

Resurrection Lutheran Church

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**Annual Congregation Meeting Agenda
January 29, 2012**

Call to Order

Establish a Quorum

Dwelling in the Word—Luke 10:1-12

Approval of Meeting Synopses

Annual Meeting of January 30, 2011

Congregational Meeting to Elect Council Members

Approval of the 2012 Nominating Team

Questions on the 2011 Annual Report

New Business

2012 Mission Proposal

Motion

Discussion

Adjourn to Chili

In 2011, formal minutes were not recorded for the two congregational meetings held in January and March. The following articles appeared in the *Spirit* newsletter after the meetings:

Annual Congregational Meeting Highlights

A congregational meeting was held on January 30, 2011, to approve the 2011 Mission Proposal. A quorum was present with 47 members in attendance. Ron Fetzner, President of the Council, led the meeting which was opened in prayer by Pastor David. The minutes of the three 2010 congregational meetings were approved and seconded by the members in attendance.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the 2011 Mission Proposal. Mark Scott, Treasurer, presented the Mission Proposal and opened the floor for discussion. There was some discussion which concluded with the congregation approving the motion.

The 2011 Nominating Committee members, Suzanne Guttschow, Carol Weis, Karen Young, and Debbie Whelton, were also approved.

There was also discussion about the direction of the church regarding worship attendance, member involvement, staff job descriptions, and synod benevolence. These issues were addressed by some of the Council members present, and they indicated that they are working to be more proactive in these areas of concern.

RLC Congregation Elects Council Members

On Sunday, March 27, Resurrection members elected Patti Niehm, Mark Bohl, and Kelly Vesper to serve on Congregation Council for the next two years. Outgoing Council members Carol Weis and Suzanne Guttschow were recognized and thanked for their service.

In addition to the three new members, current elected Council members are Chris Ayers, Paul Augsburger, Mandy Fischer, Kelly Malinowski, and Carolyn Bojarowicz. In addition, Mark Scott (Treasurer), Pastors David and Mary, Kathy Eckert, and Nikki Houseman participate in Council.

Please lift up prayers of thanksgiving and support for all these disciples who share their time and talents with our congregation in this vital leadership role.

Our Mission:

Resurrection Lutheran Church exists to:

***Invite people into the body of Christ
Ignite passionate growth in faith
Excite believers for lives of service***

Our Vision:

Communities claimed and empowered by God for hope and wholeness

With our vision we look outward to where God calls us: Communities claimed and empowered by God for hope and wholeness. What do we mean by this?

Communities ... It is not simply this worshiping body that we are speaking about. It is any community that we belong to: our workplace, our school, our neighborhood, our town, our state, our nation, our world. God's vision is that whatever community we belong to will be transformed.

Communities claimed and empowered by God ... As God claims our communities, so God empowers them. When we open ourselves to see God's presence and God's purpose, we understand our role and responsibility within God's design. We know God's Spirit within us that enlightens us and strengthens us for the role. And we know that we only function fully as all others function fully.

Communities claimed and empowered by God for hope ... We then ask and seek what is God's purpose and intention is for our communities. Why is hope important? Because we live in a world that is covered by fear and despair. We feel lost and without purpose. And yet, we are called by God in faith and in hope: "The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It's our handle on what we can't see" (Hebrews 11:1-2, The Message). As a member described hope to me it is by hope that we are drawn back from the edge of despair so that we can have the opportunity for other things, things that are not currently ... but that God can call into existence ... and by faith we live there. We are called to live out God's hope, be a sign of God's hope, a witness to God's hope.

Communities claimed and empowered by God for hope and wholeness. Similarly, we are called to wholeness. We are called to wholeness, because whether broken or simply incomplete, we know that we ourselves and our communities are not experienced as fully as God wishes. The journey that God takes us on from brokenness or incompleteness to wholeness covers many parts of our lives. Our personal lives of

mind, body, and spirit are incomplete or broken, and we are called to a wholeness in which healing and forgiveness take place. Our relationships are incomplete and broken, and we are called to a wholeness of maturity, forgiveness, and reconciliation. Our communities are incomplete or broken, and we are called to a wholeness of justice and peace. Wholeness speaks of healing. Wholeness speaks of health. Wholeness speaks of maturity and growth. Wholeness speaks of God's purpose in Jesus Christ, restoring us and our communities to himself, and empowering us to spread that wholeness throughout our world.

There is a gap between where we are now and the vision that lies before us. There will always be a gap because a vision always calls us beyond ourselves. Yet, we pray to God for guidance, and we work together as the Body of Christ, the Church, to work toward that vision. And we reach together for that vision, inviting others along for the journey, igniting a passionate growth of faith within and among us, and exciting ourselves and others for lives of service to our God and to our world.

Our Values

Valuing people by building community

Serving others and working for a just Church, Community and World

Empowering discipleship and spreading the good news

Growing our children, youth and adults to be fully devoted disciples

Nurturing the spirit through worship, word, prayer, music, and sacrament

Being challenged to be the people God wants us to be



RLC CORE VALUES

Core values are the roots that nourish the branches of vision.

They answer the question, "Why do we do what we do?"

They are the motivational reasons behind the mission and the vision.

Valuing People by Building Community

"But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin."

1 John 1:7

We are a community [group of people], held together by common belief in Jesus Christ as God and Savior, and by common traditions of faith practice (Word, worship, and prayer). From the common experience of faith in Christ, there emerges a sense of **unity with** and **participation in** the lives of our "church family." As Christ has commanded us to "love one another as I have loved you" (John 15: 12), we intentionally engage in mutual sharing of experiences, interests and activities. We care for each person we encounter as we journey through life by providing physical, emotional, and spiritual support to our fellow travelers.

Serving Others in Justice for the Church, Community and World

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8

How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.

1 John 3:17-18

We hear the call to love God and love our neighbors. We recognize our personal wealth, freedom, and privilege. We recognize that many of our "neighbors'" basic needs remain unmet. We recognize that many people struggle with pain, poverty, and injustice. We recognize that because we love God, we must respond to the needs of others. We commit ourselves to looking beyond the four walls of our church home to extend God's Love and Grace in many and varied ways to meet the needs of our neighbors—locally and globally.

Empowering Discipleship and Spreading the Good News

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Romans 12:2

"...go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."

Matthew 28:19-20a

Hearing the call to know God and His will, to grow in faith, and to love faithfully, we commit ourselves to **becoming** more fully what God intends each of us to be. In order to understand what God intends for us to become, and to strive for depth in our relationship with God, we commit to the intentional study of God's Word as individuals and collectively as the Body of Christ. We rely on the study of Scripture, prayer, worship, giving of ourselves (servanthood), and the giving of our gifts and talents (stewardship), to develop our spiritual nature. This is **discipleship**.

Hearing the call of our Lord to make disciples, we intentionally reach out to those who have yet to hear the message of God's Love and Grace (the Gospel of Jesus). We extend Love and Grace through our personal example of godly living and the sharing of our personal faith stories with others, as well as through the ministries of the church that intentionally teach the Word of God and invite others into the fellowship of the Body of Christ.

We hear the call to receive all people into the fellowship of the faith community. In the context of our constantly changing culture, we strive to remain sensitive to the needs presented by the people we are called to serve and to intentionally make adjustments to meet those needs. We recognize that each person is designed by God with unique gifts, abilities, and orientations. We as a church community embrace our responsibility to create an environment that is welcoming, safe, and inviting for **all people** to come and experience God's love and saving grace.

Growing Our Children, Youth and Adults to be Fully Devoted Disciples

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates."

Deuteronomy 6: 5-8

We recognize that a major key to the wholeness of individuals is based in the health of one's family of origin (family system). To that end, we emphasize and invest in supporting all family members--parents, spouses, sons, daughters, siblings-- in their journey of faith as individuals and as a collective unit through educational and fellowship events. In respect to growing leaders in the church we find these words in 1 Timothy 3: 5, "If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?" Understanding relationship in families is fundamental to our ability to grow as workers in the church.

Furthermore, we acknowledge the responsibility we have been given to guide and protect the precious gift that God has given us in our children. We accept our call to share the faith with them so that their knowledge of God may continue to grow in depth and strength as a resource for themselves and the future of the Church. We commit to teaching and nurturing our youth in the ways of living a godly life through sharing of scripture and through our personal examples of godly living.

Nurturing the Spirit through Worship, Word, Music, Prayer, and Sacrament

"My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power."

1 Corinthians 2:4-5

"Sing for joy to God our strength; shout aloud to the God of Jacob!" Begin the music, strike the tambourine, play the melodious harp and lyre."

Psalm 81: 1-2

"In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation."

Psalm 5: 3

We long to connect with God. We do this in our individual lives, but we need the gathering of believers to nourish and grow. As we gather, we hold ourselves accountable for our growth. As we gather, we are shaped by our communal expressions of worship. Our focus in worship

is God's grace. The message of God's unmerited favor toward a sinful humanity is expressed through the Word of God's forgiveness in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus and through the outward signs established by God through Jesus to express an inward or spiritual grace (the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion.) During weekly worship, we experience God's grace in the form of gospel centered preaching and the sharing of the sacraments.

The expression of our praise, thanksgiving, and even petitions to God through the gift of music—vocal and instrumental—enhances our ability to relate to our God and is rooted in the history of God's people. We value the continuation of that tradition as well as the opportunity it affords us to relate to God in ways that words alone can not.

As prayer is communication with God, we recognize the need to continually turn to prayer as individuals and as the Body of Christ to sense God's will. Prayer is the foundation for discernment in all we are and in all we do.

Being Challenged to be the People God Wants Us to Be

"There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

Galatians 4: 28

"I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings."

1 Corinthians 9: 23

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good."

1 Corinthians 12: 4-7

We believe God intentionally and uniquely designs every person with a spiritual gift. Therefore, every person who walks through the doors of this church has something valuable and necessary to contribute to the Body of Christ to make it more complete. One of the responsibilities of our pastors and lay professionals is to empower and equip the lay members of the church to use their gifts to do the work of caring for and sharing God's love with each other and with the world outside our walls. To that end, we as lay members of the church body, embrace opportunities to further our personal growth and the development of our gifts. We take seriously our responsibility to BE THE CHURCH and to share God's presence with the world through the many and varied ministries of the church.

Pastors' 2011 Annual Report

“I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, God may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” (Ephesians 3:16-19)

As we begin 2012, we want to encourage all to make Paul's prayer for the Ephesians to be your prayer for this year and a prayer for Resurrection Lutheran Church. We often use our annual report to look back over this past year. This year we want to highlight the directions we took in 2011 that impact how we are being led into God's preferred future in 2012.

In 2011 Resurrection Lutheran Church entered into a three-year commitment with Our Saviour's Lutheran of Normal and First Lutheran of Decatur in a process called the **Partnership for Missional Church (PMC)**. Many of you have heard either us as pastors or other members of the congregation talk about PMC, but let us review what PMC is all about. PMC is a *journey of spiritual renewal*. It is a journey for all of us *together* as a congregation to *re-discover God* through our relationships, our community, and God's Word. PMC is a process to help us walk into and toward God's preferred and promised future. PMC allows us to discover how Resurrection Lutheran Church can be a means to God's end as we ask God to breathe new life into our vision of who God is here and now.

This process began with forming a **Steering Team** to guide us in this process. We thank **Patti Niehm, Kathy Eckert, Larry Huelskoetter, JoAnn Reith, Eric Luckey, and Michael Nicklas** for agreeing to be our Steering Team. In December our three churches met as a cluster to dwell deeply together in God's Word and learn more about who we are called to be together as partners in this process.

The theme for 2012 is *discovering our partners, as we listen and discern God's call*. A **Listening Team** has been formed to begin listening and discerning from members within the congregation how God is moving among us. On February 19 we will gather as a congregation to celebrate Mardi Gras and host a Timeline Event, in which we will celebrate and explore the life of Resurrection Lutheran Church. As we continue through this year, we will continue to participate in and offer opportunities to listen to the voices from within the congregation and from within our larger community so that we might discover how God is calling us to be as a congregation.

Throughout all of this process, we will ground ourselves in prayer and dwelling together in God's Word, praying that we might indeed be “rooted and grounded in God's love” as Paul has called us to be. So, as we move forward in our 100 Days of Prayer and beyond, let us continue to pray for our spiritual journey, for the Holy Spirit's leading, and for our love to grow.

Two other significant developments occurred in 2011 that also move us forward in 2012.

First, we have formed a **Caring Ministry Team**, which is reaching out to all members and especially to those who are hurting or suffering in any way. We give thanks to them, and we encourage anyone who so desires to be a part of this team. Please read their report, so that you can appreciate all that they are doing within the congregation.

Second, as a result of the needs within the congregation and the learnings of Pastor Mary from sabbatical, we are in the process of developing Sunday School **classes** for **children with special needs** here at RLC. In many ways, this is a natural development from our involvement and development of **VBS for Autism** and **Wings and Prayers** (our monthly worship service for children and adults with special needs and their families). Wings and Prayers just celebrated their 2nd anniversary, and we are now preparing to host the 5th annual VBS for Autism. Through the support of the Baptismal Building Blocks Team and specific individuals who are willing to lead these classes, we are now taking the next step in our ministry to those with special needs within our community.

As always, we thank our incredible and faithful staff for their ministry and service.

We thank **Kathy Eckert, Ministry Leader for Spiritual Formation**. Kathy continues to help people discover their spiritual gifts and how they can grow in their spiritual walks. She does this by organizing our people power, enlisting people to serve different opportunities inside and outside our church walls. She provides staff leadership for adult education, the Eco-Justice Team, small groups, the Baptismal Building Blocks team, and our women's ministry. She also has helped us move forward with our involvement in PMC, leading the way for our participation as well as some of our other church partners.

Nikki Houseman continues to provide invaluable service as our **Ministry Leader for Administration and Finance**, working tirelessly on the financial matters of the church. She continues to give shape to our Personnel Team and provide assistance in developing staff reviews. She has been blessed with the help of **Mark Scott**, our **Treasurer**, and **Jay Hieb**, our Financial Secretary.

We couldn't make the place run without our outstanding office staff: **Marcia Fetzer** as our Administrative Assistant and **Mary Meier**, who is in charge of our publications and our website.

We praise God for our worship and music staff. We thank **Doug Reiners** as our music director for traditional worship and as choir director. We also thank **Jerry Worden** as our music director for contemporary worship, providing worship music leadership for our Saturday at 5 and 10:45 Sunday service. We are grateful for the joy and passion they bring to each week. **Chris McAuley** does an excellent job as our sound technician and computer person.

We thank our **Church Council** for their leadership: **Chris Ayers** (President), **Kelly Malinowski** (Vice-President), **Patti Niehm** (Secretary), **Paul Augsburg**, **Mark Bohl**, **Mandy Fischer**, **Carolyn Bojarowicz** and **Kelly Vesper**. They continue to provide open, direct, and faithful commitment and leadership through the many challenges that we face. We also thank those who finished their service on council: **Ron Fetzer**, **Carol Weis**, and **Suzanne Guttschow**.

Most of all, we thank all of you, disciples of Jesus Christ here at Resurrection Lutheran Church. We thank you especially for allowing us the opportunity to take a **sabbatical** during this past summer. Both of us felt a sense of **rest and renewal** during this time, as we grew in prayer through our retreats and as we grew in knowledge and ministry from our experiences with churches throughout the country. We pray that you also have felt that sense of rest and renewal. All of you are ministers, and all of you are responsible for making this place a reflection of God's transformative grace. We give thanks to God for the opportunity we have been given to serve among you.

In closing, we are moving into a significant and important journey together as staff, council, and congregation with the Partnership for Missional Congregations. As we move forward in this process, let us *continue to assess how our gathering reflects who we are called to be*. This means that all of us - council, staff, steering team, and congregation are called to seek answers to the following question:

What does it mean for Resurrection Lutheran to be church?

And then in response to that, *how does what we do – whether in worship or service, in teaching or in fellowship – reflect how we are called to be church?* As we listen, reflect, and discern together, we will discover that God's Spirit is indeed moving among us, and we will discover how we are called to be a part of that.

In Christ's love,

Pastor Mary and Pastor David

Membership Activity in 2011

Membership

end of 2011: 580

end of 2010: 584

Members received:

Debbie Quain

David and Rita Fleming

Stanley and Erin Clark

Infant, children & adult baptisms:

Arabella Baumann

Preslee Rae Tongate

Corianne Rae Gibson

August Gene Faulkner

Naomi Ruth Davis

Corbin Derrick Buhrmester (NM)

Stanley Clark

Mazie Bea Carter

Affirmation of Baptism:

John Connor Brinkman

Alison Jean Domkuski

Ashley Elizabeth Genung

Logan Marie Guttschow

Anna Christine Heidemna

Matthew Timothy Nicklas

Morgan sloan Peterson

Matthew Paul Wittman

Ryan Thomas Woodside

Funerals

Becky Seip (NM)

Weddings:

None

Members transferred to other churches:

Jean Pretz & Joel Janisewski

Miriam Janisewski

Franz and Verneal Frank

Richard & Michele Whitlock

Victoria Whitlock

Angela Whitlock

Voice of the Council for 2011

The year 2011 was busy for the Church Council.

We were pleased to continue the Quarterly Council Forum held during the Sunday School Hour to meet and discuss various issues with members of the congregation. The goal of the forum is to enhance communication with the congregation.

The Council approved and worked with Kathy Eckert to undertake her Spanish Immersion trip to Mexico.

The Council approved and worked with the Pastors' to take a Sabbatical this past summer.

Continued attention was given to establish guidelines for the personnel review process. This was done so that in years to come, standards and assorted forms would be in place to allow us to conduct the review process in a more professional manner.

The Council created a new process to be more transparent to the congregation. Sharing meeting minutes, staff reports, and financial reports in the Spirit.

A review team was established to do annual reviews with the two Rostered positions at RLC. The focus this year was to establish track able goals so the reviews in the coming years have something to build on and gauge progress against.

The largest undertaking in 2011 was the decision to start the Partnership for Missional Church with Our Savior and First Lutheran Decatur. The three year process is designed to better equip and define RLC's Missional work in Bloomington/Normal.

RLC continues to face the challenge of declining attendance and involvement, decreased giving and an aging facility that is going to require large capital maintenance in the future. A team has been formed to identify the best course of action regarding maintaining the building.

We are hopeful as we head into 2012 that God will guide us as we continue to serve faithfully.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Ayers – Council President

Resurrection Lutheran Church

Mission Proposal

	2012 Mission Proposal	2011 Actual	2011 Mission Proposal	2010 Actual	2010 Mission Proposal	2009 Actual
Income						
Unified Giving	\$ 410,000.00	\$ 414,619.06	\$ 430,000.00	\$ 437,350.53	\$ 445,000.00	\$ 430,575.10
Special Unified Giving-Roof						\$ 3,369.25
Thrivent/Building Use Donations		\$ 6,358.00		\$ 1,350.00	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 2,490.00
Sabbatical Grant		\$ 7,500.00				
Total Income	\$ 410,000.00	\$ 428,477.06		\$ 438,700.53	\$ 448,500.00	\$ 436,434.35
Expenses						
Baptism Building Blocks	\$ 3,550.00	\$ 3,950.51	\$ 5,500.00	\$ 2,362.62	\$ 5,505.00	\$ 4,340.66
Community Relations	\$ -	\$ 103.44	\$ 400.00	\$ 199.82	\$ 500.00	\$ 900.03
Confirmation	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 1,214.47	\$ 1,300.00	\$ 683.66	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 669.84
Council and Planning	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 3,990.94	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,507.62	\$ 950.00	\$ 2,592.03
Fellowship Team	\$ 800.00	\$ 890.66	\$ 800.00	\$ 937.24	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,336.03
Lay Ministries	\$ 2,420.00	\$ 2,100.84	\$ 2,620.00	\$ 1,809.11	\$ 3,465.00	\$ 978.34
LYO	\$ 10,575.00	\$ 7,403.34	\$ 12,575.00	\$ 11,469.71	\$ 12,575.00	\$ 9,192.05
Men's Ministry	\$ 100.00	\$ -	\$ 300.00	\$ 118.82		
Misc	\$ 300.00	\$ 520.87	\$ 300.00	\$ 361.80	\$ 300.00	\$ 1,434.12
Mortgage	\$ 60,048.00	\$ 60,048.00	\$ 60,048.00	\$ 60,048.00	\$ 60,048.00	\$ 60,048.00
Personnel Team**	\$ 247,603.84	\$ 266,336.11	\$ 259,324.84	\$ 261,953.74	\$ 264,590.00	\$ 267,505.88
Service Team	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 1,372.00	\$ 1,600.00	\$ 2,892.58	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 359.95
Special Events and Recognition	\$ 300.00	\$ 248.56	\$ 300.00	\$ 114.53	\$ 300.00	\$ 380.80
Support Team	\$ 43,400.00	\$ 42,570.91	\$ 46,228.00	\$ 47,269.67	\$ 50,189.00	\$ 56,253.11
Synod Benevolence*	\$ 33,300.00	\$ 34,796.41	\$ 34,900.00	\$ 37,537.95	\$ 40,548.00	\$ 36,020.00
Women's Ministry	\$ 200.00	\$ (115.37)	\$ 300.00	\$ (1,032.29)	\$ 250.00	\$ 303.99
Worship Team	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 2,704.77	\$ 3,400.00	\$ 3,036.96	\$ 3,782.00	\$ 2,271.95
Total Operational Expenses	\$ 409,996.84	\$ 428,136.46	\$ 430,995.84	\$ 431,271.54	\$ 447,802.00	\$ 444,586.78
Operational Income to Expenses	\$ 3.16	\$ 340.60		\$ 7,428.99		\$ (8,152.43)
Balances		12/31/2011		12/31/2010		12/31/2009
Current		\$ 56,010.28		\$ 53,073.56		\$ 60,665.67
Building Savings Fund		\$ 20,019.02		\$ 20,000.00		\$ -
LOVE Funds		\$ 1,025.92		\$ 1,026.71		\$ 1,005.34
Mortgage Balance		\$ 510,241.88		\$ 541,299.82		\$ 539,811.11
Memorial Fund		\$ 5,712.69		\$ 5,704.18		\$ 8,903.82

*Synod Giving: 2012 budgeted 8%

Thrivent Member Directed Funds will be used to fund PMC Consulting Fees for 2012 and 2013.

PMC Consulting Fees and Thrivent Member Directed Funds are not included in 2012 Mission Proposal.

**Transition costs for the MLFA position are not included in Personnel Team Expense

2011 Benevolence Giving Summary**Synod Giving**

Congregational Benevolence Giving	\$ 34,796.41	
Additional Member Giving	\$ 412.00	
Total Synod Giving	\$ 35,208.41	

Non-Synod Giving

Adopt-a-Family	\$ 285.00	
Christmas/Advent	\$ 4,816.11	(Community Care Fund, Faith in Action and Habitat for Humanity)
Easter/Lent/Adult Work Trip	\$ 6,854.75	
FOTCOH	\$ 280.00	
Lutheran Campus Ministries	\$ 500.00	
LYO Work Trip	\$ 10,025.00	
Missionary Family	\$ 1,000.00	
Other Non-Synod Giving	\$ 4,525.00	
RLC Families	\$ 675.00	
Safe Harbor	\$ 1,066.50	
Sunset Gap	\$ 380.00	
Thanksgiving	\$ 587.00	(Community Care Fund)
Total Non-Synod Giving	\$ 30,994.36	
Total Benevolent Giving	\$ 66,202.77	

Synod Giving Percentage 8.5% $\$35,208.41/(\$41,4619.06+\$412)$

Total giving Percentage 14.8% $\$66,202.77/(\$414,619.06+\$412+30,994.36)$

Report provided by:

Mark Scott, Treasurer

Nikki Houseman, Ministry Leader of Administration and Finance

Ministry Leader for Spiritual Formation 2011 Annual Report

"The Best Part of Any Journey is the People We Meet Along the Way" - from a refrigerator magnet

I've always loved to travel. Maybe you're like that too. Recently, some of you viewed the movie, "The Way," written by Emilio Estevez.

It's a story about Daniel, a young man who wanted to see the world. Daniel died accidentally on the first day of a 500-mile pilgrimage trek on Camino de Santiago, known as the Way of Saint James, across the Pyrenees mountains through France and Spain. Tom, his ophthalmologist father, flies to France to bring his body home to the U.S. When he learns about the journey his son was beginning, he decides to walk the Camino himself, with his son's ashes. See www.santiago-compostela.net

Keep in mind, Tom doesn't even like to walk when he plays on the golf course.

Along the path, Tom walks, unwillingly at first, with three other pilgrims, or peregrinos; Yost, a Dutchman who says he wants to lose weight, Sarah, a Canadian, who hopes to quit smoking, and Jack, an Irishman, who is trying to overcome "writer's block." All their reasons, on the surface, could be anyone's New Year's resolutions, yet each are desperately dealing with loss and finding real meaning in their life. Each think they are alone, but discover they need each others' love and company. But wait, I'm no spoiler. Although it's a great story, you'll not get the ending here from me. Check out the trailer on www.theway-themovie.com

You may have noticed, RLC has set sail on a three-year spiritual journey, with our partners, Our Savior's Lutheran in Normal, and First Lutheran in Decatur. There have been boats in the lobby. RLC is over halfway into its 100 days of prayer. The Steering Team is prayerfully and playfully planning a Chili Cook-off Contest on January 29th with the Annual Meeting. Following on February 19, with a Mardi Gras Celebration and Time Line Event, for the entire congregation, where we will celebrate God's presence in our past, present and future.

A Listening Team is quietly beginning its interviews. The council is having fun "Dwelling in the Word," and other teams are pondering Luke 10:1-12 for themselves.

Still haven't heard about it? Don't understand what all the fuss is about?

1. Go immediately to www.reslutheran.org, and click on the "Partnership for Missional Church Intro video" link.
2. Then skip to the PMC article of the annual report, found on page 37.
3. Ask RLC folk about PMC until you find someone who knows!

We may all have different motivations for starting a spiritual journey of renewal with our friends at RLC. Some may long for the good old days, others may be concerned with present financial realities, while another may look for a clearer picture of our mission in the future.

Perhaps we all long for spiritual meaning in our lives, the love and company of faith-full friends, and the chance to share our laughter and tears with other pilgrims along the way. Bikers claim, "It's the journey, not the destination," so our 2012 path leads us first into listening to one another, dwelling in the Word and praying together.

We could beat ourselves up on the journey over things we did or didn't do, or over who we think we should be.

We could fret over how far along we are in the journey, or grumble about our fellow peregrinos.

Or, we could keep walking, faithfully, one step at a time, and greet and care for others on the road, especially strangers, knowing God is beside us every step of the way. "Your way and my way seem to be one and the same..." (James Taylor)

In closing, here's a quote from an old Nancy Sinatra tune, "These boots are made for walking, and that's just what they'll do..... Start walking.

Buen Camino! (a common pilgrim greeting on The Way, loosely translated, "Good walking" or "Good path to you")

Kathy Eckert, Associate in Ministry
Ministry Leader for Spiritual Formation

Baptism Building Blocks 2011 Annual Report

Baptism Building Blocks is the children and youth ministry team at Resurrection Lutheran Church. As a community of believers and workers in the kingdom of God, we promise to place in each child's hand the Holy Scripture and to provide them instruction in the Christian faith. BBB is the vision of fulfilling that promise – one that will build one block at a time, to equip our children to learn and grow in God's love. The mission statement is to further develop a ministry that focuses on constructing the building blocks of knowledge, faith, service and fellowship from birth to adulthood. Specifically the goals include:

1. Nurture, educate, support and encourage RLC's youth with a Biblical base so they are prepared to make good life decisions (Knowledge).
2. Assist families in meeting their baptismal promises by providing a spiritual foundation for RLC's youth and the adults who support them (Faith).
3. Provide opportunities for youth to become the Body of Christ in action (Services).
4. Encourage and provide opportunities for youth to be involved in a Christian community (Fellowship).

The activities that were continued in 2011 that supported this mission were:

- Christian education for 3 year olds through Senior High on Sunday from September through May
- Rally Day activities
- Confirmation preparation for 7th and 8th grade students from September through May including two retreats.
- Youth group opportunities for 6th grade through high school
- Vacation Bible School
- RLC's children's choirs; Soul Singers (First grade and Second Grade) and Preschool through Kindergarten Choir

The congregation recognized our children's spiritual growth throughout the year, including:

- Sunday School recognition for 3 year olds
- Presentation of Bibles to 3 year olds and 3rd graders
- First Communion and Acolyte training for 5th graders
- Confirmation for 8th graders
- Recognition of Senior High and College graduates

A sincere thank you is extended from the Baptism Building Blocks team to all the members of the congregation who have supported youth ministries throughout the year including, but certainly not limited to, Sunday School teachers and aides; Youth Group leaders; Confirmation leaders; Pastors and RLC staff; Vacation Bible School station leaders and crew leaders; Substitute teachers; Children's Choir leaders; Nursery care providers and helpers; youth activity/trip chaperones; garage sale helpers; and Prayer Partners.

Baptism Building Blocks Team:

Leader / 4 year old to 1st grade rep	Debbie Whelton
RLC staff rep	Kathy Eckert
RCL Council rep	Carolyn Bojarowicz
Sunday School Co-Coordinators	Ashley Davis & Lori Hanten
Confirmation rep	Rhonda Augsburger & Brenda Hieb
Senior High rep	Kristin Ayers

6th grade to Junior High rep
2nd grade to 5th grade rep
Birth to 3 year olds rep
VBS with Autism rep
New Baby Ministry
Great Ideas Coordinators

Julie Schubart & Sue Nicklas
Ginger Howard
Shannon Davis
Suzy Marcum
Deb Bengtson-Ahrendt
Angela Malinowski & Suzanne Guttschow

Adult and All-Congregational Education Experiences 2011 Annual Report

Going Global: Katie Hoy and Hannah Krajewski coordinated Wednesday nights in Lent, adapting ELCA World Hunger materials which promoted cultural understanding. The Global Café menu included international foods prepared by Gary Weilbacher, Tom Thompson, and Mayuko Nakamura, followed by Advent worship featuring RLC members speaking about countries and peoples they have known: Patti Niehm on Uganda, Matt Sterrett on Kashmir, Bob Hoy on Nicaragua, Mayuko Nakamura on Japan, and Katie Hoy, Hannah Krajewski and Rich Biesterfeld on Appalachia and the Sunset Gap community.

Passport to Prayer: a follow-up Bible study to the “Wonderfull World” women’s retreat, with prayer and global foods each week, led by Kim Kiser and Kathy Eckert. In July, RLC partner missionaries, Deborah and Joe Troester, and daughter Christa, shared their experiences in the Central African Republic teaching Greek and English at the Theological School in Baboua, and helping to provide clean drinking water to local villages.

Going Green: The Eco-Justice team led four Sunday forums on caring for creation, based on ideas from Colin Beavan’s book, “No Impact Man,” with topics on Trash and Consumption, Water, Energy and Transportation, Food and Eco-Sabbath. Bob Hoy also shared a video presentation of the spiritual and ecological aspects of his travels on the John Muir trail.

Summer Sabbatical Reflection Series: Greg Ekdale and Terri Houchin started a spirited discussion on the emerging church and Phyllis Tickle’s book, “The Great Emergence.” Lynne Ekdale and Kathy Neil led a book study on Rob Bell’s book, “Love Wins.” Suzanne Guttschow facilitated a session on radical hospitality and Kathy Eckert’s experiences of hospitality in Mexico, followed by a summer Sunday morning study, “There’s an App for That,” with readings and stories from the book of John.

Book of Faith Bible studies:

Sundays at 9:30 a.m.: “Making Sense of Scripture” six-week video practical discussion series from David Lose on reading the Bible with greater understanding.

Mondays at 7 p.m.: Book of Faith Bible Study series, including sessions on James, Galatians, Romans, and Jonah. We are now moving into a lectionary Bible study on the upcoming lessons for each Sunday.

Advent studies: Sunday and Wednesday worship, forums and LYO featured “The Journey: Walking the Road to Bethlehem” from Rev. Adam Hamilton, a unique Bible study and DVD series on the birth of Jesus Christ, traveling today from Nazareth to Bethlehem, for the whole congregation.

Other Adult Forum studies: We also used the study, “One Body, Many Members,” exploring our involvement in issues of justice and diversity within the world. We were also blessed to have Sheheryar Muftee from the Bloomington-Normal Islamic Center to join us for a dialogue on Christian-Muslim relations after 9/11.

Confirmation 2011 Annual Report

The Confirmation ministry at RLC is primarily an educational opportunity for 7th and 8th grade students to learn the tenets and traditions of our Lutheran faith. The curriculum, Faith Inkubators, presents a review of the Old and New Testament and explores the two Lutheran sacraments. In addition, the students study the Lord's Prayer and the Apostles' Creed using Luther's Small Catechism. The Confirmation commitment culminates in May of the student's second year of instruction when he/she composes a faith statement and reaffirms his/her baptismal vows.

The following youth completed confirmation and reaffirmed their baptismal vows in May 2011:

Connor Brinkman
Ali Domkuski
Ashley Genung
Logan Guttschow
Anna Heideman

Matthew Nicklas
Morgan Peterson
Matthew Wittman
Ryan Woodside

Although educating our youth in the Lutheran faith is the focus of confirmation, service and fellowship opportunities are incorporated in the curriculum. In 2010-2011 these activities included:

- *Fall Retreat – "Find Your Fit"
- *Bingo at Nursing Homes
- *Advent Decorating and College Care Packages
- *Spring Lock-In
- *Blankets for H.S. Graduates
- *People Power on Sundays and during Advent and Lent

Confirmation leaders for 2010-2011 were: Brenda Hieb, Kraig Holub, Rich and Suzanne Guttschow, and Rhonda Augsburg. Pastors David and Mary Armstrong-Reiner co-taught confirmation.'

Library Team 2011 Annual Report

How does the Library fulfill our RLC mission to invite people into the body of Christ, to ignite passionate growth in faith, and to excite believers for lives of service? Invite—we start by welcoming readers. RLC Library is open to all members and visitors. There is no charge for borrowing any item. We strive to provide materials for a wide readership: from unbelievers to committed Christians, from pre-schoolers to retirees. Ignite—this is our main function: to choose Christian material that will teach, inspire, entertain, and advise readers on a wide range of topics. We want to help readers grow in their faith journeys! Excite—We pray that the knowledge and comfort readers take from the books, movies, and music in our collection will extend into their lives and neighborhoods in a new and exciting way!

Team Members: Kim Kiser, Michelle Harris, Janine Beilfuss and Julie Weilbacher

The LYO (Lutheran Youth Organization) is open to high school students and post-high school young adults through age 21. The adult leadership team is: Chris and Kristen Ayers, Chad Jennings, and Janie and Terry Houchin.

We meet for Bible study and discussion (Zero 39) on Sunday mornings during the Sunday school hour. We also have LYO meetings three times a month on Sunday evenings and service projects approximately twice a month. During 2011, LYO members prepared meals for Safe Harbor, worked at the Midwest Food Bank, and rang bells for the Salvation Army at various locations.

In 2011, we once again went to Sunset Gap, Cosby, Tennessee to repair/build homes in Appalachia. This was our thirteenth year at SSG. Twenty-two students, 1 college student, and 8 adults worked together during the week.

In addition to the LYO adult team, Greg Reichert, Jane Frieden, Trudy Vogel, and Austin O'Neall were servant trip staff responsible for various duties. LYO members led worship each night, and we had small group sharing in the evenings. It was a week of spiritual growth for all of us!

Also in 2011, Mark Faulkner once again served as our web page administrator and communications "specialist." It was a great help to have all the LYO calendar/permission form/ministry info on www.rlclyo.org for easy access!

Additional activities providing Christian growth (*Ignite* passionate growth in faith), service (*Excite* believers for lives of service), and fellowship (*Invite* friends who are unchurched and provide an environment of grace where each person feels encouraged and supported) were:

- Collected \$ for the Souper Bowl
- Planned and led worship for a weekend at RLC
- Took a day ski trip to Galena
- Served the Easter breakfast at RLC
- Honored our high school seniors with a special evening
- Held the annual garage sale to support our servant trip
- Had LYO study/meditation/worship nights
- Participated in paintball with Confirmation students
- Played some really fun games
- Held a weekend retreat at Great Oaks Retreat Center, Lacon, IL
- Had a Christmas party/worship night in December
- Traveled to Champaign to package meals for Feed My Starving Children

Thanks to all the adults/young adults listed above and all the parents who have volunteered to assist with LYO in so many ways. Thanks, too, to all the families and friends who helped with the garage sale. You have all made this ministry possible!

LYO members continue to inspire us. They are committed to God, bring energy, creativity and challenging issues to the LYO activities and discussions, and they share God's love with one another as well as those they serve.

Terry and Janie Houchin

Adult Work Trip Team 2011 Annual Report

Mission Statement

To extend the ministry of RLC beyond our walls through the use of physical and spiritual gifts.

Team Members

Dave Ashley, Rich Biesterfeld, Ron Fetzer, Marilyn Franks, Jane Frieden, Kevin Fuhrman, and Dan Hinrichsen

2011 Activities

The 2011 Adult Work Trip team spent the week of April 30 through May 6 at the Sunset Gap Community Center in Cosby, Tennessee. The team spent the week working on the home of Sherry Spangler near the town of Newport. She had several health issues and spent a good deal of time on oxygen and had some challenges with walking. Sherry had hired a contractor 4 years ago to build a small home for her behind the house of her daughter and son-in-law. The contractor built the basic structure but did not finish the project and took off with Sherry's money.

Ron had worked with Josh Dunn, the Sunset Gap Work Camp supervisor, to identify the project we would be working on for the week prior to our arrival and this allowed us to get a running start on Monday. While the structure of the house was built, it looked more like a shed than a home. Because the forecast predicted rain later in the week, we initially focused on outside tasks such as priming the external walls with Kilz and building the deck and wheelchair ramp. Some members of the team installed the windows and this really transformed the look of the house. When Sherry came outside to look at the house, there were tears streaming down her face as she was so excited to see her future home. By the time the rains came later on Tuesday, we were able to focus on installing the plumbing for the bathroom, the electrical wiring for the home, installing insulation, and putting up drywall. (The house was small and it was a little tight at times with seven people trying to work in small space!) As the weather cleared, we were able to spread out and paint the exterior of the home and install trim to accent the windows and doors. Josh brought two of his assistants who help with the Work Camps in the summer (Terry and Jason) to assist with installing the remaining drywall, while others were mudding and sanding. While the house wasn't quite livable yet, immense progress was made and Josh planned to have another group coming in late May who could finish sanding the drywall and paint the interior rooms. We held a house blessing ceremony with Sherry and she was crying tears of joy over her new home. This seemed to restore some hope for Sherry and her belief in others.

The beauty of all God's creation is vividly on display around Sunset Gap and the chance to 'unplug' from our normal lives is truly a blessing. The Sunset Gap staff, both new and old – Josh, Karen, Linda and Cindy – were a blessing to us and they serve their community in many ways. The team had a wonderful time enjoying fellowship with one another, while seeing their visible accomplishments benefit Sherry to glorify God! It was truly a chance to 'Be Resurrection' in the community.

The team would like to thank the RLC family for their generous support through the Lenten and Easter offerings, the Fellowship Team for donating the proceeds from the March Pancake Breakfast, and the matching funds from Thrivent. The team could not do the projects or travel to Sunset Gap without this support. The prayer support from the

congregation, the candy provided by the LYO, and other snacks provided by individuals were also greatly appreciated.

2012 Planned Activities

The dates 4/28 – 5/5 have been reserved on Sunset Gap's scheduling calendar for the 2012 Adult Work Trip. Planning for the 2012 trip will begin early in the year. The 2012 trip will be the 10th year for the group and we would like to make it our biggest and best trip yet. Funds for transportation expenses and building materials will be raised through congregational offerings or other means.

If you are considering participating in the trip, would like additional information, or would like to receive email updates on the team's plans, contact Rich Biesterfeld.

Caring Ministry at RLC 2011 Annual Report

The ***Caring Ministry Team*** befriends those experiencing grief, loss or depression, or who may be hospitalized, live in a care facility or are home-bound. The caring team keeps in touch with members through confidential visits, phone calls, cards, letters and Scripture cards. The team provides a friendly face and listening ear, offering prayer, the sharing of Scripture, rides to church, and Holy Communion for persons unable to attend worship services.

Early in the year, the team learned more about suicide prevention, caring for those considering suicide, and referring person to mental health professionals. During the summer months, Deb Bengtson-Ahrendt provided pastoral care for the congregation, while the pastors were on sabbatical.

Before the Christmas holidays, the team wrote letters of encouragement, and focused on those who have lost loved ones or health concerns. A large Care Notes display is now available in the church lobby. You are invited to use the Care Notes personally, or share with family members, friends and co-workers who may be in need.

Prayer Chain: Prayer requests and thanksgivings are passed through a telephone/email tree, coordinated by Toni Cunningham. Men and women who participate confidentially lift up concerns and joys of the church family and community through Toni Cunningham, the church office, or a Communion Prayer person during worship services. New prayer chain members are welcome. To join, contact Toni Cunningham.

Mid-Week Prayer: Each Wednesday, from 10 to 11 a.m., a group gathers in the RLC sacristy for confidential intercessory prayer for persons in our community, as well as situations in our community and world. Prayer requests from the blue prayer slips in the welcome pads are included, as well as the prayer chain. In addition, if you have a prayer request, you may call the church. More persons are welcome to participate with Jane Frieden, Betsy Huls, Kathy Eckert and Pastor David Armstrong-Reiner.

Grief Support: Letha Seip cares for those RLC members who have lost loved ones throughout the year by mailing Stephen Ministry grief booklets and notes quarterly.

New Baby Ministry: In the past year, Joanie Krajewski, Libby Worden, and currently Deb Bengtson-Ahrendt, have visited families with newborns. Libby Worden created grocery seat baby carriers as an additional baby gift. RLC provides two educational devotional resources for parents with new babies, "Living the Promises of Baptism" and "The Little Lutheran" magazine is sent to the home.

If you know of someone in need, you contact anyone on the Caring Ministry Team:

Lynne Ekdale, Jane Frieden, Sharon Hoy, Betsy Huls, Kathy Neil, JoAnn Reith, Sherri Watson, Kathy Eckert and Pastor Mary Armstrong-Reiner.

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way, you fulfill the law of Christ."

Eco-Justice Team 2011 Annual Report

The **Eco-Justice Team** encourages teams and individuals of the church to incorporate eco-justice concerns into their lives. Our 2011 goals included educating youth and adults on caring for creation; identifying ways to support one another in being environmentally conscious; and tying faith and worship practices to ecology.

Education: In February, Paula Pomerence, Mayuko Nakamura, Kathy Neil, Mary Meier and Kathy Eckert taught four Sunday morning adult forums, incorporating ideas from Colin Beavan's book and DVD, "No Impact Man." The forums shared ideas on consumption and trash, water, energy and transportation, food, and engaging in an Eco-Sabbath. Bob Hoy closed the series with a video presentation of the spiritual and ecological aspects of his travels on the John Muir trail.

In July, the team hosted a Saturday night video presentation and discussion, "Appalachian Treasures," depicting the devastating effects of mountaintop mining removal on its culture and heritage, mountains, forests, and health and livelihoods of its people. RLC has a strong connection to Appalachia through its partnership with Sunset Gap in Cosby, Tennessee. See www.appalachianvoices.org & www.iLoveMountains.org for details.

Mary Meier shared weekly "Eco-bits" in the *Spirit* newsletter, which are earth-saving, energy-saving tips tidbits from the Eco-Justice Team. Got a good eco-idea to share with others? Contact Mary.

Currently, the team kicked off "Earthbound: Created and Called to Care for Creation," a January-February 2012 six-week DVD series. New this year: each session, facilitated by members of the team, is offered on Saturday evenings at 6 p.m. with refreshments, as well as Sunday mornings at the 9:30 a.m. Adult Forum.

Community Garden: During the spring of 2011, several RLC members suggested starting a community garden on the church property. After much research, the group believed a garden could include family and congregational fellowship opportunities, community outreach, gardening education, and stewardship of God's green earth. It was decided to start small, purchasing and planting 36 tomato plants in a 60' X 6' plot. The plans culminated on May 1st with a congregational garden blessing and groundbreaking ceremony. Many RLC members helped with tilling, spraying, installing hoses and a rain barrel, planting, watering, praying, weeding and harvesting.

We discovered gardening is indeed a spiritual practice, requiring faith, flexibility and patience. By mid-November a huge crop of green tomatoes was harvested, allowing our "last fruits" rather than "first fruits," to be shared with Clare House. A celebratory Salsa Party yielded an abundance of green tomato salsa and green tomato cakes. The team hopes to diversify the garden in 2012, and will alert you to various ways to plan and participate this spring.

Be Resurrection Weekend: In addition to the garden blessing, many in the congregation shared their time and energy on the April 30/May 1 post-Easter weekend, coordinated by David Thompson. Members helped clean up Constitution Trail, cleaned the church grounds and planted flowers, created May Day baskets and "Easter caroled" at Heritage Manor, baked cookies and made cards, and wrote letters of hope for Japan, following the tsunami.

2011 Eco-Justice Team: Bob Hoy, Mary Meier, Mayuko Nakamura, Kathy Neil, Paula Pomerence, Gary Weilbacher and Kathy Eckert.

Fellowship Team 2011 Report

The Fellowship team consists of the following members: Letha Seip, Sherri Watson and Sandy McAuley, team leader and we welcome JoAnn Reith and Linda Meints Cooper starting in November of 2011. We provide opportunities for congregational members and visitors to have fun and fellowship. We try to provide a variety of activities to bring people together in small or large groups. Usually food is involved.

We held two Pancake Breakfasts with donations going to ministries of the church, such as the Adult Work Trip and Partnership for Missional Church Journey. We hosted a bowling afternoon at Pheasant Lanes in February. In June, we attended a Cornbelters baseball game with 22 in attendance. I think they won that afternoon. The fellowship team sponsored the Resurrection Lutheran Softball team that played all summer in the interchurch league out at Champion Fields in Normal. In August, we hosted an All Church Picnic at Anderson Park with over 50 attending. It was a great afternoon for fried chicken and visiting and games as long as you stayed in the shade. The weather was just perfect for a gathering at Rader's Family Farm Fall fellowship in October. Over 40 participated with many kids attending. This was our first time at Radar's and everyone there had a great time.

The fellowship team is looking for suggestions to do that would be kid friendly, if you have any suggestions please let us know. Contact any team member and let us know what you think would be a great activity.

Most of our activities are paid for by those who attend. Our budget subsidizes Sunday morning coffee fellowship, the church picnic main course, part of the softball team registration fee and part of the cost for the fall event. The cost of the pancake breakfasts has been donated by a few families and always a big thank you to Larry & Vicki Huelskoetter for donating the sausage.

Next year our planned events are as follows:

Jan. 21st or 22nd - "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?" (could become a monthly activity)

March 6th – Pancake Breakfast

Late May or early June – Camping trip to Comlara Park

Summer – Co-Sponsor the RLC Softball team

June – Cornbelters Baseball game in Normal

Aug. – All church Picnic

Sept. Pancake Breakfast

Oct. – Fall event at Rader Family Farms Pumpkin Patch, on the NW edge of Normal

Thanks to the team members for their hard work. And, thanks to all of you who have attended our events.

Meal Ministry 2011 Annual Report

"Showing love to God's people by providing meals to those in need."

Those who volunteer for this ministry are asked to provide a simple meal (main dish, side dish, and dessert) for someone who might need help after a birth, hospitalization or during a prolonged illness. Meals can be home cooked or picked up from a grocery store or restaurant.

Thank you to the ten volunteers who provided a total of 15 meals in 2011. Ten families or individuals were served one or more of these meals. The recipients will tell you that during that stressful time in their life, the meals were very much appreciated.

Although the numbers served this past year are fewer than usual, it is known that many members in the congregation have contributed food outside of this "official" ministry, so the caring and sharing is greater than these numbers reflect.

Volunteers are always welcome to support this ministry. If you would like to be a meal provider, please let me know. If you'd like to assist as a coordinator (for a month or so at a time), let me know that as well.

When you're in need of a meal or know of someone who might be able to use one, please call me or the church staff who will contact the current meal ministry coordinator.

Please contact me if you have any questions or suggestions for this ministry.

Serving in Christ's name,

Jane Frieden

Parish Nursing 2011 Annual Report

Good health is a gift we are all thankful for, especially when we encounter illness in any form. To have good health is to be whole in body, mind, and spirit. The Parish Nurse's goal is to be a steward of this ministry and to encourage both individuals and families to promote wellness.

In 2011, Parish nurses, Sharon Hoy and Brenda Hieb, participated in the life of the congregation by conducting monthly blood pressure screenings and providing education about health issues through Spirit articles. We made a variety of home and hospital visits to sick and shut-ins as well as responding to health questions and concerns from RLC members. We report our stats monthly to the Blm-Nml Parish Nurse Organization.

In collaboration with the Women's Ministry Team, we held a "Pretty in Pink Tea Party" to raise awareness for breast cancer. We will hold a follow up event in April of 2012 and will be extending our collaboration in include St Pat's of Merna's parish nurses.

We are blessed to serve RLC in this ministry and also acknowledge other fellow health professionals who assist us. We also collaborate with Pastoral staff on a regular basis.

We hosted another Blood Drive in the spring of 2011.

We can be reached through the church office, by phone or email. We consider it a privilege to share your health concerns and questions, and encourage you to approach us with ways we can assist you and your family.

Prayer Shawl Ministry 2011 Annual Report

By knitting or crocheting shawls, scarves, and lap robes in a spirit of prayer, the Prayer Shawl Ministry reaches out to congregation members, friends, and loved ones who need comfort and solace. As recipients are prayed for during and after the creation of the items, they are provided with a tangible reminder of the congregation's care and concern

In 2011, our team members crocheted or knitted nineteen shawls, lap robes, and scarves that were given to people in need.

One recipient wrote, "I received the beautiful prayer shawl last evening and words can't describe the feeling that came over me. I was so uplifted and comforted by your prayers. Thank you so much – I will treasure it always and remember the power of prayer and what a wonderful ministry we have at RLC for people in a time of need."

Mary Meier oversees communications with the group, and she and Pastor Mary confer on recipients. The knitters and crocheters who participate vary throughout the year.

We plan to continue providing shawls to members and friends experiencing illness or loss. We are also planning on having a Prayer Shawl emphasis during a worship service in early 2012. Both knitters and crocheters can bring shawls to the altar for a blessing, and we will also lift up the ministry in a special prayer.

Knitting and crocheting lessons may also be offered during the spring.

Anyone who would like to participate in the Prayer Shawl Ministry or suggest a shawl recipient should contact Pastor Mary or Mary Meier (663-8252; MaryMeier@reslutheran.org). Patterns and instructions are available.

Small Group Ministry 2011 Annual Report

The Small Group Ministry team provides training, ongoing support and encouragement for persons wishing to lead and launch small groups at RLC. In 2011 new groups were formed, and encouraged through individual meetings, displays, brochures (available at the welcome center and website), postcard invitations, and ***Spirit*** and bulletin articles.

The four primary types of small groups are:

- ***Caring***: providing support for people with a specific need or interest
- ***Being***: building relationships and getting to know people with common interests
- ***Learning***: learning through a Bible study or book study as the primary agenda
- ***Task-oriented***: Focusing on projects or ministry tasks

The following leaders provided leadership for small groups in 2011:

Caring Groups:

Parents of Children with Autism - Pastor Mary Armstrong-Reiner

Being Groups:

RLC Men's Softball Team - Chris Ayers and Kelly Malinowski

Stretch 'N Pray – Karen Ashley/Julie Weilbacher

Dads & Kids - Dave Douglass and Steve Sewell

Meal & Mingle for parents with young children – Courtney Schemmel/Kristina Baumann

Girlfriends Unlimited "G" Groups -

Holiday Shopping Trip - Marcia Fetzer

Beadin' Babes - Wendy Klessig and Pastor Mary Armstrong-Reiner

Learning Groups:

Book of Faith Bible study - Pastor David Armstrong-Reiner, Vicki Erickson, Betsy Huls

Sunday Morning Bible study - Pastor David Armstrong-Reiner and Kathy Eckert

Women's Bible Study and Lunch Group - Pastor Mary Armstrong-Reiner

Women's Book Study - Trudy Vogel and Marla Cerven

Encountering God's Love - Gwen Scott

Friday Morning Prayer and Share - Letha Seip

Noon Book Study for Men and Women - Dawn Dannenbring-Carlson

Summer Book studies – Greg Ekdale, Terri Houchin, Lynne Ekdale, Kathy Neil

Passport to Prayer – Kim Kiser and Kathy Eckert

LifeKeys (finding your gifts) – Marcia Fetzer, Kim Kiser, Michelle Harris,

Debbie Whelton, and Kathy Eckert

Task-Oriented Groups:

Rooted in Faith for "Life on the Vine" - Patti Niehm, Pastors Mary

and David Armstrong-Reiner, Carolyn Bojarowicz, Nancy Kerns

Midweek Prayer Group – Jane Frieden, Betsy Huls, Kathy Eckert, Pastor David

Armstrong-Reiner

Stamping and Making Cards Events - Ann Hill

Fun, Fast & Frozen - Low Impact Cooking - Mayuko Nakamura

Special thanks to Mary Meier and Marcia Fetzer for all their communications expertise and assistance in publicizing small group opportunities.

If you don't see a group that fits your needs or availability, we can help you start one in 2011. Small Group Ministry Team – Sandy McAuley and Kathy Eckert

RLC Women's Ministry 2011 Annual Report

The Girlfriends Unlimited Team continued their leadership through the 2010/2011 school year for RLC's Women's Ministry. The Girlfriends Unlimited national organization went through structural changes. RLC's Women's Ministry Team decided to not continue their membership for another year. During our August 2011 "kick-off" meeting, fall activities were scheduled through the Annual Women's Retreat in 2012.

2011 Activities:

***January 2011**-The Annual Women's Retreat brought 34 members and friends together for 1-1/2 days at RLC. Time was spent in small group Bible study, guided silent meditation, communion worship lead by Pastor Mary, free massages from the Peffer Wellness Center, Stretch N Pray yoga, card stamping for the Neville House and blanket tying for the children of Neville House. Guest speakers included Nancy Stevens, friend of Julie Weilbacher, and Senya Adjabeng, director of Neville House. Nancy shared her medical mission experience in Kenya, Africa and Senya's presentation included the myths and warning signs of domestic violence. The Retreat team included Jane Frieden, Julie Weilbacher, Sherri Watson, Sandy McAuley, Kim Kiser, Carolyn Bojarowicz, Ann Hill, Karen Dahlstrom, and Kathy Eckert.

***February 2011**-As a follow-up to the Women's Retreat, Kim Kiser and Kathy Eckert lead an 8 week Bible study titled "Passport to Prayer". 14 women registered for this global Bible study and prayer experience. Country specific food was shared weekly.

***April 2011**-The first "Pretty in Pink Tea Party" took place in Grace Hall at RLC. 60 RLC women and friends came together to hear Kelli Coldren, Health Promotion Specialist from the McLean County Health Department, speak regarding breast health and breast cancer prevention. Kim Casali, Sharon Hoy's friend and cancer survivor, agreed to share her story. Sharon Hoy and Brenda Hieb, RLC's parish nurses, co-sponsored this event with the Girlfriends Unlimited Team.

***August 2011**-Interested women from RLC met to plan the schedule of events for 2011/2012 school year. The first event was attending the movie called "The Help".

***November 2011**-Pastor Mary sponsored a night of beading at "Garden of Beadin".

***December 2011**-Sherri Watson sponsored an "Arts and Crafts Fair". Each crafter shared a portion of their proceeds to various service areas of RLC. Examples were; LYO and Adopt-A-Family. 31 women attended the Annual Immanuel Bible Foundation's Christmas Celebration on December 10th, 2011 held at the Marriott in Normal.

Coming in 2012:

*Mark your calendars for the Annual Women's Retreat, SeaSide Escape January 27th & 28th, 2012 at RLC. Retreat team leaders include Jane Frieden, Dee Hinrichsen, Sharon Hoy, Julie Weilbacher, Carolyn Bojarowicz, Sherri Watson, Ann Hill, Kim Kiser, and Kathy Eckert.

April 17th, 2012 a community-wide breast cancer awareness event co-sponsored by RLC and St. Pat's of Merna parish nurses with ISU basketball coach, Stephanie Glance, as the guest speaker. This event is to be held at St. Pat's of Merna.

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Weilbacher

Rooted in Faith, Life on the Vine 2011 Annual Report

We offered a four week Sunday morning class this past fall for all interested in joining our church and those who visit our church to share with them about the 6 marks of discipleship, the history of the Lutheran Church in America, the 3 fundamental beliefs of a Lutheran Christian as well as our view on the Sacraments, and a session on who is Resurrection Lutheran Church, what do we believe, and how do we live our faith out in our daily life. We had a number of people attend the sessions and had 5 new members join.

The team welcomed the new members at an all-congregation cookout. Many of the church ministries were shared as well as the new members had the opportunity to meet various leaders of our church.

Our thanks for a wonderful committee that consists of Patti Niehm & Pastor David. Pastor Mary and Marcia Fetzer serve as staff support.

Mutual Ministry Team 2011 Annual Report

Purpose

The Mutual Ministry team is a mission-oriented group that builds on a broad vision of Christian ministry (service to another in the name of Christ) and a healthy practice of mutuality (ministry among the people, including the pastors). It makes use of a small group approach to carry out the ministry tasks of scanning and response in support of RLC's mission. True mutual ministry will not serve either the pastors or congregation, per se, but will always focus on the mission of the congregation.

2011 Activities

- Using the book *Pastors and People: Making Mutual Ministry Work* as background, the team continued to read and discuss journal articles, blogs and book excerpts focused on issues and concerns emerging in organized churches throughout the world. We then made specific applications to the RLC congregation.
- As a product of the afore-mentioned discussions, we identified as a goal helping congregational members seek lives of "Incarnational Living".
- Accordingly, we developed a model entitled "Catalysts and Roadblocks to Incarnational Living". The main points include:
 - Catalysts to Incarnational Living
 - Kingdom of God...Ideally Envisioned, Imperfectly Realized
 - Assembly of the Saints in Coffee Houses
 - Service
 - Small Groups
 - Roadblocks to Incarnational Living
 - Leadership Structures That Inhibit Growth
 - Changing/Conflicting Expectations of What Worship Should Be
 - Realities of the World
 - Passive Consumerism by Members
- Team members gave two presentations to the RLC Congregation Council Retreat in April 2011 entitled:
 - "A Model: Catalysts and Roadblocks to Incarnational Living"
 - "-Ship Happens: Leadership in the Church and How it Differs from Management"

- Support and organizational assistance promoting and ensuring a successful pastoral sabbatical.
- Support during the investigational stages of the Partnership for Missional Church proposal.

2011 Team Members

- Pastor David Armstrong-Reiner
- Pastor Mary Armstrong-Reiner
- Karen Dahlstrom
- Kathy Eckert
- Greg Ekdale
- Betsy Huls
- Kelly Malinowski

Note: all members share leadership on a rotating basis

2012 Goals

- The Mutual Ministry team team is excited about the goal of moving RLC into incarnational living, where Saturday and Sunday services support and inspire members to live our faith every day. We will continue to discuss obstacles and catalysts to reaching this goal.
- As a specific effort to support catalysts to incarnational living and minimize roadblocks to incarnational living, the Mutual Ministry Team has accepted as its charge for 2012 to focus on the Partnership for Missional Church effort. This includes (but is not limited to) the following endeavors:
 - Pray for Council to lead the PMC effort and to assemble the various PMC teams
 - Read the book *We Are Here Now*.
 - Become knowledgeable about PMC so we can be a resource for the church
 - Support PMC any way we can
 - Be early adopters of PMC and the initiatives it offers

RLC Personnel Team 2011 Annual Report

Structure and Purpose

The RLC personnel Team will be a sub group of the church council. It will consist of the Pastor(s), the Administrator, two council members and a church member at large. The team will be used as a resource, provide support and coaching to the supervisors. The team will also evaluate and maintain the employee manual, job descriptions, employee review process, employee benefits and records.

2011 Accomplishments

This past year is the first year with the new structure of the Personnel Team. The structure has served us well enabling the team to complete the reworking of the Employee Review Process. The Personnel Team reviewed all the job descriptions for consistency and accuracy. Council will review and finalize all revisions and updates with in the 1st quarter of 2012. Members of the Personnel Team were Pastor David, Mandy Fischer, and Nikki Houseman. We would like to thank Paul Augsburg for his help with the Employee Review Process.

2012 Work

In 2012, the Personnel Team will focus on the updating and revising of the RLC Employee Manual.

Partnership for Missional Church (PMC) at RLC 2011 Annual Report

Partnership for Missional Church is an opportunity for congregations and their members to set forth on a spiritual journey of discovery. The purpose of this voyage is to help churches rediscover who they are and how they can be a part of God's promised future. RLC Council voted to pursue this opportunity in November 2011 after seeing the congregation's positive response as it came to understand the nature and purpose of the partnership. Our partners for the journey include Church Innovations, 2 fellow congregations from CSIS (First Lutheran of Decatur and Our Savior of Normal), and most importantly God.

A Steering Team was formed to lead the congregation in Dwelling in the Word, to oversee logistics of the process, and keep the end in sight.

A Listening Team has been formed who will meet with individuals to listen to answers to prescribed questions and integrate these responses into the narrative of our past, present, and future.

All RLC members and friends were/are invited to join us in praying for this journey.

The first leg of our journey, which will continue through most of 2012, emphasizes listening and discovering our partners. We listen to God through revitalizing spiritual practices such as "Dwelling in the Word" and prayer. We listen to each other through listening experiences such as the upcoming Time Line Event and our Listening Team's with one-on-one interviews. We listen to our partner churches through the Cluster events.

RLC Council, Steering Team, and Listening Team met with Church Innovations and our partner churches at our first cluster event in December. We were given an orientation to the PMC process, became more familiar with our partners, and learned about some best practices to help us with our upcoming assignments.

We continue to need all members to pray for the Holy Spirit to be the wind in our sails on this voyage.

We will continue to need different gifts and talents as we cross these uncharted waters. Our next phase will have us experimenting in mission and a whole new set of gifts will be needed. We hope you will say yes when an opportunity arises.

Our next event will be the Mardi Gras (Fat Sunday) Time Line Event scheduled for February 19th. Please join us for a festive and enlightening look at "our past on our way to the future", while rediscovering God in our midst.

PMC Steering Team

Patti Niehm, Larry Huelskoetter, JoAnn Reith, Eric Luckey, Michael Nicklas and Kathy Eckert

Service Team 2011 Annual Report

The service team is comprised of members who represent specific outreach ministries that RLC supports throughout the year. The Service Team coordinates, nurtures, and facilitates outreach ministries currently active at Resurrection and evaluates potential outreach service opportunities for the congregation. The Service Team members are an advisory board to the Council.

The Service Team meets twice per year receiving updates from each outreach ministry group regarding their goals, opportunities, and events. Service Team members keep the congregation informed of the many ways that they can be involved with a program, and support the ministries with prayer, time, talents, and financial support.

The Service Team selects the outreach ministries to receive funds from the Lenten/Easter and Thanksgiving/Advent/Christmas offerings.

The 2011 offerings were distributed as follows:

- Lent/Easter offering - the Troester's our ELCA missionaries, the ELCA Malaria Initiative and the Sunset Gap Adult Work Trip Mission
- Thanksgiving/Advent/Christmas offerings - Bloomington Township Community Care Fund, Habitat for Humanity, Faith in Action and \$200 to the ELCA Good Gifts project. The Sunday school children voted on the barnyard animals to be purchased with the \$200 ELCA Good Gift funds.

The Service Team consists of the following people:

Contact/Support - Pastor Mary Armstrong-Reiner

Chairperson/coordinator - Jaylene Taubert

Habitat for Humanity - Kevin Fuhman

Safe Harbor - Viola Freimann

Faith In Action - Letha Seip

Friends of the Children of Haiti (FOTCOH) – Paul Vogel

Illinois Peoples Action – Dawn Dannenbring-Carlson

Midwest Food Bank - Debbie Peters

Adopt a Family – Heather Young

Clare House – representative pending

The Service Team members work hard to promote the work of all RLC outreach ministry opportunities.

Faith in Action 2011 Annual Report

Faith In Action is an interfaith community program of coalition congregations and organizations that provide practical help, spiritual support and emotional assistance to senior citizens in the Bloomington-Normal area. Volunteers can provide transportation to medical appointments, shopping assistance, friendly in-home visits, telephone reassurance calls and limited home repair or maintenance. Resurrection Lutheran presently has 9 members volunteering their time in these various activities. The client list continues to grow as our senior citizens realize the value of this mission. There is minimal training and you decide how many hours you want to volunteer. It is our hope that we can expand our list of volunteers during 2011 and continue to help our senior citizens maintain and independent lifestyle.

Together in Service,
Letha Seip, Faith in Action liaison.

FOTCOH 2011 Annual Report

RLC and Thrivent support the mission of Friends of the Children of Haiti (www.fotcoh.org) in many substantial ways. In 2011, the congregation and grants from Thrivent supported FOTCOH financially in their mission **to bring medicine and basic healthcare to the people of Haiti—most of all the children**. FOTCOH carries out its mission with several programs, all of which are supported by RLC. FOTCOH conducts six medical team clinics in Cyvadier, Haiti. Last year, eight members of RLC volunteered a total of nine times for these clinic teams. FOTCOH has 300 children sponsored for school tuition and basic needs. RLC and RLC members sponsor several of these children. RLC members serve as officers, members of the Board of Directors and team leaders of FOTCOH. Through our financial support, RLC underwrites some of the costs for medication, infant food (Medika Mamba) and water (clay water filter factory) at the clinic. This year, FOTCOH received support from RLC to begin a patient education program including the use of infant dolls to teach mothers how to feed their babies and a video production to encourage patients to follow their doctor's orders when taking medication. FOTCOH continues to prosper and meet its mission through generous support like that it receives from RLC.

Habitat for Humanity 2011 Annual Report

RLC again partnered with Habitat for Humanity, and other area Lutheran churches, in 2011, working this year to help build a new home for Kayci Butler and her son, Jubar Thornton. Those involved at the build site at various times included: Kevin and Susan Fuhrman; Dale Scott; Dan Hinrichsen; Mark, Karen and Chris Bohl; Brian Ahrendt; Melissa Graffy; and Matt and Josh Sterrett. We were also joined on the last two work days by some youth who were working in the area on behalf of AmeriCorps. And local Thrivent staff member Michelle Shultz and her husband Steve helped out on our first build Saturday in June. A special thanks also to Deb Bengston-Ahrendt for providing (home-made!) snacks on a couple of different occasions. Habitat also received a grant from Thrivent Financial this year, which covered roughly 50% of the material cost of the house, based on having certain minimum participation levels from both Lutheran church and Thrivent members at the work site. A portion of the Advent and Christmas offerings were also donated to the local Habitat Chapter. Thanks to everyone for their contributions in many various ways in 2011.



Illinois People's Action ■ 510 E. Washington Street, Suite 309 ■ Bloomington, IL 61701 ■ (309) 827-9627

Illinois People's Action- 2011 Summary for Member Churches

IPA Vision: Illinois People's Action vision is to live in a state where our shared core values of justice, empowerment and family become the norm. To bring that vision into reality, we engage in faith-based community organizing and leadership training with congregations, labor, ethnic and grassroots groups in the state of Illinois.

Mission: It is the mission of IPA to:

- Address the causes of injustice and not just its symptoms.
- Benefit families, neighborhoods and the state through concrete and measurable changes.
- Create a new civic dialogue based on citizen participation in decision making.
- Develop highly trained and representative leaders who are capable of acting effectively in the public arena.
- Establish and work within a statewide paradigm of community building and empowerment.

Founded: IPA was founded in 1996 as the Central Illinois Organizing Project. It originated out of an exploratory process with clergy and lay leaders who expressed a need to address issues of social and economic injustice in Central Illinois. It was granted non-profit 501(c) 3 status in 2001.

Membership: IPA has developed a cohesive institutional membership of 49 congregations, non-profit grassroots groups and ethnic organizations. Twelve churches in Bloomington/Normal are members. The member organizations represent a diverse population, 3/4 are faith communities; 2/5 work within predominantly African-American communities, and 1/5 work within Latino communities. IPA is different from coalitions (which are generally ad hoc in nature and time-limited in existence), single-issue groups and service agencies and charitable organizations. Our members work collectively to create a more just society.

Staff: IPA employs 5 full and part-time staff

Geographic scope

Illinois People's Action has organizational membership from each of the major communities of downstate Illinois. These communities include: Bloomington-Normal, Champaign/Urbana/Danville, Decatur, East St. Louis, Peoria, and Springfield. These cities represent the fastest growing communities in Illinois.

Past and Present Issue Organizing

- Payday Lending- capping interest rates at 36%
- Foreclosures- changing policies and practices to keep families in their homes
- Immigration- comprehensive immigration reform and immigrant rights
- Homelessness- a "housing is a human right" campaign
- Farming- support for family farms and rural communities
- Community Economic Development- job creation and support for community economic development
- Leadership Training- developing and preparing leaders for civic engagement

Primary Focus in 2011-

Predatory Lending:

The Bible tells the story of Jesus throwing the money changers out of the temple. We have a similar problem today. Communities all across Illinois lose millions of dollars each year to fringe financial products and services. With 7 payday outlets, RLC's home community of Bloomington/Normal loses a minimum of \$1,132,243 annually to these lenders who charge 400% interest—interest rates the Bible would describe as usury. The working poor, who are lured by the ease of taking out a loan and the false rhetoric that they can be easily paid off, often find themselves trapped in a cycle of debt they cannot afford. With their money tied up repaying loans, they often rely on local churches and food banks to meet their basic needs. IPA is involved in a campaign called "CAP 36" which would cap interest rates on payday loans at 36%. This is the legal limit the federal government set several years ago for active members of the military.

In 2011, IPA began a statewide campaign to cap payday loans at the local level across the state using home rule to pass municipal ordinances. The campaign has been well-received by the general public; thousands of petitions have been signed supporting a 36% cap. Unfortunately, the threat of litigation by the industry has caused many of our elected officials to develop cold feet. In place of an ordinance, some municipalities are passing resolutions requesting that this issue be revisited by the state legislature. Bloomington City Council was the first municipality to pass such a resolution. On this issue in 2011, IPA:

- Met with 27 alderpersons in four Central Illinois cities,
- Obtained 8 earned media stories on the issue,
- Had actions involving over 300 leaders,
- Involved the Bloomington and Springfield Occupy movements on the issue
- Met with leaders from over 26 states who have expressed interest in collaborating on this issue on a national level
- Met with IL Attorney General Lisa Madigan's office, the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, and a host of advocacy groups to discuss extending statewide organizing efforts to include car title lending.
- Obtained one city-wide resolution urging the state to revisit the issue (Bloomington), with two cities (Normal and Decatur) poised to follow suit very soon. Working on city-wide ordinances to cap payday lending in Springfield and Champaign/Urbana.

Immigrant Rights Organizing:

Leviticus 19:33-34 says, "*You shall treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you... for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.*" IPA's immigrant organizing takes that message to heart as we try to create a more just society for immigrants who are in our midst. Through its member group Latinos United for Change (IPA/LUC), we are working on two separate fronts on this issue:

- Training immigrant and Latino families regarding their rights as workers and as people living in the U.S. through "Know Your Rights" trainings.
- Tackling the abuse of power in the Immigrations and Customs Enforcement (ICE) system. By empowering the community to engage county law enforcement on their role in the incarceration food chain, IPA/LUC strives to insure that immigrants are not unfairly arrested and detained, or separated from their loved ones. IPA/LUC has worked to get earned media stories in the local media (Pantagraph and radio) that tells the human cost of immoral detention.

Foreclosures:

In Matthew and Luke, Jesus is quoted as saying, *"Foxes have their dens and birds have their nests. But the son of man has nowhere to lay his head..."* IPA continues to organize on foreclosures. One in every 45 children in America is now homeless. One child in every classroom in America is now living with a family facing foreclosure. Seniors face a similar dilemma. When senior citizen, Chester Mae Stepney, received an envelope from the bank earlier this year, she thought it was a notice from the bank telling her she was done making her mortgage loan payments. Imagine her surprise when she opened the envelope and read that she had a \$19,000 balloon payment that was due immediately or she would lose her home. Living on a low fixed income, she didn't know where to turn. She called the NAACP and they called us. We negotiated with the bank and the outcome was a happy one; Mrs. Stepney will get to keep her home.

IPA continues to meet with Attorney General, Lisa Madigan, urging her to push for a stronger settlement with the big banks that will lead to relief for families facing foreclosure or homeowners who are grossly underwater. The price tag of American homes that are currently underwater is \$700 BILLION. As the settlement now stands, the A.G. settlement would let the big banks off with an \$18 billion fine and release them from all responsibility (even illegal acts) that led to the housing collapse. These are the same big banks that created the crisis through unsafe and unsound lending practices and that crashed our economy. IPA continues to organize for safe and sound lending practices that are transparent and that serve the needs of the community.

Lutheran World Relief Coffee Project 2011 Annual Report

Team Members: Trudy Vogel and Alan Meier

RLC is a participating member of The Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Coffee Project. Lutheran World Relief partners with Equal Exchange, a worker-owned cooperative committed to the principles of fair trade:

- To pay a fair price with a guaranteed minimum, ensuring the farmers a fair return for their labors.
- To work with cooperatives that are owned and governed by the small-scale farmers themselves.
- To buy directly from the farmers, so the benefits of trade go to the farmers and their communities.
- To provide credit that farmers can afford, helping them break the cycle of debt.
- To encourage ecologically sustainable farming practices, such as organic and shade-grown agriculture, which build a long-term economic base for farmers while protecting community health and the environment.
- To develop long-term trade partnerships based on trust and respect

Equal Exchange coffee is served during the Sunday School hour and other fellowship events. In addition, Equal Exchange coffee, cocoa, and tea can be purchased for personal use from a display shelf in the narthex. These purchases help subsidize the cost of the fellowship coffee.

Since RLC began participating in the LWR Coffee Project in 2002, our financial goal, has been to break even. In 2011 we sold \$1035 of Equal Exchange products, and we achieved our goal of breaking even.

All products are of the highest quality. We have a variety of items to choose from - tea, coffee, chocolate, and cocoa. We encourage those who do not participate to try one – buy one – give one. We are certain you will be pleased, and you can be proud that you are helping to support fair trade with those who desperately need the income. Feel good about the great taste!

Safe Harbor 2011 Annual Report

We are serving meals twice a month at Safe Harbor. Our mission there is very rewarding and very much appreciated. We try to serve the people there a variety of menus and we also try to incorporate fresh vegetables. Chris and I would like to thank everyone who contributes food and monetary donation we could not do it without the help of our great congregation. Also a special thanks to LYO without their help serving twice a month would be very difficult.

If you have never served at Safe Harbor maybe in this New Year you should give it a try and you will find that you walk away with great joy in your heart when you see how much the people there appreciate our help and how necessary it is to continue our mission there.

With the continued help of all of us I hope we can do our deeds at Safe Harbor for a long time.

Thank you all,

Chris Ayers and Viola Freimann

Worship Planning Team 2011 Annual Report

The Worship Planning Team exists for the purpose of evaluation and overseeing the functions that allow for a meaningful worship service. There are three services which are Alive at Five on Saturdays at 5:00, on Sundays at 8:15 which is traditional and also on Sundays at 10:45 which is contemporary. Another function is music which is led by Jerry Worden at the 5:00 and 10:45 services and 8:15 service led by Doug Reiners. Special services are also planned by this team for the various seasons of the church year. Sub-teams are the Worship Music Planning Team and Visual Enhancements Team

Worship Music Planning is done once a month by Music Director Doug Reiners and Doug welcomes anyone wishing to participate in this planning to contact him and join in the process.

Visual Enhancement Team is responsible for changing the banners in the sanctuary, the Easter Garden and the Poinsettias at Christmas time.

Pastors David and Mary, during their sabbaticals this past summer, visited many other churches and particularly Pastor David researched the Emerging Church concept. We continue to be open to those ideas.

For the summer months, we held one service on Sunday morning rather than the regular two and blended the traditional and contemporary styles of worship at that one service. We then conducted a survey for the purpose of receiving feedback from the congregation so that we could use that information in planning next year's worship schedule.

Rick Ludwig resigned from the team and as chairperson during this last year. The team is greatly appreciative of Rick's leadership over his many years of service on the worship team.

We welcome any person(s) willing to serve on the team. We meet usually once per month. We also welcome any comments/suggestions that will help our worship services to be more meaningful. This can be done by contacting any one of the following members on the team or by attending a worship planning meeting.

Team members are Karen Young, chair; Jerry Worden, Doug Reiners, Marcia Fetzer, Mark Bohl, Council Liaison, and Pastor David Armstrong-Reiner.

Altar Guild 2011 Annual Report

The Altar Guild exists to maintain the altar, candles, and purificators weekly. In addition, the altar frontlet is changed to the appropriate color for the church season.

The Altar Guild is also responsible for purchasing communion supplies (special thanks to Karen Ashley for her purchasing duties!).

Team members for 2011 were: Judy Reiter, Karen Ashley, Diane Nord, Rona Eyer, and Sandy McAuley. Thanks for our faithful workers!

Assignments are made for a month at a time, and can be performed anytime during the week. We are always looking for more members!

Judy

RLC Adult Choir 2011 Annual Report

The RLC adult choir provides an opportunity for fellowship for anyone who enjoys singing as a form of worship. Members of the choir provided anthems for many of the 8:15 and 10:45 Sunday services and also special numbers and cantoring support for Lenten, Advent, and holiday services during 2011. Members of the choir also enjoyed several opportunities to join other congregation members in providing special music for BroMenn patients during Be Resurrection Sunday in the spring and sang carols for residents of Bickford House and at the homes of several members during Advent. Thanks to choir members who were willing to volunteer as first time cantors for Holden Evening Prayer and a new liturgy used during Lenten Services, as well as those who provided special vocal and instrumental numbers during our Christmas Eve worship services. Also in 2011, the choir was able to use some budget money to purchase about 20 additional pieces from a music sale at the Immanuel Bible Foundation which they will begin preparing in 2012. The choir averages about 15 members and rehearses during the Sunday School hour throughout the school year, with occasional Wednesday evening rehearsals as needed. More voices are always welcome! For more information, please contact Doug Reiners or Jane Frieden.

Wings and Prayers 2011 Annual Report

In surveying the McLean County area, we discovered that there is a need for an adapted worship service where people of all ages with developmental disabilities could feel comfortable and welcomed. Our Wings and Prayers Worship service has enjoyed two full years of serving these special friends and their families and care-givers. Our goal continues to be to provide an open atmosphere where all God's children will feel free to connect with and worship Him.

This ecumenical service is a joint venture between RLC, Wayman African Methodist Episcopal (AME) and Eastview Christian Church and meets every 3rd Sunday of the month at 3 p.m. A time of fellowship follows the service where our goal is to build relationships with families. Special activities this year included hosting a meal after our service in December and hosting a special puppet play service.

Team Members include: Reverend Cheree' Johnson, Reverend Mary Armstrong-Reiner, Lois Smit, Jane Frieden, Sandy McAuley, Chris McAuley, Courtney Schemmel, JoAnn Reith, Lynne Ekdale, Karen Ashley, Susy Marcum, various ISU and IWU students and many family members. Our attendance fluctuates between 15-40 participants.

We welcome new team members and ask our church to please lift our Wings & Prayers Ministry up in prayer! Please direct any questions to Susy Marcum or Pastor Mary.