

RAMBLINGS

January 2009

VOLUME 37, ISSUE 1

Lutheran Church of
the Resurrection

1950 Nagel Road

Cincinnati, Ohio 45255

(513) 474-4938

OUR VISION STATEMENT

*To become a vibrant,
benevolent congregation that
serves God's creation both
locally and globally.*

*A congregation that offers
meaningful and inspirational
ministries and worship for all
ages that honor and praise
God while maintaining the
feel of an intimate family in
Christ.*

*Also, a congregation that
provides opportunities for all
to be involved in ministries
and programs that foster the
development of gifts in all
people needed to sustain and
expand God's mission.*



What's Your Story?*

(Third of a Series)

-- George Parker, Inviting and
Welcoming Committee

Okay, so you've made some new friends among non-Christians and the unchurched. Maybe one of your friendships have grown enough so you have learned their story. The Holy Spirit is nudging you to take the next step. *But what do you say?!*

You share the most important part of your faith story in a very special way.

How? According to Bill Hybels in his book, *Just Walk Across the Room*, one key is to think it out beforehand so you don't mess up an opportunity. Most people want to hear the impact Christ has had on your life. The best format is something like, "before I knew Jesus, I ___ and after, I ____." In other words, what changed in your life?

Even if you have been a life-long Christian, like me, there are probably events that helped grow your faith. My story goes something like this: "I was very selfish and not very sensitive to the needs of others. Then a friend invited me to a long weekend retreat where my faith grew, and I had a very personal encounter with Christ. He helped me become a better servant so I could care for my terminally ill wife with joy and peace."

In writing your story, Hybels says to avoid these problems:

- Long-windedness – keep it to a minute or two. Try for a 100 words or less
- Fuzziness – keep it simple, with few "characters" and one clear "plot line"
- Religioneuse – avoid quoting scripture or using terms like "salvation" at this stage
- Superiority – be accepting of your friend and do nothing to communicate that you are the one with your act together and they are the poor lost person

Of course, maybe your friend already has a strong faith in God but just hasn't found the right church community. Tell them about LCR in the same way! What has LCR meant to you, and how has this community affected your life? Are you more enthusiastic about your faith, more at peace, feel more supported by friends or have more hope about the future? What is there about LCR that helped?

A great New Year's resolution might be to create more opportunities to make new friends and tell your story!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Feature Article	Cover
Member Reflection	2
Worship Opportunities	3
Ministry Updates	4
Committee News	5
Parish Education	6
Fellowship	6

* Ideas based on Bill Hybels' book, *Just Walk Across the Room*. If you want a copy of Hybels' book or to participate in a future training class, call or e-mail Larry Magnesen (561-0553 or elmag@aol.com).



An Attitude Adjustment

-- Anna Erdmann



This past semester at Capital University, I had the remarkable opportunity of being placed with the Mt. Carmel Outreach program in conjunction with my senior - year community nursing course. I knew that this would entail going to homeless shelters, the YMCA and a Hispanic clinic where I was thrilled to test out the skills of my Spanish minor in the "real world." I did not however, realize that this experience would strengthen my faith and make me re-think my attitudes and outlooks on the way I live my daily life.

In the last 16 weeks I worked with four nurses, one doctor, one nurse practitioner and a faithful police officer helping some of the most vulnerable populations in Columbus, Ohio. The setting for these experiences was unique because it is a mobile unit. The nurses (me included) were set up inside the facility we were visiting where we would each get a health history, vital signs, and find out why the patient had come to see the doctor. Then, because we were in some rough areas, our police officer would escort the patient to the mobile home parked outside. You may be wondering why we would send patients to a mobile home. Conveniently, this mobile home was converted with a waiting area and two assessment rooms where the patients would be assessed by the doctor or practitioner and receive the medication or treatment they needed at no cost. This could be anything from some Tylenol or antibiotics to x-rays, EKG tests, or minor surgeries such as removing ingrown toenails or questionable looking moles.

Every Thursday I would join the healthcare team to assess patients without insurance or social security numbers near a Hispanic community in Columbus. I had great opportunities to learn about different cultures, educate patients about resources in the community, improve my Spanish skills, and use my gifts to provide care to children and adults in need. On the first and third Tuesdays I would venture downtown to the YMCA where we would assess the men who resided in the building. Whether it was to help clean out and bandage blisters, give flu shots, or call 911 because a patient was in heart failure, we were always ready and willing to help. Then, on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, we would go to Friends of the Homeless, a men's shelter on the outskirts of downtown. Here we would see people in their toughest times trying to figure out where they would find food for the next day, none-the-less struggling to get healthcare. We were there to get their information, give them a packet of personal care items, set them up with healthcare for the homeless, and send them out to see the doctor.

This clinical experience has impacted my life, and I know I will never forget it. The first time I went to the homeless shelter I heard a man say that he had received the coat he was wearing from someone walking down the street because they noticed how cold the man looked. My jaw dropped, and I felt a stone etched with the word "guilt" in my stomach. I really reflected upon my life and the things that were valuable to me because of this experience. I have lived in Cincinnati my whole life. Even though I have been involved in outreach through church and school, I never give change to the people on the street, none-the-less think to offer them the clothing off my back to keep them warm. You cannot live a life where you are opened and compassionate inside a certain setting, but once you step outside those doors you leave that attitude inside and close your mind and heart. I have changed my attitude and grown in my faith through this clinical experience. Through interacting and being able to connect with people in these vulnerable populations, stereotypes I did not even know I had, have literally dissolved in my mind, and I know that I have a new openness for all people.

The 20-year-old with needle tracks on her arms being assessed so she can be accepted into rehab; the man whose hands were chemically burned in a suspicious accident; the homeless man who was released from prison two weeks ago and was fighting a sinus infection. Who am I to judge their past. I am human too, and only by the grace of God am I saved from the sins that I have committed. I have learned through this experience that no matter what, everyone has been through hard times, some worse than others, and whatever the situation everyone is worthy of forgiveness, education, support and comfort.

"I was hungry and you fed me, thirsty and you gave me a drink; I was a stranger and you received me in your homes, naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you took care of me, in prison and you visited me ... 'I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these followers of mine, you did it for me!'"

Matthew 25: 35-36, 40.

**Lutheran Church of the
Resurrection
Grows when You
Bring a Friend!**



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

-- Rich Weyhrich, Chair
Worship & Music

The liturgies and services for January will be:

- January 3/4:** Epiphany of Our Lord, *LBWI* liturgy
10/11: Baptism of Our Lord, *With One Voice* liturgy
17/18: 2nd Week after Epiphany, *David Haas* liturgy
24/25: 3rd Week after Epiphany, *Now the Feast* liturgy

Epiphany means "manifestation." We celebrate the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles -- that is, to all nations. Some Christian traditions celebrate three great epiphanies: the Magis' visit to the Christ child; Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River; and his first miracle, in which he changes water into wine. The Word and sacraments are for us the great epiphany of God's grace and mercy.

Adult Choir:

The Adult Choir has resumed rehearsing on Wednesdays at 7:30-8:30 p.m.. We welcome new voices, especially men; no prior music reading experience is necessary. Please contact Michelle Davidson at mm.davidson@gmail.com or 513-533-0272.

Children's Choir:

A new Children's Choir has resumed! The choir is led by Diane Hill and is open to all 2nd - 5th graders. Please contact Diane 513-503-2529 or dianehill736@aol.com with any questions.

Volunteers welcomed:

If your musical gifts are more instrumental, we still have need for additional members to play in the Joyful Noise Band. Contact John Snowden, 513-553-6442 or john.snowden@servicexperts.com.

We always have need for people to be trained as a Sound Tech to operate the sound equipment for our worship services. Please contact Rick Carter, carterrck@email.uc.edu or Jason Leupen, jason@leupen.us.



BAPTIZED:

Kimber Elizabeth-Rae Barkman, the daughter of **Lee Ann** and **Chad**, and **Thomas Hassel Downs**, the son of **Nina** and **Robert** were baptized on Saturday, December 27.

ENGAGED:

Amy Fireovid, the daughter of **Mel** and **Pat** was recently engaged to **Dan Altenau**. They plan to be married this summer.

LUTHERANISM 101

New Member Class / Refresher Class for Existing Members

Pastor Zorn will be leading Lutheranism 101 on Monday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. beginning on **January 19** and ending on **March 16**.

The classes cover topics including the Bible, Church and Lutheran history, Lutheran doctrine, Lutheran worship and the church year, and the history of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection.

Baby sitting will be provided if needed.

New and current members are encouraged to join the classes. They are an excellent refresher and an opportunity to meet new Christians.

If you are interested in joining the classes, please notify the church office so material can be procured for you.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS

Pastor Zorn will be offering classes for children of the congregation who desire to receive communion. Four classes will be held from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Thursdays, **January 8, 15, 22, and 29**.

First communion will take place on the weekend of **January 31 and February 1**.

The ELCA generally recommends that children begin to receive communion at age ten or fourth grade, though this may vary with each individual, and the trend is moving toward communing at younger ages.

Parents with specific questions may speak with Pastor Zorn and are encouraged to read a study guide of the ELCA, *The Lord's Supper*, which attempts to respond to questions about the right age for first communion. Parents are strongly encouraged to participate in the classes.

Please notify the church office if your child will be attending the classes.



Update on our sister congregation ... First Lutheran

-- Mike Wood,
Prince of Peace Lutheran

The First Lutheran Support group is starting to make significant inroads into the challenges facing First Lutheran which is heartening and made so much

more satisfying because so many of you are stepping up to help. The growing awareness of First's ministries and the willingness to become involved is profound. Thanks!!!

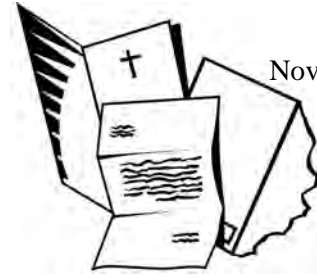
Here are some ways you can help:

Support the First Lutheran Benefit Concert. We are in the planning stages for a Benefit Concert to be held at First Lutheran and featuring members of the Cincinnati Symphony and Chamber Orchestras. In addition to raising proceeds to help First it will also be a celebration of wonderful music in the historically significant sacred space of First Lutheran. More information to follow soon!

Provide Secretarial Assistance. With First Lutheran's limited staff, a volunteer to type and/or copy the weekly bulletin would be a "God-send!" A team of volunteers could even rotate this opportunity. Interested in more "project work" like putting stamps on newsletters from the Learning Center or coordinating copying projects? Please contact Mike Wood, at 683.4147 or capnwoody25@cinci.rr.com if you are interested in helping.

Professional Grant Writer Needed. Our task forces have identified a number of areas of need for which grants are available, and although we have a number of volunteers very willing to help with the grant writing process, we lack a professional resource to direct those efforts. Are you such a person or do you know of such a resource? We strongly feel that finding such a person is critical to our mission to develop the funding necessary to allow First Lutheran to continue providing its invaluable support to the community it serves. If you are a professional grant writer and feel that you have some time that you can volunteer to direct our efforts, please contact Pastor Ken Severa at 923.3370 or pastorken@hopeonbluerock.org

Join the Property Repair Team. We held our initial property workday on December 3, and enjoyed great fellowship as well as winterizing the church. Interested in being a part of this group? Plenty of interesting and challenging projects await us in the future! Please contact Mike Wood, at 683.4147 or capnwoody25@cinci.rr.com if you are interested in helping.



Wednesday,
November 19, 2008

Dear Lutheran Church of the
Resurrection,

On Monday, September 27, 2008 I had lunch with Pastor Zorn at the Frishe's Big Boy restaurant on Spring Grove Avenue, and we had a very nice time together. On Sunday, November 2, 2008, I had attended the All Saints Day worship service, brunch, and the congregational meeting. I was one of the original charter members at the All Saints Day worship service, brunch and congregational meeting.

I saw some of my old friends at church like Paul Garver, Marie Streng, Dave Downs, Ray Sund, Howie Schmidt, Peggy Nordone, Manny Nordone, Vi Sill, Kay Luccasen, George Parker, Lynn Ebersole, Brenda Webb, Pastor Zorn, Diane Schwiger-Alexander, Jason Leupen and Karen Leupen. I also saw some new faces at church like Jill Guenther, Judy Hammond, Phil Hudak, Helen Hudak, Karen Stevens, Pam Rosenbaum, Perry Owen and Xan Boone.

I thought that the food at the All Saints Day brunch was great, and we also had a slide show about the old and the new members of the church and it was an excellent presentation. I hope to see you all at church during this coming holiday season, and I hope that you all have a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Yours in Christ,
Charter Member
Dennis Lanier

2009 Spiritual Gifts Inventories & Covenant Forms

A record breaking amount of forms have already been turned in ... but it's not too late to return your forms!

Please place your completed forms in the basket located in the Narthex area. If you are in need of an extra form, they are also available in the Narthex.

Feel free to contact Diane Schwiger-Alexander, AIM, with questions.

Water, Water Everywhere

-- Mark Wegmeyer,
Earth Ministry

As an avid scuba diver, I love the ocean, and that's good for me, because there's a lot of it. As we know, two thirds of our planet is covered in ocean. But you may not know that the ocean accounts for over 97 percent of all the water on earth. With another two percent of earth's water locked in ice. That leaves scarcely any for us to use. In fact if all the world's water could be put in a one gallon jug, our useable freshwater would fit in a tablespoon! So even though I love the ocean, it's that "tablespoon" full that concerns me today.

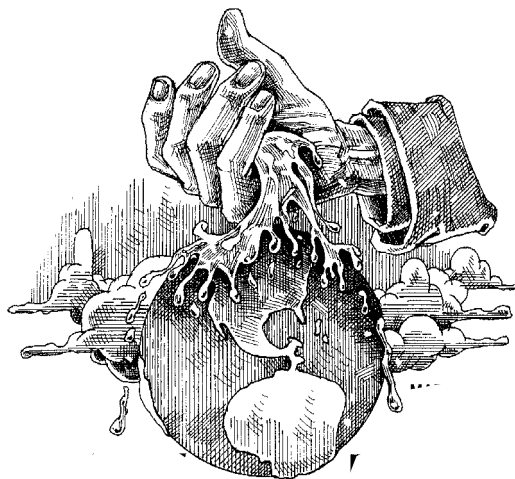
One of the biggest problems facing our "tablespoon" of water is pollution. Did you know that over one billion people, one sixth of the world's population, lack access to clean water? Or that over 1.8 million children die each year from diseases related to contaminated water?

Part of the problem with pollution is the nature of water itself. Water is the universal solvent, and it moves. If you want to get rid of something, put it in the water and it goes away, unlike a landfill (actually it doesn't go away, it just goes somewhere else). Worldwide, we deposit over two million tons of waste per day, into our water systems. Dumping sewage, chemicals, and heavy metals, directly into our water is known as point-source pollution.

But even things not dumped directly into our water, eventually come in contact with water, are dissolved and carried away. This is known as non-point source pollution and accounts for up to 70 percent of all water pollution. Chemicals from agriculture, automobiles, mining, storm runoff and even the air itself, all end up in the water supply, and many of them stay there even after filtering.

Ok, so our freshwater isn't so fresh, but what can we do? How do we protect the one critical resource that all living things need? Well, the answers are numerous and diverse, but they all start with awareness. Once we realize the problem, we can begin to formulate a solution. For starters, try a web search for "clean water," "water usage," or anything else you can think of. Check out the EPA's web site, the Ohio River Foundation's or www.wateruseitwisely.com.

There's an old African proverb that says, "Dirty water can't be washed." So what's the value of clean water for us and the world? As the commercial says, priceless!



GET ON BOARD!

Travel through Guatemala!

Join Cooperative for Education (CoEd) on its 2009 Delivery Tour to the beautiful country of Guatemala and experience the extraordinary joy that comes from service. For over a decade CoEd has been dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty in Guatemala through education. You can be a part of this mission by volunteering with us in February to deliver textbooks and inaugurate brand-new computer centers improving education for countless impoverished Guatemalan schoolchildren.

CoEd's Delivery Tour is scheduled for **February 13-22, 2009**. In this 10-day excursion, you will travel by chartered bus with other volunteers and CoEd staff, visiting schools and meeting children and families CoEd serves. For most of the schools, these will be the first textbooks they've ever had. You will be welcomed by parents, teachers and students, who will share their culture with you through plays, dances, and songs. You will gain experience and insight into the challenges faced by people in the developing world while helping to change their lives. The week is sure to be an experience you will never forget!

Tour cost is \$1,575 for single occupancy and \$1,375 for double occupancy (plus air fare). Please contact Jessica Stieritz, Tour Coordinator, at Jessica@coeduc.org or 513-731-2595 ext. 105, or visit our website at <http://www.coeduc.org/tours.htm> for more information.

Have you
remembered
Lutheran Church
of the Resurrection
in your will?



Upcoming rehearsals for all
Second through Fifth Graders

Wednesdays, **January 7, 14, 21, & 28**
from 6:45 - 7:30 p.m. Rehearsals

Please contact Diane 513-503-2529
or dianehill736@aol.com
with any questions.



The Path to Arab-Israeli Peace
Begins Sunday
January 18

This four week historical and political study will be led by Larry Magnesen. It will include the history of the formal and informal claims on the Holy Land, the proposals for a two-state solution and the reasons for their failure to date, and possible paths to a solution.

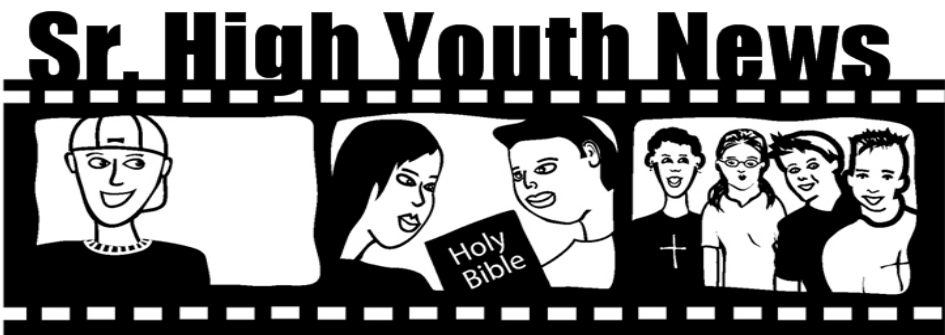
If you would like to do advance reading, please feel free to read the highly recommended book by Alan Dershowitz, *The Case for Peace*, or Jimmy Carter's, *Palestine Peace Not Apartheid*.



**JOIN US FOR
EUCHRE**

Please come out on
January 9, at 7 p.m. to
help us beat them!
Babysitting available.

Call Dan and Jill
Guenther with questions.



We would like to thank our congregation for your continued support of the Senior High Youth group and their activities.

We greatly appreciate the show of support with approval of budget dollars for the youth group this year for their many events, and also for their trip to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this coming summer.

We are off to a great start this year and have had record number of kids participating in all service projects, fellowship activities and Sunday School.

We also have been blessed with a great group of supportive and active parents who are excited about the great opportunities for their kids.

We have 20 students registered for Construction Zone in February and 10 going to Camp Kern in January. These are both weekend retreats that require a significant time commitment from the students and will greatly benefit their spiritual growth.

The congregation of LCR is always very supportive of our fundraisers and shows great love and dedication to our youth. We have a great group of kids who love to serve others and share time together in learning, fellowship and fun! With your support we are equipping these teenagers with a wonderful foundation of Christian faith and community.

We try very hard to keep everyone up to date on activities, because we want you to know all of the great things our kids are doing! If you ever want more information please don't hesitate to talk to us about their events, service projects or give us ideas for new and exciting activities.

With grateful hearts,
Senior High Youth Group leaders:
Jeff and Shelly Higgins
Mark and Kim Wegmeyer

**Mark Your Calendars
for 2009**



- January 9:** 6-9 p.m. - Rock climbing at Rock Quest
- January 23-25:** Camp Kern weekend retreat
- January 31 & February 1:** "Soup"er Bowl of Caring food collection and noisy offering
- February 6-7:** 30-hour famine and National Youth Gathering preparation



Ministry Fair THANK YOU!

--Diane Schwiger-Alexander,
Associate in Ministry

Thank you to all who helped to make
the Ministry Fair a success!

Thank you to the leaders and ministry
members who made displays and were present throughout the
weekend to share the news of their ministry area.

Thank you to all the members that stayed after worship to learn
more about our ministries.

Congratulations to Art Hagedorn ... the winner of four
Cincinnati Reds tickets from the Stewardship Ministry Fair
drawing.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Lutheran Church of the Resurrection strives to be:
A COVENANT based congregation, NURTURING spiritual growth and
WELCOMING all into Christ's community through
Word, sacrament and love.

RAMBLINGS is a monthly publication of Lutheran
Church of the Resurrection, a congregation of the Southern
Ohio Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
1950 Nagel Road, Cincinnati, Ohio 45255
Phone: 513-474-4938
Fax: 513-474-4934

Church Office Hours are: 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Mon. - Fri.
Web Site: www.lcresurrection.org
E-Mail address: lcrnw@fuse.net

President of the Congregation: Phil Hudak, 513-753-8733
E-mail: hudakp13@fuse.net

Pastor, Henry Zorn: Home Phone: 513-624-0892
E-mail: lcrhzorn@fuse.net

Assisting Pastor,
Rev. Milton Berner: Home Phone: 513-231-0267
E-mail: mberner98@yahoo.com

Associate In Ministry,
Diane Schwiger-Alexander: Home Phone: 513-232-3078
E-mail: lcrdsa@fuse.net

Administration: Karen Leupen, 513-474-2933
E-mail: lcrkleupen@fuse.net

Church Office Secretary: Brenda Webb, 513-553-2090
E-mail: lcrbywebb@fuse.net

Music Director /
Adult Choir Director: Michelle Davidson, 513-533-0272
E-mail: mm.davidson@gmail.com

Praise Worship Director: John Snowden, 513-553-6442
E-mail: snowdenator@gmail.com

Bishop, Cal Holloway: E-mail: cholloway@southernohiosynod.org
Caring Ministry Needs: Jill Guenther

Prayer Chain: Church E-mail: lcrnw@fuse.net

Ramblings: Cathy Curry, Editor
E-mail: currywales@zoomtown.com
Brenda Webb, Layout & Design



Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
1950 Nagel Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45255
(513) 474-4938