“Sorting, Cleaning, and Packing during Lent

We read in Luke’s Gospel that very shortly after his Transfiguration, Jesus set his face to go to Jerusalem. All that he was doing – his movement and focus – was on Jerusalem, the city of his impending death. During Lent, we too are asked to set our face on Jerusalem. We are to remember the mission Jesus Christ came to earth to fulfill. We are to prepare ourselves for the events of Holy Week and the Cross.

Lent is a time to search our hearts and minds and to ask God to “clean” them, make them new, and set them on his will. Lent, therefore, is a journey for us to a “new home,” a renewed relationship with Jesus.

Journeys to “new homes” are not always easy. Just ask anyone who has moved recently. I know when we moved to Bloomington/Normal the details seemed overwhelming at times. There was the “sorting” and “cleaning” and “packing.” What items do we need to move, what can we give away, and what do we simply throw away? I am still amazed that all our stuff fit in the moving van and made it in one piece cross country. However, moving is about more than our physical stuff. When someone moves, there are also emotional and spiritual possessions that they move with them. I know that for us the excitement, wonder, joys, and hopes of settling into life in Bloomington/Normal are in some ways still with us.

However not all was “new.” We are still the Deckinger family, and we brought with us all the family interactions, personalities, and quirks that we had in California. Even the ones we would have liked to have left behind found their way here. Why? Because those feelings, thoughts, and relationships are not something we can just box up or place in the trash.

If Lent is a journey for us to a “new home,” a renewed relationship with Jesus, what do we pack in our hearts and minds to bring with us? If we are to set our faces on the cross during our journey, what will we need to ask Christ to “sort and clean” within us? What are the “moving crates” we are perhaps needlessly transporting with us?

Continued on Next Page
Sorting, Cleaning, and Packing during Lent, continued

This year during our Lenten Learning Series with Res Rac and Friends, the Body Builders and PMC Teams invite you to imagine a life free from extra baggage. Imagine relocation to a Christ-centered life that provides comfort, security, and, best of all, a community in which we learn how to better communicate with and truly welcome others. I invite you all to join us on Wednesday nights as we pack and load our “moving vans for this relocation.

God’s peace

Pastor Brian

Congregational Meeting to Elect Council Members

Sunday, March 13; 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

On Sunday, March 13, the voting members of Resurrection Lutheran Church will elect Congregation Council members in a process similar to what we did last year:

9:30 a.m.: Opening of meeting announced
Business introduced – election of new Council members*
Nominations taken from the floor (If you are intending to nominate someone from the floor, you must be present at this time)

9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Open voting – Voting members may stop by the table to vote at any time.
10:30 a.m. Voting closed, votes counted, and meeting adjourned.
*Names of Nominees will be announced when available.

RLC Online Sign-Up Forms

We are trying a new approach to People Power and several other opportunities by using a free online service called SignUpGenius to line up our volunteers. In addition, we have set up two event registration forms on the RLC website.

All of the forms can be accessed from the RLC website home page – www.reslutheran.org. Look for the “Sign Up Online” button below the church photo.

Current SignUpGenius Forms:

Spring 2016 (March, April, and May) Worship People Power
http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0f4eae62ca0fb6-worship

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday Worship People Power
http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0f4eae62ca0fb6-maundy

Easter Breakfast Food Donations
http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0f4eae62ca0fb6-easter

Sign-up sheets are also posted in the Narthex. Note that there may be some lag time in transferring names from one form to another.

SignUpGenius will send you a reminder several days before the event.

Current Website Event Registration Forms:

Lavender Springs Spa Women’s Retreat – Friday, April 29, and Saturday, April 30
http://www.reslutheran.org/lavender-springs-spa-registration.html

Group Work Camp for High School Students in Bloomington-Normal – July 3 to 9
http://www.reslutheran.org/group-work-camp-registration.html

Contact Mary Meier (663-8252; MaryMeier@reslutheran.org) with questions. This is a pilot program using online forms, so feedback on how we can improve the process is appreciated.
March 5 to 13 RLC Ministry Calendar

Sat., 3/5  No RLC Ministry Events Scheduled
Sun., 3/6  **Worship, 8:15 and 10:45 a.m.**
            New Members Class, 9:30 a.m.
            Pre-K through 5th-grade Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.
            Zero 39, 9:30 a.m.
            “The Historical Roots to the Crisis in Syria” Forum, 9:30 a.m.
            Choir Rehearsal, 9:30 a.m.
            March 12 **Spirit Deadline**

Mon., 3/7  Care Team, 1 p.m.

Tues., 3/8  Wellspring Homeschool Group, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Ed Wing
            Grace Hall in Use, 6 to 9 p.m.
            Worship Team, 6:30 p.m.

Weds., 3/9  Grace Hall in Use, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
            Lenten Soup Supper, 6 p.m.
            Lenten Learning Series
            with Res Rac and Friends, 6:45 p.m.
            “Beyond the Coffee Cup?”
            Thrive Program @ St. John’s, 6:45 p.m.

Thurs., 3/10 Praise Team Practice, 6 p.m.

Fri., 3/11  Crafting Group, 6 p.m.

Sat., 3/12  Grace Hall in Use, 5 to 10 p.m.

Sun., 3/13  **Worship, 8:15 and 10:45 a.m.**
            Pre-K through 5th-grade Sunday School, 9:30 a.m.
            Congregational Meeting to Elect Council Members, 9:30 a.m.
            “The ELCA’s Response to the Syrian Refugee Crisis,” 9:30 a.m.
            Choir Rehearsal, 9:30 a.m.
            LYO @ Houchin’s, 6:01 p.m.
            March 19 **Spirit Deadline**

March 6 Scripture & Prayer


Reflection The psalm sets the tone this day: “Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!” Happy are those who have “become the righteousness of God” in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has “rolled away . . . the disgrace” of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus’ sake. Rejoice!

Prayer of the Day: God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism, clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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Advocate BroMenn Partners in Healing

During the month of March, we pray for the patients and staff of the Advocate BroMenn Hospital Outpatient Invasive Cardiology and Cardiac Catheterization Lab as well as all medical facilities that provide catheterization services. Advocate BroMenn’s six-bed Outpatient Invasive Cardiology Unit serves patients undergoing cardiac catheterization procedures related to blood flow to the heart and other parts of the body. Many Cath Lab patients undergo angioplasty with stents, or small tubes, inserted to keep blocked arteries open, while others may need cardiac bypass surgery.
We Are Hosting a
Children’s Easter Celebration
Saturday, March 26 from 10 a.m. to noon
All are welcome – Invite your friends, neighbors, children, and grandchildren
No registration required—just show up
Lunch will be provided. Bring your Easter basket!

Help and Donations Needed for Children’s Easter Celebration
For our Children’s Easter Celebration on March 26, help is needed to run games, crafts, and the Easter Egg Hunt, as well as to set up, serve, and clean up our simple lunch.
Donations needed include plastic Easter eggs, wrapped candy, small prizes for games, food, and paper items for lunch.
Please sign up on the Kiosk to help or contribute items. To make a cash donation to help cover costs, an envelope is under the sign up. Please make checks out to RLC with “Egg Hunt” in the memo line.

Easter Garden
Help Decorate Our Sanctuary
Sign Up and Pay by Sunday, March 13
You are invited to help decorate our Sanctuary for Easter by purchasing a lily, chrysanthemum, daffodil, or geranium. Costs for the plants range from $12 to $14. Flowers may be dedicated in honor or in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving for blessings received or a special occasion. The sign-up sheet is posted on the Kiosk in the Narthex. Please sign up by March 13 and place your check made out to Resurrection in the marked envelope with “Easter Garden” noted in the memo line.

Lent and Easter Offerings to Adult Work Trip
April 30 to May 7
The Lenten and Easter offerings will provide funding for the RLC Adult Work Trip to Sunset Gap in Cosby, Tennessee, from April 30 to May 7. Please write “Lent or Easter” in the memo line of your checks. Special envelopes are available at the usher stand in the Sanctuary.
Please contact Rich Biesterfeld by April 1 if you plan to participate in the work trip or need additional information.

Lavender Springs Spa Women’s Retreat
Friday, April 29, and Saturday, April 30
“Lavender Springs Spa: Where Women Rest in God’s Faithfulness,” the 2016 Women’s Ministry Retreat will take place at RLC on Friday, April 29, from 5:30 to 10 p.m. and Saturday, April 30, from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
All women of RLC, along with their family and friends, are invited to share a refreshing, relaxing experience, as we focus on how the Psalms can help us share our feelings, disappointments, celebrations, and doubts with God.
The cost, which includes all materials and three meals, is $35 by April 3 and $40 from April 4 on. Please make checks out to Resurrection with “Retreat” in the memo and place them in the black box at the display in the RLC Narthex.
Please register online at http://www.reslutheran.org/lavender-springs-spa-registration.html or pick up a paper form from the display.
Lenten Learning Series with RES RAC and Friends
March 2 to March 16

Each Wednesday, we will gather for soup and fellowship starting at 6 p.m. Then, from 6:45 to 8 p.m., RES RAC and Friends will be leading us through several different fun and interactive learning experiences:

- March 2 – Telling Your Story . . . To Darth Vader
  (rescheduled from February 24)
- March 9 – When Did I See You?
- March 16 – Beyond the Coffee Cup

Thank you to our Body Builders and PMC teams for working with RES RAC and Friends to bring us these insightful evenings.

March Adult Forums

Join us on Sundays from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in Grace Hall for our March Adult Forums:

Sunday, March 6 – "The Historical Roots to the Crisis in Syria" led by Mike Weis

  Michael Weis is Professor and Chair of the Department of History at Illinois Wesleyan University. He teaches courses on US foreign relations, recent US history, and Latin America. He is a specialist on United States Foreign Relations and is the author of many works on the subject. He received his Ph.D. from The Ohio State University.

Sunday, March 13 – "The ELCA Response to the Syrian Refugee Crisis" led by Gretchen Snow


Sunday, March 27 – Easter Breakfast / No Forum

“Example and Encouragement”
March 6-12 Lenten Devotional Series

The “Making Sense of the Cross” devotional theme for March 6 to 12 is “Example and Encouragement,” based on Luke 15:11-24:

“Love, love, love. That’s what it’s all about. ‘Cause God loves us we love each other...” That pretty well sums up this way of understanding the cross of Christ. Jesus’ life, teaching, and death exemplify perfect love that moves us and empowers us to love one another. We’re not forgiven through the cross of Christ; the cross of Christ demonstrates that God loves us enough to forgive us.

See the end of this newsletter for an “Example and Encouragement” devotion. Weekly and daily devotions along with activity pages for kids will be provided. To subscribe to the daily email devotions, go to http://www.reslutheran.org/subscribe-to-devotions.html.

Eco-Bit
Earth-Saving, Energy-Saving Tips and Tidbits

Introduction to Permaculture – On Monday, March 14, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., the Illinois Prairie Wild Ones chapter is hosting a free presentation by Caron Wenzel at the Mennonite Church of Normal.

The program will cover the main highlights of the design principals of sustainability known as Permaculture, which helps people easily access ways to care for the earth and people. For details and directions, see http://illinoisprairie.wildones.org/events/introduction-to-permaculture.
The American Passion Play, Bloomington
RLC Fundraising Opportunity

The American Passion Play has created a special program this year. Churches that take ticket orders for one of the eligible 2016 performance dates at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts will receive 50% of the proceeds, or $10 for each ticket sold.

For more information, visit their web site at: www.americanpassionplay.org

Available performances are:
- Saturday, March 5, 2016 @ 1:00 p.m.
- Saturday, March 12, 2016 @ 1:00 p.m.
- Sunday, March 20, 2016 @ 1:00 p.m.
- Saturday, April 2, 2016 @ 1:00 p.m.

To place an order for tickets to this year’s performance of The American Passion Play, contact Kathy Neil. Please allow one week for processing if possible. Sorry, no refunds.

New Members Class
Sunday March 6; 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.
Pastor Brian will be holding a class for those who are interested in becoming a member of Resurrection Lutheran Church (RLC). In this class, we will cover the basics of what membership at RLC means, ways to get involved beyond worship attendance, and some of RLC’s history. New members will be received on Palm Sunday, March 20, as part of worship. Please contact Pastor Brian (pastorbrian@reslutheran.org; 925-640-6471) to express your interest.

Giving and Attendance

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This information is preliminary and has not been verified by the Financial Secretary, so it may change slightly after verification. For detailed financial information, see the RLC website Member Pages (http://www.reslutheran.org/apps/member/login). For an invitation to sign up for access to the Member Pages, please contact Mary Meier (MaryMeier@reslutheran.org).

Group Work Camp for High School Students
A Group Work Camp will be held in Bloomington-Normal from July 3 to 9. See http://groupmissiontrips.com/workcamps/locations/bloomington-il/?tid=13473 for information and http://www.reslutheran.org/group-work-camp-registration.html for a registration form. The sign-up deadline is Sunday, March 20. Contact Pastor Brian with questions.
Delegate Executive Committee

Chair
Dr. Todd Kettering
Mennonite Church of Normal

Vice-Chair
The Rev. Kelley Becker
First Christian Church, Bloomington

Immediate Past Chair
The Rev. Bryan Miller
Roanoke Mennonite Church

Vice-Chair Elect/Parish Nurse Representative
Ms. Jo Samara
First Presbyterian Church of Danvers

Members at Large
Ms. Nancy Aldridge
Eureka United Methodist Church
The Rev. Christine McNeal
St. John’s Lutheran Church, Bloomington
The Rev. Paul Stroup
Second Presbyterian Church, Bloomington

Advocate BroMenn Mission & Spiritual Care
PO Box 2850
Bloomington, IL 61702-2850

The Rev. Chereé Johnson
Coordinator for Church Relations
309.268.3504
cheree.johnson@advocatehealth.com

The importance of dental care for children
By: Advocate Health Care
February 2016

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), tooth decay is the most common chronic disease among children in the United States. While some may think that dental care and hygiene for children aren’t important because kids don’t have their “adult teeth” yet, nothing could be further from the truth. Tooth decay can have a serious – and sometimes permanent – effect on a child’s development and overall health:

- Tooth decay can result in pain and infection, sometimes requiring costly treatments and surgery that require time off from school.
- Children with tooth decay may lack confidence about their appearance and may be embarrassed to speak or smile in the presence of other people. This can have a negative impact on a child’s social and speech development.
- Tooth decay can make it painful for children to chew food and get the nutrition that their growing bodies need.

The American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Dental Association recommend that parents and caregivers take babies for their first dental visit by the time they turn one or when they get their first tooth. Dentists and hygienists can examine the baby’s mouth to check for possible problems and can teach parents and caregivers how to provide good oral hygiene.

Another thing to consider is that healthy habits are often best learned when we are young. If a child grows up in a household that encourages good oral health habits, such as regular flossing and brushing after each meal, he or she is likely to continue these habits into adulthood. Seeing siblings and parents brush and floss sets a great example for little ones, too.

Faith communities have a role to play in encouraging children to care for their teeth. Parish nurses and other pastoral care providers can provide information to families with children about dental care. Community members who supervise children’s activities can encourage parents and children to send along toothbrushes and toothpaste so that kids can brush after snacks or meals. After all, children’s oral health matters.

Resources: Advocatehealth.com • American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry: mychildrensteeth.org, American Dental Association: ada.org

Dear God, we thank you for the communities in which we have conversations, share meals and support each other. Remind us to guard and cherish these relationships. Amen.

Advocate BroMenn Medical Center
Making Sense of the Cross by David Lose describes several dominant atonement theories in our Christian history which attempt to explain the cross and its meaning. The author notes that one theory alone does not encompass the whole meaning for us.

The theologian Origen, in the first ten centuries of Christian believers, emphasized the struggle between God and the devil, and the need to pay a ransom to free humanity from the devil’s hold.

During the Middle Ages, Archbishop of Canterbury Anselm promoted the idea that someone needed to take the punishment for sin, and Jesus willingly becomes our substitute sacrifice to satisfy the imbalance in God’s justice system. The church further cements that imbalance by establishing confession, penance, and absolution.

Monk Abelard, also of the Middle Ages, encouraged believers to remember God’s unfailing love and Jesus’ exemplary life.

In Luke 15, we find a father overjoyed at his “lost” son’s return. The prodigal son, who leaves home and makes poor choices with his inheritance, finds himself in a mess. At his lowest point, he admits his failings: “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.” This posture of repentance is not much different than ours when we, too, find ourselves guilty of living in ways that are less than what God intends for us. Is this example meant for us?

The next scene in Luke shows the father running to rescue his approaching son and welcome him back with a kiss, outfitting him in the attire of family rather than servant, and setting up a celebration feast for his return.

What encouragement from a loving father! Do you picture your heavenly father celebrating you this way? How has God blessed and welcomed you? What stories can you tell about God’s love for others?

God gives us a “new” commandment to follow in the New Testament, and shows us through the life of Jesus how we are to love one another as God have loved us, and love our neighbor as ourselves. (See John 13:34, Luke 10:27, and Matthew 22:39.)

We see God’s ultimate love for all of creation as he gives his life on the cross to bring us back home to the Father, to give us a new heart, and a new start. And he dwells within us to do just that.

In your life, what is broken that needs to be mended? How do you interpret the cross of Christ? What kind of God do you believe in? How can we take Jesus’ love to the world, and bring the Kingdom of God to others?

Dear Lord, we are grateful for how far you go to show your love for us. Thank you for your example, and your many stories of love. Help us to see all the different perspectives that meet at your cross. Help us to continue to learn about you, to come to know you, and to show your love to the world. Amen.
Resurrection Lutheran Church  
4114 E. Oakland Avenue, Bloomington, Illinois 61704  
(Towanda Barnes Road and Oakland Avenue)  
309-663-8252; www.reslutheran.org

Sunday Worship Services  
First: 8:15 a.m.; Second: 10:45 a.m.

Sunday School and Adult Forums  
9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

Office Hours: Monday to Thursday – 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; Friday – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Resurrection Staff

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pastor</td>
<td>Brian Deckinger</td>
<td><a href="mailto:PastorBrian@reslutheran.org">PastorBrian@reslutheran.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administrator</td>
<td>Nikki Houseman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Administrative Assistant</td>
<td>Deb Helgeson</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications Coordinator</td>
<td>Mary Meier</td>
<td><a href="mailto:MaryMeier@reslutheran.org">MaryMeier@reslutheran.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music Director for Traditional Worship Service</td>
<td>Doug Reiners</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Director of Praise Team</td>
<td>Sara Quah</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sound Tech</td>
<td>Andrae Ramsey</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church Cleaner</td>
<td>Elda Lowe</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RLC Vision:  
Communities claimed and empowered by God for hope and wholeness

RLC Mission:  
Resurrection Lutheran Church exists to:  
* Invite * people into the body of Christ,  
* Ignite * passionate growth in faith, and  
* Excite * believers for lives of service.