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May 1, 2016

A Message from Lead Pastor, Don Haven



Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9)

I’ve repeated those words in my prayers many times and in many situations over the years. They are God’s words to Joshua after the death of Moses. Moses anointed Joshua to cross the Jordan River and take possession of the land which had been promised to God’s people. And that was going to entail a whole lot of fear and trepidation - and crossing over required a boat-load of courage.

You and I have been anointed through the gift of our baptism and called to follow Jesus in our lives. And our “crossing over” takes place in all kinds of shapes and forms. It might happen as we deal with a difficult family situation that requires a new configuration of relationships. It might be a challenge with our health that includes moving into a new way of living. It may mean an impending move or a new chapter of our lives. I’m sure you can think of any number of situations in your life where God’s words of encouragement may have been needed – “Be strong and courageous....”

As a congregation, we are constantly crossing over new thresholds and moving into new territory. On Sunday, May 22nd, we’ll hold an Annual Meeting as we begin living into a NEW fiscal year which will now run from July 1st through June 30th. As we cross over into this new program year, the congregation will be asked to adopt a spending plan and elect new church council members. This meeting will also be a celebration of the culmination of our very successful three year capital funding appeal: **“Imagine What God Can Do: In us, Through us and For Others!”** God has been abundant. And you have been **courageous and generous** in offering your resources to keep our ministry strong as well as substantially reducing our indebtedness which has freed up resources for mission. Thanks be to God!

We’re moving into new territory as we call new ministry staff to lead us and walk alongside us in ministry at Resurrection. Our new **Director of Worship and Music, Dee Dee Lutz** and our new **Director of Children’s Ministry, Adriana Findley** both bring a wealth of experience and a passion for ministry in their respective areas. But most of all, they are deeply faithful servants who are passionate about their Christian faith and will work to inspire and encourage this congregation to move over new thresholds and into new territory of worship and learning.

So God is inviting each of us to cross over into a promised territory individually and together as a congregation. And this promised land is filled with opportunities for growth and service. As we do so, let’s keep in mind God’s powerful words of encouragement.

“Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go!”

God’s Blessings, Courage and Peace,
Pastor Don

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Annual Meeting Reminder – As announced during our January annual meeting because of our fiscal year change, we will have our **Annual Meeting on May 22nd at 1:00**. A BBQ lunch will be served before the meeting (12:15-1:00). There will be fun music during the lunch time as well as fun activities for the kids/youth from 10:45 to 12:15. In addition to a short annual meeting agenda, there will be a celebration of the official end of our three-year Imagine Campaign! Come ready to eat and have some fun!

Meet and Greet sessions will take place **on Sunday, May 15** to give church members the opportunity to learn more about Council candidates and ask questions. Candidates will be available from 9:00 - 9:25 a.m. on the patio outside the Sanctuary and from 10:30 - 11:15 a.m. on the patio outside the Faith Center. [Click here](#) to read candidate biographies.

Divine Worship: 8:00 & 11:00 AM

Contemporary Worship: 9:30 AM

Sunday School, all ages: 9:30 AM

Staff

Don Haven, Lead Pastor, 770-7078
Ralph Supper, Family Life Pastor, 791-4661
Karen Idler, Director of Shared Ministry
Kathy Johnson, Administrative Asst./Communications, 791-4661
Diane McCauley, Business & Events Manager, 837-3631
Mark Weaver, Director of Teen Ministry, 791-4661
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Life Group Hosts Needed!

Life groups have become the pulse of faith for many people at Resurrection. They remind people about the connections we have with God and others. They pump vital, nourishing life to cold places. Life groups have helped hundreds of people grow deeper in faith and process what God is sharing with them. We cannot provide opportunities for new life groups without new people to host. Life group hosts simply open their homes and initiate conversation with help from myself, sermons, books, and other resources. Current hosts have found this to be incredibly easy and natural. They don't have to teach, preach, or plan anything. Hosts simply follow along with everyone else in their life group and keep the group meeting. Many people have requested to be in a life group and I would love to offer them a place to receive the nourishing life that these groups offer, but we need you to host. If you're interested in hosting, I would love to hear from you and answer any questions or concerns you have as you process whether this is a good fit for you. Thanks for praying on this and considering being a life group host.

Children's Ministry News



We're so excited about VBS!

June 20-24
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

[Click here to register!](#)

Kids in pre-preschool – elementary school are invited to join us as we explore how God creates, helps, loves, calms, and sends. We'll start with opening where we'll sing songs, watch Pastor Ralph and Mark as Skipper and Snappy the Crab, and learn Bible verses using sign-language. Then, we'll rotate through stations having crazy fun with games, get creative with crafts and science experiments, participate in Bible stories through skits and puppet shows, participate in a mission project to build wells in Africa, and enjoy delicious snacks. It's going to be an amazing week full of God's love!

Many leaders are needed to make VBS one of the most memorable parts of summer. If you would like to help out during VBS or by making decorations prior to VBS, please join our team! Contact Michelle Larsh at michelle@larshfamily.com or Lori Schnell at ilschnell@att.net

INTERIM NURSERY ATTENDANT NEEDED IMMEDIATELY. We are in need of someone to run our nursery while Becca is away from **May 8 – June 12**. If you or someone you know would like to apply, please email Pr Ralph immediately so we can avoid temporarily closing the nursery.

Parents in the Park, May 4. 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Open invite for parents and kids to bond and play on a weekday at Martha Riley Community Library Park, 1501 Pleasant Grove Blvd., Roseville, CA 95747. Contact Amanda to RSVP or with questions (402)990-8343, amanda_hurd@hotmail.com

Sunday School Ends May 15. An early Easter, means an early end to Sunday school. But keep reading because there's plenty to stay involved with.

Spring Fling: Children-lead worship. Outdoor games. BBQ. Annual Meeting. WOA! **May 22** Mark your calendars for a giant church party! The 9:30 worship will be led by the 4th-6th Grade Sunday School class. There will be games and events for kids afterwards followed by the Annual Meeting and churchwide BBQ!



Teen Ministry Update

Teen Tech Talk: Teens to the Rescue

Our first session on Sunday, April 24th was a great success! Look for the second session on Sunday, **May 15th** when our youth will again be helping members of our church to use a variety of technology services. (Create an email address, how to communicate with doctors etc., create a Facebook account, and use mobile apps.) We will meet in the Teen Room from 10:45 a.m. - Noon. **Sign up after church or call the church office to register.**



Teen VBS Training! It's that time of year again to get ready for VBS at Resurrection! We need all our teens to help make this the best year yet! Training begins **Sunday, May 1st** and teens have three options for which training to attend. The first training will be after the 8:00 a.m. service around 9:10 a.m., and then there's another option at 12:00pm. We will also have a second training session from 7:00-7:30 p.m. on **Tuesday, May 3rd** in the Teen Room. All sessions will cover the same material.

High School Summer Camp

This summer, high school students are invited to Hartland Christian Camp for an exciting week of fun and spiritual growth with our youth group! The dates are **July 24-29th**. More info on registration coming soon!



CRAFT FAIRE 2016 Around the Corner!



It's that time of the year to sign up for **Resurrection's 9th Annual Craft Faire** held on Saturday, **November 19**, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Please [click here](#) for the Application and information for this year's faire. If you were a vendor last year and wish to keep your same spot, you must send your application by April 30 to Susie Reese cell (916)759-2410 or email: lcrcraftfaire@sbcglobal.net After that date, all open spaces will be filled by vendors from our waiting list. This year we plan to have live Christmas music during our faire and have Santa for children to visit with. Thank You. Susie Reese & Ann Jolly.

"Celebrate America" Mother's Day Concert with the Winds of Faith and Chancel Choir

The Chancel Choir is teaming with the Winds of Faith, a 45-piece orchestra, originally formed as the William



Jessup University community orchestra, to present a Mother's Day concert in the Faith Center on **May 8th beginning at 7:00 p.m.** The concert will feature pieces paying tribute to America's armed

forces and those how have served. Enjoy an evening of great music by the Winds of Faith orchestra, the Chancel Choir, and featuring a solo by Dreda Lutz, our newly hired Director of Worship and Music. Refreshments will follow.

FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST, Saturday May 14th at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Join us for breakfast followed by a chance to meet and greet one of our newest staff members, **Karen Idler, Director of Shared Ministries**, who will speak and answer questions. Karen was formally Executive Assistant to Bishop Mark Holmerud and she is also a Rostered ELCA Associate in Ministry. Just what is an AIM? Bet you also didn't know the Lutheran Church had NUN's did you? Come, meet and greet and learn.



Attention hikers!

Please save the date for a nice Spring hike in the mountains or foothills on Saturday, May 14th. Plans are being formed and will depend on weather and trail conditions. Please keep an eye on the weekly announcements for further information, coming soon.

June 4 - LAFF's 32nd Pig Feed

Adult members, friends, family and other guests are invited to join in LAFF's annual Pig Feed on June 4, 2016. Besides the outdoor roasted pig dinner, the event features relaxing music and songs by Track 23 (a group of mostly Resurrection members), hearty appetizers and entertainment by LAFF members and friends of LAFF. The entertainment this year is an encore production of

How the West "LAFFED"

with takeoffs from old westerns such as Bonanza, Gunsmoke, The Rifleman, The Big Valley and so forth.



Tickets \$25/person and \$5 for parents hiring childcare are available on Sundays, May 15, 22, and 29. Proceeds from the event support the Lou Reber Scholarship Fund. The social hour with Track 23 begins at 4 pm, "How the West 'LAFFed'" at 5 pm or so, followed by dinner sometime before 6:30 pm.

Usher Workshop May 29th

Ushers: There will be an Usher Workshop beginning at 9:15 a.m. on May 29th in the Grove. Obviously, the primary emphasis will be on usher duties during Grove services but it will also cover duties in other services as needed. If you are interested in becoming an usher or have not been to an usher workshop for a while, please plan to attend. Any questions please contact Earl Cole at 782-7875 or email at ColeEarl@JohnDeere.com, or Phil Loper at 782-5274 or email at ploper@surewest.net.

Priceless Purls

Priceless Purls meets next on **Monday, May 2**, at 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. From 10:00 to 11:00 we will organize hats for distribution and there will be another workshop on prayer shawls at 11:00 a.m. Bring any knitted or crocheted baby hats, chemo hats, hats for homeless shelters and/or prayer shawls. Thanks to many industrious knitters and crocheters last month, chemo hats went to Kaiser and Sutter Roseville; baby hats went to Sutter Roseville and hats were provided to Gathering Inn.

Adult Faith Formation Ministry Team

Two New Classes –

- **Pastor Don will be leading - Life as a Lutheran** on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the Music Room. The series begins May 18th and continues through June 15th. The class will be using the illustrated booklet *Baptized, We Live: Lutheranism as a Way of Life* by Daniel Erlander.
- A new Sunday morning class begins May 15th at 9:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and will continue through June 19th. **Glen Arney presents the film and discussion series - *The Power of Forgiveness*.** This documentary film explores research into the psychological and physical effects of forgiveness and the role of forgiveness in various faith traditions. It includes stories on the Amish, the 9/11 tragedy and peace-building in Northern Ireland.
- **Contemplative Prayer** – Join the group each Wednesday from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. in the Library of the Faith Center. The group reads the upcoming Sunday Gospel. Then, through the reading, centering prayer and meditation, seeks meaning from the Living Word to grow in discipleship. For more information, contact the group leader Tanda Ainsworth at 916-663-6365 or tainsworth777@gmail.com



continue to pray for refugee families, create care kits, and bring them in so that these unfortunate families know that God knows their struggle.

Resurrection's Own Advent Devotional!

“This Lent Resurrection was blessed to have two wonderful, but very different devotional books. With all the talent at Resurrection, we can produce a devotional book ourselves. Joanne Auerbach has volunteered to coordinate an Advent devotional book. Each day of Advent in the devotional booklet will have a paragraph or two, based on a word, scripture, and prayer. You can submit your thoughts for Advent in a rough draft, as each submittal will be edited for length and consistency. The tentative title is “Words of Advent: a Season of Waiting.” Need some inspiration? Think of patience, peace, star, promise, presence, pondering, chosen, prophet, angel, etc. Submittals or questions can be sent to Joanne at bauerbac@sbcglobal.net or dropped off at the church office. All submittals should be received by **August 15** to allow time for editing and formatting.”

Our Hospitality Team needs YOU!

Our time together between Sunday services is way more fun with a treat in one hand and coffee in the other! We always have coffee but we need you to help with the Treats. Would you please consider helping us by signing up to provide a goodie on Sunday morning? You can sign up on the Sign Up board in the Faith Center, or call Lannie Hayes at 916-988-6894.



Shout-Outs at Resurrection!



- **Show your hospitable self!** Join the newly formed Hospitality Team! Contact Lannie at 9-16-988-6894.
- **Celebrate Mother's Day**

at a concert with our Chancel

Choir performing with the William Jessup orchestra! May 8th at 7:00 p.m.

- **Ladies!** Does a lively Bible study discussion interest you? Join Priscilla Circle! Contact Sandy Wright at 772-8320.
- **Thank you, Sandy Russell,** for keeping our pews looking good!
- **Seniors!** Get tech help from our Resurrection teens on May 15th! Look for more info in our newsletter and weekly announcements!
- **Annual Meeting** on May 22nd -- Your vote is important!

New Opportunity to Serve



The Hospitality Ministry Team is seeking assistants to provide a welcoming environment at **Feed the Voters on Tues., June 7th** in the Fellowship Hall. Tasks include welcoming, replenishing beverages and light snacks (provided) and answering questions about Resurrection, if approached by a voter. Three to four assistants are needed for each 2-hour shift. Sign up by contacting Evangelism Co-Chairs Lannie Hayes: (916)988-6894, lannieha@aol.com, or Linda Arbaugh: (916)849-5108, lindaarbaugh1986@gmail.com

Refugee Awareness and Support

Last month we encouraged you to create care kits to support incoming refugee families with groups you are in and Joy Justus from World Relief Sacramento shared shocking information about refugees with us at our fellowship breakfast. The need to support and make a difference in the lives of refugees is so profound that we want to continue to follow the Spirit's guidance in supporting refugees.

On Sundays from **May 15 – 29** we will have the opportunity to learn more about the refugee crisis worldwide and locally. There will be several opportunities to respond during that time as well. Please

Finding Current Opportunities to Serve

Resurrection members are encouraged to release their God-given gifts, skills, and time in service and, as they share God's love, grow as disciples. *Current Opportunities to Serve* are posted weekly in the *Ministry Reminders* as a handout distributed by the ushers at Sunday worship services or, upon request, will be emailed to you. Until filled, the current listings are also available on the **SERVE** tab on our congregational website. Contact the leader listed in each area of ministry or Karen Idler, Director of Shared Ministry, at karen@lcrchurch.org or (916)791-4661, ext. 225 for more information.

Library News – New Books Purchased!

Easy Reading for Children

- *I'm Like You, You're Like Me* by Cindy Gainer. A book about understanding and appreciating each other.
- *Edgar Wants To Be Alone* by Jean-Francois Dumont. A story about a rat who wants the other animals to solve his problem, but eventually he realizes he might have been part of the problem all along.
- *Better Than You* by Trudy Ludwig. A story that gives insight into what lies beneath the urge to brag. This story could prove a welcome resource for any parent, teacher, or counselor.



Young Adult Fiction

- *When Lightning Struck!: The Story of Martin Luther* by Danika Cooley. Meticulously researched, this historical novel on Martin Luther will immerse the reader in the dust and grit of sixteenth-century Germany. Danika Cooley an engaging writer of children's literature, she is a careful and winsome theologian.

Youth

- *Way to Live: Christian Practices for Teens*. Eighteen teens and eighteen adults tackle the question "I want to find a way to live that keeps me involved in what God is doing in me and in the world around me. Do you know a way to live that is like that?" Their different points of view and personal stories make living a Christian life real.

The above titles and a few others are available for you to check out. You will find them on the counter under the large video screen and the library is open for your use every Sunday from 8:00 am to 12:00 noon. Self-checkout is available. Please include your name, email or phone number on the checkout card inside the book and place the card in the box provided on the desk. Please return books in a timely manner so that everyone can enjoy them.

Resurrection Readers

Please join us on the 3rd Thursday each month in the Library at 2:00 p.m. At our **May 19th** meeting, the Book Club is pleased to have as our guest speaker, R. Franklin James, the author of *The Fallen Angels Book Club*. "The members of this book club have two requirements: You must love books and have a white collar criminal record". Meet the author on the 19th and have her sign your book. Contact Beryl Bakken at 916-791-1582.



- **June 16** – *An Unnecessary Woman*, Rabih Alameddine
- **July 21** – *The Boys in the Boat*, Daniel James Brown
- **August 18** – *Alice Tulips*, Sandra Dallas
- **Sept 15** – *A Prayer for Owen Meany*, John Irving

Legacy Team News!

In February, Resurrection's Legacy Committee donated \$500 to Habitat for Humanity for the organization's "Build for Unity" project.

Build for Unity is an interfaith project intended to bring together people of different backgrounds and faiths to build homes and promote harmony in our community. In Sacramento, Muslim and various interfaith groups will work together to fund and build two homes next door to each other in North Sacramento. This summer, hundreds of people of different faiths and backgrounds will volunteer and begin work on these homes.



According to Rob Kerth, CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Greater Sacramento, "By winter, two families and their children will purchase these homes and, finally, have a safe, decent place to call home. As time goes on, these homes will stand side by side as a permanent representation of unity with our community."

The Legacy Committee is pleased to have the opportunity to contribute to such a loving and connecting mission.

To learn more about the Habitat for Humanity Build for Unity project, visit www.habitatgreatersac.org/buildforunity.

Resurrection's Legacy Committee provides monetary gifts for the support of mission work locally and worldwide. To learn more about the goals of the Legacy Committee, visit www.lcrchurch.org/giving/memorial-and-legacy-fund or contact Kathryn Starbuck at kathrynstarbuck@yahoo.com

Embracing Stewardship – Living in Gratitude

What do you think of when you hear the word, *stewardship*? According to Charles Lane, "many faithful Christians hear *stewardship* and almost instinctively grab for their wallets to protect them from outside attack. What's going on? The answer, I think, is that in most congregations the word stewardship doesn't mean what it really means. Rather, stewardship means those things that we do to get enough money to pay the bills." Grace Duddy Pomroy explains her perspective on stewardship. "**Stewardship is not about offering plates or budget spreadsheets; rather it about love and justice.** As stewards, we are called to recognize the many tangible and intangible ways that God has shown God's love to us, and we look for the Spirit's guidance as to how we might share that love with the world".

What if your response when asked how you are, is, "I'm grateful"!

What would it look like to live our lives as continually grateful for what we have received, both large and small, continually looking for ways to share God's abundant grace and love with our neighbors both near and far?

Feeding the Hungry – An Agape Feast

The vision of Feeding the Hungry is to build relationships through food!



The early Christians shared *agape* (love) feasts in their small communities. Somehow eating together creates a space where we can be vulnerable and present. By sharing our food, or by coming empty handed and receiving from another's bounty, we enter true communion. Dependent on physical nourishment, we connect with the root of our human need. We are blessed by the generosity of a farmer's labor, the Earth's abundance, the joy of companionship.



With the lens of God's mission and justice, we look and listen to our neighbors in both our local and global communities. Who are those most in need? How might we use the abundance that God entrusted to our care to love God and our neighbor both near and far? In Matthew 25: 31-46, Jesus tells us that when we feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked and care for the sick, and visit the imprisoned we are doing it to Jesus. Jesus says, *"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of those who are members of my family, you did it to me."*



Ways to be involved:

Pray for those who are hungry in our congregation, community, and across the world. And pray for the teams serving the community.

Serving the Local Community: Join a team from Resurrection to serve the local community! Sign up after worship on May 15, 22, and 29.

- Cook, Greet, or Serve at the Gathering Inn on June 14
- Serve at River City Food Bank on Friday, June 17
- Bring food donation for St. Vincent de Paul by June 24 (leave in the Fellowship Hall)

- Serve a meal and meet the women and children at St. John's Program for Real Change on Saturday, June 25
- Plant and harvest at The Granite Bay Community Gardens (2 dates TBA)

Invite a few friends and acquaintances to join you in sharing a feast of love. You might prepare a simple meal or invite each person to bring a dish. The focus is not on the food itself, but the act of sharing that food in the presence of each other. Eat mindfully, slowly, with plenty of time for conversation, listening, and laughter. You might also sing songs or read poetry of gratitude or talk about how you are experiencing God in your lives. Be aware of God's presence within each person and be thankful for the food that makes life possible and the love that makes life meaningful.

April Church Council Highlights

- Capernaum Camp during Holy Week was a rousing success and the Council salutes everyone involved.
- Our total gift for the ELCA World Hunger Appeal was \$21,500, which was well above our pledge!
- We are very close to having new staff news ready to share.
- We are entering a listening phase, listening to our congregation and community to hear what needs are and where we can best put our efforts. We anticipate starting a Strategic Planning process in the Fall, working with a consultant to focus and guide the work.
- Next Annual Meeting May 22. Spring Fling that same day with games, bounce houses, barbecue lunch. John Frith and Connie Losk will be running for seats on the Council. Council approved the spending plan for the upcoming year to be voted on at the meeting.
- Sierra Pacific Assembly will be June 3-5 in Reno. We're looking for up to 4 more lay members to attend with a balance of male and female. Let Pr. Don know if you'd like to go. Assembly runs Friday noon to Sunday noon.
- Council approved a proposal for a new Congregational Care Team which will provide an "umbrella of care" and be an organizational home for many aspects of Resurrection's ministry. Health Ministry, Meal Care, Hospital Visitation, Lay Communion Ministers, Telephone Care, and other teams will be part of this ministry. The team will provide an unbroken circle of compassionate care and provide training and background checks for program areas as needed.
- Discussed our year-long goal of integrating children and teens into all areas of Resurrection's ministry, and ways that this is already happening (e.g., Teen Tech Talk).
- July council meeting rescheduled to July 12.

In His Service,
Lynne Larock

For All the Saints

FOR ALL THE SAINTS features stories of the lives of Resurrection members some of whom, for a variety of reasons, are no longer able to worship with us. We continue to hold these saints in our thoughts and corporate prayers and reading about them is one way our entire community can get to know them also! Thanks to our interviewers, John Frith and Karen Murbach, who contact and set up interviews FOR ALL THE SAINTS and write the newsletter articles.

If you have a person you would like to have interviewed FOR ALL THE SAINTS, please email Director of Shared Ministry, Karen Idler, at karen@lcrchurch.org or phone the church office at 916.791.4661 ext 225.

Samantha London

When you see a name on the prayer list each week and you know it's someone's grandchild, you might imagine a sad fragile little person. But Phil and Sally Loper's granddaughter Samantha London is far from sad or fragile. True, she is little, but what she lacks in size she makes up in boundless faith, enormous heart and a thousand-watt smile. God's love shines through this girl like a beacon.



In May 2013, Samantha was a typical eighth grader with lots of friends, good grades and college dreams. She was playing basketball and competitive soccer, and looking forward to high school. Then, out of the blue it all changed, Samantha was diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia (ALL).

Without a moment to pause and absorb this new reality, Samantha began round after round of invasive tests and intensive chemo-therapy, often accompanied by debilitating side effects and dangerous complications. Early on, she suffered a collapsed lung and developed a severe lung infection that landed her in ICU for two months. Samantha's response? "God put all these obstacles in front of me to help me with perseverance and strength. He picked me because he made me strong enough to endure and he helped me encourage others along the way."

One day in the hospital, Pastor Ralph asked her to come up with some specific prayer requests. At the time, chemo-induced pain and weakness in her legs made walking almost impossible. She asked him to pray that she'd be able to walk again. The next day, Samantha had her first physical therapy session and in her mind, it was a lesson in answered prayer. "God doesn't just hand you what you need, he gives you the tools to work toward it." For now, sports are on the backburner while Samantha regains her strength, so she turned to the arts for inspiration and outlet. She learned to play the ukulele

and is working on the drums. After chemo, she performed in a musical at Rocklin High, then tackled A Midsummer Night's Dream. In January, she sang at a Kings' game. Samantha knows this is no time to slow down or sit on the sidelines. She's too busy living the message, "All things are possible through God who strengthens me."

Grace fills every corner of Samantha's life. She faces cancer with a surging wellspring of faith that pours out blessings on everyone around her. As her mother says, "God has something big in mind for Samantha, maybe even more than we can see or will ever know. He's using this situation to touch so many lives. When I get down or feel like something is too much for me, I think of Samantha. My girl would never give up. She inspires me."

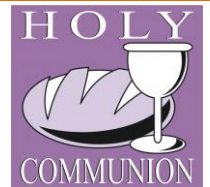


I would like to present a rose to Le and Marg Viksten for their many visits over the last few years to my father who lives in an assisted living facility. Dad is 95 years old, confined to a wheelchair, and has increasingly restricted mobility. The Viksten's faithful visits have made a significant difference in the quality of Dad's solitary life. Thanks for sharing God's love in Christ through your presence, Le and Marg!

In appreciation, Karen Idler

An Invitation to serve as a Lay Communion Minister (LCM)

Lay Communion Minister (LCM) is used to denote a lay person who takes the sacrament of Holy Communion, the consecrated bread and wine, to those who are unable to attend worship.



This is an invitation to train to serve as an LCM at Lutheran Church of the Resurrection. A training session will be led by Pastor Don prior to receiving assignments to serve in this ministry. Ideally, it is our hope to send three to four trained LCM's the first Sunday of every month with Holy Communion to the homebound after each of the three worship services.

Should you believe you have the gifts and heart to be an LCM, please email the Director of Shared Ministry at karen@lcrchurch.org to indicate your participation in a training session 12:30 to 2:00 p.m., Sunday, May 15, 2016. A light lunch will be served.

You are also welcome to contact Pastor Don at prdon@lcrchurch.org should you have questions or desire more information regarding this position.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this invitation.

Shared Ministry Matters

From the Director of Shared Ministry, Karen Idler

Resurrection church groups are encouraged to begin our meetings and gatherings with a brief devotion. Groups may choose a devotion for themselves or use the devotion provided in the monthly newsletters. This month's group devotion comes from **Richard L. Floyd, Pastor Emeritus of First Church of Christ (UCC) in Pittsfield, Massachusetts.**



The Ministry Of Encouragement

“For I am longing to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift to strengthen you – or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith, both yours and mine.” – Romans 1:11, 12

Our thoughts are perhaps too often shaped by a very solitary notion of what it means to follow Christ. But a much-neglected dimension of the Christian life is how communal it is. In the writings of Paul especially, to “be in Christ” nearly always means to be “in the church,” the living community which is his body. We get a hint of that in this first chapter of Paul’s letter to the Romans. He was planning to visit this congregation for the first time, and in introducing himself he says he wants to share with them a spiritual gift. Then he corrects himself and hopes they “may be mutually encouraged by each other’s faith.”

The word “encouragement” literally means to “give heart.” The Christian life is a team sport. Like any good team the members of a congregation support each other as they work together for a common purpose.

As I get older, I have become more aware of special people who encouraged me at various times in my life, who “gave heart” when I needed it. And I try now to be encouraging to others in their faith journeys as I know many are to me.

PRAYER: Help us, O God, to help others in their faith through the ministry of encouragement. Amen.

March Average Monthly Attendance – 341