



RAMBLINGS

February 2012

VOLUME 40 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.*



GENESIS & CREATION CARE

-- Martha Newfield

In January our Earth Ministry Team presented a series of studies on scripture and creation care. Barry Riehle led the first two lessons on scripture interpretation and the story of creation as revealed in Genesis 1 and 2. The following is a

reflection on that study.

The Lutheran Study Bible begins with a preface that describes the scope of the Biblical text. It states: "The Bible begins not with God's chosen people, but with the story of creation. God shows his purpose at work among the people of Israel and in Jesus Christ having to do with all of His good creation... 'For God so loved the world'."

As the story of Genesis begins, relationships between God, people and families fall apart. Adam and Eve become estranged from the land (the garden) and of course, God. Later Noah and the people of the time experience extreme estrangement from the land during the flood. However, what we also learn from the Bible is all the ways God continues to reach out to stay connected with people culminating in the Incarnation of God in Jesus coming to earth.

Today we are faced with new forces that are disconnecting us from God and one another with centrifugal force, but again God seems to be present to give us insight into states of connections that were unknown in the past. Science reveals the interrelatedness of the entire physical world. It tells us everything is connected in the 'web of life' breathing as one giant organism. Abstract as all this often is to us, we sometimes seem to better grasp it than we do in understanding our own spiritual connection to the earth. If we could we might realize the weight that a degraded and polluted environment has on our spiritual lives.

The Bible tells us we are connected to the mind of Christ through which and in which all things were made. The physical and natural world can become a way of connecting to that mind and the spirit that moves and breathes in everything. On the other hand, any degradation or pollution of the earth, any loss of species, might represent a spiritual loss for us.

The Navajo people believe that to be 'out of harmony' with your neighbor, the animals and the earth is to be disconnected from the Great Spirit. Is that not like the message of Genesis chapter 2 when Adam and Eve eat from the tree and thereby lose their relationship to the garden and then their relationship to God? They are no longer living connected to God living harmoniously in and with creation in the garden, respecting its limitations, enjoying in its abundance and joining in its glory to praise God.

It is heartening, however, to see the many ways that people are beginning to repair our connection to earth. Initiatives all over the world are restoring the land, water and air while often setting aside nature preserves and conservancies that will ensure the continued existence of plants and animals. To make a true restoration of creation, however, will require an authentic spiritual experience that sees God's presence in every trembling leaf and every flight of a bird. As the poet, Gerald Manley Hopkins wrote: "The world is charged with the grandeur of God. It will flame out, like shining from shook foil. It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil ..."

Christians and people of faith everywhere will be vital to this kind of vision that can transform the 21st century into a way of life on earth that is joyful, spirit filled, restored and most of all connected to our Creator. Let us begin the journey!

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Each Day is a Gift!: A Reflection

“Eternal life is less about a kind of time that starts when we die, and more about a quality and vitality of life lived now in connection to God.”

– Rob Bell, *Love Wins*, p.59

At Christmas we took a short trip to visit our grandson, Evan, in Cleveland (and his parents!). Needless to say, Mommy (Kristine) took lots of Christmas photos of Evan with his Oma and Pops. The one photo that made her Facebook page was me holding Evan in my lap with Dan’s iPad in my other hand. The reason that this Kodak moment (or is that term now obsolete given Kodak’s bankruptcy in the digital age?), more than any of the other photos made Facebook was because Kristine was shocked that I knew what to do with the iPad ... and that I was even remotely interested in the thing! (As most of you know, I’m not a technology guy; no iPod, iPhone, or iPad!)

As a new grandfather, one of the things I like to do best with my two young grandchildren is hold them close to my chest, rock them to sleep and just bond with them. I try to imagine what their life will be like in a world of technology; Internet, WIFI, video games, cable television, smart phones ... and that is only the “connected” world that they are born into. What will things be like twenty-years from now?

During my sabbatical last summer I spent some time thinking about the gift of each day and how I spend my time. It occurred to me that I probably watch too much sports on television and I have a tendency to get hooked on other “empty” shows (e.g., The Biggest Loser reality show). I decided that I need to spend less time sitting in front of the television. (I’ve been somewhat successful at achieving that goal, but it is still a work in progress.) I thought about my grandparents, who grew up before television was invented and wondered how they spent their time. Cindy and I belong to a food co-op and the Amish farmer puts a note in the box of food that is delivered each week. Late last fall, he wrote that the days were getting short and cold. He said there was something nice about that because his family spends more time around the wood burning stove listening to the wood crackle and reading books. Not that I’m ready to become Amish, but something sounded very enticing about that rumination! I once read that Martin Luther read the entire Bible twice each year. I guess when you don’t have a lot of distractions, you find time for beneficial things like savoring God’s Word!

I have great admiration for Dawn Smith’s mother, Olivia Neubauer. Olivia will celebrate her 100th birthday next month. She still teaches part-time at a Lutheran parochial school in inner city Chicago! When Olivia was interviewed by a local newspaper at the spry age of 95 she said, “I’d be dead if I was home sitting in front of the TV. The kids keep me alive.”

I understand the context of our ministry; that we are a congregation principally of young families living in suburbia with lots of opportunities that clamor for our time. Many of those opportunities are good and help to shape us as well-rounded people. I also understand that with demanding vocations and lives that are so full, it is relaxing to sit in front of the television and zone out sometimes. Some of the most valuable advice that my grandfather gave me when I was a young man was, “Henry, everything in moderation.” So I guess that is what I have been thinking about lately; moderation of my time and focusing on things that are truly important.

(Continued)

Each day of life is a gift. So what really matters in terms of how we use the gift? What is penultimate and what is ultimate? For the Christian, it seems to me, the ultimate purpose of life is to love God and love our neighbor. If that is true, how might it inform the way that you spend the gift of each day?

Valuing the gift with you,
Pastor



JUST ARRIVED:

Charlotte Brynn Simcox, granddaughter of **Signa Kopras Anderson and John Kopras**, January 25.

The Ramblings can be obtained via email. Please contact Brenda Webb at lcrbywebb@fuse.net to be added to the distribution list.

FEBRUARY

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

-- Rich Weyhrich, Chair
Worship & Music

The liturgies and services for February will be:

- February 4/5:** Epiphany 5, WOV liturgy
- 11/12:** Epiphany 6, Haas liturgy
- 18/19:** Transfiguration of Our Lord,
LBW II liturgy
- 19:** **Farewell to Alleluia and Burning of
the Palms** begins at 5 p.m.
- 22:** **Ash Wednesday** mid-week service
begins at 7 p.m.
- 25/26:** Lent 1, NTF liturgy

The Lenten season begins in February with a call to fasting and repentance. The sign of the ashes reflect our human mortality and frailty. We reflect on our baptism into Christ's death and resurrection.

VOLUNTEERS WELCOMED:

The Adult Choir has resumed practice. Please contact Michelle Meinhart for details.

The Worship Committee continues to welcome volunteers for the Joyful Noise Band and sound technicians. Please contact LeeAnn Barkman and Rick Carter.

The Resurrection Ringers, our tone chime choir, practices on Tuesday evenings. Please contact Judy Von Busch if interested in participating in this fun group of people. No experience necessary.

**LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF THE RESURRECTION
GROWS WHEN
YOU BRING A FRIEND!**



LENTEN SOUP & SANDWICH DINNERS

The LCR Fellowship Committee would like to invite you and guests to the Annual Lenten Soup & Sandwich Dinners.

The dinners will be every Wednesday evening during the Lenten Season beginning at 6 p.m. Starting Wednesday, **February 29** and ending Wednesday, **March 28**.

The Fellowship Committee will provide sandwiches or salads and beverages each week.

A sign-up sheet will be located in the Narthex for volunteers to bring their favorite soup.



GPS LENTEN STUDY "Chocolate for Lent"

Join God's People Searching (GPS) Bible Study Group Tuesday mornings during Lent for a fun and thought-provoking series based on the movie *Chocolat*.

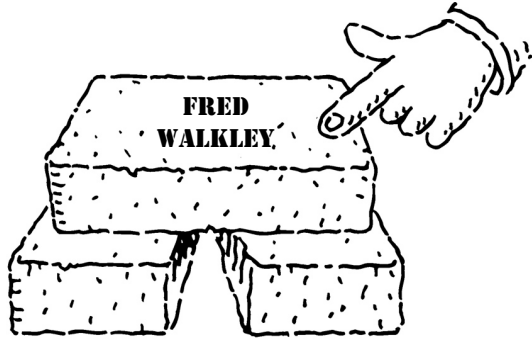
This study was created to gain deeper understanding into self-discipline, self-giving, conversion, acceptance and maturing in Christ.

You will watch the movie, discuss the questions and all while enjoying a little chocolate! There will be no book to read and NO HOMEWORK.

Take up "Chocolate for Lent" and grow in faith.

They will be meeting on Tuesdays **February 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20 and 27**. Come for prayer and sharing from 9:30 - 10 a.m. with the Bible Study beginning at 10 a.m. in the Church Library.

Feel free to contact Peggy Magnesen with questions.



LCR'S MEMORIAL GARDEN BRICKS *Fred Walkley*

To honor the inspiration for LCR's Memorial Garden, it is only appropriate that Fred Walkley be first on the list.

His widow, Pat Walkley, and friends, Howie Schmidt and Chuck Stafford have collaborated on the following memories.

Fred was born in England in 1919. His family moved to Timmons, Ontario, Canada in the mid-1920's. Fred met his first wife to be, Harriet, in Detroit, Michigan before WWII began and they were married in 1941. Fred then went off to fight for the Canadians during WWII. Harriet died in 1973 which left Fred quite despondent.

Fred was working in Richmond, Indiana, when he was introduced to Pat on Ash Wednesday in February 1974. They were married on November 30, 1974 in Richmond. The family moved to Cincinnati in 1977 where Pat continued her Catholic faith at St. John Fischer in Newtown and Fred continued his Lutheran faith at the very young LCR.

At LCR, Fred was known as "Mr. Outreach". In the 1990's Fred clothed the poor, fed the hungry, and visited the sick. Howie knew that because he was his driver.

One Thanksgiving, Fred handed out 21 turkeys with all the trimmings to needy families in the area. He had his own food pantry in one of the LCR class rooms which was discontinued after his passing.

In a note to LCR after Fred's passing Pat wrote, "I cannot thank you enough for the care and concern you have shown us since Fred's death. The dedication of the Memorial Garden was the culmination for us, of our odyssey to accept our loss."

Howie talks to Fred when he walks the curved pathway to the Memorial Garden. He was his friend and dearest buddy who sadly passed away in 1999. Every time Howie visits the garden and sees his brick it reminds him of the hours they spent together doing LCR and the Lord's outreach work.

If you would like to submit a brief article about a brick you have placed in the Memorial Garden, please contact Chuck Stafford at 513-232-3974.

Pastoral *Liaison* COMMITTEE

The Pastoral Liaison Committee (PLC) consists of four LCR members who each serve two year terms. Members of the PLC are available for providing feedback to Pastor Zorn.

Any member of this committee can be contacted to share praise, suggestions, and/or concerns regarding Pastor Zorn or our ministry in general.

Members of PLC for 2012 are: Phil Hudak, Bethanne Rammel, Larry Magnesen and Mary Ward.

A special thanks to Jeff Johnston and Sara Wunsch who completed service on this committee in 2011.



-- Phyliss Hall

From our 64 students who attend The Lutheran Navajo Mission in Rock Point, Arizona and our Navajo Mission Team here at LCR. we say Ahe'ee, the Navajo word for Thank You, for your Christmas donations of hygiene products.

335 items, including toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, and soap were recently sent to the mission school.

Without running water in their homes, these products enable our students to shower and wash their hair at the school, before class.

God Bless each of you for your thoughtfulness.



Please don't forget!

Yes, we still have a Memorial Fund. Giving a donation to the fund would be a beautiful way to remember a loved one.

All you need to do is put your donation in an envelope, marked "Memorial Fund" and place in the offering plate.

Designate who your gift is for and who should be notified of your gift. Notification of your gift will be put in our permanent record Memorial Book.

Committee Members are: Margaret Garver, Phyliss Hall, Peggy & Manny Nordone, and Brenda Webb

SAVE THE DATE! SPIRITUAL CARE WORKSHOP!

Friday, March 9

6 - 8:15 p.m.

and Saturday, March 10

8 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Community of the Good Shepherd
(Montgomery)

Episcopal Retirement Home Parish Health Ministry is sponsoring *Refresh Your Soul* Conference 2012—Spiritual Care in Times of Trial and Loss.

The conference opens Friday evening with dinner and a keynote presentation entitled "I Could Die Laughing—Promoting Humor with the Sick and Dying" featuring Douglas C. Smith, M.A., M.S., M.Div.

All caregivers and anyone going through times of trial or loss will find Doug Smith's presentation inspiring, motivating and deeply meaningful. Health professionals will also gain insight and practical tools essential to caring for the sick and dying.

Doug Smith is the author of several books and published articles in numerous, professional health care journals. He has led workshops in all 50 states and speaks from the heart as he shares his inspiring journey facing many personal trials and loss himself.

A brochure and registration information are available at the ERH Parish Health Ministry website at www.parishhealthministry.com. For additional information feel free to contact Ellen Schneider at 800-835-5768 ext. 4545.



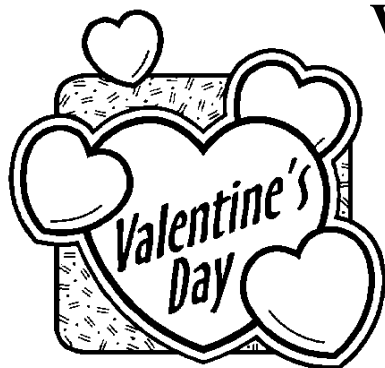
DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the ELCA's goal each year for world hunger is \$5/per baptized member?

Did you know that LCR's giving goes significantly over and above this goal; however, this is the reason you have five Hunger Appeal envelopes in your box of giving envelopes.

In order for LCR to meet the ELCA goal, each time you come upon a world hunger envelope, the World Hunger Task Force encourages you to put in a dollar for each baptized member of your household.

If your family is giving by using an automatic withdrawal from your checking account and would like five World Hunger envelopes to use throughout the year, please let Brenda Webb or Charlotte Kreinbring know and they will put the envelopes in your mailbox. Feel free to contact Charlotte with questions.



Valentine's Day – a SWEET time to use your

LCR Outreach Kroger Rewards card!

Outreach Kroger Reward Program

4% of use goes to

LCR outreach efforts

(outside of our regular budget!)

NO COST! ALL BENEFIT! EASY!



Use your LCR Outreach Committee's Kroger Reward card to buy your sweetie her Valentine's Day goodies (or jewelry – HINT HINT!) and everyone wins! Use of this card gives 4% toward outreach efforts at LCR! While you are at it, consider using the card to buy gasoline, Starbucks, prescriptions and groceries at Kroger too! (The Kroger Outreach card can be used all throughout Kroger!) Bless you!

Need another card? Just email or call the church office and ask them to put a note in the Outreach mailbox, and we will get you a card! Need a second or third card for another family member? No problem! Don't forget – using your card for gasoline purchases is one of the easiest ways to use this card too! THANKS for your support...it really adds up!



We all know that every year there comes a Sunday when just about everyone in the congregation is just waiting to get home.

**And that Sunday is ...
SUPER BOWL SUNDAY!**

Who doesn't just want to eat and drink with friends and family while enjoying a nice competitive football game?

But don't you want to do more than just watch the football game while enjoying all your blessings?

Well this year the Senior High Youth Group is proud to bring back the *Souper Bowl of Caring*. This annual event held in the upcoming weeks to the Super Bowl is a great way to give back to your community.

Starting in January, there will be two collection bins for food donations located in the Narthex: one for the AFC and one for the NFC.

This is just to add some friendly competition between the congregation, because all the food is donated to Inter Parish Ministries. So bring in your food donations and good luck to whichever team you call your own.



Attention Crafters

All are invited to come and learn the age-old technique of waxing Ukrainian eggs the first Saturday of the month, beginning on Saturday, **February 4**, beginning at 9 :30 a.m. in the Double Classroom.

Barbara Muth will guide you through the process. Please bring 6 uncooked eggs (room temperature) and a snack to share. Contact Barbara at 513-752-8539 with questions.



*Valentine's Day
Bake Sale*

before and after all worship services

Saturday, February 11 & Sunday, February 12

Surprise your favorite Sweetie, friends, family or co-workers with some freshly baked homemade cookies or other wonderful treats for Valentine's Day.

Sponsored by our Navajo Mission Task Force to benefit the Lutheran Navajo Mission School in Arizona



**Vacation Bible School
Needs You !!!!**

June 11 - 15

9:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.

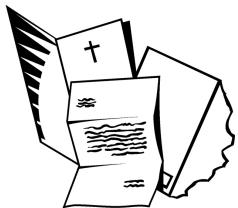
The VBS leaders are in need of volunteers. They are looking for leaders for the Preschool Class (4-year olds), Opening Skit, Decorations (all work to be done before the week of VBS), Crafts, Recreation and Snacks.

You will be given all the materials you will need to begin planning. The theme for this year is SONrise National Parks.

Please contact Emily Mengel (ermengel@gmail.com or 513-474-0957) if you are interested or would like additional information.



**HAVE YOU REMEMBERED
LUTHERAN CHURCH OF
THE RESURRECTION IN
YOUR WILL?**



NOTES TO THE CONGREGATION

A WORD OF HEARTFELT THANKS

The Strengs wish to say a huge
“THANK YOU”

to all those who have wished us well as I completed my official (joy) work at LCR.

We are especially grateful for the financial gifts that have come to us, behind which is your loving response to our ministry. I say “our” ministry because there is no way I could have done this without Marie’s support, prayers and faithfulness.

We cherish your prayers and continued well wishes. We plan to continue to be actively involved in the life and mission of God’s ministry through the people at LCR.

It is a blessing to be surrounded by God’s people and my favorite time is when we gather around the altar, fed by the Lord’s Supper and holding hands to share our unity in Christ. I feel the electricity of the Holy Spirit flow through us all at that time.

You are a blessing in our lives and we plan to remain among you and hope that we will continue to be a blessing to you.

As our covenant concludes:

“To God alone be the glory” Amen.

Dear LCR Family,

A huge thank you to everyone for your prayers, concerns, phone calls and cards during my recent illness.

It is such a blessing to have so many caring friends.

Love,
Peggy Nordone



REMEMBER WITH CARDS

Please keep the Huenniger family in your prayers. If you would like to write to Pastor Huenniger, his address is:

Pastor John Huenniger
1756 Timber Lane
Burlington, KY 41005

SR. HIGH



-- Peggy Magnesen

The Senior High Youth Group met in January for their annual MOVIE NIGHT at the Pessell’s house. It was a fun night of relaxing, snacking and watching the movie Rio with friends. Many thanks to the Pessells for their hospitality, we especially enjoyed the “real” popcorn, homemade on the stove!



“Soup”er Bowl of Caring—Our Senior High Youth Group will be collecting canned goods for their Annual Souper Bowl of Caring Food Challenge now through Super Bowl **Sunday, February 5**. There will be a Noisy Offering at all worship services the weekend of **February 4&5**.

Construction Zone meeting during Sunday School—**Sunday, February 12** we will have a short meeting at the end of Sunday School to go over information about Construction Zone and sign up for food items.

Spaghetti Dinner—On **Sunday, February 19**, the Senior High Youth Group will hold a Spaghetti Dinner to raise funds for their Summer Trip to the Lutheran Gathering in New Orleans. In conjunction with the dinner, they will have an “Auction of Services” with each teen who is going on the trip offering a service to go to the highest bidder.

Construction Zone—On **February 24-26**, twenty-one of our Senior High Youth will have fun and an inspirational weekend at the Eastgate Marriott along with other Lutheran teens from around the area. The weekend will be filled with worship, music, workshops, and fellowship—a really wonderful experience for our teens!

30 Hour Famine—On **March 16 & 17** our Youth will spend an overnight at the church to raise awareness and money for Hunger in the World. More details to come .



**LCR'S SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP PRESENTS
"A NIGHT IN ITALY"**

Sunday, February 19

4:30 - 5 p.m. Carry-out Pick Up
6 p.m. Silent Auction Closes
5 - 7 p.m. Dinner is served

Menu includes: Pasta with homemade red or white sauces, garlic bread, salad bar, and "Heavenly Pudding Cups"

Dine-In and Carry-Out available

Cost is \$10/adults; \$5/child (12 and under); \$25/family

Order forms will be placed in your church mailboxes. Please return them to the **WOODWORTH** mailbox by **Monday, February 13** or mail your reservations to: Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, 1950 Nagel Road, Cincinnati, OH 45245
ATTN: "A Night in Italy"

All money raised will help cover the \$10,000 still needed to send our youth to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this July!

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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Praise Worship Director: Lee Ann Barkman, 513-233-9423
E-mail: labarkman@cinci.rr.com
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