



# RAMBLINGS

February 2009

VOLUME 37, ISSUE 2

Lutheran Church of  
the Resurrection

1950 Nagel Road

Cincinnati, Ohio 45255

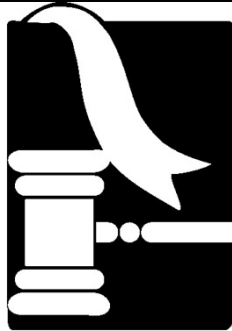
(513) 474-4938

## 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.*



## PRESIDENT OF THE CONGREGATION: PHIL HUDAK

Dear Fellow Members of LCR,

I pray for God's blessings upon all of you and hope the new year has begun well. Are you keeping those resolutions you made? I hope that one of your New Year's resolutions involved an increase in commitment to Christ and the work of the church. Volunteers are always needed for the various local ministries supported by LCR.

In 2009, consider volunteering to help at the Once Around Thrift Shop (first Saturday of every month), First Lutheran Church (serves lunch the last Monday of each month), Habitat for Humanity, Matthew 25 Ministries, or the Shepherding Program at LCR. The theme for the entire ELCA is "God's work, our hands." There are a plethora of opportunities to serve. Prayerfully consider where the Holy Spirit is leading you.

Were you fortunate enough to attend the Sunday service last October 26, and witness eight new families being adopted into our LCR church family? I hope you have taken the opportunity to greet these new brothers and sisters in Christ. If not, resolve to do so. Another new member class began on January 19. That class has 10 to 12 families in attendance! With the addition of these families, LCR's membership should exceed 500 members. Lutheran Church of the Resurrection grows when YOU bring a friend.

According to worship statistics, attendance was especially strong during the fourth quarter of 2008. November's worship attendance was the highest of any November in our church's history and the overall attendance for 2008 was about 3% greater than 2007. This trend seems to be continuing in 2009. Attendance for the weekend of January 10 & 11 was 334. This may be the highest attendance for a non-special celebration weekend in LCR's history! The growth in our church seems especially evident at the Praise Worship Service. I attended this service recently and was quite impressed by the number of people in attendance. Thanks to John Snowden for all his hard work.

Please join me in extending a well-deserved "Thank you." to the following people:

- **Xan Boone** for her four years of service on church council- the last two as President
- **Jessica Farmer** and **Diana Kelly** for serving on council as Co-Chairs of the Fellowship Committee
- **Cathy Curry** for eight years as editor of the Ramblings
- **Shelly Higgins** and **Kim Wegmeyer** for taking over as Co-Chairs of the Fellowship Committee
- **Janet Norgren** for accepting the position as the new editor for the Ramblings

If you have any questions or concerns now or throughout the year, please do not hesitate to contact me, Phil Hudak, 753-8733 [hudakp13@fuse.net](mailto:hudakp13@fuse.net) or any member of the Church Council. (*Church Council Members are listed on page 4.*)

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## AN AWAKENING TO GRATITUDE

**“Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness;  
Come before him with joyful songs. Know that the Lord is God.  
It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people,  
the sheep of his pasture enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;  
Give thanks to him and praise his name.  
For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;  
His faithfulness continues through all generations.”**

Psalm 100

I have noticed something in my world (this is a non-statistically valid observation, since 99% of my personal interactions are with members of our church) of late that I believe is worthy of sharing with you. I have tested this finding with a number of people and all seem to agree with me; in these times of economic recession and uncertainty, people seem to be more thankful for their blessings these days! This phenomenon is worthy of note and theological consideration.

When our economy was growing, or was at least relatively stable, it seemed to me that people tended to look up, with some amount of envy and covetousness, to their neighbor who had “more” than they did. For example, those living in the neighborhood of \$150,000 homes looked up to the neighborhood of \$250,000 homes. Those with \$250,000 homes looked up to the \$500,000 homes. And those with \$500,000 homes may have aspired to Indian Hill! The same comparison might be made of salaries, vacations, automobiles or any other material thing. Madison Avenue convinces us that more will result in happiness...and even though we may know that is not true, we still succumb to the lie!

I have not heard that sort of thinking since the economy and financial markets began heading south in a serious way early last year. To the contrary, what I have heard is, “My salary has been frozen for next year, but at least I’m not taking a pay cut or losing my job.” Or, “I would be willing to take a pay cut if it saved my co-worker’s job.” We seem to have gained a sense of gratitude for the most basic things of life in these difficult times (e.g., homes, food on the table, a job, health insurance, and time spent with family in simple, non-expensive forms of entertainment). The curtain has been drawn revealing the false gods of unbridled greed and a willingness to sacrifice for the common good has appeared.

Sometimes things need to get dark before we can discern God’s light shining in. I believe that is what is happening in our lives right now. While the recession is painful for all of us and we have lost vast sums of wealth, I see good coming out of this situation. The excesses of Wall Street are being convicted. One article I read recently associated at least five of the seven deadly sins of Galatians 5 with the financial crisis; gluttony, greed, sloth, envy and pride. The lies of Madison Avenue marketing are being exposed; more does not mean happiness. Bono, the rock star with a cause, once said, “Good salesmen tell people what they need. Great salesmen awaken a need inside of us to something we didn’t know that we wanted but now need to have.” As Christians, I believe that there is a sense of gratitude and God’s great abundance (not scarcity!) that may have been lying dormant in us but now has been awakened.

I offer the following bits of information in support of my (non-statistically valid) hypothesis:

- 1) Worship attendance for the month of January 2009 at LCR was the highest it has ever been in the history of our church for a month that does not include Christmas Eve or Easter. Worship attendance from September 2008 through January 2009 has been the highest ever in our history for that period of time (adjusted for years in which Christmas Eve fell on Saturday or Sunday). I attribute this mostly to the context of our day. We are seeking the strength and comfort of community and we are longing for hope in the Word of God! We desire, as in the words of Psalm 100, to give God thanks as we recognize the abundance of our blessings, things that we may have been taking for granted.
- 2) The Church Council unanimously embraced the idea of establishing the *Emergency Needs Restricted Fund*. In these difficult times we realize the importance of being community to each other and offering, in very intimate and personal ways, ourselves to each other even as our Lord gave all of Himself for us. These are tenuous times when every one of us is thinking, “There but for the grace of God go I!” Our walk with each other and our offering of care and compassion, financial and spiritual, is a walk with Christ.
- 3) *Sojourners* magazine (copies in the literature rack at church) is devoting space each month to theological reflections about the current context in our nation and in the world. In the February edition, renowned Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann, wrote an article talking about this “kairos” time when autonomy can be transformed to covenantal existence (“me” to “us”), anxiety to “abundance of God” thinking, and greed to generosity.

Even as we are tempted to worry and fret over what we have lost, I cannot help but contemplate what we have gained! I am witnessing a lot of generosity and a lot of gratitude in our congregation. Financial offerings to LCR in January were very good despite what we read when we opened our year-end investment and retirement reports! Thank you for your generous giving despite the uncertainty that surrounds us!

As I observe this surprising awakening to gratitude, I am reminded of St. Paul’s letter to the Romans, “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:2) Maybe this awakening is not so surprising after all!

Peace, *PASTOR*



# February

## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

-- Rich Weyhrich, Chair  
Worship & Music

The liturgies and services for February will be:

- February (31)/1:** 4th Week after Epiphany, *LBW I* liturgy  
**7/8:** 5th Week after Epiphany, *With One Voice* liturgy  
**14/15:** 6th Week after Epiphany, *David Haas* liturgy  
**21/22:** Transfiguration of Our Lord, *Now the Feast* liturgy  
**25:** 7 pm Midweek Ash Wednesday Worship Service

*Epiphany* means "manifestation". We celebrate the revelation of Christ to the Gentiles. This season continues into February. The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with the three disciples' of his transfiguration.

*Ash Wednesday* is **February 25**. Lent is often experienced as a season of reflection, looking inward, soul-searching. This is a season where in simplicity there is great strength. Our theme this year is "Christ-centered Relationships." Please consider writing a devotion for our congregational devotional booklet.

### Adult Choir:

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

### Children's Choir Resumes:

A new Children's Choir has resumed! The choir is led by Diane Hill and is open to all second through fifth graders. Please contact Diane, 513-503-2529 or [dianehill736@aol.com](mailto: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@serviceexperts.com](mailto:john.snowden@serviceexperts.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, 351-9480 [carterrck@email.uc.edu](mailto:carterrck@email.uc.edu) or Jason Leupen, 513-474-2933 [Jason@leupen.us](mailto:Jason@leupen.us).

Our next meeting is **February 15**, at 1:15 pm. Come join us. We welcome all in the congregation.

## BOOK OF FAITH: OPEN SCRIPTURE Join the Conversation!

--Diane Schwiger-Alexander,  
Associate In Ministry

The Book of Faith Initiative of the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) is a vision of the church to become more fluent in the first language of faith; Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

Do you dream in Scripture?

If you have ever taken a foreign language you know that you are truly learning the new language when you begin to dream in that language. Can you imagine a church, a congregation, our congregation, truly fluent in the language of Scripture (not just memorizing the Bible) but understanding God's message to us?

What would a church, a congregation, our congregation look like if we were all dreaming in Scripture?

Through God's Word we are Called, Renewed, Enlivened, Empowered and Sent: we are Called to be the Body of Christ, a missional church; we are Renewed in our relationship with Christ and others; we are Enlivened in our hearts and Empowered to act; we are Sent into the world to share the message of grace, love and hope that comes from the Word, from the language of Scripture.

So that we may all begin to dream in scripture a task force is being assembled in our congregation to learn more about the Book of Faith and the accompanying resources from Augsburg Fortress. The task force will begin with an informational meeting: **Monday, March 2, 7 p.m. at LCR.**

If you are interested please contact Diane Schwiger-Alexander (474-4938 or [lcrdsa@fuse.net](mailto:lcrdsa@fuse.net)).

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



## 2009 CHURCH COUNCIL

### The following members will be serving on Church Council for 2009:

President of the Congregation:	Phil Hudak
Vice-President:	Chuck Stafford
Secretary of the Congregation:	Amy Fireovid
Treasurer:	Perry Owen
Financial Secretary:	Doug McLearn
Accountant:	Bethanne Rammel
Building & Grounds:	Barb Laughlin, Exterior Steve Crawford, Interior
Caring Ministry:	Jill Guenther
Endowment Fund:	Peggy Magnesen
Fellowship:	Shelly Higgins Kim Wegmeyer
Finance & Budget:	(vacant)
Inviting/Welcoming:	Kris Miller
Long Range Planning:	Ken Smith
Outreach:	Angie McKenzie
Parish Education:	Kristi Meyer Matt Wehrman
Pastoral Liaison:	Lee Ann Barkman
Stewardship:	Matt Meyer
Worship & Music:	Rich Weyrich
Youth Ministry:	Jenny Pera



## PASTORAL LIAISON COMMITTEE

-- Lee Ann Barkman,  
Committee Chair

The Pastoral Liaison Committee (PLC) is here to serve the members of LCR by providing communication for establishing and maintaining mutual understanding and cooperation to enhance our worship community.

With this goal in mind, please feel free to contact any members with questions, comments, concerns, or ideas. Our current PLC members and contact information are as follows:

Lee Ann Barkman, Committee Chair  
Home: 513-233-9423  
Cell: 513-226-2858  
[LaBarkman@cinci.rr.com](mailto:LaBarkman@cinci.rr.com)

Glen Prasser  
Home: 513-474-0530  
[GPrasser@aol.com](mailto:GPrasser@aol.com)

Xan Boone  
Home: 513-624-0127  
[sboone3@cinci.rr.com](mailto:sboone3@cinci.rr.com)

Greg Park  
Home: 513-474-4477  
Cell: 513-324-0024  
[GregPark3@hotmail.com](mailto:GregPark3@hotmail.com)



## JOIN US FOR EUCHRE

**Come join the Fun!**

January Euchre night was a great time! First place goes to Matt Wehrman.  
Second place to Gina Kern (introduce yourself to her at the Praise Service).

Third place goes to Kay Luccasen.

Join us next month on Friday, **February 13**, from 7-9 p.m. and help us beat last months winners!

Babysitting provided. Bring a dish to share.

Call Jill Guenther with questions at 513-232-2985.



## THANK YOU NOTES

To the Members of Resurrection,

The Pastor, Assisting Pastor, and all the members of the Staff at LCR, wish to express their grateful thanks to all the members of the parish for the thoughtful, gracious, and generous remembrance of us in cards and especially in the monetary gifts given during this past Christmas season. They are immensely appreciated by all of us as expressions of your love.

May our gracious Lord continue to be with all the members during this new year as together we move with confidence guided by the Holy Spirit in our mutual mission of proclaiming Christ crucified and risen, born to those in our community and throughout the world.

Once again, a grateful thank you!

Pastor Henry Zorn, Pastor Milton Berner, Diane Schwiger-Alexander, Karen Leupen, Brenda & Dan Webb, Michelle Davidson, and John Snowden

Dear Lutheran Church of the Resurrection Congregation Members,

I was very sorry to hear that one of the Charter Members of the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection died and her name was Vi Sill. She was the lady at the All Saints Day congregational meeting and brunch to show the pictures of the church members past and present. She was a member of the Memorial Committee.

I really enjoyed myself at the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service and it was nice to sing all the traditional Christmas carols at the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service.

I want to thank Pastor Zorn for coming to the East Galbraith Christmas choir program at the nursing home on Tuesday, December 23, 2008. I want to wish every one at the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection a very happy New Year.

Yours in Christ,  
Charter Member,  
Dennis Lanier

Dear LCR,

Thank you so much for your recent donation to the Once Around Thrift Shop. Your support over the years has been crucial in helping us to thrive in our community.

Your congregation's personal donations are extremely important also.

Wishing you all a very Blessed Christmas and New Year!

Your friends in Christ,  
Beverly J. Meyer, Manager  
And all the OATS Volunteers

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



### NEW ARRIVAL:

**Connor James Miller**, the son of Rhonda and Jim Miller was born on January 4.

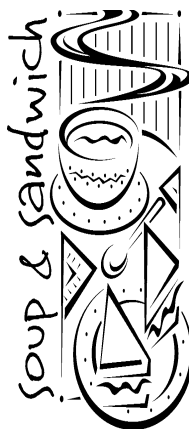
### RECEIVED THEIR FIRST COMMUNION:

The following youth received communion for the first time on January 31/February 1:

**Brendan Dewing, Mercie Goldberg, Stephanie Guenther, Kassity Kessler, Carolena Wagner, and Alexis Wazyaniak.**

### WITH SYMPATHY:

To the family and friends of **Vila Sill**, Charter Member of LCR, who passed away on Sunday, January 11.



## Wednesday Night Lenten SOUP & SANDWICH

Wednesday night Soup and Sandwich will begin on **March 4**, at 6 p.m.

Soup and Sandwich Night will also be held at 6 p.m. on the Wednesdays, **March 11, 18, 25 and April 1.**

Sign up sheets will be posted soon to bring soup and food to share for the meal.

## Fellowship Committee Meeting

**"Johnny Rockets"**  
at Newport on the Levee  
**Monday, February 2**  
**6:30 p.m.**

Contact Kim Wegmeyer 513-624-9660 or  
[kwegmeyer@cinci.rr.com](mailto:kwegmeyer@cinci.rr.com)

or

Shelly Higgins 513-575-4533 or  
[seashelly@cinci.rr.com](mailto:seashelly@cinci.rr.com)

for more information about upcoming events,  
to get involved with our committee,  
or to help with events or activities.



# CHRIST RENEWS HIS PARISH

Women's Weekend  
February 21-22, 2009

LCR Women's 10<sup>th</sup> Christ Renews His Parish Giving Team is really excited about the upcoming CRHP weekend. We hope you can make it!

**WHAT IS IT???** Christ Renews His Parish is designed to give both the individual and the congregation an opportunity for renewal and growth in their spiritual lives. As we grow in awareness of God's love and respond to His call, our congregation grows together as a family. "We ask God to fill you with the knowledge of His will, and with all the wisdom and understanding that His Spirit gives. Then you will be able to live as the Lord wants and will always do what pleases Him. Your lives will produce all kinds of good deeds and you will grow in your knowledge of God."

**WHAT IS A "GIVING TEAM"???** The Giving Team is composed of members from our church who have attended previous renewal weekends and have chosen to share their experience of growth in the Lord with others. The entire weekend is planned and coordinated by the Giving Team.

**WHAT HAPPENS ON THE WEEKEND???** Most who have attended a CRHP weekend say. . . "You can't explain what happens; you have to experience it for yourself. It affects everyone differently." There will be fellowship, group discussions, prayer, sharing, worship and time for personal reflection. There will be separate bedrooms provided for all with shared bathrooms. Good food and snacks are bountiful for the weekend! Will there be chocolate? Definitely! Most people leave the weekend feeling refreshed and renewed.

**WHO MAY COME???** All female members of the congregation 18 years of age or older may attend.

**YOU ARE INVITED!** This is your invitation! Praying for guidance is important. If you feel that Christ is calling you, COME!!! If you are undecided, do not hesitate to talk to someone on the Giving Team or Pastor Zorn.

**HOW LONG WILL IT LAST???** The weekend will begin at 8:00 am on Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup> and will end by 3:00 pm on Sunday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>. All activities, including meals and sleeping arrangements, are at the beautiful Milford Spiritual Center (less than 20 minutes from LCR).

**CAN I AFFORD THE PRICE???** There is a cost for the meals and for the rental of the facility. A \$50 registration fee is due upon signing up. The total cost for the weekend is \$125. The \$75 balance may be paid at the retreat. Cost is however never an issue if someone is interested in attending the retreat. (Just talk to Pastor Zorn or one of the giving team members.) **Your greatest investment will be yourself and your time.**

## **GIVING TEAM MEMBERS:**

	Åsa Durtsche	528-5290 or <a href="mailto:adurtsche@hotmail.com">adurtsche@hotmail.com</a>	
Shelly Higgins	575-4533	Diana Kelly	753-7519
Tracy Koehnke	943-7231	Signa Kopras	231-0362
Karen Leupen	474-2933	Kay Luccasen	943-0243
Karen Reiber	561-5440	Patti Westendorf	752-1252
Christie Brown	232-5702		

Place your registration in Åsa Durtsche's church mailbox. If you need a registration form, please let us know.

Acts 2:28, You have shown me the paths that lead to life and your presence will fill me with joy.

*Be kind whenever possible. It is always possible.*

# WINTER CONVOCATION AT LUTHER SEMINARY

--Diane Schwiger-Alexander,  
Associate In Ministry

As I attended the Winter Convocation at Luther Seminary in mid-January, (yes- it lived-up to its name; Winter!), I was listening to two preeminent Old Testament scholars and thinking about our congregation. Terence Fretheim and Walter Brueggemann, the theologians mentioned above, spoke on "Engaging Scripture for the Sake of the World with Heart, Mind, and Spirit". We examined the questions what does it mean to read the Bible for the sake of the world and how might biblical Word give shape to Christian life?

As Christians we are called to serve God's creation. This creation includes all the creatures, our neighbors and the earth,. This is what led me to think of our congregation as they spoke. God called on the Israelites to be counter to the culture of Egypt and the Pharaoh and God continues to call on all of creation to be counter, to respond for the sake of the world. God calls us into covenantal neighborliness through the commandments not to bear false witness or covet what belongs to our neighbors in Exodus. In Leviticus, Romans and Galatians we are called to "love your neighbor as yourself".

I wrote last month about a new Restricted Fund that Council was looking to establish, to help our "neighbors", in our congregation. As you all know Council has decided to move forward with this special fund and we will be helping our members as we are able and as they have needs during these hard economic times. I encourage each of you to search for how you might be neighbors to one another. It may be through participation in the Emergency Needs Restricted Fund, a note of encouragement or thanks, attend a fellowship event or the Sunday Morning Fellowship hour and sit with someone who you do not yet know, participate in Caring Ministry Team, make cards, prayer shawls, wherever and however you feel called to be a neighbor.

In these difficult times it is easy to be discouraged and tired and turn in-ward but it is in these times, more than any other, that we are called to turn out-ward and share in the hope of the Word and respond with generosity and hospitality. We need to "talk the talk" and "walk the walk".

I also ask that we all pray for each other, using the church directory as a guide. Please continue to pray for each other each day.

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries:



--Michael Alexander,  
LCR 8th Grader

In August I went to a summer camp called Camp Mowana. This was my sixth time going to camp. I have enjoyed every year I have gone and everyone I've met at camp enjoyed it too.

What makes Mowana fun is the fact that it might be a church camp but not everything is focused on church. There are different activities that everyone can do for the whole week. Activities such as sports, water sports, MAD (Music Art and Drama (my favorite) and nature. Then there are also activities that you get to choose every day (they are the same themes from above but you get to choose a different or same one every day).

My Favorite part of the whole week would have been between all the people that I met, all the songs we sang and learned and activities that we did. My favorite activity of the week was when the art group, during choice activities, got to make boats out of bark, sticks, leafs, moss, twine and any other material in the woods, and got to put them on a river and see whose boat made it over Fleming Falls the fastest. The last day is always the hardest because you don't want to go but you have to and you're eager to get everyone's e-mail, MySpace, Facebook, etc... that you met. Although it does end on a great note or chord, if you prefer, you can join in the ending program. This is when everyone that wants to, gets up on stage and sings all the songs they learned at camp during the week. So have an adventure this coming summer and go to camp Mowana.

*Registration for Summer, 2009 has begun. Camps are offered for Kindergarten through High School at Lutheran Memorial Camp and Camp Mowana while Camp Luther offers family camping events. For more information or to register go to [www.lomocamps.org](http://www.lomocamps.org) or pick up a registration form at the church office.*

*Please note if you register prior to March 31, 2009 you will receive \$30.00 (\$15.00 off a half-week camp) off your registration fee. There are also discounts available for Siblings and for those who register for two weeks at camp as well as for Family Camp.*



# MEMBERSHIP PROFILE

## THE MCKENZIE FAMILY

--Sue Goldberg



There's one thing Rick and Angie McKenzie can't deny. Their life is sweet. Three-and-a-half-year-old son, Thomas, sneaks up on visitors like a stealthy ninja, and gives them melt-your-heart hugs. Six-year-old Christopher is a budding conversationalist, who can dazzle guests with not only English, but some impressive

Spanish phrases as well. Ginger, the family's 9-year-old dog, rescued from the pound, is so friendly she fits right into the mix. And Beatty, the boys' newest Betta fish, is a study in marine biology. In fact, there are glimmers of possible career paths in linguistics, biology, engineering and academics in the making here.

Thomas sums up his bio, while he and Christopher study the mechanics of a digital recorder they've just caught sight of: "I've lived my WHOLE life in Cincinnati. What's THIS button do?"

"Um, that's 'Erase.'"

Mom and dad quickly, but calmly, redirect the boys' attention. What Christopher and Thomas can't deny is that their lives are sweet, too. The grace of having two parents who are able to work hard to make this family thing happen is a great gift.

Rick, a Turpin High School grad, earned a degree in electrical engineering and made his way 10 years ago to RA Jones, where he's now a product manager. Angie, a CPA, was a manager of internal audit and legal compliance for a finance company in Mason. She thought she'd head back to work after Christopher arrived on the scene. She even put together a list of all that she'd do during her three-month family leave.

"I had this LIST," Angie laughs. "A whole list of everything I was going to get done, because I was taking THREE months ... I said, 'Oh, I'll just clean the basement, get all this stuff done, and organize. But you know how it works when you have little ones and round the clock feedings and diaper changes and bathing. None of that happened.'"

The sheer effort of parenting drew them into a different lifestyle, but there wasn't any danger of losing sight of the big picture. They remained focused on enjoying life and helping those in need in the community.

Angie keeps herself fit for her caregiver role by sneaking in long runs each weekend as the weather allows. For the past two years she has run a mini-marathon for the Greater Cincinnati Epilepsy Foundation to raise money for research

and treatment for a condition that has taken the life of her sister and touched extended family members as well.

Two years ago, Rick developed a new interest. "He's a cyclist extraordinaire," Angie says with pure pride.

And maybe even that proud pronouncement is putting it mildly. Last year, Rick and his fellow enthusiasts – a group called Gears 4 Beers (ok, yes, there's just a bit of pub action) – took a tour of Colorado, cycling 530 miles in six days at a mere 42,000 feet. His record speed stands at 37 miles per hour, and he has come within 13 minutes of the winning time of the Olympian leader at the Sunflower Revolution, a race that raises money for Parkinson's Research.

"It's made me a different person," Rick explains. "I'm much more sociable. I've stretched myself a lot more with that ... more physically fit, more health conscious. It's more than just a hobby, it's a lifestyle."

Cycling has provided opportunities for the whole family to become closer. Even Angie's 62-year-old dad arranges annual Loveland Bike Trail treks for extended family. That means a dozen aunts and uncles and assorted cousins bike for 60 miles at a leisurely pace, take in the sights, the restaurants and the scenery. They spend the evening at a hotel, then make a return loop the next day.

"We call it the Tour de French Fry," Angie quips.

The McKenzies also participate in the MS 150 bike ride. Local celebrity Cammie Dierking captains the team to help raise dollars for research on multiple sclerosis. "We are looking for people to join," Angie says.

As if all that isn't enough, their activities at LCR keep them busy, too. Rick has helped out with Habitat for Humanity and the ever-busy LCR nursery. Angie's activities include Hunger Awareness committee work, Bread For The World's Offering of Letters and chairing the Outreach committee.

According to Angie, it's great that Rick is able to spend time with the boys when volunteer work comes calling. "Otherwise, I wouldn't have the opportunity to help out," the Louisville native says.

Camping with Angie's relatives in Howard's Town, Kentucky, and occasional family vacations at Destin are part of life, too. Beach trips mean kite flying, learning the fun of being buried in the sand, crabbing and ...

"Watching out for jellyfish!" Christopher says – the voice of painful experience.

But it's still sweet – whether it's watching out for jellyfish or watching out for each other. It's a family partnership that works.



# SNOWBALLS AND GRASSROOTS

--Angie McKenzie,  
Chair

It is snowy and cold as I write this and two Buffetts come to mind. The first one is Jimmy Buffett because I'd like to be at the beach listening to *Cheeseburger in Paradise*. The second is Warren Buffett because his half-read biography, *The Snowball*, is sitting on my desk with the following quote staring up at me:

"Life is like a snowball. The important thing is finding wet snow and a really long hill." - Warren Buffett

Buffett sees each dollar not as it currently is, but what it can potentially become, thanks to the "snowball" effect of his investing skills and compounding.

This philosophy is similar to the grassroots efforts behind Bread for the World's Offering of Letters. They view each letter for its potential. When added to other letters from their nationwide network of Christian churches, each letter can become part of a snowball rolling down a really long hill and building up momentum for positive change. Here is a brief rundown of what changes have resulted from previous Bread for the World grass roots campaigns.

**2003 Rise to the Challenge:** Congress established the Millennium Challenge Account as a new international assistance initiative focused on poverty reduction, and made the largest funding increase in decades to combat hunger, poverty and disease in the developing world. The faithful advocacy of Bread for the World members helped persuade Congress to approve a \$2 billion increase in poverty-focused development assistance – up 33 percent over the previous year!

**2004 Keep the Promise on Hunger and Health:** This campaign sought to increase funding for poverty-focused development assistance, especially funding for the Millennium Challenge Account (MCA) and the fight

against HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. Bread for the World helped win more than a \$1 billion increase in poverty-focused development assistance, a 12% increase over Fiscal Year 2004 levels. These increases brought the funding levels to almost \$1.5 billion for the MCA and \$2.9 billion for HIV/AIDS, TB and malaria.

**2005 Make Hunger History:** Bread for the World helped stop Congress from pushing hundreds of thousands of hardworking people and their children off the Food Stamp Program. They also built a strong bipartisan list of Congressional cosponsors of the Hunger-Free Communities Act

**2006 One Spirit. One Will. Zero Poverty:** This offering helped to secure an increase of \$1.4 billion in poverty-focused development assistance, in order to keep our nation's promises to the world's hungry and poor people. Most of this money is for HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and care in low-income countries. Anti-malaria efforts and refugee assistance also received increases.

**2007 The Farm Bill isn't finished:** Congress is still working out the details. For the latest developments go to <http://www.bread.org/take-action/recent-developments-on-seeds-of-change.html>

**2009 Bread for the World:** According to Bread for the World's Larry Holler, "Since George Voinovich has served on the Foreign Relations Committee and our legislation for 2009 will be discussed in that committee, we'll certainly want many letters to him. Both Sherrod Brown and Jean Schmidt are also important."

What better way to make a positive change than to get a "snowball" of letters to our key representatives. Please be a part of our 2009 Offering of Letters on **January 31 and February 1.**

  
*With*  
**GRATITUDE**  


Through LCR you touch many lives, both here at home and throughout our world. The Outreach Committee recently received letters of gratitude from:

- Wernle Youth & Family Treatment Center (\$250)
- St Peter Claver (\$250)



## REUSE REDUCE RECYCLE

-- Cathy Madewell

Are you interested in recycling? If so, you need to familiarize yourself with the Hamilton County Solid Waste Management District ([www.hcdoes.org/SWMD/home.html](http://www.hcdoes.org/SWMD/home.html)). They are a great resource for all of your local recycling needs.

The SWMD is a county organization established by law, responsible for ensuring that the county achieves state mandated goals for recycling and waste reduction. Visit the web site and find out about:

1. How recycling benefits the environment and the economy.
2. Answers to your most frequently asked questions about recycling.
3. Free computer recycling.
4. The "Get a Bin" program and how to use your bin.
5. Household Hazardous Waste Collection at 4650 Spring Grove. See the web site for times and a list of items recyclable at this location.
6. Home Depot's collection of spent, unbroken CFL's at any of their locations. This is a free service for safe disposal of your Compact Fluorescent Lights.
7. The Multi-Family Recycling Assistance Program. They will help to coordinate services, customize a plan and lend financial assistance to residents in multi-family areas who are interested in a recycling program.
8. The location of the 50 recycling drop-off sites in Hamilton County for communities that do not have curbside pick-up.
9. The location of free collection sites for dropping off your yard waste.
10. Community recycling rates. How much does your community recycle each year?

Get help starting your own compost pile at home. Read the 33 page "Yard Waste at Home Handbook". Waste Line Electronics Newsletter.

Check out the "Treasure Chest", a web-based program featuring the "wish list" of all participating non-profit organizations in the Greater Cincinnati area. Perhaps you have something to give that can put meaning to the phrase "One man's trash, another man's treasure."

This is just the beginning of what you can find. Be sure to check the site often for updates on times and dates for 2009 recycling programs. If you are not web savvy or for questions and comments you can contact: Holly Christmann - Manager, HCSWMD (513) 946-7705 or [Holly.christmann@hamilton-co.org](mailto:Holly.christmann@hamilton-co.org).

## EARTH REFLECTIONS FOR THE NEW YEAR

--Martha Newfield

For the last couple of years one of our daughters has given me a membership to *The Nature Conservancy* for a gift. Throughout the year I marveled at the places on the earth that the Conservancy has acquired to literally conserve them in perpetuity for ensuing generations. They are unique places, full of peoples, cultures, species and plants that would, without help, be lost or destroyed. Through cash and estate planning donations the Conservancy buys up thousands of acres of land each year that represent areas that are rare and irreplaceable because of their indigenous peoples, biodiversity, unique plant and vegetation life or the water supply it represents. I have come to appreciate places I never knew existed and learned of their struggle to endure.

I also learned that in 2008 that the conservancy celebrated 50 years of activity in Ohio, buying up, when possible, acres of the old majestic forests that once stretched from Ohio to Florida. In the southeastern part of Ohio, on the edge of Appalachia, these ancient forests were home to hundreds of bird species, elk, black bear, bob cats and many other creatures and diverse plants. Although almost logged to extinction in the 1920's the forests are coming back in the conservancy preserve and affording habitats for many species. Unfortunately, much of the forest is still under attack by invasive species, resource exploitation and climate change.

In all the places on the map the Conservancy has taken me and all the groups that I have learned about, I am struck by the concern and spirit I see at work in peoples all around the world as they identify lands they want to save. I often feel as if a new spirit is at work challenging us to see the earth in a new way with a spiritual dimension we have not traditionally had.

I am often reminded that early on God used the land to reveal his ongoing revelation to the Israelites when he guided them to the *Promised Land*. Later he continued his revelation and presence to them in directions about how to live fruitfully through an understanding of land management. They were to allow land to rest in the seventh year even as they were to rest on the Sabbath. In addition, the poor were to find justice in a jubilee year through the practice of giving back land to families that had lost theirs in the intervening years. It makes me wonder in what way God's great mystery is at work in the human heart that is moving people to see the land as places beyond price that will preserve and carry a message forward in time, from us to our children, in order to increase their understanding of God's presence in all that exists.

For us now, a first step is the realization that there are cultures, animals and plants that exist for no reason except for their unique intrinsic value as God's creation and should be cared for and saved. Such a consideration might lead us to a much greater spiritual understanding of God's presence among us and His revelation to the world. Martin Luther instructed a similar point when he wrote. "God writes the Gospel, not in the Bible alone, but also on trees and in the flowers and clouds and stars." Amen.



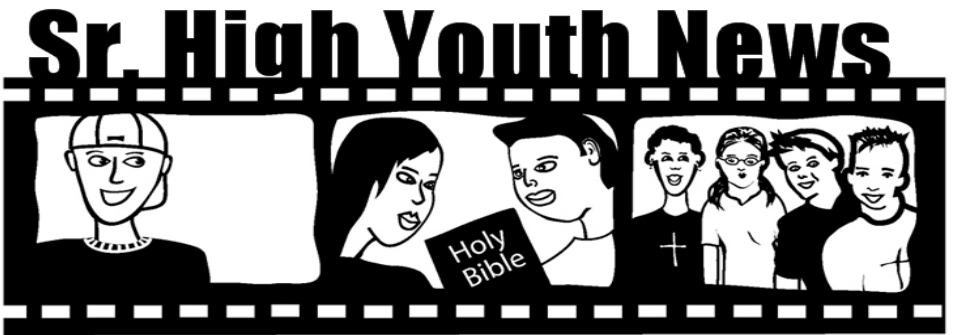
The Children's Choir is open to all  
Second through Fifth Graders

### Upcoming Schedule

Sunday, February 8, singing at the 9:15  
a.m. Worship Service

Wednesdays, **February 18 & 26**  
Rehearsals from  
6:45 - 7:30 p.m.

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

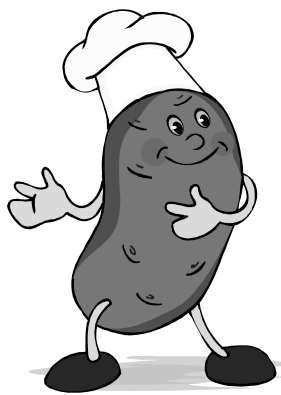


--Heather Higgins

February is going to be a great month for the Senior High Youth Group. **February 1**, is Super Bowl Sunday and we celebrate by having "Souper Bowl of Caring". We will collect canned goods as well as a noisy offering. All donations will go to the Inter Parish Food Pantry in Newtown.

Next, will be the 30-hour Famine to raise money for starving people throughout the world. During that 30 hours of fasting the group will do many activities that are related to hunger awareness, such as meeting with Pastor Zorn and preparing for our trip to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this summer.

At the end of February the Sr. High youth group will be going to Construction Zone which is a retreat weekend for our age group to mature in our faith and grow closer to each other.



## Join us at the BAKED POTATO BAR!

Sunday, February 8  
5:30 p.m.

It's time to take a night off from your kitchen, grab all your family members, and enjoy some fellowship at LCR!!!!

Our LCR 3-In-1 Youth Group is sponsoring their Annual Potato Dinner on Sunday, **February 8**, beginning at 5:30 p.m. The cost of attending is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children 12 and under.

Your dinner will be attended to by our 3-In-1 Youth and will include Baked Potatoes with loads of scrumptious toppings to "Build Your Own Favorite Potato," salads, desserts of all kinds, and a drink. All dinnerware will be provided. To help us plan for this event, please sign-up on the poster in the Narthex.

This is an important fundraiser ... we hope to raise \$500 for Wernle Children's Home in Richmond, Indiana. All donations will be matched by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Come one and all to this fun and worthwhile event!!!!

## YOUTH QUAKE FOLLOW-UP

--David Brittingham  
Quake Coordinator

On January 16-18, Nineteen of LCR's 3-in-1 Youth Group (6th - 8th graders) and seven adults attended Youth Quake at the Holiday Inn Eastgate on January 16-18.

Youth Quake, organized by Youth Encounter, is a weekend-long celebration of Christ through music, speakers, fellowship, and fun. Our theme this year was "One," taken from Ephesians 4:4-6, *One Lord, One Body, One Hope*.

We rocked to the sounds of Captive Free and Echelon, while Dan Scharnhorst made us laugh out loud and inspired us with his stories and message.

The Noisy Offering collected the weekend before allowed our group to collectively give almost \$200 to the Global Offering, which Youth Encounter will use to prepare books of Bible stories that are distributed by its international missionaries. (Thank you LCR!).

Special thanks to the adult chaperones who made the weekend possible: Trish Litterski, Tom Litterski, Laura Sue Syvertsen, Lisa Tymoski, Jason Leupen, and Joe Pessell.

A great time was had by all.



Celebrate  
Valentine's Day at  
"CITY CELLARS"  
908 Race Street  
Saturday, February 14  
7 -11 p.m.

\$25 per person includes Appetizers  
(including wood fired pizza, fruit, cheeses and more)  
Wine tasting and Beer

Invitations are available in the Narthex.  
RSVP and payment is needed in advance.

Please contact Jessica Farmer 513-688-1763 or  
[jfarmer@generalcable.com](mailto:jfarmer@generalcable.com) for more information.

**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.

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