



Resurrection Lutheran Church

"I am the resurrection and the life" (John 11:25).

January 2012

A MINUTE WITH PR. MARILYN

Our community of faith is growing! First, on December 11th, we welcomed Lorraine Parks as an associate member of Resurrection Lutheran Church. The following Sunday, December 18th, Denise Miller joined us as a full member. (The different types of membership are listed in the draft constitution.) One thing is for sure, God is up to something at Resurrection!

As is so true of this life on earth, joy is sometimes mixed with sorrow. On December 13th, 2011, our dear brother in Christ, Robert Whistler, passed from this life to the next. We grieve with Bob's family and begin the next chapter in the life of this congregation in deep gratitude for the indelible footprint Bob has left on the Church. With the memorial gifts received following Bob's passing, Resurrection has purchased a Paschal candlestick and candle. The Paschal candle is blessed and lit each year at Easter and is also used at baptisms and funerals. It represents the light of Christ coming into the world, the light (life) dispelling the darkness (death). We also purchased a white funeral pall, a symbol of the white clothes worn during baptism and the joyful triumph over death brought about by the Resurrection.

All voting members of Resurrection Lutheran are invited to attend our first annual congregational meeting, on January 15th immediately after services. We anticipate ratifying Resurrection's constitution and electing our first officers. Please pray for God's guidance as this community of faith enters the season of Epiphany and the coming New Year.

Epiphany falls on January 6 and commemorates the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles in the persons of the Magi and concludes the Christmas season. Following Epiphany is a series of green Sundays and then the Transfiguration of Our Lord, constituting the time after Epiphany. The word *epiphany* itself refers to an appearance or manifestation, but it also means an illuminating discovery. The time of Epiphany will be a time for prayerful, illuminating discovery of God's purpose for this community and for envisioning the mission and vision of Resurrection Lutheran Church.

As we discern God's will for Resurrection, please consider what being a part of this mission congregation has meant for us all and what it can mean to the community of Corpus Christi, the Body of Christ. In the coming weeks, let us all prayerfully discern how you and I together may support and carry out God's ministry in the coming year. Then, on January 29th, we will hold our very first Consecration Sunday. Exciting times, indeed, for our fledgling flock!

Finally, thank you so much for your thoughtful and generous gift on Sunday, December 18! I can't begin to tell you how much I appreciate and love you all!!

+Happy New Year and Holy Epiphany+ Pr. Marilyn

DISCIPLE CLASS

ELEVEN-WEEK STUDY: THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

This eleven-week study includes a participant book outlining daily reading assignments for group preparations, a leader guide suggesting discussion activities for use in the 60–90-minute weekly meeting, and a video component providing interpretation and context for the biblical texts. Topics we will cover are:

1. Come and See (John 1–2)
2. How Is It Possible? (John 3–4)
3. Taste for Yourself (John 5–6)
4. To Believe or Not to Believe (John 7–8)
5. Are We Blind? (John 9–10)
6. I Couldn't Believe My Eyes! (John 11–12)
7. Would You Believe It? (John 13–14)
8. What Time Is It? (John 15–16)
9. Look Out! (John 17–18)
10. Believing Without Seeing (John 19–20)
11. Do You See Him? (John 21)

At this time, we have set our meetings for Sundays at 6 p.m. We anticipate our first meeting on January 22, 2012, location TBA.



WOMEN OF THE WORD = WOW!

Some exciting news! Nan Hengst from the Women of Faith group at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Fredricksburg has recently contacted us to say that their group would like to “adopt” Women of the Word. They will be sending study materials to help get us started. We will soon be receiving the leader and participant editions of a study from Sola Publishing entitled *In Harmony With the Word*, based upon Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). In this extended teaching discourse, Jesus describes the life of faith in everyday, practical terms, encouraging people to think about the ways in which our thoughts, words, and actions are directed toward God and our neighbors.

Martin Luther wrote in his Small Catechism: “God’s name is hallowed whenever his Word is taught in its truth and purity, and we as children of God live in harmony with it.” This is our calling as people of faith: to live by God’s Word. In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus teaches a Word that is both comforting and challenging, as he gets to the heart of our relationship with God and our relationships with one another.



CARE, SHARE, AND PRAYER

If you (or someone you know) are in need of lay pastoral care, please speak with either Dr. Jim Walker or Pastor Marilyn. This new lay ministry group will begin meeting in January.

**OFFERING ENVELOPES
ARE HERE**

Offering envelopes for the coming year have arrived! Please look for the box with your name on it and pick it up from the table in the foyer.

BIRTHDAYS

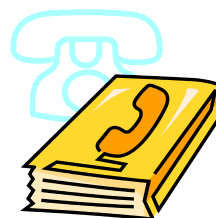
It's time to celebrate! On January 11, at 11:30 a.m., we will gather at the Riviera condo, at 4302 Ocean Drive, to celebrate all the birthdays for January. All are welcome!

Thank you, Mildred MacMurchy, for making this possible!



DIRECTORY AVAILABLE

Resurrection's first directory for members and friends of Resurrection will be distributed on Sunday, January 22nd. Be sure and pick up your copy from the table in the foyer.



FINANCIAL REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER

Total Contributions:	\$3,369
Month-End Balances (as of December 23rd)	
Checking	\$1,923
Savings:	<u>\$3,994</u>
Total	\$5,917

Consecration Sunday
January 29, 2012
Mark your calendars!

LECTIONARY FOR JANUARY

January 1 Name of Jesus

By Jewish law, every baby boy was circumcised and named on the eighth day of life, so on the eighth day of Christmas the church celebrates this event in Jesus' life. The keeping of the covenant as well as Jesus' name are signs of God's salvation given to us through him.

January 8 Baptism of our Lord

Our re-creation in baptism is an image of the Genesis creation, where the Spirit/wind moved over the waters. Both Mark's gospel and the story in Acts make clear that it is the Spirit's movement that distinguishes Jesus' baptism from John's. The Spirit has come upon us as upon Jesus and the Ephesians, calling us God's beloved children and setting us on Jesus' mission to re-create the world in the image of God's vision of justice and peace.

January 15 Epiphany 2

All the baptized have a calling in God's world. God calls not just the clergy but also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come from isn't important; it's where—or rather whom—we come to. Jesus refers to the story of the vision of Jacob, who called the place of his vision "the house of God, and ... the gate of heaven" (Gen. 28:17). Jesus is the place where Nathanael will meet God.

January 22 Epiphany 3

Stories of the call to discipleship continue as the Time after Epiphany plays out the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of fisherman brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.

January 29 Epiphany 4

In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God; in Psalm 111 God shows the people the power of God's works. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus' actions and words. We encounter that authority in God's word around which we gather, the word that trumps any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus.

JANUARY CALENDAR

Sun., Jan. 1	10:30 a.m..	Name of Jesus Worship Service
Sun., Jan. 8	10:30 a.m..	Baptism of our Lord Worship Service
Wed., Jan. 11	11:30 a.m.	Birthday Bash to celebrate January birthdays Riviera Condo, 4302 Ocean Drive
Sun., Jan. 15	10:30 a.m.	Epiphany 2 Worship Service Congregational Meeting immediately after worship
Sun., Jan. 22	10:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Epiphany 3 Worship Service Disciple Class
Sun., Jan. 29	10:30 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	Epiphany 4 and Consecration Sunday Worship Service Disciple Class

FIRST ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING - JANUARY 15

On January 15, 2012, we will have our first annual congregational meeting, immediately following worship. At the meeting, we will vote to ratify Resurrection's Constitution and elect officers of the church. Please pick up your copy of the draft constitution on the table in the foyer and bring it with you to the meeting. Please plan to be there. We have the following slate of potential church officers, and other nominations may also be taken from the floor:

**President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer**

**Dr. Jim Walker
Mildred MacMurchy
Sue Beaver
Janice Fredrickson**



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