

# THE TABLE

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

**December • January • February • 2016-2017**



## PRINCE OF PEACE + HOPE OF THE WORLD

### Christmas Mural Description

*Artist David Hetland describes the Advent/Christmas mural gracing our Worship Center:*

"In the midst...of our fragile days in a wounded world, we gather to celebrate God's enduring love for us through the gift of Jesus Christ, who is Emmanuel among us.

Flanked by petitions of peace, the mural art depicts images of both global chaos and assuring promise. From the Creator's descending hand, the spiral of life cascades forward in the form of rushing waves, cleansing the land in preparation for all that is to come. Occluded sun and moon suggest the darkness of history with petro glyphic images depicting human violence and suffering.

Rising from the roaring water, tongues of spiral fire consume the shields of war, and arms previously raised in conflict are now uplifted in praise. A nearby lion with a tiny lamb, and a hopeful rose springs from fertile ground.

Above it all, a heralding angel trumpets the holy birth, while the magi approach Bethlehem's sleeping walls. A lowly stable shelters the nativity crèche atop the troubled world, where piercing bullets yield both earthly tears and the precious blood of human suffering embraced by the chalice of Christ's own passion.

At the center, against a back-drop of buildings from many cultures, is our risen Savior, who is the imminent and transcendent reflection of God's glory. Gazing simultaneously upward toward the radiant dome of Revelation's heavenly city and downward upon earth, the two affirming faces of Jesus represent the marvelous miracle of Christmas. Streaming forth from the wound in his hand, a colorful rainbow showers its symbolic promise over the entire world. God the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, soars with an olive branch as a further sign of enduring peace and reconciliation to all people of faith.

So does this Christmas season promise that the Prince of Peace is the true and only Hope of the World. Together, we pray that Jesus will look upon us with a blessing of peace."

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**SUNDAY, DEC. 11 - 11:00 AM**

Cornerstone Christmas Program  
(5:00 pm, 8:00 and 9:00 am worship as usual)

**SATURDAY, DEC. 17 - 7:30 PM**

Christmas Festival Concert

**SATURDAY, DEC. 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE**

3:00 pm - Family Worship  
4:30 pm - Family Worship  
9:00 pm - Candlelight Worship  
11:00 pm - Candlelight Worship

**SUNDAY, DEC. 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY**

10:00 am - ONE Combined Worship

**SATURDAY, DEC. 31 - NEW YEARS EVE**

7:00 pm - New Years Eve Worship  
8:00 pm - New Years Eve Jazz Concert

**SUNDAY, JAN. 1 - NEW YEARS DAY**

10:00 am - ONE Combined Worship

### WORSHIP WITH US EACH WEEK!

TRADITIONAL: 5:00 P.M. SATURDAY • CONTEMPLATIVE: 8:00 A.M. SUNDAY  
TRADITIONAL: 9:00 A.M. SUNDAY • PRAISE AND WORSHIP: 11:00 A.M. SUNDAY

# HOSPITALITY and welcome

## EVERYDAY GRACE

Lauren Wrightsman, Senior Pastor

I am writing this article just days before the 2016 Presidential Election. The polls are showing a close race. Either party could win. There is a lot of anxiety, worry, dread, and fear. I feel it. I suspect you do, too.

By the time you read this, the election will (hopefully!) be over. No hanging chads. No court appointments. My prayer at this time and place is for a peaceful and democratic transition.

I can't look into a crystal ball (and I would presume) neither can you! But I am thinking that whatever the outcome of the election for the next POTUS, there is ample room for grace. Yes, grace!

Grace, because this past election has been one of the most bruising, difficult and challenging elections in recent memory.

Grace, because I know friends who have "unfriended" others because they didn't see eye to eye on the content of the debates, the candidates themselves, political view points – well, you get the idea.

Grace, because I know my family is a lot like yours – and we didn't all vote for the same candidate.

We are only human. We like to "like" those who carry our same views. We like to speak to those who speak the same language, who – in this case – voted for the same candidate. Unfortunately, many will walk away feeling like they are winners, and many will feel shoved to the sidelines because they feel they have lost. I would imagine that, as you gather with family and friends in the weeks ahead for Christmas and New Years gatherings, you will dine with those who feel either happy or sad with the outcome of the election.

And this is where GRACE comes in. But what, exactly, IS grace?

The Apostle Paul would say that God's grace is made available to all people. Grace is a free gift given to us by a loving and merciful father. Martin Luther considered these verses in the book of Romans and took them to heart. A translation of Romans 5:2 reads:

*We throw open our doors to God and discover at the same moment that he has already thrown open his door to us. We find ourselves standing where we always hoped we might stand – out in the wide open spaces of God's grace and glory, standing tall and shouting our praise! (The Message)*

I rather like that phrase – "standing where we always hoped we would stand – out in the wide open spaces of God's grace."

### What Does Grace Mean?

It means providing room for God to step in. Creating wide-open spaces with those we live, work and commune with. Spaces where we can see each other as people with the same struggles as our own. People, just like us, who are trying their very best to get through each and every day. Pay each bill. Get the kids to school. Walk the dog. Care for a loved one. Get food on the table. People who wish to take time to look at a sunrise and find hope in the future. People who still need friends, despite our differences.



You see – this wonderful thing about God's grace – is that God gave it to us as a gift so that we may also gift it to others.

Where are those "wide open spaces" that are providing spaces for you to forgive, love and provide grace?

Where is God seeking you to action? Where are you called to wipe away past hurts and past transgressions?

Where are you being called to see the good of those with whom you dwell?

This is the Everyday Grace that we are called to live. This is the Everyday Grace we are called to proclaim.

The other night I experienced one of these wonderful moments of Everyday Grace. Driving home, late at night, with one of my teenaged children, the car was quiet. There had been an argument about something during our drive and we had become silent, each of us mulling our own part of the argument. The only sounds were the hum of the tires on the road and a song quietly playing from the radio. But then – a wonderful, wide-open, grace-filled moment occurred. Without saying a thing, my teenager wrapped her left hand in my right hand. There we sat. Hands entwined looking out at the world before us. Driving into an unknown future together. But we were together. That's all that mattered. No words were said. No words were needed. It was an Everyday Grace-filled moment. A space created for grace. The kind of grace we need each and everyday.

So this is my prayer. That you find moments, in the months ahead, to accept this grace. To give this grace. To provide wide-open spaces where we can, each and every one of us, once again love as we are called to love. Thanks be to God!

Everyday Grace!

Pastor Lauren J. Wrightsman

## HOSPITALITY NOTE

Since New Years Day falls on the 1st Sunday of the month, we will not have our usual Sunday breakfast, but will continue in February. "Thank You!" from your Hospitality Manager, Connie Marchio. Also, look for before and after pictures of the kitchen remodel in the next Table!

# RLC Lay Leaders and Staff

### Pastors

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

### Hospitality Ministry

Connie Marchio, Hospitality Manager  
Colleen Hople, Hospitality Assistant

### Music Ministry

John Helgen, Director  
Martha Mutch, Organist  
Maddie Giordana, Music Associate  
Kristina Olson, Youth Choir  
Ariel Wilberg, Children's Choir  
Lori Haaland, Handbell Choirs

### Children's Ministry

Julie Hanson, Director of Children's Ministry  
Tammy Heiple, Nursery Supervisor

### Student Ministry

Michael Jordan, Director of Youth Ministry  
Abby Matter, Director of Faith Formation

### Facilities Ministry

Stephen Henry, Campus Manager  
Arlen Rystrom, Building Engineer  
Shelton Ingram, Custodian  
Mary Jo Shaumburg, Custodian  
Donovan Whitfield, custodian  
Jessica Hunt, Facilities

### Ministry Support Staff

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

### Child Care House

Sue Menier, Director  
Shyama Dahal, Assistant

### Endowment Committee

KJ Bach, Chair

### Congregation Council

Sara Mohn, President  
Jeff Johnson, President-Elect  
Jim Shardlow, Vice President  
Vanessa Anderson  
Georgia Nygaard  
Jake Von de Linde  
Keith Gilbert  
Joe Ziegler  
Darci Bontrager

### Nominating Committee

Mike McGregor, Co-Chair  
Chris Smedsrud, Co-Chair

### Ministry Team Chairs

Gena Mickley, Children's Ministry Advisory Board  
Marlaine Maahs, Children, Youth & Family  
Jim Maahs, Children, Youth & Family  
Mary Erickson, Adult Education  
Jane Lagerquist, Christian LIFE Co-Chair  
Janet Risinger, Christian LIFE Co-Chair  
Dave Tetzlaff, Mission & Outreach

# RLC NEWS AND NOTES

## THE SEASON OF GRATITUDE

SARA MOHN, CONGREGATIONAL PRESIDENT

With Halloween and All Saints Day behind us, we prepare to enter the season of gratitude and anticipation with the celebrations of Thanksgiving and Christmas. We certainly have much for which to be grateful for at RLC and much to anticipate.

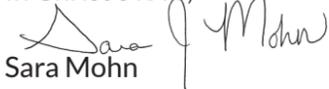
Our fall was marked with celebration as we launched the program year by inviting our neighborhood to a block party. As summer faded and autumn took root, it became evident that RLC is packed with vibrant ways to live out our faith. Our Cornerstone program is in full swing with amazing and committed shepherds, kids are flocking to the front during worship to hear the story, our youth spent four days in community at Castaway over MEA break, our sanctuary has been filled with glorious music over and over, and adults are gathering for growth and conversation in new and important ways. I am so grateful for the energy and passion of all who bring our church to life.

In the weeks leading up to Reformation Sunday, we also took time to consider giving as a response to God's infinite love. We examined what it means to give whether we are long time givers or if we are new to the joy of sharing our treasure. Our Stewardship team did an excellent job of framing the joy of giving by sharing the stories of our members. The campaign wrapped up with prayerful offering of our Intent to Give Cards. If you haven't turned yours in yet, please consider submitting your card soon. Sharing your intent with us is immeasurably helpful as we craft our next budget. Please also hear that while we can't conduct our ministry without your monetary gifts, the gift of your time is of incredible value as well. I invite you to consider upping your engagement this year. There are so many meaningful ways to plug in! Our council meetings this fall have been full with the news of the happenings around church, a review of finances, staff updates and plans for our future. None of this could happen without the time committed by our council. I am so thankful for the commitment of these volunteers who agree to serve for two years. Keith Gilbert, who is new to council this year, reflects, "Board and committee meetings are not my natural habitat. But when asked to be on the council, I felt called to help. After only a couple council meetings, I see how vital an effective council is to the mission of the church. I've got to admit, it's hard to look forward to meetings, but this is important work." Another new council member, Joe Zeigler, was in church this morning with a new neighbor he had invited to worship at RLC. Darci Bontrager gives tirelessly to our youth, is helping with Give to the Max Day, and is a liaison to Mission and Outreach. I am also so thankful for John Shardlow, who is back on the executive team offering his wise perspective. These four are fantastic additions to an already tremendous group.

Currently, we are also thankful that our budget is on track and the number of givers is beginning to climb just a bit. I am optimistic about our future, but I also want to remind you that our current budget depends on continued generosity and includes plans for additional "asks" in order to carry out our planned ministry. You will continue to hear more about the joy of giving and invitations to make an impact with your financial giving. Thank you in advance for your patience and gifts.

My prayer is that each person who comes through RLC's doors in the weeks to come experiences the warmth, welcome and joy that is at the heart of our ministry. Share your joy, faith, and love this advent season through an invitation or a warm conversation.

In Christ's love,



Sara Mohn

## PRAYER AND CARE MINISTRY

Roseville Lutheran Church has an intentional ministry of care and prayer to keep in touch with those in this church community needing assistance and support. This is done by fellow members who volunteer through visitation in a Care Team and a Spiritual Team; a Prayer Team; and knitting Prayer Shawls to be the very human touch of God for others. In this way, we become ambassadors and channels of God's love to those in need.

### Care (Visitation Ministry)

**Care Team:** the Care Team is primarily focused on task-oriented team support and friendly visits with members needing assistance and support with things like: transportation, light household chores/yard work, shopping assistance, and providing support for family and caregivers.

**Spiritual Team:** the intention and focus of the Spiritual Team is to bring: Communion, Scripture, and Prayer on a regular schedule to people who are in care facilities and homes where they are not able to come to worship at RLC.

If you know of anyone in our congregation who has need for assistance and support from RLC's Care and/or Spiritual Team or if you would want to become a member of these teams, please contact Ken Groth at 651-488-2694 or Pastor Dick Carlson at 651-644-2344.

### Prayer

**Prayer Team:** a prayer team member is available to pray with you after each worship service on Sunday. Confidential prayer requests are distributed to prayer team members when received by the pastors or church office. If you are interested in joining the Prayer Team or have questions, please contact Pam McCulloch at 651-210-7843.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry:** as each shawl is crafted, it becomes a tangible prayer of healing, peace and comfort. Baptism blankets are given to each child baptized at RLC. In the fall, scarves and hats are created to distribute to local agencies. If you are interested in becoming part of this ministry, contact Pam McCulloch at 651-210-7843.

May the Spirit of the Lord be your guide.



Pastor Dick Carlson

## CHRISTMAS GARDEN



The Christmas Garden decorates our Worship Center with poinsettias and other adornments for the Festival Christmas Concert and Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship services. Contributions to the Christmas Garden can be made in honor or in memory of a loved one, or in thankfulness or celebration of a person or event. A minimum donation is \$15 per plant and is tax-deductible. Contributions must be received by Sunday, December 11, in order to be printed in the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day worship folders. Contribution forms are available at the Welcome Desk, in the church office, or online at [www.rosevillelutheran.org/garden](http://www.rosevillelutheran.org/garden).

## WIDOWS' GROUP

The Rose Enkas widows' group from RLC and community provides support and fellowship monthly at different nearby restaurants. All widows are welcome to join. Call Kay Shurson at 651-766-6930 or Lori Bergman at 651-635-9563 for more information.

**Saturday, December 10 at 11:30 am**

Olive Garden Restaurant

1525 County Road C, Roseville. 651-638-9557

**Saturday, January 21 at 11:30 am**

Pippin's Restaurant

2905 Snelling, Roseville. 651-639-0633

**Saturday, February 18 at 11:30 am**

Panda Garden Buffet Restaurant

1706 Lexington, Roseville. 651-488-5505

**Saturday, March 18 at 11:30 am**

Outback Restaurant

2181 Snelling, Roseville. 651-697-1224

## BETH MOORE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

**Starts Tuesday, Jan. 10 at 6:00 pm**

Would you like to meet other Christian women and study the Bible together? Starting Jan. 10 at RLC there will be a Beth Moore Bible study "To Live Is Christ" following the life and ministry of the apostle Paul. The evening begins with a video by Beth Moore and discussion will follow. There is a workbook that accompanies this study. The group will meet every other Tuesday evening. There is limited space, so please register early. To sign up, or if you have questions, please call Phyllis Beaudette at 651-228-1114.

# LIFE MINISTRY, MUSIC, MORE...

## CARD MAKING NIGHT

WOMEN'S LIFE EVENT - Jan. 13, 7:00 - 11:59 PM

Want to try your hand at making your own fancy cards? We will have sample ideas and stamps to help you get creative. All materials will be provided. You will make a card or two for yourself, and then we will make additional cards which will be sent to members of RLC who need a smile. Meet in the Lobby Conference Room for this FREE event. Bring a snack to share, if you'd like. For more information contact Gena Mickley at [genashawnone@comcast.net](mailto:genashawnone@comcast.net). Please register on the church website so we are sure to have enough materials. Thank you!



## HOP'N HELPERS

FAMILY LIFE EVENT - Jan. 28, 1:30 - 3:30 PM

Wear your silly socks, have fun and help others at our Family LIFE Ministry event in January. 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, photo booth, music, hula hoop, 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 thru grade school. Admittance fee: Bring pack of kids white sweatsocks, or a set of hat and mittens or a donation (suggested donation of \$5 per child). These clothing supplies will be used to benefit students in Roseville elementary schools to ensure they stay warm and dry in our cold and wet Minnesota winter.



## RISE UP, O MEN!

LIFE EVENT - FEB. 26, 2:00 PM MATINEE

**You've Met the Ladies, Now Meet the Men!**

RLC is off to the Theatre! Tickets to the Plymouth Playhouse production of *Rise Up, O Men* are \$30. You may ride the RLC van or drive to the theater on your own. Note: First-come, first-served for the 12 seats on the van. Reserve your space soon to guarantee a seat! The van leaves from church at 1:00 pm.

Sixth in the Church Basement Ladies series, *Rise Up, O Men* is a brand new musical comedy featuring the men of the church and your favorite church basement ladies who serve them. As these hard-working farmers discuss their scrap lumber piles and benefits of weld vs. solder, they unintentionally disrupt the order of the kitchen. But that's what happens when you let the rooster in the hen house.



## SWING DANCING AT THE WABASHA STREET CAVES

ALL-CHURCH LIFE EVENT - MARCH 13, 7:00 PM

Join us for a night of fun and excitement at Wabasha Street Caves (215 Wabasha St. South, St. Paul) Swing Night. A former speakeasy and gangster hideout, this unusual space is intriguing and a wonderful place to dance. This event is for all ages and all skill levels. Come out and enjoy swing dancing lessons or join the open dance time or just chill and enjoy the music. Even kids can take the group dance lessons. Scheduled live music performed by Beasley Big Bands, a 19 piece group, playing classic big band jazz in the style of the Count Basie Orchestra. Many tunes use the same arrangements made famous by Glen Miller, Duke Ellington, Woody Herman, and Stan Kenton. It's sure to be a fun time for everyone who comes out. Don't miss it!

## OUR 75-YEAR HISTORY REMEMBER + REJOICE

RLC CELEBRATES 75TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2017



The RLC 75th Anniversary Steering Committee has formed and planning is well under way for the celebration in 2017. "Remember + Rejoice" is our theme, inspired by a hymn text from Ruth Duck (Hymn 454 in the ELW). We are collecting photos and stories to be used in various displays that will honor and reflect RLC's rich history. **We want photos from you** of weddings, baptisms, confirmation, and any other memorable moments you can recall!

If you are submitting scanned photos, please name the photo file descriptively, and scan at 300 dpi for best quality. Please email scanned photos to [rabbott@rosevillelutheran.org](mailto:rabbott@rosevillelutheran.org), or bring them in on a disc or USB thumb drive to the church office.

You may also bring your photos to the church office and we can scan them here while you wait. In either case, we'd love to have as much detail about the event or persons in the photograph, including names, date, event, etc.

If you have any questions, please contact Beth Jacobson at 651-230-2902 or [jacobsoe@csp.edu](mailto:jacobsoe@csp.edu), or Daniel Pederson at 651-487-7752 or [dpederson@rosevillelutheran.org](mailto:dpederson@rosevillelutheran.org). We look forward to your photos!

75th Anniversary Steering Committee members include: Jeff Bowar, KJ Bach, Beth Jacobson, Sue Metzger, Bud Helmen, and Staff members: Dave Booms, Daniel Pederson, Rick Abbott, and Pastor Lauren Wrightsman.

## MUSIC NOTES

JOHN HELGEN, DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRY

### Christmas Festival Concert - 7:30 pm, Saturday, Dec. 17

The choirs, brass, handbells and instrumental musicians of Roseville Lutheran will gather to present our Christmas Festival Concert at 7:30 pm on Saturday, December 17. Mark your calendars and plan to attend - and invite a friend!

### New Year's Eve with RLC Jazz Worship and Concert, Saturday, Dec. 31

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 pm, Saturday, Dec. 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 pm, the band will present a concert featuring our many talented players and singers. Bring the whole family, and invite your friends too!

### Upcoming Music Events - December at RLC

Mark down these concert opportunities at RLC in your calendar today!

**7:30 pm, Friday, Dec. 9**

VocalEssence - "Welcome Christmas"

Tickets on [www.VocalEssence.org](http://www.VocalEssence.org).

Use ROSEVILLE1617 for 25% discount

**4:00 pm, Sunday, Dec. 11**

Greater Twin Cities Youth Symphonies  
(free concert by youth musicians)

**7:30 pm, Saturday, Dec. 17**

RLC Christmas Festival Concert  
(free-will offering)

**8:00 pm, Saturday, Dec. 31**

RLC Jazz in Concert  
(following New Year's Eve worship)



# CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

## A PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE

### 3RD GRADE BIBLE WORKSHOP

Our family absolutely loved the 3rd grade Bible workshop. During the first week, the 3rd graders received their Bibles with Pastor Sara leading us. We watched as our 3rd grader excitedly paged through his new Bible, reading stories, finding pictures, and just exploring. Pastor Sara taught us about the Old Testament, New Testament, chapters and verses through engaging discussions that actively involved the children. She ended the session by demonstrating the timeline of the Bible with a rope to show the big events from the Bible. The visual it provided for our 3rd grader and us as parents made the Bible real. Our second Sunday was spent putting together family devotional activities. Our 3rd grader eagerly went through the stations and put together our bag. The activities are extremely family friendly and engaging. When our other children saw the big bag of activities, they were excited to find out what they were. The activities offer families an easy way to make our faith real through fun activities. We are thankful for such a meaningful introduction to the Bible for our 3rd grader.



## ADVENT ACTIVITY DAY

### NOV. 27 - CORNERSTONE AND LUTHER LEAGUE

Each year, as we prepare for the coming of the Christ Child, we hold an Advent Activity Day in Cornerstone Ministry. This fun event is held on the first Sunday of Advent each year, which is Nov. 27 this year. All Cornerstone and Luther League students from two 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 as you focus on the true meaning of Christmas. Special thanks to Debby McCann for leading this event over the past 20+ years!



## PAJAMA DAY: DEC. 4

Sunday, Dec. 6 is Pajama Day for all kids big and small at Roseville Lutheran Church! All kids are encouraged to wear their pajamas to Cornerstone, Luther League and Devos & Donuts 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 Devos & Donuts on December 4!



## SERVE SUNDAY: JAN 29

### DRESSER BUILD AND THE BIG WRAP!

All are invited to participate in a Serve Sunday to benefit clients of Bridging, a local organization that helps people get back on their feet and into homes of their own by supplying home furnishings and things that many of us take for granted. On Jan. 29 at 10:00, the whole congregation is invited to help with this project. There will be no regular Cornerstone, Luther League or Devos & Donuts. Instead of our regular programming, kids and their families are invited to build a dresser and/or wrap kitchen utensils and bath towels for the clients of Bridging. See more details in the Mission and Outreach section (top of page 10) of this issue of The Table.



## TELL ME THE STORY

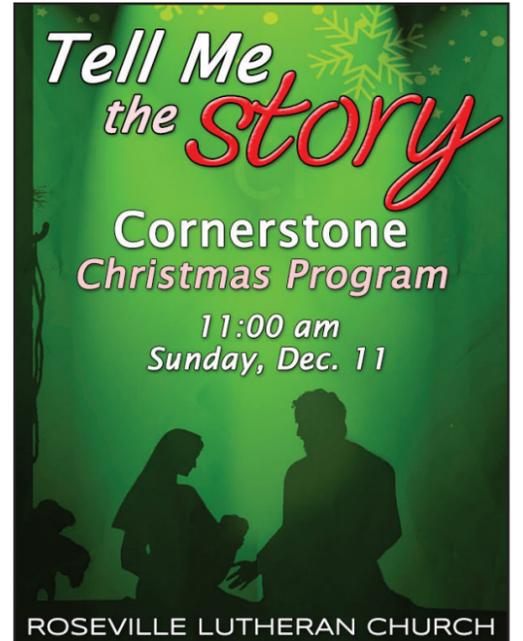
### DEC. 11 - CORNERSTONE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The kids have been rehearsing their music for the Cornerstone Christmas program and are excited for you to be a part of this special worship service on Sunday, December 11 at 11:00 am.

This year's program will be filled with some special highlights that include our Christmas Choir of 5th and 6th grade students and others with special speaking parts.

We will have Cornerstone on Sunday, Dec. 11 at 10:00 am. All Kindergarten-4th Graders should meet in the Activity Center on Dec. 11. Our 2, 3 and 4-year-olds should meet in the Large Group space, Room 45A to put the final touches on the songs!

We are working hard to make this program amazing and look forward telling you the Christmas story!



## CHRISTMAS PROGRAM SPECIAL REHEARSAL

9:00 am, Saturday, Dec. 10

Our large, full rehearsal will be on Saturday, Dec. 10 at 9:00 am in the Worship Center. ***This is a change from previous years!*** All those involved with the program are expected to be at this final rehearsal. Preschoolers will be excused at 10:00 am, others excused at 11:00 am if things go well! ***See you there!***

## ONE FAMILY'S STORY

### FINDING FAITH AND ACCEPTANCE AT RLC

More than seven years ago, my family and I were a little lost. Newly divorced and a difference of beliefs with my church at the time left us searching. The list to fill for a house of worship wasn't long:

- Midpoint between my three daughters' Saint Paul and Blaine homes.
- A strong children's ministry program, where they could grow and thrive.
- A belief of acceptance for non-traditional families and all that can mean.

The search took us to several churches over the span of a year or so. Then, as often happens, He sent me a suggestion through a colleague. She had spent many hours in the north end pews, in the balcony overlooking the band and invited us to share "her" seats.

The girls had been through the drill before, looking for a place to worship and grow. A steady home, of sorts. One that would accept them ... and me ... as if we had been there for years. Very quickly, it was evident we had found our oasis.

The upbeat band. The acceptance of sporadic attendance at Cornerstone. My colleague's seats, which quickly became our own view of story times, baptisms and memorable messages. And most of all, the Roseville Lutheran Church family.

It's been seven years and the girls have various memories of what was important to them when we first found Roseville Lutheran Church and its family.

"The teachers were really nice."

"I was scared at first, so I brought my blanket and no one made fun of me."

"We got Play Doh!"

These things may seem inconsequential, but to three young girls and to their dad, they were the building blocks of our home.

## FIND "STORIES" ONLINE

We're posting more stories on the website. Find them online at [www.rosevillelutheran.org/stories](http://www.rosevillelutheran.org/stories). Read and learn more about RLC!

# YOUTH MINISTRY

## GIFT CARDS: SHARING TREE AND STOCKING STUFFERS

Many people are searching for ways to get the most out of the money they spend, and also want to make sure their dollars have the largest impact when they donate. Our Youth Gift Card fundraiser provides both of those opportunities. If you choose to participate in the Sharing Tree this year at RLC, please consider purchasing a gift card from the youth to pay for the gift. We receive a rebate on all the gift cards we sell that go directly into our scholarship fund to send more youth to camp each summer. The face value of the gift card stays the same, which means you pay exactly for what you're getting. It's a WIN-WIN! If you're looking to use gift cards as stocking stuffer presents this year, you can purchase them through our youth. We provide gift cards to over 400 retailers nationwide! Stop by the Children, Youth & Family corner in the Commons to learn more and purchase your gift cards.



## INVEST IN OUR YOUTH

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YOUTH-LED WORSHIP  
SUNDAY, FEB. 12

On Sunday, Feb. 12, our youth will lead us in worship during the 9:00 and 11:00 am services. This will also kickoff our two-week Invest in Our Youth fundraiser to help send more children, youth, and families on summer trips through RLC. We are seeking donations from \$1 to \$144 to help offset the costs of our summer trips. In the Children, Youth, and Family corner in the Commons for those three Sundays (2/12, 2/19, & 2/26), you will see 144 envelopes each with their own number 1 - 144. If all of those envelopes are filled with a donation equal to the number on the envelope, our youth will receive over \$10,000 in support for their summer trips! Also, inside each envelope will be a special thank you note and information on a specific youth that you are supporting in sending to camp!

## CONFIRMATION LOCK-IN JAN. 27-28

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 Jan. 27, at 8:00 pm and will end on Saturday, Jan. 28 at 7:00 am. The cost is \$40 per youth and the deadline to register is Sunday, January 15. Registration forms will be available online beginning in December. Contact Abby at [amatter@rosevillelutheran.org](mailto:amatter@rosevillelutheran.org) with any questions.

## SUMMER TRIPS 2017

REGISTER BY FEBRUARY 5

One of the highlights for our youth and staff at Roseville Lutheran Church are our summer trips! The fellowship and faith formation that happen during the week on all of our summer trips is truly remarkable. Registrations will be available online starting in the beginning of 2017. You must register by February 5 to guarantee your spot this summer. To start planning for your trips now, pick up a copy of our summer brochure at the Children, Youth, and Family corner in the Commons.

[www.rosevillelutheran.org](http://www.rosevillelutheran.org)

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

### Weekly Programs:

- Sundays:** Cornerstone, Luther League, Devos & Donuts, 11 & Lunch (two-year-olds - High School)
- Tuesdays:** FLOCK (High School)
- Wednesdays:** Confirmation (7th - 9th Grade)
- Thursdays:** Bagels @ Dawn (High School)

### Special Events & Retreats:

- |            |             |   |
|------------|-------------|---|
| Dec. 4     |             | Pajama Day  |
| Dec. 7     | 7:00 pm     | Confirmation 9th Grade Parent Meeting                     |
| Dec. 10    | 9:00 am     | Cornerstone Christmas Program Rehearsal                   |
| Dec. 11    | 10:00 am    | Cornerstone Christmas Program Rehearsal                   |
| Dec. 11    | 11:00 am    | Cornerstone Christmas Program                             |
| Dec. 18    |             | NO Weekly Programs  |
| Dec. 25    |             | NO Weekly Programs  |
| Jan. 1     |             | NO Cornerstone, Luther League, Devos & Donuts, 11 & Lunch |
| Jan. 4     | 7:00 pm     | Confirmation Resumes                                      |
| Jan. 6-8   |             | 9th Grade Confirmation Retreat                            |
| Jan. 8     | 10:00 pm    | Sunday programming resumes                                |
| Jan. 15    |             | Camp Sunday   |
| Jan. 25    |             | Confirmation Service Night - Dresser Build                |
| Jan. 27-28 |             | Confirmation Lock-In                                      |
| Jan. 29    |             | Serve Sunday: Big Wrap & Dresser Build                    |
| Feb. 5     |             | Summer Youth Trip registration forms due                  |
| Feb. 12    | 9 and 11 am | Youth Led Worship Service                                 |



## MICHAEL'S MINUTE

MICHAEL JORDAN,  
DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRY

What a fall we've had! I'm always nervously excited when we begin a new program year, and my head is spinning with questions: Who will come; will the changes we've made work; what connections will form; how will our faith grow? The list goes on and on. This year especially, I have already been blown away by the participation and growth of our youth.

In October, our youth leadership team spent a weekend going through Peer Ministry Leadership training. They left strengthened and empowered to launch into deeper conversations with their peers and lead our youth group better. The following weekend, we took our largest group ever to Camp Castaway for the MEA Getaway. Our high school youth opened up and had some meaningful discussions about their lives and how Jesus is present even in the midst of these struggles they're experiencing.

I can't wait to see what the rest of the year brings, but if it's anything like these first few months, we're going to have increasingly more fun, more fellowship, all while growing deeper in our faith and love for the Lord.



# CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES

## RLC PRESCHOOL

JENIFER JOHNSON, DIRECTOR

I'm **Jenifer Johnson**, the new RLC Preschool Director. I am very excited to be here to share God's love and grace with our three- and four-year-olds. My background consists of teaching preschool, early childhood, kindergarten and elementary, as well as serving as a children's ministry director. In my spare time, I love spending time with my family. My husband, Kyle, and I enjoy watching our two boys run (literally). Noah (17) and Jonah (13) participate in cross country and track.

I am very blessed to work with a dedicated and caring staff. Let me introduce them to you:

**Audra Smanski**, Lead Teacher of our three year-old classroom, is also new to our program this year. Her background includes teaching kindergarten for several years. She and I have big shoes to fill of former staff who worked here for many years.

We are grateful for our other talented teachers: **Lori Kristiansen**, and **Deb Stroback**, who teach the students in the four-year-old classroom, and **Rachel Lawson**, teacher assistant in the three-year-old classroom. They all care so much about our preschool students and go above and beyond their calling.

Our preschool students have been enjoying making new friends while playing and doing many creative activities. Some of the highlights have been Chapel with Julie Hanson and Pastor Sarah Spohr; the Three-Year-Old Big Birthday Party; Trike Day; The Roseville Fire Dept. bringing their fire trucks and talking about fire safety; Halloween Fun, and Dad's Night.

The students will soon share the joy of Christmas for their family and friends, which will include songs and finger plays at their Christmas programs Dec. 21 and Dec. 22.

We are thankful for all the support we've received with our fundraisers of Give to the Max and the poinsettia sale.

Overall, it is a blessing to work here at Roseville Lutheran Church. Thanks so much for your support of our preschool program. Wishing you all the best over the holidays and new year!



## FAMILY MISSION TRIP

BY MAREN SHULTZ

This was our first mission trip as a family. We had no idea what to expect, but we were pleasantly surprised!

Each morning and afternoon, we were given a different service site to go to. Friday morning we went to the Boys and Girls Club of Duluth. In the afternoon, we painted the outside of the house of the pastor of the church we were staying at. On Saturday, we spent some time with the residents of a nursing home and then helped out the city of Duluth in the afternoon. In the evening, we had a picnic at a park in Duluth and spent some time in worship and devotion at this peaceful place.

Each night we had free time in the evenings. We decided to explore the city of Duluth together as one big group from RLC. The Friday night we went to Amnicon Falls and Saturday night we went to Enger Tower. This was such a fun trip for our family and we would do it again in a heartbeat! My kids learned the value of working together as a team, the value of hard work, responsibility with the chores we had to do around the church, compassion for other people, and it gave all of us a chance to get to know other members from RLC on a deeper and more personal level.

We hope that families of all shapes and sizes will consider joining us on the Family Mission Trip this summer to Madison, Wisconsin, the week of July 20-24. Online registrations will be available in January. Please contact Abby Matter at [amatter@rosevillelutheran.org](mailto:amatter@rosevillelutheran.org) with any questions.



## CONFIRMATION RETREAT: BEAUTY IN BROKENNESS

BY KAREN ROGERS

On October 28-30, we took 46 seventh and eighth grade confirmation students and leaders to Camp Wapo for a fun weekend of games, devotions, and team building opportunities.

Friday evening we focused on the masks we wear in our daily life. Often we wear masks to cover up things that we don't want others to know about us. Or we may wear a mask try to be someone else. We studied Psalm 139:14 and learned that God has fearfully and wonderfully made each and every one of us so we can take off the masks and be genuine and real with each other knowing that God love and cares for us just as we are.

Saturday evening we examined the brokenness we struggle with in our own life. We represented this by dropping a coffee mug and then gluing the shattered pieces back together. We learned no matter how broken our life might appear, God is still there using us to shine through the brokenness and share His love with others.

Later that evening we went on a trust walk through the camp. It was a dark, damp evening and we blindfolded the students and asked them to hold tightly to a rope as they were led through camp. It was quite an experience to watch as they put their trust in their leader and moved forward slowly step by step, carefully listening to the voice guiding them through the obstacles along the path. How many times in our own life have we experienced those same dark, lonely moments of the unknowns that lie ahead?

We need to remember that even though we don't have the plan figured out or know how the situation will end, we can put our faith in God and listen to His voice guide us through the obstacles we call life.

## MORE THAN MONEY MATTERS

4-PART FINANCIAL WORKSHOP Jan. 22, Feb. 5, 12, 26 at 10:10 am

You're invited to a free financial educational series called More Than Money Matters®. It's a 4-part series, created by Thrivent Financial, that's designed to equip you with tools and information to help you manage your money wisely and make spending decisions that align with your goals and values. During the workshop, you'll learn how to:

- Set SMART goals.
- Find money to save.
- Understand credit and debt.
- Put it all together by creating a budget to help manage your finances.

.....\$????\$??

The educational workshop will be offered at Roseville Lutheran Church on **Sundays, Jan. 22, Feb. 5, 12, and 26** during the 10:10 hour in the Lounge. It will be led by recent RLC President, Kris Olsen, who is also a Human Resource specialist at Thrivent Financial. While attendance at all four sessions is not required, it is recommended.

**Please register by Jan. 12** so we can have the necessary materials ordered. To register, contact Trish Clifford at 651-487-7752 or email [tclifford@rosevillelutheran.org](mailto:tclifford@rosevillelutheran.org). No goods or services will be sold during these workshops. This is an informational, education series.

# RLC NEWS and NOTES

## FINANCE OFFICE

Laurel HOFELDT, DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & DATA

Roseville Lutheran Church is a vibrant, exciting, and giving congregation. For 75 years, members and friends have given of their time, talent, and gifts to ensure that each future generation has the resources to learn, share, and grow in God's love. Thank you!

Giving to our ministry plan is \$1,363 more than we had budgeted as of September 30, 2016. Total year-to-date expenses exceed receipts by \$48,422, which is expected at the end of the first

quarter of our fiscal year, prior to Christmas and year-end giving. The budgeted year-to-date deficit is \$47,558, meaning we are only \$864 below our expected position at the end of September. Basically, we are right on budget.

The Annual Financial Report for 2015 - 2016 is now available on the website at [www.rosevillelutheran.org/welcome/publications](http://www.rosevillelutheran.org/welcome/publications). Monthly financial summaries are also available.

Each and every gift makes a difference! Each

gift given combines with hundreds of others to significantly fund our ministry. 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. If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Laurel Hofeldt at [lhofeldt@rosevillelutheran.org](mailto:lhofeldt@rosevillelutheran.org). If you would like to set up automatic giving online, visit [www.rosevillelutheran.org/serve-and-give/give](http://www.rosevillelutheran.org/serve-and-give/give).

### Roseville Lutheran Church September 2016 Month-End Financial Summary

Church Operations 2016-2017						Prior Year	
	Sep Actual	Sep Budget	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Variance	2015 Sep Actual	2015-2016 YTD Actual
Offering	100,950	100,600	307,381	306,018	1,363	91,896	274,703
Other receipts	8,160	7,465	18,922	16,424	2,498	9,095	23,518
<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>109,110</b>	<b>108,065</b>	<b>326,303</b>	<b>322,442</b>	<b>3,861</b>	<b>100,991</b>	<b>298,221</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>139,695</b>	<b>133,389</b>	<b>374,726</b>	<b>370,000</b>	<b>4,726</b>	<b>122,277</b>	<b>350,927</b>
<b>Net</b>	<b>-30,585</b>	<b>-25,324</b>	<b>-48,422</b>	<b>-47,558</b>	<b>-864</b>	<b>-21,286</b>	<b>-52,706</b>

Number of Givers 2016-2017				Prior Year		
	Sep		YTD through Sep		2015-16 YTD Thru Sep	
	# Givers	Avg Gift	# Givers	Avg Gift	# Givers	Avg Gift
<b>General Fund</b>	471	\$ 194	602	\$ 487	598	\$ 463
<b>Bldg Designated</b>	86	\$ 73	111	\$ 214	106	\$ 182
<b>M&amp;O</b>	22	\$ 369	26	\$ 392	19	\$ 189
<b>Memorials</b>	11	\$ 120	34	\$ 131		
<b>Other Designated</b>	5	\$ 239	9	\$ 178	60	\$ 200
<b>Endowment Fund</b>	0	\$ -	13	\$ 89	6	\$ 29
<b>All Other</b>	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	1	\$ 100
<b>Total</b>	<b>488</b>	<b>\$ 222</b>	<b>629</b>	<b>\$ 531</b>	<b>613</b>	<b>\$ 510</b>

Fund Balances 9/30/2016	
<b>Available Cash &amp; Short-Term Investments</b>	<b>443,322</b>
<b>Designated/Restricted Funds:</b>	
Building Fund	45,376
Building Fees	26,834
Mission & Outreach	47,173
Kitchen Fund	159,025
Memorials	35,663
Estate Gift	56,500
Other Funds	114,705
<b>Total Designated/Restricted</b>	<b>485,275</b>
<b>Child Care:</b>	Current Yr <b>6,848</b>
<b>Preschool:</b>	Current Yr <b>5,206</b>
<b>Operating Fund:</b>	Current Yr* <b>-48,422</b>

\*Cumulative Operating Fund Surplus as of 6/30/16 = \$4,767

Endowment Fund	
Cash	1,398
Investments	434,968
<b>Total</b>	<b>436,366</b>

## HELPERS NEEDED

Dave BOOMS,  
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

RLC has need for additional servants during, before, and after church worship times for our Christmas Festival Concert and the Christmas weekend services. Help is needed for the Festival Concert starting at 6:45 pm, Christmas Eve at 2:30 pm, 4:00 pm, 8:30 pm, and 10:30 pm, as well as Sunday, Christmas Day starting at 9:30 am.

*I personally wish to encourage you and your family to consider taking part in these ministry areas:*

Extend a hand greeting people as they arrive before each worship time. A friendly smile can make a world of difference to those coming through the doors, especially those who are visiting. Families and couples can greet together.

Usher before and during worship, handing out worship folders, helping with communion, offering and cleaning up following services.

Serve on the altar guild, preparing the wine and wafer trays. Candles are also maintained by this group. Communion trays are prepared on Saturday mornings and help is needed to clean-up after the 9:00 pm and 11:00 pm Christmas Eve services as well as the 10:00 am service on Christmas Day.

Communion servers are needed at the 9:00 pm and 11:00 pm Christmas Eve services as well as the 10:00 am service on Christmas Day.

Scripture readers are needed on Christmas Eve at 3:00 pm, 4:30 pm, 9:00 pm and 11:00 pm, and Christmas Day at 10:00 am.

Sign-up at the Welcome Desk or call the office at 651-487-7752.

### Special Service Reminders:

#### SATURDAY, DEC. 24 - CHRISTMAS EVE

3:00 pm - Family Worship

4:30 pm - Family Worship

9:00 pm - Candlelight Worship

11:00 pm - Candlelight Worship

#### SUNDAY, DEC. 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 am - ONE Combined Worship

#### SUNDAY, JAN. 1 - NEW YEARS DAY

10:00 am - ONE Combined Worship

NOTE!

# 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.

# RLC NEWS AND NOTES

## FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

MAY 2017 MOBILE PACK EVENT

Many of you were involved in the amazing work the past two years when RLC partnered with Incarnation Lutheran to pack meals with FMSC. In 2017, we will again partner with Incarnation, and we need you!

The dates are Monday, May 1 - Friday, May 5, 2017. While that seems a ways off, there are a few things you can do now.

1. Organize a group to volunteer to pack. A link from our church web site will go live Ash Wednesday, March 1. This link will lead you to the sign up lists. You can sign up more than once!

2. Each meal costs 22 cents, an incredible bargain. RLC has committed to pay for 100,000 meals, which is \$22,000. We do not have to wait until May to donate. We encourage you to donate now, either in the weekend offering plate or online. It is suggested you donate \$50 for every shift you volunteer.

Contact Jen Bergman: mn\_bergman@msn.com or 651-490-9839 or Kathy Miller: Kathy.a.miller@comcast.net or 651-494-8639 with questions.

## RLC LIBRARY NEWS

The Quanbeck/RLC Library had its reopen house October 9. The Library Committee would like to thank all of you for coming and filling up the space to meet the Quanbeck Family that were there and to see the renewed facility. We have many to thank for getting this space ready for reopening and they are the design committee, the library task force committee and Steve Henry. We also want to thank Richard and Julie Wendland and Diane Humenansky for keeping the library going through all the transition period. It was not an easy task to keep up with all that was going on at that time. Now that we have an updated space, we hope to have more of you there in the future to check out books or just go in and read in a quiet space. Please feel free to use this place when you have the time.

We have some volunteers who will be there on Sundays to help with checkout and answer questions if necessary. Our volunteers are Doreen Rodewald, Marion Glasow, Janice Walker, Carolyn Carlson and Linda Satrom. We thank these wonderful volunteers for their time. We can use more volunteers of any age and if you are interested, contact Sharon Boyce at 651-636-5093 or email mnsfboyce@aol.com or contact Vicky Jacobson. You can contact Vicky by leaving a note in the check-out center or calling her. We welcome new people to be a part of this exciting adventure as we move forward to updating and growing the library.

We will have another library session on Sunday, December 4 in the library and we will talk about the future and where we want to go with regards to books and share some of our books with the people who attend. We will be having conversation/questions with those who attend. Hope to see you then!

## ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

BY MIKE DOLAN, RLC ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

God's gifts – our gratitude. You've probably seen this statement around RLC this fall. Maybe you're like me and have wondered "what does that mean?" The members of the Endowment Committee have seen this statement at work first hand. Gifts to RLC from estate plans, memorials, Love Lights donations and other individual donations have grown the Endowment fund to over \$423,000. The donors of these gifts understand that generosity and sharing of God's gifts is integral to our faith.

The Endowment Committee is grateful for the generous gifts so many of you have shared, giving us a chance to fund many worthy ministry areas. Donations can be designated to fund a specific area the giver is interested in; undesignated donations are added to the Endowment fund and are the means to fund projects we select twice each year. We use a portion of the earnings from the fund (generally around 5%) to support a wide variety of projects each May and October. In 2016, the Endowment fund awarded the following grants...

- BRIDGING to build dressers for families in need
- RLC senior high Peer ministry training
- RLC staff and lay leader training
- RLC music instrument upgrades
- RLC computer upgrades to improve communication and outreach
- RLC Van which replaced the well-used RLC Bus
- RLC Stewardship Committee - Fall Gratitude
- International Institute of Minnesota to replace kitchen equipment
- Operation Bootstrap to repair the school chapel roof
- Camp Wapogasset 'Growing Green Hearts' outdoor program
- Maplewood Middle School 'I Cook You Dish' hunger program

Applying for a grant is simple. The online application can be found on the RLC website under Giving and Endowment Committee. Grant requests are accepted twice a year, prior to May 1 and October 1. All grant applications are prayerfully reviewed by the Endowment Committee before awarding fund requests.

Helping families with basic needs in our community to enhancements within Roseville Lutheran itself, God's gifts are shared within the Endowment fund. Thank you to so many of you for sharing your God given gifts. Your support greatly enhances many worthy ministries. If you would like to learn more about supporting RLC through the Endowment fund, contact KJ Bach, Endowment Committee chair.

## DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

If you have a story to share with the RLC community, contact Rick Abbott at 651-487-7752 or rabbott@rosevillelutheran.org. We are looking for stories about events at RLC, stories about your faith journey at RLC, and what being involved with the Roseville Lutheran community means to you. These can be short 3-sentence write-ups or a conversation that has many parts. Help others learn about what it means to be a part of RLC!

## WELCOME RICK ABBOTT

NEW COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST JOINS RLC STAFF

We would like to welcome Rick Abbott as the new Communications Specialist at RLC, taking over duties previously held by Chris Beck. You may have already seen some of his work in the stewardship videos that have been produced in the past two weeks. Welcome aboard, Rick! Here's a little more about Rick in his own words:

Hello, Roseville Lutheran! I'm Rick Abbott, the communications specialist here at RLC and I'm excited to help tell the story of this great congregation and community.

I grew up in Grand Forks, N.D., and graduated from Minnesota State University Moorhead with a degree in Mass Communications and an emphasis in photojournalism.

I bring a different background to my position here at RLC, with most of my experience coming from the field of news, both television and in print. I first started working in TV while in high school, starting behind the scenes in production before becoming a producer, helping to write and edit video for newscasts.

After graduating from MSUM, I worked as a digital producer and later reporter at The Forum in Fargo. I was honored to win a first place award for breaking news coverage in 2015 from the Minnesota Newspaper Association.

Wanting a change of pace and to finally move to the Twin Cities area, I was happy to accept the position here in Roseville. It's a welcome difference from writing and photographing crime scenes, fires and accidents. Instead, I get to be creative in how we tell the story of RLC and its members, using video, photography, graphic design and writing.

During our stewardship campaign this fall, I completed a series of video interviews with RLC members on how and why they continue to support our ministry. You might have seen those online or in a worship service! With the church's 75th anniversary coming in 2017, we're working on some very exciting projects to highlight our history, so stay tuned!



# MISSION and OUTREACH

## UPDATE FROM ELISABETH JOHNSON, OUR ELCA MISSIONARY

While on "Home Assignment" visiting Roseville Lutheran Church on August 22, 2016, Elisabeth Johnson shared a powerpoint of facts and pictures that helped us learn a lot about her work in Cameroon, but it was her heart and love which came through stronger than ever! What a gift she is to us, to her students and The Lutheran Institute of Theology in Meiganga, Cameroon.

*Hello RLC friends, I enjoyed my time with all of you very much. I am so grateful for your prayers and support. I really sensed a passion for global mission and that inspires me as well! May God bless you and all your ministries at RLC.*

- Grace and Peace, Elisabeth

While on "Home Assignment" in the United States, I also had the opportunity to spend some much-treasured time with family and friends, to have medical check-ups, to eat my favorite U.S. foods, and basically to be refreshed and fortified for another year abroad.

I returned to Cameroon in mid-September, and the first semester at the Institute started the first week in October. There have been some very sad events since my return. I think I have written before about our special program at the Bible school in Meng to give evangelists additional training to become pastors. One of them died on October 11 after a short illness. Sylvie was only 39 years old and leaves behind a husband and five children. I ask you to keep her family and the community at Meng in your prayers.

Then on October 21, my dog Lady died suddenly. I had taken her for surgery to have a tumor removed two weeks earlier, and she seemed to be recovering well, but then suddenly she was gone. Lady was well-known and loved on campus! That same day was truly a tragic day here in Cameroon. A passenger train derailed between Yaoundé and Doula, the two largest cities in Cameroon. The latest official estimates are that more than 90 people died, with around 600 injured, but many witnesses claim that the number of deaths is actually much higher. More than a week later, it seems that there are still bodies that have not been recovered. Again, I ask for your prayers for all those affected by this tragedy.



## DRESSER BUILD - JAN. 29

LET'S BUILD 50 DRESSERS FOR BRIDGING AGAIN!

Last year Roseville Lutheran Church built 50 dressers to benefit the clients of Bridging, a local organization that helps people transition into new homes for the first time. Since then, much has happened at Bridging - Roseville. The Bridging warehouse has moved across the street to a newly purchased location. The new building was named appropriately for the Bridging founder - Fran Heitzman. It was formally proclaimed and signed as "Fran Heitzman Commons". The larger building has allowed Bridging to provide more efficient collection, refurbishing and distribution of furniture in the north metro.

Roseville Lutheran Church has an opportunity to host another "50 Dressers Build" on Sunday, January 29th. The "50 Dressers Build" is a great opportunity for individuals and families to use their skills to assemble dressers to benefit area families that need home furnishings.

It has been Bridging's goal to provide at least one dresser for every person in a household. With larger families coming to Bridging, the need for dressers has increased greatly. This increased demand has created a challenge for Bridging. The RLC "50 Dressers Build" will have a tremendous impact for the families served by Bridging in Roseville.

The RLC Endowment Fund is supporting the "50 Dressers Build" with a financial grant. Your donations to Roseville Lutheran Church through the Mission and Outreach Team, can support this fantastic event for RLC and Bridging.

If you are interested in supporting the dresser build, the cost per dresser is \$85. Donations can be given in the offering plate or to the RLC Church Office with a note: RLC 50 Dressers Build 2017. **Any questions:** Rich Straumann, Dresser Build Coordinator at [straurl@gmail.com](mailto:straurl@gmail.com)



## PROJECT HOME RETURNS

RLC TO AGAIN HOST FAMILIES THIS FEBRUARY

Plans are underway for RLC to once again host homeless families this winter. Project Home will take place each night during February 2017. This important ministry provides homeless families with a warm, friendly and safe place to sleep at night. However, it takes many volunteers of all ages to make this happen! So, what are YOU doing in February?

Unfortunately, because of things like job loss, medical emergencies, divorce and a myriad of other circumstances, families can often find themselves without a place to live. It's hard to believe that on any given night in Minnesota, nearly 3,500 children (most under the age of 5) are homeless.

Each February, RLC hosts homeless families through an initiative called "Project Home" a division of Interfaith Action (formerly SPCC). 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, those 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, two 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.

This has become a popular and humbling ministry at RLC. However, we need over 100 volunteers to make this ministry happen. Most of our volunteers work on-site with our guests. The EVENING SHIFT\* volunteers serve from 5:30 - 8:30 pm providing a warm welcome and friendly face. You will visit with the families, engage with them as appropriate, play/read with the children, and coordinate a light snack (provided by PH). The NIGHT SHIFT\* serves from 8:00 pm - 7:00 am ensuring our guests have a safe sleep. You will turn off the lights, 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. Overnight volunteers will be provided with a separate place to sleep. (\*Full shift descriptions are available on our website and at the welcome desk.) During the day the children go to school and parents/toddlers return to The Family Place for meals and on-going support.

In an effort to accommodate all who want to volunteer, we will open our on-line registration in mid-November. You can go to RLC's website for a link to the registration site. Manual registrations (if needed) will take place in the Commons in January.

We hope you will prayerfully consider this volunteer opportunity for yourself or your entire family. All we ask is that you consider volunteering for one of the shifts on one of the nights during the month. 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 miscellaneous other opportunities. Even if you are not called to this ministry, please remember our guests and others who are homeless in your prayers.

*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



# MISSION and OUTREACH

## TANZANIA 2017

RLC CONTINUES TO SUPPORT STUDENTS



Thanks to the generous support of many church members and friends, RLC is able to continue its longstanding practice of providing scholarship funds to students from our companion congregation in Ng'ang'ange, Tanzania. During the 2017 school year, educational opportunities will be open not only to secondary school students, but also to vocational school students, nursing school students, and other post-secondary students as appropriate. These students are chosen by the parish leaders in Ng'ang'ange, and each student receives scholarship support based on the cost of their particular school and their family's ability to pay.

Sponsoring these students is but one of several ways RLC is working together with our companion congregation in Ng'ang'ange to strengthen our mutual relationship in a global ministry of service and Christian love. The Mission and Outreach Ministry Team extends a special THANK YOU to everyone who contributed this fall to make this shared ministry possible for over three dozen students during 2017. Asante sana!

## SLOVAKIA MISSIONARY, JANKA MINEDOVA

UPDATE FROM THE CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IN MARTIN, SLOVAKIA.

It is an exciting time at the Center for Christian Education as we continue to spread the love of Christ to the people of Martin, Slovakia. With the support of our friends, what started as a small weekend Bible School to share the Gospel with post-Communist Slovakia is now a Lutheran preschool through high school, lay training base, university program, and outreach center. This summer we served over 334 Slovaks and their families, while this school year we have over 658 students experiencing the Gospel everyday!

From the beginning of this adventure, Janka Minekova has been a crucial part of our ministry. Eighteen years ago she took a leap of faith by trading an office administration career for a volunteer position at a newly created Bible School. Today our ministry has vastly grown and expanded, but Janka is still behind the scenes managing the office that keeps our school going.

Janka says, "This ministry God is doing through our school is a big thing, and it is important to remember that in the midst of 'everyday' work." She enjoys the interesting work, the quality team that surrounds her, and being a part of the bigger purpose in our school.

Roseville Lutheran members and friends, thank you for partnering with us by supporting the ministry of Janka. By blessing her, you are blessing the hundreds of Slovaks who are impacted by the Center for Christian Education!

– Blythe Ann Barreto, DCE International Communications Director



## HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

THROUGHOUT NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

Our local food shelf, Keystone Community Services needs increased donations and support over the Holiday Season. The Mission and Outreach Team is asking Roseville Lutheran friends and families to bring in the high needs items: canned meat, tuna, stews, and other protein items, as well as pantry basics of: cooking oil, flour, sugar and baking items.

We will also be accepting monetary donations during the Holiday Food Drive. Keystone Community Services can purchase \$4 of food for every \$1 of donations. Please help us feed those in need in our community this holiday season.

## WARM TOES AND TUMMIES

COLLECTING SOCKS UNTIL DEC. 11

Help the homeless keep warm this winter by donating white tube socks. Roseville Lutheran will be collecting socks for the homeless served at the Dorothy Day Center. The socks will be given out at the Dorothy Day Center on Monday, Dec. 12 during RLC's monthly Loaves and Fishes dinner. Watch for the collection boxes in the Commons in late Nov. and plan on helping with the gift wrapping on Dec. 11.



## SHARING TREE

RETURN GIFTS BY DEC. 23

The Sharing Tree has been a great tradition at Roseville Lutheran over the years and will be in Luther Commons starting the weekend after Thanksgiving. The Sharing Tree creates a way for RLC friends and family to purchase and give a holiday gift to local families. We will be collecting the Sharing Tree gifts from Saturday, Nov. 26, until Friday, Dec. 23.

Please take an ornament from the tree that you would like to purchase for a RLC partner organization. Then place the unwrapped gift under the tree by Friday, Dec. 23.

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 the Hospitality Center for Chinese, Bridging, Family Place, MORE Community, Plymouth Christian Youth Center, Project Home, Keystone Community Services and Banyan Community.

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!

## THE BIG WRAP 2017

RLC EVENT FOR BRIDGING ON JAN. 29

Bridging is a 25-year-old nonprofit organization headquartered in Bloomington with warehouses in Bloomington, Roseville, and central Minnesota. Their mission is to provide economically disadvantaged persons in transition with quality furniture and household goods free of charge. The Roseville warehouse opened in 2006 and many RLC members regularly volunteer with Bridging.

The Mission and Outreach Team, with Cornerstone and the youth, will be hosting The Big Wrap event on Sunday, Jan. 29, during the 10:10 hour in the RLC Activity Center. All are invited to wrap towel and utensil bundles for Bridging. RLC will send these gifts to the Bridging warehouse in Roseville for clients who are shopping for furniture and other household items at Bridging.

We will be collecting donation items during January for the Big Wrap. Please place these items in the blue bins in Luther Commons: wash cloths, hand towels, bath towels, can openers, spatulas, and mixing spoons.



CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE  
[WWW.ROSEVILLELUTHERAN.ORG](http://www.rosevillelutheran.org)

# ADULT EDUCATION

## ROOTED IN GRACE

*As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.*

*- Colossians 2:6-9*

RLC has a rich tradition of Adult Education and Bible Study. We will be continuing the tradition with the theme "Rooted in Grace - Growing in Faith." The 10:10 Faith and Fellowship hour will continue with:

**Luther and Bach on the Magnificat**  
10:10 am Sundays - Nov. 20, 27, Dec. 4, 11  
Led by Dr. Randi Lundell

Lutherans all over the world are looking forward to the 500th anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation in 2017. Luther and Bach on the Magnificat, combines Martin Luther's Commentary on the Magnificat—a spiritual classic—with Johann Sebastian Bach's musical masterpiece, Magnificat, in a unique and inspirational Advent/Christmas resource. Participants will be led through Luther's commentary as they listen to Bach's musical masterpiece on DVD. Books can be purchased through Amazon.com or directly from Wipf and Stock publishers (see: <http://wipfandstock.com/luther-and-bach-on-the-magnificat.html>). About the authors: Dr. Randi Lundell has translated Luther's Commentary for this book, Rev. Brad Jenson has contributed the Bible Study format, and Dr. Peter Hendrickson has written the background on Bach's work. RLC Music Director John Helgen will also be on-hand for this course to provide his musical wisdom and insight on Bach's Magnificat.

**Resources for Advent and Christmas**  
Sunday, Dec. 4 at 10:10 in the Library

The Library Committee will share resources for children, families and adults that are available in the RLC Library.

### BIBLE STUDY SELECT WEDNESDAYS

Join Pastor Lauren Wrightsman for great conversation, Bible study and fellowship at 9:30 am on these dates. No sign ups required.

**United for a Destiny: Abraham - Moses**  
3 Sessions: Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14

How does God shape his people for the future? How does God's covenant with us shape us in our own lives? God's covenant with his people in the stories of Genesis and Exodus.

**A Destiny Ensured: A United Kingdom**  
5 sessions: Jan. 11, 18, 25, Feb. 1, 8

A continuation of our conversation and Bible study using portions of the Bethel Bible Series. How does God work within and among God's people to fulfill his work in the world?

**The Return of the Prodigal Son - Lenten Bible Study Series**

4 sessions: Feb. 22, Mar. 1, 8, 15

An exploration of the book, "The Return of the Prodigal Son" by Henri J. M. Nouwen and the painting that captured his imagination in prayer and study, "The Return of the Prodigal Son," by Rembrandt.

**Martin Luther: Art and the Reformation**  
Guided Tours at the MIA Exhibit  
Saturday, Dec. 10 at 1:30 pm

THIS TOUR HAS BEEN FILLED. Outside of Germany for the first time, Martin Luther and the Reformation is brought to life through astonishing artworks and historical objects.

**December Hymn Sing**  
10:10 am Sunday, Dec. 18  
Led by John Helgen

John Helgen will lead us in singing Advent/Christmas hymns, and will tell the "story behind the song" for some of the favorites of the season.

**SPECIAL EMPHASIS:**  
**Mission and Outreach Month at RLC**  
10:10 am Sundays, Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29  
Led by Mark Granquist

The Mission and Outreach Team has scheduled four sessions during January at the 10:10 hour in Room 40.

**Jan. 8 - Mary Mckeown and Christine Pulver, Keystone.**

Keystone Community Services is a partnership working to better serve our community.

President of Keystone, Community Services, Mary Mckeown, and Director of Basic Needs, Christine Pulver, will share about the community impact through their programs, changes in their service area, how to become involved in this work, and the partnership of Roseville Lutheran Church with Keystone including the Roseville Area Assistance Angel Fund.



**Jan. 15 - Linda Wiza, Dwelling Place.**

The Dwelling Place: Transforming Lives Through Christ's Love. "My people will live in peaceful dwelling places, in secure homes, in undisturbed places of rest." - Isaiah 32:18.

Linda Wiza, Dwelling Place, Executive Director will share with us how this Christian ministry provides healing and hope to victims of domestic abuse through supportive services and a safe place to call home. Women and their children may stay 12-18 months to receive healing and acquire the necessary skills to achieve independent housing, a sustaining income and abuse-free lives.



**Jan. 22 - Avivah Brown, The Sheridan Story.**

Fighting child hunger by providing a bag of non-perishable food each weekend to local school students.

Avivah Brown, Sheridan Story program manager, works as a liaison between local schools and partner organizations to end child hunger, empower sustainable relationships in the community and see families thrive in every aspect of life. Roseville Lutheran members are active partners with this program. Hear as Avivah shares about this hands-on program which, as of the Spring 2016, has served some 4,000 students in 96 schools.



**Jan. 29 - Pastor Sara Spohr, Tanzania.**

Pastor Sara Spohr will talk about a renewed vision for RLC's Bega Kwa Bega ministry in Tanzania. She will describe her personal experiences from several trips to Tanzania as a pastor, including her recent October, 2016 visit to RLC's companion congregation in Ng'ang'ange. An RLC mission trip to Tanzania during the summer of 2017 is being planned by Mission & Outreach. Find out about this and the many other ways you can participate in RLC's global ministry in Tanzania.



**The History of Lutherans in America**  
10:10 am Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26  
Led by Mark Granquist

In this series of sessions, we'll try to understand the history of Lutherans in America over the past 400 years, how that history informs our present and perhaps even our future. This will not be just a history of mergers and theological disputes (although there might be some of this), but also the ways in which Lutherans attempted to live out their old faith in a new land.

**Session 1: 1619 to 1783**

The first Lutherans come to North America and try to make sense of a very different country and culture.

**Session 2: 1783 to 1914**

Lutheran immigration swells as millions come to North America. Lutheran churches try to keep up with them.

**Session 3: 1914 to 1960**

Lutherans learn to become Americans, and continue to build their congregations and institutions.

**Session 4: 1960 to the present**

Having "made it" in America, what do we do now that America is changing in so many ways?