



# *Resurrection Life*

The Monthly Newsletter of Resurrection Lutheran Church  
*"I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25).*

**Worshipping at South Texas School of Christian Studies; 7000 Ocean Drive.  
Mailing address: P. O. Box 270274, Corpus Christi, Texas 78427 Phone: 361-215-6562**

February 2012

## A MINUTE WITH PR. MARILYN

Our community of faith continues to grow! On January 8, 2012, we welcomed Tony and Catherine Dirksmeyer, Bill Draper, and Barbara and Jacob Hughes as members of Resurrection Lutheran Church. On the following Sunday, January 15, we received James Whistler and Linda Beurlet as members and Mary Jones as associate members. Then on Sunday, January 22, we welcomed Shirley Holden and Steve and Erika Evans and their children as members of this community of faith. We are blessed to have so many faithful disciples of Jesus Christ become a part of the Resurrection family!

We now have an official constitution, as well as our very first officers! On Sunday, January 22, the following members of Resurrection were commissioned: President Dr. James Walker, Vice-President Mildred MacMurchy, Treasurer Janice Frederickson, and Secretary Sue Beaver. In the coming year, please pray for our church leaders and for this community of faith as we discern God's purpose and will for His children in this place.

On the day we commissioned our church officers, we also bid a fond farewell to our gifted pianist and sister in Christ, Sooyeon Littell. We have been so very fortunate to have had her with us for a brief time in the early months of Resurrection Lutheran. We will always hold Sooyeon and her husband Daniel in our hearts and prayers. We are also so very grateful that before she left, Sooyeon referred us to Alice Loving, a retired music teacher and talented pianist who began accompanying us in worship on January 29<sup>th</sup>. Again, we have been blessed!

Finally, on January 29<sup>th</sup>, we held our first Consecration Sunday and potluck luncheon. We had a wonderful response! And if you were unable to turn in your time/talent/estimate of giving sheet that day, it's not too late to fill one out and give it to our Treasurer, Janice Fredrickson.

The year 2012 holds so much promise for Resurrection Lutheran Church!

+God's Peace+  
Pastor Marilyn



## LENT

Ash Wednesday—February 22nd

Palm Sunday—April 1st

Maundy Thursday—April 5th

Good Friday—April 6th

Easter Sunday—April 8th

Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, February 22**, with worship, prayer, and imposition of ashes from **12:00 noon to 1 p.m. at Riviera condo, 4302 Ocean Drive**. The use of ashes during Ash Wednesday services reminds Christians of two central truths of the human condition. First, we are mortal. We are earth to earth, ashes to ashes, dust to dust. Second, we are sinners. So we repent in dust and ashes. We begin the Lenten forty days by acknowledging our mortality and lamenting our sins. The ashes remind us that only by the cross of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ are we given eternal life.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to struggle against whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. On Ash Wednesday, we are invited to the disciplines of Lent – self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting (as one’s health allows), and works of love. Strengthened by the gift of Word and Sacrament on Ash Wednesday, we begin our journey of forty days to the great Three Days of Holy Week: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Resurrection of Our Lord on Easter Sunday. But more about that in next month’s issue of *Resurrection Life!*



## **PUTTING THE LITURGICAL COLORS IN THEIR PLACE**

February will be quite a colorful month! We will change the colors of the vestments three times in four weeks. So, as Luther so often asked (and many of you as well), “What does this mean?”

For generations, the church has used four colors during its calendar year (which begins on the first Sunday in Advent). Violet (or purple) was used for the preparatory seasons of Advent and Lent, symbolizing penitence. Advent is seen now as less penitential than previously, so the alternative use of blue during Advent has gained popularity. Blue signifies our hope and waiting for the coming and “the second coming” of the Risen One who has come and will come again. White is displayed for the seasons of Christmas and Easter and other festival days, including Transfiguration, signifying joy and light. Red is used for the Day of Pentecost and for days commemorating martyrs, as well as Palm-Passion Sunday. Sometimes two shades of red may be used: fire red (with an orange cast) for Pentecost, and blood red (with a blue cast) to commemorate the martyrs and the passion of Jesus.

Green is used during the time between Trinity Sunday and the beginning of Advent, as well as the time between Epiphany and the start of Lent (or pre-Lent). Green can signify growth, but that can be misleading, because we grow in faith during all the seasons of the church year. Perhaps green is better described as recalling the tree of life that is Christ with us. The “green Sundays” are also referred to as “ordinary time”, but that does not mean they are ordinary in the usual sense of the word. “Ordinary” refers to the fact that those Sundays are *ordered* rather than *named*, as in “ordinal numbers.” For example, February 12 is the sixth Sunday after Epiphany, an *ordered* Sunday after Epiphany, and therefore a “green Sunday” in “ordinary time.”

We begin February on a green Sunday in ordinary time, the Fifth Sunday after Epiphany. The time after Epiphany ends on February 19<sup>th</sup>, when the color changes to white, for Transfiguration of Our Lord. Then Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 22, with penitential purple. So yes, indeed, February will be quite a colorful month!

## **BIRTHDAYS**

Birthday celebration for this month will be on February 8 at 11:30 a.m. at the Riviera condo, 4302 Ocean Drive. February birthdays are: **Janice Frederickson (2/21), Alise Evans (2/23), and Preston Martin (2/27).**

The cake and main dish are already lined up, so bring a side dish and come join the fun!



## **CARE, SHARE, AND PRAYER**

If you (or someone you know) are in need of pastoral care, please speak with either Dr. Jim Walker or Pastor Marilyn. Also, a lay committee is forming now to coordinate caregiving (food, visitation, etc.) for those who are hospitalized or are otherwise in need. Please see Marge Walker if you would like to serve in this area.



## **DISCIPLE CLASS** **ELEVEN-WEEK STUDY: THE GOSPEL OF JOHN**

This eleven-week study began on January 22. **We are meeting on Sundays at 4:30 p.m. in room 109 at St. Luke's Methodist, 3151 Reid Drive, Corpus Christi, Texas.**

## **WOMEN OF THE WORD** **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15** **1:00 P.M.**

Women of the Word meets every third Wednesday. Mark your calendar and don't miss out on the opportunity to **gather, grow, and get to know** your Resurrection sisters in Christ!



## **FEBRUARY LECTIONARY:**

February 5, Epiphany 5B. Isa. 40:21-31; 1 Cor. 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39.

In Isaiah it is the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars—it is that God who strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus' healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (diakonia). Like Simon's mother-in-law, we are lifted up to health and diakonia. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet times of prayer.

February 12, Epiphany 6B. 2 Kings 5:1-14; 1 Cor. 9:24-27; Mark 1:40-45.

The leper is confident in Jesus' power to heal. Naaman, on the other hand, is comically hard to convince that he can be healed by such an unlikely foreigner as Elisha, who directs him to wash in such a sorry excuse for a river as the Jordan. Jesus' healing power is here among us in the ordinary water of the font, in the ordinary bread, in the ordinary people who make up the body of Christ. We would be well-advised to take the advice of the least powerful among us (like the servant girl in Naaman's household) if we want to find the one who will heal us.

February 19, Transfiguration of Our Lord, Last Sunday after Epiphany. 2 Kings 2:1-12; 2 Cor. 4:3-6; Mark 9:2-9.

This Epiphany festival concludes the cycle of the year that is suffused with the image of light. In Advent, the church prays for the light of God's justice in the world. At Christmas, we celebrate this light in Christ, and throughout the weeks of Epiphany, we welcome this gracious light in the diverse cultures of the world. From the mountain of transfiguring light, Christ goes forth to Jerusalem and leads us to the passover from death to life. Here we find the meaning of his birth and baptism: he was born to die, so that in our death, we might be born to eternal life.

February 22, Ash Wednesday. Joel 2:1–2, 12–17; 2 Cor. 5:20b-6:10; Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent with ash on our foreheads. This cross echoes our baptismal anointing, when we were buried with Christ. The ash is a chilling reminder of our mortality, but because our death is now in Christ, our endings are beginnings. The Lenten disciplines of acts of kindness, prayer, and fasting are tools of discipleship that can lead us to renewal as we bury all that is holding us back from being truly alive.

February 26, First Sunday in Lent. Gen. 9:8-17; 1 Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:9-15.

Jesus joins the church in the wilderness for forty days as we contemplate the meaning of our baptism into his death and resurrection. We are with Noah in the ark, Israel in the desert, and Elijah on rocky Mount Horeb for a time of prayer, fasting, and preparation. We make this journey together as a people who have been brought into existence by God's mercy. We hear this covenant proclaimed in the word of God and share this promise in the body and blood of Christ.



## **LOVE THAT OLD-TIME GOSPEL MUSIC?**

Well, then you don't want to miss church on Sunday, February 19! We are going to have a GOSPEL HYMNFEST, with the old favorites you know and love. So mark your calendar and be there at our usual time and place! "Old Rugged Cross", anyone?

## **FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY**

Total Contributions:	\$4,923.00
Month-End Balances (as of Jan. 30)	
Checking	\$1,091.00
Savings:	<u>\$7,094.00</u>
Total	\$8,186.00

## **A BIG THANK YOU!**



Resurrection may not have a building of its own just yet, but it does have its very own stained-glass "window." We have received a framed stained-glass piece from Stan and Toni Post, members of Holy Cross, Rockport, where your pastor served her internship year. This piece is circa 1974, and originates from a church by the same name, Resurrection Lutheran Church, in Plano, Texas.

Many thanks to Stan and Toni for their generosity in contributing this piece of artwork that is appropriate both to South Texas (Nueces County is one of the top twelve cotton producing counties in Texas) and our church theme (butterfly/resurrection)!

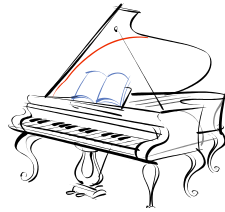


## FEBRUARY CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3 <b>Pastor's Day Off</b>	4
5 <b>10:30 worship</b>  <b>4:30 Disciple class</b>	6	7 <b>Council Meeting 11:30 a.m.</b>	8 <b>11:30 a.m. Birthday Bunch Riviera Condo</b>	9	10 <b>Pastor's Day Off</b>	11 <b>10:00 a.m. Catechism</b>
12 <b>10:30 worship</b>  <b>4:30 Disciple class</b>	13	14	15 <b>1:00 p.m. Women of the Word Bible Study</b>	16 <b>Pastor's Day Off</b>	17 <b>Disciple-ship Event in Rosenberg</b>	18 <b>Disciple-ship Event in Rosenberg</b>
19 <b>10:30 worship</b> <b>GOSPEL HYMN FEST</b>  <b>4:30 Disciple class</b>	20	21	22 <b>Ash Wednesday 12 - 1 p.m. Riviera Condo</b>	23	24 <b>Pastor's Day Off</b>	25
26 <b>10:30 worship</b>  <b>4:30 Disciple class</b>	27	28				

## ALL ABOUT ALICE

If you haven't introduced yourself yet, be sure and say hello to our new pianist, Alice Loving. We are so very fortunate to have found her so quickly, and wish to welcome her to our family here at Resurrection. Alice is from Corpus Christi, Texas, since the time of Hurricane Celia, but born in Plainview, Texas. She is a retired music teacher, having taught for 28 years as a Middle School Choir Director and Elementary Music Teacher. She has a daughter named Lauren, who attends school at Texas A&M-Kingsville. During the week, Alice is a substitute teacher for West Oso, Corpus Christi and Flour Bluff school districts. We are so blessed to have her with us!!!!



Resurrection Lutheran Church  
P. O. Box 270274  
Corpus Christi, Texas 78427  
361-215-6562  
[www.resurrectionlutheranchurch.org](http://www.resurrectionlutheranchurch.org)