

The Annual Report

of

Resurrection Lutheran Church

**A Mission Congregation of
The North American Lutheran Church**

P. O. Box 270274

Corpus Christi, Texas

For the year ending

December 31, 2011

**Resurrection Lutheran Church
Corpus Christi, Texas**

ANNUAL MEETING

January 15, 2011

11:30 a.m.

Call to Order

Ratification of Constitution

Election of Church Officers

President

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Dr. Jim Walker

Mildred MacMurchy

Sue Beaver

Janice Fredrickson

Report of Pastor

Report of Church Treasurer for 2011

Action on Reports

Adjournment

Closing Prayer and Benediction

CHURCH MEMBERS WHO HAVE DIED DURING 2011

Robert Whistler

PASTOR'S REPORT FOR 2011
Rev. Marilyn J. Larsen

As I reflect back over the past few months, a single word comes to mind: amazed. I am amazed at how far we have come in so little time. A mere four months ago, this community of faith did not exist. Then in early September, conversations began with tentative statements like “Is it even possible?” and “I am completely clueless as to how to go about doing this!” Then the discussions slowly shifted to “What would God have us do?” and “Where is God leading us?” and finally, “Here I am, Lord!”

When I consider the humble and faith-filled beginning of our journey together, it calls to mind the story of the magi found in the gospel of Matthew. The magi perfectly embody the hopes and dreams of a truly “new” beginning. They strike out on a new path, to new lands, with no defined expectations. Why? Because they believe in the reality of a new future, a new promise, a new kind of “king.” Like newlyweds and new parents and new homeowners and new employees, these magi are sincere, committed . . . and mercifully clueless. They leave the East and head West . . . and they have no idea what lies ahead.

The magi left their homeland based upon the summons of a star. To insure the success of their mission, they did not have investment bankers, a strategic plan, a fall-back strategy, or a well-financed safety net. They only had a star. They wandered far from home seeking the king the star foretold. They simply trusted in the prophesy that led them, and they followed a star. They brought with them gifts fit for a king, a prophet, and a healer: gold for royalty, frankincense for divinity, and myrrh for humanity and mortality.

I see so much of those “magi” in each of you. Believing in the reality of a new future and a new promise (and at times, perhaps mercifully clueless), together you and I took the first steps of our faith-filled journey in September of 2011. The certificate of formation was filed with the Office of the Secretary of State on September 19, 2011, and our community of faith was legally recognized as Resurrection Lutheran Church. The church was officially “born.”

It must have been a “God thing.” If I only had a nickel for every time someone has said that in the past few months...! We inquired about worship space at our present site, the South Texas School of Christian Studies, and as it turned out, the group that had been worshipping there would no longer need the space by the end of October. Resurrection could begin worship on Reformation Sunday. After a few telephone calls and e-mails, under the guidance of Mary Jo Williams, we soon found Sooyeon Littell. When Sooyeon auditioned, it only took a few lines of a hymn to recognize pure, God-given talent. She was hired on the spot. Resurrection was ready!

Meanwhile, a website was launched in mid-September, entitled “Resurrection: Where New Life Begins.” The home page invited newcomers to “Renew Your Faith, Restart Your Journey, and Rediscover Hope.” These words characterize what this community is about -- renewing, restarting, and rediscovering -- as it “follows the summons of a star.” (And if you haven't visited our website yet, you can find it at www.resurrectionlutheranchurch.org Our

newsletters are posted there, as well as information about our location and meeting times and lots of photos from major events in the life of the church.)

On October 30, 2011, Resurrection Lutheran Church met for worship for the very first time. The joy and enthusiasm of the twenty-seven souls who gathered together in the name of the Lord, under a new Lutheran banner and on Reformation Sunday, was just incredible. It felt as though our little community of faith had indeed been resurrected and re-formed! And just six days later, on November 5, 2011, this mission-planting pastor was ordained to the ministry of Word and Sacrament by the North American Lutheran Church.

Resurrection Lutheran Church was officially received by the North American Lutheran Church as a mission-start congregation on November 7, 2011. In his letter to the congregation, Bishop Emeritus Paull E. Spring described the decision to become a congregation of the NALC as “an act of courage and faith on your part” and a “commitment to engage in mission and growth under the Word of God.” He commended Resurrection for its “courage, faith, and commitment.”

Then on the first Sunday in Advent, on November 27th, Resurrection welcomed its very first “official” members: Sue Beaver, Charlotte EllingSon, Janice Fredrickson, Sharon Gibson and her children Savannah and Skye, Pr. Marilyn and Ed Larsen, Mildred MacMurchy, Debra Martin and her children Alexandra, Clayton, and Preston, Warren and Linda Meisner, Carolyn Smink, Carolyn Story, Dr. James and Marge Walker, and Robert and Mary Whistler. On that same day, Savannah Gibson and Clayton Martin confirmed their faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. It was such a wonderful way to begin a new church on the first day of the church calendar year! Since that time, we have also welcomed Denise Miller, William Draper, and Tony and Catherine Dirksmeyer as new members, and Lorraine Parks as an associate member of Resurrection Lutheran. **We are growing!**

As is so true of this life on earth, joy is sometimes mixed with sorrow. We have buried two of our dear friends, Mary Jo Williams and Robert Whistler. Both of them have left an imprint on this church. We miss them, even as we look forward to that day when we are reunited with them in the communion of saints in the Church Triumphant.

What I have witnessed in the first two months of this brand-new mission congregation really is an amazing “God-thing”! Time and again, you have stepped up and addressed the immediate needs of our fledgling family. You have repeatedly offered your time, talent, and treasures for the good of all. At Resurrection, there is a kind of “spirituality of giving” in the air that is quite simply a reflection of your love for God and one another. You are, indeed, to be commended for your courage, faith, and commitment. From the time this church was formed, I have been so grateful for the enthusiasm, encouragement, and eagerness to “lend a hand” that you have all exhibited. Your responses have mirrored that of the biblical principles of the “Stewardship Hand”: relationship, ownership, possessions, sacrifice, and love (see Appendix A).

What do we hope for in 2012? Where might God lead Resurrection Lutheran Church in its mission and ministry in the coming year? What gifts might we continue to bring our king? Those are the questions we will consider and pray about in the coming weeks and months. And

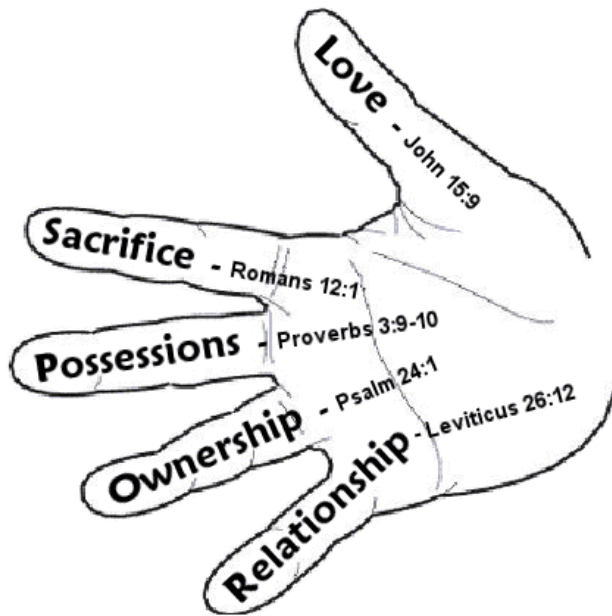
on January 29, 2012, Resurrection will hold its first Consecration Sunday. At that time, we will affirm our hopes and dreams for the wondrous and amazing things that God has done and will continue to do in, with, and through His children in this place.

In the coming year, I envision that Resurrection will continue to grow, bring people to faith in Jesus Christ, and reach those in need of a church home where the age-old truths of the Bible are taught. There will be challenges, no doubt, but we have faith and hope in the One Who leads us. “And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us” (Rom. 5:8).

With faith in Jesus Christ and love for you all,

Pastor Marilyn Larsen

The Stewardship Hand



RELATIONSHIP

Leviticus 26:12

God desires a close relationship with us. He loved us before we loved Him. Our relationship with God is not one of equals since He is the Owner and we are the stewards of His possessions.

OWNERSHIP

Psalm 24:1

God is the owner of everything and He has transferred dominion over His creation to us (Genesis 1:26). As faithful stewards, we understand that we have been assigned the management or stewardship of God's possession. We are responsible to the Owner for the manner in which we conduct our stewardship responsibilities.

POSSESSIONS

Proverbs 3:9-10

Because God loves us He has blessed us with many possessions, such as time, talent, and treasure. The way we use our possessions demonstrates our love to Him. As faithful stewards, we use our possessions for His glory, to benefit others, and not for personal gain.

SACRIFICE

Romans 12:1

The Hebrew word used in the Old Testament for sacrifice is "*korban*", and it means to come close to God. Sin separated us from God, but Christ's death on the cross, as the sacrifice for our sins, provided a way for us to come close to Him. As a Christian, living for Christ is our sacrifice to Him. When we use our possessions (time, talents, and treasures) to His glory and to benefit others, we signal to God, and to the world, our desire to have a close relationship with Him.

LOVE

John 15:9

God is love. Stewardship that is based on God's love allows us to look beyond the faults of others while using our possessions to supply their needs (John 13:34,35). The thumb is the only finger that can touch all of the other fingers, so our love for God and for our fellowmen must permeate all aspects of our stewardship experience. Stewardship is God's love in action.

TREASURER'S REPORT
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2011
Acting Treasurer Janice Fredrickson

INCOME

Budget Offerings		
Member Contributions	8,237.00	
Non-Member Contributions	4,640.00	
Loose Plate	446.90	
Total Budget Offerings		13,323.90
Memorials		375.00
Misc. (T-shirts, Disciple books)		99.00
Savings Interest		0.55
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>		<u>13,798.45</u>

EXPENSES

Building Rental	2,950.00	
Musician	1,070.00	
Misc. Office Supplies		
Postage	57.99	
Paper/Ink/Supplies	330.44	
Worship	302.78	
Misc. (T-shirts, Disciple books)	107.96	
Banking	74.26	
Advertising	202.96	
Start-up Expenses	1,127.88	
<u>TOTAL EXPENSES</u>		<u>6,224.27</u>
Checking/Savings Ending Balance		7,174.18
Wells Fargo Bank		