



RESURRECTION
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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LAMPLIGHTER

My family in Christ,

It may not come as a surprise to you, but life is busy these days in the Gruenwald house. With three young kids, a dog, and the general responsibilities of maintaining a house and marriage, it's hard to stay in the present. It can be hard sometimes to not look forward to something else; the completion of a project at home, potty training that reduces the number of diapers we change, or just the nightly ending of the bedtime routine. It's easy to be looking ahead instead of living in the moment.

Catherine Newman writes in her memoir as a mother of young kids, *Waiting for Birdy*, "Sometimes, when I go to put the kids to bed, I breathe a sigh of relief after they fall asleep, like 'Thank God that's over with!' I mean, what exactly am I looking forward to? DEATH?!"

Whatever season of life you're in, you can probably relate. You might be a teenager longing for independence and your driver's license, a college student excited for your career to begin, single and yearning for a spouse, a working adult looking forward to retirement... or perhaps you are older and looking forward to the day when your worries and arthritis will cease. It's an age-old maxim spoken to many, especially young parents, "this too shall pass". And as a parent, I mouth it to myself at the EXACT same time as I say, "they will grow up before I know it". It is hard to live in the moment.

For that, perhaps we should look more to our children. Josiah, my three year old son, doesn't worry about anything - not his college fund or future vocation. He's not looking ahead to anything except playing with his new toy monster truck. My daughter Kiersten doesn't want to grow up, she's so enthralled with her present life she wants to turn five, go to kindergarten at Green Park, and stop growing! Jesus says, "Truly I tell you, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it". Perhaps it is our children who God uses to teach us to linger in Jesus' grace, to dwell in the goodness of God's creation, to simply be present in each moment.

I am not a changed man, though I wish to be. I struggle as do many of you reading this. I still fight the urge to check my phone when Josiah isn't looking. Thankfully, our hope is not founded on OUR changing, but in the One who changed everything. Even when we struggle to be present, we can trust that God is present with us, intently focused on you and me in each moment, HIS child through Jesus, with whom he is well pleased.

Pastor Gruenwald



**SUPER
FUN
NIGHT**

SAVE THE DATE!
Super Fun Night
June 11 • 6pm
Super Fun For All Ages!

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[Pinterest.com/lcrstl](https://www.pinterest.com/lcrstl)

**EASTER EGG
HUNT**



Easter Egg Hunt
and light breakfast at
Resurrection.
Saturday, April 4
9:00 a.m.



Rebuilding Together • Saturday, May 2

Contact Ken Stuckmeyer to get involved with this life changing local mission. YOU are VITAL to fulfill the work on this DAY

Many Hands Make Light Work

Call Ken 314.846.5854

My Outreach Project (a requirement for the seminary) began this month as a weekly open gym. It may not seem like much, but it is a small step to connect the members of Resurrection with other people in the community. For those who don't have any other contact with the Gospel, this open interaction with Christians and the brief devotions presented at the sessions could be a life changing step. I mention this for two reasons: first, as a shameless plug; second, to remind you that small changes can have a big impact over time.



The Christian life is one of formation. You might say it is a life of habit building. For instance, you build the habit of going to church and it becomes natural. It's not easy at first, but eventually it becomes part of you. Lent is often a time that Christians have tried to implement changes in their lives through giving up something or taking

something on. Regardless of how you feel about this tradition, it's not a bad idea to try to build your habit of discipline.

I've read that it takes an average of 66 days to form a habit. This is shorter than the length of Lent, so if you're hoping to make a change, you'll likely need to begin early or commit to continuing past Easter. Whatever habit you choose to try to build - or even if you don't decide to try this - remember that you are saved only by the grace of the Father through faith in his Son, Jesus. You can't earn it. But your

efforts might help someone around you. And that could be enough reason to take a small step.

Peace in Christ,
Chuck Ridley, Vicar

Basketball Open Gym

For Members and the Community • Ages 18 & up
Thursday Evenings 7-9 p.m.

Contact Vicar Chuck for more information or to join the game!
vicarchuck@lcrstl.org • 314.843.6633 ext. 126

SEM PROFESSOR LED ADULT BIBLE STUDY



February 2 - 23 - Dr. Jeff Oschwald

The Epistle of Paul to Philemon: A Love Story for February
Although there's not a single red letter in the whole Epistle of Paul to Philemon, and it's not embellished with hearts or glitter or doilies, Luther says that this brief letter "gives us a masterful and tender illustration of Christian love." What Paul does for Onesimus, Luther goes on to say, Christ does for us. During the Sundays in February, we'll let Paul's letter refocus for us our picture of what love really looks like. Our Lord Himself warns that in the days to come, "the love of many will grow cold" (Matt 24:12). Join us as we open up our New Testaments to the page (yes, there's only one!) of Philemon and pray that, through our study of it, the Holy Spirit will warm things up a bit for us!

March 1 - President Lee Hagan

June 28 - July 26 - Dr. David Lewis

September - Dr. Tim Saleska



The Lutheran South Key Club is sponsoring a rummage sale on **Saturday, March 7 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

to benefit Lutheran South sports and clubs. Donate your gently used items beginning February 24 at Lutheran South. Wanted items include household items, toys, baby items, books, luggage, furniture, and sporting equipment. (Please no clothing or shoes.)

Entry is free.



Join us for the Cardinals home opening series on **Sunday, April 5th at 1:15 p.m.** as the Cardinals take on the Orioles at **Lutheran Schools Day** at the Ballpark. Discounted

tickets in the Lutheran section are available for \$25 (face value \$58) in Left Field Loge. The first 30,000 fans ages 16 and older will receive a 1944 replica jersey. Kids ages 15 and younger will receive a free ticket voucher valid for select Cardinals regular-season home games during the 2020 season! Order your tickets online at lhasatl.org/cardinals.



LCR Staff joined Green Park cheer on their 7th and 8th grade boys basketball team as they played St. Paul. LCR members were spotted everywhere supporting the team!



Congratulations to Ethan H. (8th) our 2019 Geography Bee Champion



Join the fun with Early Childhood! We are taking enrollments for Fall 2020 now! We still have openings in Pathways to Preschool and Preschool. Come be a part of our fun. We are a Christ centered program with a nurturing, loving staff! Don't wait too long! Drop by anytime for a personal tour of our program. Now is the time to think about Fall 2020 for your child. Lisa@lcrstl.org.

EASTER EGG HUNT



Easter Egg Hunt

and light breakfast at Resurrection.
Saturday, April 4 at 9:00 a.m.
 We will start with donuts and juice and a visit with the Bunny and then move outside (weather permitting) for the hunt! Look for online registration beginning in March.



Children's Church is a simple, exciting way to get involved with Resurrection's youngest members. Do you love kids and love to share the gospel with them in an engaging, interactive format? Then join our Children's Church team and volunteer to lead, even just once a month (little prep work and 20 minute teaching/activity time). For details call Lisa Krueger at 314-843-4980 or email Lisa@lcrstl.org. Sign up to serve at LCRSTL.org/children... click on the "Children's Church" logo.



VBS 2020

Plans are underway for a "SUPER FUN" week!
June 8-12, 9 am - noon!

Bring your kids (ages 4yr -5th Grade) or be a part of the volunteer team.

Either way, it will be an amazing adventure in Faith.
 Look for details in Early March.



**Ash Wednesday Chili Cook-Off
 And Belize Fundraising Event**
 Wednesday, February 26 at 5:30pm

Ash Wednesday Worship
 Wednesday, February 26
 11:30am & 7pm

Lenten Midweeks
 Wednesday at 11:30am & 7pm
 March 4
 March 11
 March 18
 March 25
 April 1

Lenten Meals*
 Wednesdays during Lent at 5:30pm
All proceeds for Belize Mission Team

Easter Egg Hunt
 Saturday, April 4 at 9am

Maundy Thursday
 Thursday, April 9 at 11:30am & 6pm

Good Friday
 Friday, April 10 at 11:30am & 6pm

Holy Saturday
 Saturday, April 11 at 5pm

Easter Sunday
 Sunday, April 12 at 8:30am & 10:30am



**Belize Mission Team
 Bake Sale**
 May 2 & 3



November 13, fifteen members of the Mission Circle met to assemble twenty-six blessing baskets for our LCR shut-ins. What is a blessing basket? It is a bag of toiletries, treats, and devotions for our own members to let them know that in spite of not seeing them regularly, they are still in our thoughts and prayers. But the greatest blessing is twice given, the sharing of conversation and laughter between the giver and receiver. These shared moments are so uplifting. Thank you to Sara Hochgrebe and Diane Huskey for chairing this annual Mission Circle activity. And a huge thank you to Thrivent for your generous donation to helping defray the cost.

Upcoming dates for Mission Circle are:

February 19 - 12:00 General Mtg. (dispersal of funds)

May 1-2 - Drop off for Belize Bake Sale

May 6 - 12:00 Mtg. (Guest Speaker from Monarch-Crisis International)

August 5 - Gen. Mtg. Rummage Sale Planning

August 22-27 - Annual Rummage Sale (Sale Dates 8/26-27)

Last year we raised over \$7,000 at our rummage sale with over seventy volunteers.

Please put the date on your calendar now and start saving for the sale.

Any questions concerning the sale, please call Janet Rhodes 843-1974 or 302-8881.

BETHLEHEM CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

We kicked off our 2020 ministry with the story of Epiphany and **SEARCHING FOR JESUS**. We had the kids dress up in costume and act out the Birth of Jesus and the Coming of the Wise Men. As always, the kids were fun, high-spirited, full of love and embraced their parts. You'll see an image of a very MAD King Herod taking his part very seriously!

This ministry is very rewarding and we are always in need of additional volunteers.

We visit the kids twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month from 6-7 pm. We have a Bible story time, an Activity and a Craft and the time flies as we have a lot to cover in a short amount of time. Please keep our Bethlehem children in your prayers and consider joining our group. Feel free to reach out to Jamie and she will send you our electronic signup.

Thank you!

Questions? Contact Linda Loewenstein 314-406-3265



FOOD COLLECTIONS FOR THE SEMINARIANS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN MARCH AND APRIL

Ten and a half months out of the year we collect food through the Meal-A-Month (yellow bag) program for Feed My People, south St. Louis County's and northwestern Jefferson County's food pantries for needy individuals and families in our area. The other one and a half months, around Lent, we collect food for the seminarians at Concordia Seminary and their families and they are always so grateful.

Most people don't realize how much the young men give up who are responding to God's call to the ministry. For most of these men this call means that they will have to figure out how to provide for their family without an income from their former job.

Concordia Seminary has provided help by setting up a food pantry where the seminarians can shop twice a month and a

thrift store for their non-food needs. And some Lutheran churches help by periodically doing food collections for them.

Our collection here at Resurrection will be during Lent from February 26 through Easter on April 12.

Please be generous. One of those seminarians might be our next associate pastor.

Please use the yellow bags hanging close to the two entrances to church which has some menu suggestions for a balanced meal in them.

Please be generous in helping the seminarians and their families as they answer God's call to become the future leaders of our churches.

Sponsored by the Hearts of Servants social concerns committee – check us out and join us for future events this year.

John & Carol DeGuire



**SEMINARY
Food Bank**

Belize Mission Society News

2019 was an eventful year for the Belize Mission Society highlighted by the delivery of the long awaited church building in April and the official dedication of "Christ Lutheran Church of Seine Bight" in October. Rev Duane Meissner was installed as the new president of the mission society replacing Sue Dorn who founded and led the organization for the past 17 years. The first two Lutheran confirmations in Belize occurred in 2019 and we look forward to many more in the coming years.

Planning is underway for Resurrection mission trips to Belize for 2020. In 2019, twelve Resurrection members participated in two separate trips. We already have 7-10 members committed to the July 11-18 VBS trip.

Resurrection members are encouraged to participate in any of the dozen or more trips planned for 2020. Activities may include: VBS, construction, tutoring, Bible studies, home health visits, and more depending on the skills of the team.



If interested in a Belize mission trip in 2020, contact Rich Reichley (rreichle824@gmail.com or 314-894-9178) for more information.

The Belize Mission Society is a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the LCMS. The society began work in Belize 17 years ago. It has been the primary organization responsible for what we call the "mercy work" being done in Belize in support of our Synod's mission. Examples include construction of human-care facilities, vacation Bible school projects, dental clinics, medical home visits, vision clinics, tutoring programs, a feeding program, and a countrywide school scholarship program.

In formal partnership with the LCMS Office of International Mission, the Belize Mission Society supports projects designed to show Christ's love and mercy to those in need and further the evangelization and church-planting efforts of our LCMS missionaries on the ground.

Learn more at www.BelizeMissionSociety.net

Making a Difference

Do you have ideas on how Resurrection can help those in need in our community, especially working in conjunction with other churches and community help organizations? Are you a good listener to other people's ideas and can work together with them to bring assistance to those who are hurting economically to get back on their own two feet? Can you make a difference in their lives? IF SO, WE NEED YOU to be Resurrection's representative to Feed My People's Board of Directors, a group made up of dedicated Christians from a variety of churches in south St. Louis County and Jefferson County. This group meets four times a year in an evening during the week for 1 ½ - 2 hours. You and the other church representatives can discuss what Feed My People is doing to help and make recommendations of other ways which they can help. If interested in being a representative or in finding out more, please call Carol or John DeGuire at 314 330-6567 (Carol) or 307-2074 (John) or deguirec@aol.com or johnnyjo@aol.com



Debt Reduction

- Total Construction Amount: \$3,296,771
- Original Loan Amount: \$2,100,000
- Current Outstanding Debt: \$511,383
- Current budgeted yearly interest: \$24,550
- Current Monthly Payment: \$13,001

Our current note is due June 2021. Every dollar donated toward debt reduction is paid toward the principle of the debt. Through you, the mission and ministries of our congregation are made real. Every dollar and every minute you give brings the love of God to the world in countless ways. Through you, lives are touched, hearts are warmed, and a home is found. We are grateful you call Resurrection home and thank you for your generous support.

