homeless and poor in Minneapolis and St Paul.

Homelessness in the Suburbs? Really?
January 17; led by Liz Schreier

Chances are pretty good that you have recently passed someone in the grocery store or sat next to someone in your church pew that is experiencing homelessness. Homelessness in the suburbs looks different than most of us envision it to look like. There is no “defining feature” to tell you that a family is struggling.



It is hard to know who is in need of help until you open your doors and offer help. Come hear what homelessness looks like in our neighborhoods, and consider what you can do to make a difference.

Liz Schreier is the Executive Director of the Community Resource Center (CRC) of St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi.

Local Cutting Edge Approaches to Developing Lives of Faith
January 24; led by Reverend Justin Grimm

Come see and hear what is happening in our own backyard! The Reverend Justin Grimm, SPAS Director of Evangelical Mission, will share with us our synod’s vision to promote lives of faith and service, and to develop new mission outreaches in the rising generation.

Reverend Justin Grimm is a new member of the St. Paul Area Synod staff and serves as Director of Next Generation Ministries.

Urban Community Development: Answering God’s Call to Live a Sacrificial Life
January 31; led by Joani Essenburg

Banyan is a Christian community development organization in which youth, family and community are synchronized to achieve the greatest impact. Youth attend programs to succeed in school, build life skills, develop assets, and cultivate healthy relationships. Family is strengthened with Banyan staff bringing together parents and children. Parents learn how to advocate for their children. Community is strongest when neighbors know each other and begin to care

for each other. Leaders of Banyan Community recognize that in order for people in poverty to thrive and succeed, whole families and the larger community must be connected and engaged through community design and development. This philosophy is at the heart of all of Banyan’s programs. Joani Essenburg is the Executive Director of the Banyan Community.

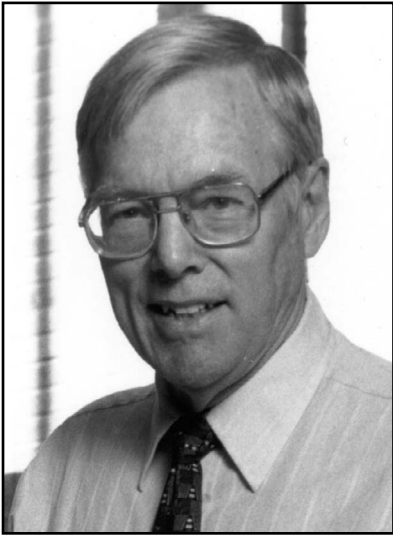
February will focus on the Catechism and the Creeds

Explaining Jesus’s Life
February 7 in Room 40; led by Michael Rogness

The disciples lived with Jesus for three years, experiencing his crucifixion, resurrection and ascension to heaven. Then they fanned out across the Mediterranean and had to explain what it all meant for those who weren’t there. Many conflicting ideas arose. How would the early Christians distinguish between true belief and heresies? Who do we say Jesus is now?

What Do We Need to Teach about Our Faith?
February 14 in Room 40; led by Michael Rogness

Christian faith is trusting in Father, Son and Holy Spirit and trying to live in this trust. But what do we have to “know”? What are we trusting in? Somebody should make a list! The Catechism became way too long to for children to learn, so Martin Luther condensed the essential items into a “Small” catechism. Many of us memorized parts of it.



Creeds and Catechisms Keep Going
February 21 in Room 40; led by Michael Rogness

The aftermath of the Reformation in the 1500s was a whole new set of questions and, yes, conflicts. The old creeds didn’t deal with these new issues? Should we make a “new” creed? Some modern churches have done so, but the Lutherans have been content with the ones we have. Is that a good idea?

Mission & Outreach

Project Home Returns to RLC in February

by Kathy Pedersen, Project Home Coordinator

According to recent studies, on any given night, more than 3,500 children in Minnesota are homeless, and half of those are age 5 and younger. Homelessness is not necessarily something that happens to “other people”. This happens right in our own neighborhoods! The person sitting next to you in the pew, attending confirmation or Cornerstone with your children, or sharing a cup of coffee with you after services may have been homeless at one time or another!

This past February, RLC hosted homeless families thru an initiative called Project Home, a division of the Interfaith Action (formerly St. Paul Council of Churches). Project Home partners with The Family Place (TFP), a non-profit in downtown St. Paul that works with homeless families to provide them with the resources they need to get back on their feet and ultimately find a place to live. After vetting families, they're placed in a permanent family shelter until housing becomes available. However, the shelters are often full and every night there are families that still need a safe place to sleep. This is where Project Home gets involved. Project Home works with dozens of area faith communities to provide temporary

overflow emergency shelter for children and their parents in Ramsey County each night. Every month 2 area churches open their doors to host up to 20 people. The host churches provide families with a place to spend “family” time, share an evening snack and breakfast, and get a good night's rest.



ing a warm welcome and friendly face in a space we've worked hard to make welcoming and homey. You will visit with the families, engage with them as appropriate, play and read with the children, and coordinate the meals (provided by Project Home). The overnight shift will ensure our guests have a safe sleep, wake the families in the morning, start the coffee, set out a cold breakfast and send them off with a smile and a kind word. During the day the children go to school and parents/toddlers return to The Family Place for meals and support.



Last February RLC hosted families for the first time. Your response to this ministry was overwhelming: 101 volunteers made this ministry possible!

In January 2016, we will be hosting Project Home again and signing up volunteers to help. Most of our volunteers will work on-site with our guests. Our volunteers simply host these families just as you might host someone in your home. The evening shift will work from approximately 5:30 – 8:30 pm provid-

We hope you will prayerfully consider this volunteer opportunity for yourself or your family. If your circumstances don't allow for this, you might consider helping behind the scenes with setting up and/or taking down PH materials, making a homemade “treat” for the week or various other opportunities.

Watch for additional information on opportunities to share in this ministry as we get closer to volunteer signup in January.

*For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I
was a stranger, and you invited me in.*

- Matthew 25:35

Vision Slovakia Seeks RLC Builders Groups

On October 28, 2015, the Center for Christian Education (CCE) in Martin Slovakia celebrated the completion of “Phase 1” in their reconstruction plan. They now have eleven classrooms and three special rooms that make up the expanded school! And all this renovation was completed since July 2015! PRAISE GOD for willing hearts and hands!

As part of that celebration CCE shared this: *These new renovations have brought a new theme for the academic year, simply: “Our School.” The remnants of Communism left a culture that lacked ownership, responsibility, and service. Watching our students and families take pride and responsibility by volunteering and contributing is what “Our*

School” is all about. It is not the government's school, it is “Our Wchool.” As we reconstruct a formerly Communist building, our students are reconstructing a new culture of ownership and service.

We rejoice in this progress with our community, students, and friends from around the Globe who continually pray for us and support us. With a spirit of hope and courage, we continue to “Phase 2” and “Phase 3” of our school to bring us home at last.

How can Roseville Lutheran Church respond?

Are you being called to serve? We need men and women of any age and skill level to take part in a one week-long (April 15-23) or a two weeklong (April 15-30) Builders Group Ministry in 2016 in Martin, Slovakia. We are looking for people with varying levels of construction and/or remodeling experience or are willing to learn. We are looking for people who are committed to having fun working



with others, want to learn a new skill, and can adapt to new and changing environments.

We also need financial donations both large and small to help equip a physics lab in the new Lutheran School building. The Center for Christian Education in Martin Slovakia has purchased the building adjacent to their present school campus. Contact Joe Lunders (651-762-1006) or KJ Bach (651-636-6842) if you would like to take part in the builders group or if you would like to make a contribution toward equipping the physics lab at the school. More info on the fundraising will be coming in 2016.



Mission & Outreach

Sharing Tree Benefits Local Partners

The Sharing Tree has been a great tradition at Roseville Lutheran over the years. The Sharing Tree will be in Luther Commons during December. The Sharing Tree creates a way for Roseville Lutheran friends and family to purchase and give a holiday gift to local families. We will be collecting the Sharing Tree gifts November 28 through December 20.

Please take an ornament from the tree that you would like to purchase for a RLC partner organization. Once you have the gift, please place the unwrapped gift under the tree by Sunday, December 20.

Your gifts will benefit children and adults served by local RLC partners. The RLC partners that will be receiving Sharing Tree gifts this year

include Hospitality Center for Chinese, Bridging, Family Place, MORE Community, Plymouth Christian Youth Center, and Banyan Community. You can read about some of these great organizations below.

Thank you for continued support as we use the Sharing Tree tradition to show Jesus' love and grace to those in need during the Holiday Season!

Banyan Community

Roseville Lutheran first encountered the Banyan Community during a Habitat for Humanity project in Minneapolis. After that initial encounter, the RLC connection has continued to grow over the years.

From Banyan's literature: "The Banyan Community provides three levels of community development in the East Phillips Community. We develop youth, strengthen families, and create community. We help kids get their homework done, provide a healthy snack, engage in team building activities in the gym, and nurture curiosity with educational enrichment activities." Banyan serves a total of 100 youth and 70 families along with 400 community members.

From RLC member Bud Helmen: "The Banyan Community is such a wonderful group of people that makes a force for good and success for youth and their parents in the East Phillips district in Minneapolis. A group of us from Roseville Lutheran Church helped them renovate their basement so they do their ministry and tutoring with local youth in their home. Since



Above: RLC Members at recent Banyan groundbreaking.

that they have grown so much that they bought another house and rent space in a church for classroom space, a gym and still there are another hundred kids from the community who want to come there but will have to wait until they get more rooms and space."

Through the Mission and Outreach team at Roseville Lutheran, we all support Banyan with financial support for programming and gifts from the Sharing Tree. Learn more at www.banyancommunity.org.

MORE Community

MORE is a multicultural community-based organization empowering people of many races, cultures, and ethnic backgrounds to live and work in peace. Located near RLC at the corner of East Wheelock Parkway and Jackson Street in Saint Paul, this organization helps over 500 new immigrants and refugees a year find a place for themselves in our local community. The primary activities are Adult English Language Learning for new Americans, helping with basic needs, case management/advocacy



and mental health, each designed to empower participants and to assist refugees in moving out of poverty.

Plymouth Christian Youth Center

PCYC is located in a Minneapolis neighborhood just a short distance northwest of downtown. Its mission is: "To enrich the skills, prospects and spirit of North Minneapolis area youth and adults, in partnership with families and communities."

PCYC was founded in the mid-1960s by a group of folks who saw a need to provide a location for the youth of the area to gather and have fun in a Christian based environment. Today, the center has evolved into a place where youth can participate in a multitude of after-school activities and a summertime full of special events. Besides fun, these activities have a strong emphasis on education. PCYC is proud that this year all of the 5th grade age kids tested above grade level in math and reading.

PCYC also has an accredited

Arts and Tech High School with over 300 full time students. A very popular activity at the Center amongst the students and the community is Camp Capri which teaches drama and produces numerous productions throughout the year at the Capri Theater connected to the center.

Roseville Lutheran was one of the early churches to support the center and saw this as an important outreach to the community. This outreach continues today as Carl Mohn serves on the Board of Directors.



Warm Tummies, Warm Toes this December

Dorothy Day always needs socks for the homeless! We will be collecting socks to give the night of The Dorothy Day Friendship Meal on December 14.

This has been an annual tradition that includes Resurrection Lutheran's socks also, since they serve that night too. Both churches gift wrap them for a holiday gift.

Please put your men and women's socks into one of the three boxes named Warm Tummies, Warm Toes. We will collect socks through December 13. Thank you so much!

Children, Youth & Family

Cornerstone Program: All Because of Christmas!

We have begun rehearsing for the Cornerstone Christmas Program, titled All Because of Christmas!, which will be held Sunday, December 13 during the 11:00 worship service. Our 2-year-olds through 4th graders and 5th and 6th grade Christmas Choir will tell the story of the birth of our Savior through music and narration.

Parents should bring their preschoolers to their usual Small Group Space on December



Christmas Program Special Rehearsal

To make our Cornerstone Christmas program the best it can be, we will be rehearsing with all the kids on Friday night, Dec. 11 from 6:30-8. This is our last opportunity to rehearse with John Helgen and his musicians all together, so please make every effort to bring your kids to this rehearsal! Preschoolers will be excused at 7:15, other kids at 8.

Christmas Program Prop Assembly Needed

We have to create a few props for our Cornerstone Christmas program. If you are able to help with this fun, please contact Julie Hanson at jhanson@rosevillelutheran.org.

13 at 10:00 for Cornerstone. Kindergarten – 4th graders will all meet in the Activity Center at 10:00 for one last rehearsal before our program at 11. Parents can pick up their Cornerstone kids after the Worship service where they dropped them off. Join us as we discover how our lives are changed All Because of Christmas!

Advent Activity Day is Nov. 29

Each year on the first Sunday of Advent we prepare for Christmas with Advent Activity Day. This year's Advent Activity Day will be held on Sunday, November 29, at 10:00 a.m. All Cornerstone and Luther League kids from 2 years old through 6th grade will participate in creating a craft or decorative item to be used in the home during the Advent season. These are quality items that will last for several Advent seasons and you will want to use them year after year.

Because the cost of these items is not part of our budget, we ask that each child bring \$2.00 with them on Sunday, November 29, to help defray the materials cost. Please place \$2.00 in a plain envelope and have your child place it in the Cornerstone or Luther League offering basket.

Extra hands will be needed to assist the students in completing their projects, especially at the preschool and early-elementary level. Please talk with your child's Small Group Shepherd and offer to join your child's small group to provide an extra set of hands. Please help to make this a wonderful experience for all the kids!

Pajama Day is coming to Cornerstone, Luther League and RAW December 6

Sunday, December 6 is Pajama Day for all kids at Roseville Lutheran Church! All kids are encouraged to wear their pajamas to Cornerstone, Luther League and RAW AND bring a new pair of pajamas to give to the Sharing Tree for others this Christmas. The kids will lounge in their Small Group spaces and learn about the love of God in a comfy, cozy way!

If you are not a part of Cornerstone but would like to donate a new pair of pajamas to the Sharing Tree, please join the fun!! Take advantage of Black Friday deals to get new pajamas for kids on sale!

Kids... Bring a pair of new pajamas to give to others, and wear your pajamas to Cornerstone, Luther League and RAW on December 6!



Children's Musical this Spring: I AM

I AM Who I AM. [Exodus 3:14]

Who do you say that I AM? [Mark 8:29]

No matter our age, most of us are constantly attached to our smartphones, tablets, videogames, laptops, and even Google watches. Our days are crammed with calendars, appointments, "to dos," emails, text, tweets and Instagrams. Whether we're learning a new skill or managing an old task at school, on the playground, at work or at home, we often ask each other, "Isn't there an App for that?"

In today's digital world, how do we find time to get to know the God who made us and who loves us more than Himself? Is there an App for that? Come explore that question at the RLC Spring Musical, presented by RLC's K-6 kids on the weekend of April 23-24, 2016!

Anyone who wants to be involved is welcome. An organizational meeting will be held at RLC on Saturday, January 9, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. Parents and interested K-6 kids should plan to attend to learn more about the play, listen to the music, and sign up for singing auditions to be held later. Stay tuned for further information in the RLC e-blast and newsletter. If you have questions, please feel free to contact Tammy Pust (651-503-2725) by phone or text. Tammy and her daughter, Taylor Norton, are excited to be directing this production for RLC!



Children, Youth & Family

Family Serve Sunday – Serving Sandwiches is January 31

For a third year, we are gathering together to make sandwiches for area homeless. We have an amazing opportunity at Roseville Lutheran Church to help our most needy. On January 31, families will participate in making 1,000 sandwiches to give to area homeless through 363 Days Food Program. Allan Law, a retired teacher from Minneapolis began feeding homeless and families in need on a daily basis in 1999. Mr. Law goes out every evening from 9:00 p.m.–5:00 a.m. to deliver sandwiches. He distributes an average of 1,600 sandwiches a night to individuals, shelters and locations serving the homeless. In addition, Allan distributes sandwiches that provide an extra meal for overnight residents to ten Twin Cities partner organizations serving the homeless and poor in Minneapolis and St. Paul.

The 363 Days Food Program name evolved

from people asking Mr. Law over the years what he does on Thanksgiving and Christmas, since many organizations offer meals to the homeless on those two days. “I’ll let those organizations handle those two days, and I’ll take care of the other 363 days of the year.”

We will gather in the Activity Center at 10:10 for a short presentation by Mr. Law, and then begin assembling sandwiches. All are invited to participate in this event. Last year, with the help of our Confirmation youth and leaders, and our Family Serve Sunday we made over 2,000 sandwiches to benefit our area homeless. If you would like to help coordinate this event, please contact Julie Hanson at [jhanson@](mailto:jhanson@rosevillelutheran.org)



rosevillelutheran.org or call the RLC main office at 651-487-7752.

It’s a Garage Sale Year - Save the Date!

Start going through your closets, clean up those things in your basement . . . this spring we are having a garage sale!

We are looking for clothing, furniture, electronics (no TVs), sports equipment, household items, lawn & garden equipment, tools, books,

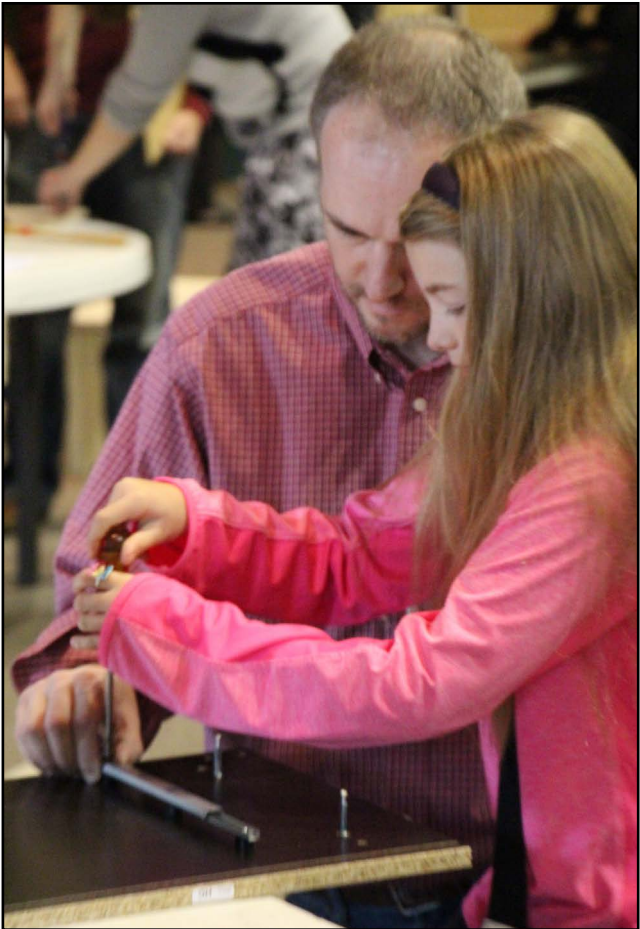
knick-knacks, and anything else that is in salable condition.

This sale is being coordinated by Children, Youth and Family Ministries, and the proceeds will go toward camp scholarships for children, youth and families! We offer a lot of summer opportuni-

ties at RLC and it gets expensive, especially if you have more than one child! We are using this garage sale to help defray the cost of those that want to participate in one of our summer opportunities. The CYF Garage Sale will be April 29 and 30!

October Mission Focus on Bridging was Amazing!

With the generosity of our Endowment Committee and a large donation by Thrivent, RLC was able to purchase and assemble 53 dressers to benefit clients of Bridging. This was a combined



effort using many hands, including Confirmation youth and their Leaders, 5th and 6th grade Lock-in kids, and your generous outpouring of help on our Family Serve Sunday, October 25 to complete the task. In addition to the Dresser Build, many donated items to be included in Bath and Kitchen Bundles that were assembled by many! A special thank you goes to Rich Straumann who shared his passion for Bridging by coordinating this project and helping the each group build dressers successfully. He made sure this experience was a positive one for all who participated.

The following is a thank you from Bridging for this effort:

Dear Roseville Lutheran Church,
YOU ARE AWESOME!
Thank you sponsoring and building 53 brand-new dressers, assembling 90 kitchen packs and rolling 45 towel sets! Nearly 400 volunteers participated in the projects donating over 650 hours of service to Bridging! You are amazing and you made a huge difference in the lives of local families transitioning out of homelessness and poverty. Many of your dressers, kitchen packs and towels have already

made it to their new homes. Nicely done team! Thank you for your continued support of Bridging and all that we do.

Bridging could not accomplish its mission without the help of volunteers like you. Thank you for being part of the good things that happen at Bridging every day!

With heartfelt appreciation,
Wendy Erickson
Volunteer & Program Supervisor



Children, Youth & Family

Confirmation Lock-In

The Confirmation Lock-In is coming soon! As always, it will be an all-night event of fun, fellowship, and games. Youth will have a great time with giant inflatables, movies, games, midnight worship, pizza party, laser tag, and much MUCH more!

The Confirmation Lock-In is open to 7th through 9th graders and their friends. It begins Friday January 29 at 8 p.m. and will end on Saturday February 30 at 7 a.m. The cost is \$40 per youth and the deadline to register is Sunday January 17. Registration forms will be available at the Youth & Family Desk by the RLC Office beginning in December. Contact Abby at youth5-8@rosevillelutheran.org with any questions.

Youth Serving and Learning in Slovakia

We have 20 youth and 5 adult leaders going to Slovakia for the service learning trip in summer 2016. The group has already started building as a team and growing together in faith. We are all looking forward to our retreat in January to really get to know each other better and plan for all the exciting things we'll be doing. A special thank you to the Endowment Committee for making that retreat possible. In the coming months, you will learn more about all 25 people going on this trip so you can specifically pray and support each of us. In the meantime, please keep everyone and the community in Martin in your prayers as we prepare for this trip!

Here's what's happening in Children, Youth and Family Ministry

- Weekly Programs:**
- Sundays: Cornerstone, Luther League, RAW, 11&Lunch (Age 2 - Senior High)
 - Tuesdays: FLOCK (Senior High)
 - Wednesdays: Confirmation (7th – 9th Grade)
 - Thursdays: Bagels @ Dawn (Senior High)
- Special Events & Retreats:**
- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------|---|
| November 29 | 10 a.m. | Advent Activity Day for Cornerstone and Luther League |
| December 6 | | Pajama Day in Cornerstone, Luther League, and R.A.W. |
| December 11 | 6:30 p.m. | Rehearsal for Cornerstone Christmas Program |
| December 13 | 11 a.m. | Cornerstone Christmas Program |
| December 16 | | Confirmation Fellowship Night |
| December 20 | | No Cornerstone, Luther League, RAW, or 11&Lunch |
| December 27 | | No Cornerstone, Luther League, RAW, or 11&Lunch |
| January 3 | | Cornerstone, Luther League, RAW, and 11&Lunch resume |
| January 6 | 7 p.m. | Guest Speaker ~ Why Relationships Matter |
| January 15 – 17 | | Slovakia Retreat |
| January 27 | 7 p.m. | Confirmation Service Night |
| January 29 | 8 p.m. | Confirmation Lock-In |
| January 31 | | Family Serve Sunday ~ Serving Sandwiches |
| April 24 | | Children's Musical |
| April 29 & 30 | | Children, Youth, and Family Garage Sale |



Summer 2016 Preview – Mark Your Calendars

To help survive the coming cold months, you can start planning for summer 2016! The dates and costs for all the Children, Youth, and Family trips have been set! You can read more about these online or by picking up a copy of the CYF Summer Brochure at the Children, Youth, and Family desk. The dates for our trips are:

- Vacation Bible School (for children ages 3 through 4th grade): June 13-17, 2016
- Camp Salie (for children grades 2-4): July 5-7
- Camp Hiawatha (for youth who completed grades 4-9): June 19-24
- Summer of Service (for youth grades 5-8): July 11-15
- Slovakia Service Learning Trip (for youth grades 9-12): June 24 – July 5
- BWCA (for youth grades 9-12): July 31 – August 6
- Family Mission Trip (for all children, youth, and their families): July 21 - 24

Registration forms for these trips will be available in early 2016.

A Service Trip for the Whole Family

The Children, Youth and Family staff is very excited to offer all families the chance to serve together this summer! Together, we will serve 4 days in Duluth/Superior where all families will work alongside one another as we all grow in our faith. All service sites in Duluth are tailored to different age ranges, so everyone in the family will have the opportunity to serve from the youngest to the oldest.

We look forward to having your whole family join us next summer! The dates of this Family Mission Trip are July 21 – 24. Please contact any of the CYF staff with any questions you may have.

Music

Christmas Festival Concert

The choirs, brass, handbells and instrumental musicians of Roseville Lutheran will gather once again to present our Christmas Festival Concert at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, December 19. Mark your calendars and plan to attend – and invite a friend!

NYE with RLC Jazz

All are invited to come once again and hear the sounds of RLC Jazz at the RLC New Year's Eve service at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 31. The RLC jazz band will provide the musical backdrop for this service, where we will celebrate with thanks to God for all the blessings of the year that has passed, and pray for guidance and hope for the year that is ahead. Following the worship service, at 8:00 p.m., the band will present a concert. Bring the whole family, and invite your friends too!



Upcoming Music Events

Get out your calendar and mark down these exciting concert opportunities at RLC in the coming months! Check our calendar at www.rosevillelutheran.org for details.

Sunday, December 6	Lake Country/Northstar Chorus Concert
Saturday, December 12	VocalEssence "Welcome Christmas"
Sunday, December 13	Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies
Saturday, December 19	RLC Christmas Festival Concert
Tuesday, December 22	Roseville High School GoodPellas Concert
Thursday, December 31	RLC Jazz in Concert (following New Year's Eve worship)
Friday, January 15	Minnesota Sinfonia with Loren Fishman, piano

Hospitality



RLC Kitchen Keeping Busy

Hello Roseville Lutheran,

In the last table I had talked about the exciting things that were in the future. Some of the events that have happened since the last publication have rocked the RLC kitchen! By the time you have read this, our little kitchen will have put out food to an amazing 2,268 guests.

We have been busy and this church has given me great joy. The volunteer hours that these people do are more than I could have hoped for or expected. I cannot thank them enough for all they do, and we cannot do it without them.

We will have several events coming up and if you have time and want to work with us, we would be happy to have you share in the fun that we do.

Thank you again for this opportunity to serve you.

Ciao,
Connie Marchio
Collen Hopple



ELCA News



Confronting Racism: A Holy Yearning

from www.elca.org

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton and William B. Horne II, an ELCA member from Clearwater, Fla., will continue their conversation on racism – a violation of God’s intention for humanity – in another live webcast Jan. 14, 2016, at 8 p.m. (CDT). Eaton and Horne will be joined by other ELCA members who bring various perspectives on the U.S. criminal justice system. As with the previous webcast, this one will be grounded by two commitments. One is this church’s proclamation of Christ and the confidence this good news brings to set us free from the captivity of racism. The second is this church’s enduring commitment to address the complexity of racism and end discrimination.

According to the ELCA social statement “The Church and Criminal Justice: Hearing the Cries”:

The estimated prison population under state and federal jurisdiction at year-end 2011 was 34 percent white, 38 percent African American and 23 percent Hispanic.

Yet non-Hispanic whites currently make up 63 percent of the U.S. population, African Americans make

up 12 percent and Hispanics make up 17 percent. Percentages are greatly disproportionate for other peoples of color also, such as American Indians or Alaska Natives. Racial disparities appear in juvenile justice systems as well, including disproportionate minority contact with juvenile justice systems.

Joining Eaton and Horne for this conversation are:

- Judge Yolanda Tanner, an ELCA member who serves as an associate judge for the Baltimore City Circuit Court. Judge Tanner is a member of the ELCA.
- Leonard Duncan, an ELCA member who will share his experience of incarceration, poverty and homelessness. Duncan is a student at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia and an ELCA Fund for Leaders scholarship recipient.
- Charlene Guiliani, an ELCA member and former police sergeant. Guiliani is a student at Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa, and an ELCA Fund for Leaders scholarship recipient.

In several public statements, Eaton has

called for sustained conversations about racism and racial justice, particularly in response to events across the United States: “God’s intention for all humanity is that we see the intrinsic worth, dignity and value of all people. Racism undermines the promise of community and fractures authentic relationships with one another. We need to talk and we need to listen, but we also need to act.”

A link to the live webcast will be embedded at www.elca.org. A live stream also will be available at [www.Facebook.com/Lutherans](https://www.facebook.com/Lutherans). Twitter hashtag is #ELCAConfrontRacism.

Interested in submitting a question for the ELCA presiding bishop and her guests to consider during the live webcast? Send your question to livinglutheran@elca.org. Please provide your name and your congregation’s name, city and state.



Horne



Eaton



Join us in Worship!

Christmas Eve Worship:

3:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Worship

4:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Family Worship

9:00 p.m. & 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship

10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Worship

RLC Lay Leaders & Staff

Pastors

Lauren Wrightsman, Senior Pastor
Sara Spohr, Associate Pastor
Dick Carlson, Visitation Pastor

Hospitality Ministry

Connie Marchio, Hospitality Manager
Colleen Hopple, Hospitality Assistant

Music Ministry

John Helgen, Director
Martha Mutch, Organist
Kristina Olson, Youth Choir
Lori Haaland, Handbell Choirs
Cassandra McNally, Children’s Choir

Children’s Ministry

Julie Hanson, Acting Director
Tammy Heiple, Nursery Supervisor

Child Care House

Sue Menier, Director
Linda Borgstrom, Assistant

Student Ministry

Michael Jordan, Director of Senior High Ministry
Abby Matter, Director of Middle School Ministry

Facilities Ministry

Stephen Henry, Campus Manager
Arlen Rystrom, Building Engineer
Shelton Ingram, Custodian
Bradley Hane, Custodian
Jessica Hunt, Facilities

Ministry Support Staff

Dave Booms, Church Administrator
Laurel Hofeldt, Director of Finance and Data
Amanda Chavis, Communications Manager
Daniel Pederson, Communications Specialist
Kay Berthiaume, Financial Assistant
Diane Daulton, Financial Assistant
Trish Clifford, Administrative Assistant

Preschool

Cindy Laszewski, Director

Congregation Council

Dave Hofeldt, President
Sara Mohn, President-Elect
Jeff Johnson, Vice President
Vanessa Anderson
Heidi George
Kevan Moulton
Georgia Nygaard
Jim Stark
Jake Von de Linde

Nominating Committee

Rick Glubke, Co-Chair
Alice Neve, Co-Chair

Ministry Team Chairs

Gena Mickley, Children’s Ministry
Mary Erickson, Adult Education
Jill Lund, Christian LIFE
Erik Wolhowe, Mission & Outreach
Jim & Marlane Maahs, Youth & Family

Endowment Committee

Mike Dolan, Chair