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# RESURRECTION REFLECTIONS

Volume 1, Issue 2

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*Image designed by Barry Schroeder*

## *It's Beginning to Look A Lot Like Advent*

Towards the end of the Gospel of Mark, in chapter 13, Jesus talks to his disciples about what the end times will be like. You will hear of wars, he says, and rumors of war. Nation will rise against nation. False messiahs will appear. Brother will rise against brother. Children will rise up against their parents. There will be earthquakes and famine and suffering like the world has never seen. The heavens themselves will be shaken, the sun and moon will turn dark, and the very stars will begin to fall.

Surely, this must be it, then. The signs are unmistakable. There is war and political unrest like never before. Sectarian violence and terrorism is committed in the name of religion. Global climate change and the depletion of the ozone layer make the earth an even more fragile place. Natural disasters abound. Families are falling apart. Wall Street and the global economy are collapsing. The unemployment rate is rising. The Democrats are taking over the U.S. government. And, on top of all that, the holiday shopping season is upon us. What more proof do we need that the end is near?

But rather than say that these are the sure and certain signs of the end, Jesus says, "This is but the beginning of the birth pangs!" (13:8). It's beginning to look a lot like Advent!

Advent, from the Latin word *adventus*, which was used in Roman days to signify the ceremonial arrival of the emperor, meaning quite literally "the coming of the deified one." The early Christians were quick to adopt this word and give it new meaning, that the only true Emperor of the world is Jesus Christ, our real Lord and Savior. That is why, rather than submit to the rising powers of the world which seek to convince us there is no hope for the future, the people of God's church rise up in anticipation of the coming of God's good and gracious king. Rather than subscribe to the signs of the times as a forecast of impending darkness and death, the baptized children of God instead light candles on an advent wreath, to serve as a sign of our faith in the God who will save and protect us from a dangerous and uncertain world. That is why we turn in our worship to the deep azure blue of the eastern sky, to remind us of the coming dawn and the Christ who comes to bring hope and light to the world.

Advent is the season God gives us so that we can get past our frantic and desperate ways of thinking and instead see ourselves beyond that which looks like the end of the world. Advent is the time God gives us to slow down, to rest and breathe in deep the gracious words and hope-full promises God has for us, that we might get our priorities straight and not lose sight of what's really important. As witnessed in this wreath of candles that we keep at the center of our worship, Advent helps to keep our hearts centered as well, so that our minds can be focused on the ways God truly comes into the world and into our lives.

Here is where we find God's king, the Christ child, in the palace of a ramshackle stable, enthroned in the dungy straw of a feeding trough for cattle. Born here, into the very midst of the low down and dirty life, we find God's Son, so that we might know for certain God is here, sharing this life with us. God with us, in our daily struggles and concerns. God with us, in our fear and uncertainty over what the future may hold in store. As witnessed in plain water, as experienced in a bit of bread and a little sip of wine. It is in such common and simple things as these that the light of Christ begins to shine upon us, bringing with it the amazing dawn of God's abiding love and grace. These are the true signs of the times, for any who would find true hope and peace in the midst of uncertain and troubling days such as these.

As God's people like to say, it's beginning to look a lot like Advent!

*Pastor Tim Leaf*



### **Parade Float Celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

As the first event in celebration of our church's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Resurrection constructed a parade float and entered the Haysville Fall Festival Parade. Evelyn Cherry and Ray York spearheaded the parade float project. Lynn Rodman led our entry on his Harley with a sign announcing: Here Come The Lutherans.

Our anniversary logo, "Remembering Our Past, Rejoicing In Our Future" was prominently displayed on two trucks. 'Mature adults' (older folks) of the church rode the truck which portrayed remembering, rejoicing youth rode the second truck, all tossing candy to the bystanders.

Our Pastor Tim Leaf walked the parade route with a chair strapped to his back bearing a sign proclaiming, 'We have a chair 4 U'. All those who took part in the parade had great fun celebrating and announcing our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and proclaiming our Lutheran Christian faith in the South West Wichita area. The parade trophy that Resurrection received is currently displayed in our Narthex.

### **Our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: Remembering Our Past, Rejoicing In Our Future**

Last Spring, Evelyn Clark consented to head an important planning team for our church's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. During the first meeting it was agreed this would be a fun celebration and there would be several anniversary events throughout the whole year. After initial planning, a contest to write the anniversary theme was held. The congregation responded with many good suggestions and the theme, *Remembering Our Past, Rejoicing In Our Future* was chosen.

During the summer a logo design was sought and three very gifted members submitted designs. All three designs have been approved and will soon be available to be seen on souvenir items celebrating our anniversary and reaching out as God's Lutheran Church in southwest Sedgwick County. This fall the first public announcement to proclaim our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary appeared on the two banners that grace our church sign on 71<sup>st</sup> Street.

On October 17<sup>th</sup>, those banners were part of our church float in the Haysville Fall Festival Parade. Both young folks 'rejoicing in our future' and not-so-young folks 'remembering our past' had great fun tossing candy while leading, riding on, walking beside our parade entry. Our pastor walked the parade route and offered an invitation to our church by wearing a chair on his back with a sign reading: "We have a chair 4 U."

On November 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> we held our first official 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary event by celebrating our Lutheran heritage with two baptisms on the occasion of the 525<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Martin Luther's baptism. (You can read more details about this event in another article in this newsletter.) Our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary cookbook, "50 Years of Cooking with the Saints", has arrived and is available for your pleasure and perhaps to give as a Christmas gift! It is a collection of tried and true recipes from present members as well as former members and friends.

May 3, 2009 is the actual date of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organization of Resurrection Lutheran Church but plans are to make it a full weekend of events. On Friday evening, May 1st, festivities will begin with an authentic Lutheran 'Happy Hour' followed by a dinner featuring recipes from the new 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary cookbook, and fun for the entire family. On Saturday afternoon, we will host an Open House with recognition of former pastors, council persons, and members. A Heritage Room is planned for the west wing with memorabilia and power point presentations of pictures from the past and present. This will also be a time for visiting with returning former members. The afternoon will include the dedication of the Steeple Monument. Sunday morning worship will be followed with a catered dinner and a Service of Rededication for the Future at 1:30.

Obviously much planning is involved and beginning in December, the congregation will be given opportunities to indicate areas in which they would like to assist. Other events are being planned for January, February, and March. A special mailing will go out in March with information regarding housing and reservations for our anniversary weekend. As you set up your 2009 calendar with must do/not to forget dates, circle the weekend of May 1-3. Come and join our celebration!

## ***No Longer Nameless!!***

Thank you, and again many thanks to all who submitted suggestions for our newsletter name. There are some very creative and humorous folks out there!! After careful consideration of numerous (14) newsletter name suggestions, you likely have noticed that the Imaging Team chose **'Resurrection Reflections'** as the official newsletter name. The winning name was submitted by Karen Braddon, who provides a home in South Carolina for her mother, our dear former member Ruth Leseberg.

A design is in the works to reflect (pun intended) the new newsletter name! We are very excited about working with Karen to create this new design that will be introduced in our next issue!

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### **\* Bulletin Bloopers!\***

"Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church and community"

"Thursday night Potluck Supper. Prayer and medication to follow."

### **Pastor Joan's Call**

Pastor Joan Swander has received a call to fill the pulpit at St Paul Lutheran Church in State Center, Iowa. We rejoice with her as she answers this call to ministry, as she has been waiting somewhat impatiently. However we are reluctant to have Pastor Joan and her mom, Mary, leave Resurrection.

As two of our family leaves us, we need to know the facts! St Paul Lutheran Church, ELCA, is about the size of Resurrection. While we are celebrating our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, St Paul will be celebrating their 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2009! State Center is a town of 1500 souls, located about 45 miles north of Des Moines. It has a large consolidated school district, and a grocery store. There are 6 churches in town, 2 are Missouri Synod Lutheran. Mary & Pastor Joan will be living in the newly painted and recarpeted church parsonage, just across the street from St Paul. Soon after they arrive in mid December, and Mary has baked some of her delicious cookies, Pastor Joan will be conducting two Christmas Eve services as well as one service on Christmas Day. We are blessed by their friendship and living the faith with us. We wish them God Speed as they will now Lift High the Cross at St Paul.

## ***Celebrating 50 Years and 525 Years***

To celebrate our Lutheran heritage and as part of our church's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration as God's Lutheran Church in southeast Sedgwick County, we recognized Martin Luther's 525<sup>th</sup> baptismal anniversary. 11 November 1483 Hans and Margarethe Luther brought their infant son, Martin, to St. Peter Church in Eisleben, Germany to be baptized. 525 years later, the people of that same Lutheran parish, now renamed St. Peter and Paul Church, invited all Lutherans to celebrate the anniversary of Martin Luther's baptism. On that day and the Sundays surrounding it congregations from around the world took part in this special "baptismal festival" as a reminder of God's baptismal grace active in the world today. Resurrection is proud to have been accepted as one of the participating congregations. Baptized in the celebration were Abigail DeWitt on 6 November 2008 and Emery Evans on 16 November 2008.

Martin Luther understood baptism as the beginning and the center of Christian life. That is why, when Luther felt misunderstood and put upon, he would say, "But, I am baptized," which gave him strength in the knowledge that God had not abandoned him.



According to tradition, Martin Luther was baptized in the font pictured above. The rim was added with the inscription: "Remains of the font in which the late Martin Luther was baptized in 1483." The Triumphal cross seen in the reflection in the water is from the middle of the 15<sup>th</sup> century and is hanging in the choir of St Peter and Paul Church. A photo of the font and Luther's baptismal story was given to Resurrection's newest members of Christ's family, Abigail DeWitt and Emery Evans, both baptized in November.

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## Sunday School News

Resurrection's Sunday School ministry is weekly growing young people of faith. "Living the Good News" lectionary curriculum guides leaders to shape and transform lives and communities through shared experiences of the Sunday readings. Students ages 3 through 12 participate in stories, projects, singing, acting, and playing that brings the Sunday readings from worship to life. These readings focus on the keys to community within the Body of Christ.

"Here We Stand" curriculum from Augsburg Fortress takes a strong and faithful look at many components of our Lutheran faith. This fall the focus for this 8th through 12th grade group has been on Old and New Testament stories and the faith-growing applications found within them.

Many faithful adults have taken on the responsibility of keeping the faith alive for Resurrection's young people. Pam Porsch, Vicki Nunn, Lyndsey Williams, Hope Tjaden, Jody Helton, Trisha Clevenger, Martha Leaf, Rebecca McKusker, Stan Jordan, Shari Jordan, Tressa Vogt, Lisa Atcheson, and Holly Gonzales are all leaders who provide stability and enthusiasm for the weekly Sunday School ministry.

Two special events are taking place in the first two weeks of December for Sunday School students...Christmas Craft Day and the annual Sunday School Christmas Program.

Christmas Craft Day was held on Saturday morning, Dec. 6. Students gathered for a special telling of the Christmas story, unique ornament craft projects, singing, and lunch. Memorable experiences and crafts to treasure made this a memory-making day!!

The annual celebration of the Christmas story as told by Resurrection's young people will be held on Sunday evening, December 14 at 6:30. A dessert reception will be held in the fellowship hall afterwards. All are invited to share in the heart-warming, possibly humorous, retelling of the mystery of the Christ child's birth!!

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## Bad Girls Bible Study



Whether they were "bad for the moment, bad for a season, or bad to the bone", it is a great deal of fun to learn about them! Using the book entitled Bad Girls of the Bible, a group of women are very much enjoying this study. We often identify with the bad girls on some level, (gulp!) and it is interesting to learn how they came to be part of Biblical history.

We meet monthly on the first Saturday at 10:00 am. We will review stories of the "girls" we have previously talked about: **\*Do you remember? Can you believe that she did?\*** (Girl Stuff!!) Come join us on December 6th and bring a sample of your simply scrumptious goodie to share. Bad Girls always have a good time being together.

## Ten Commandments for Christmas

\*Thou shalt prepare early. Don't wait until the last minute to get into the Christmas spirit.

\*Thou shalt keep Christ at the center of Christmas. Don't allow yourself to be overwhelmed by the commercialism of the season. Resolve to read one of the Gospels during December, and meditate upon what it means that Christ came into the world.

\*Thou shalt make Christmas a family time. Do things together: Decorate the tree, play games, bake cookies, shop, write cards, have devotionals, go caroling, attend church together.

\*Thou shalt remember those who are less fortunate. Contribute significantly to an organization serving the needs of others throughout the year. Give a Christmas gift to your church.

\*Thou shalt give thyself with every gift. Put some thought into the gifts you purchase. Give a gift that represents you. If possible, make something instead of buying something.

\*Thou shalt learn to be a good receiver. Many of us have trouble receiving graciously and gracefully.

\*Thou shalt put music into Christmas. Buy several Christmas CD's and play them again and again. Attend church choir cantatas and special Christmas programs. Sing carols with loved ones.

\*Thou shalt slow down. Remember: Christmas is supposed to be a season of peace, not hypertension.

\*Thou shalt remember to worship. The church is the place you are most likely to be reminded of the true meaning of Christmas.

\*Thou shalt receive Christ into thy life. Don't just talk about the Christ of Christmas; receive him into your life as Lord and Savior.

## ALL COMMITTEE AND TEAMNIGHT

All Committee and Team night (ACT) is more than just a time for committees and teams to meet. Attendees have a chance to share in fellowship over dinner, there is a brief devotion and hymn period, and you can count on some special activity that is fun for the whole family.

In November, ACT night provided a chance to pay tribute to our veterans and we learned about some exciting missionary work from our neighboring veteran pastor, Chaplain Dave Fulton, from St Paul's Lutheran Church in Wichita.

There is, of course, always time for committees and teams to meet and discuss their own agendas. Children have their own supervised activities at that time. Having ACT night allows these groups to meet on a regular monthly basis rather than having to find other times that fit busy schedules.

There is also an active ACT night board who plans menu themes, differing each month, yet always potluck and always yummy! The board also plans the activity (games, speaker, etc), and arranges for various committees to lead devotions. Faithful, inspired ACT night board members are: Rebecca McKusker, Claudia Howell, Kris Atcheson, and Aaron Tjaden.

You don't have to be a member of a committee or team to join in the fun at ACT night. You are always welcome to join or to learn about a particular activity, but please feel free to bring the whole family and join us for the food, fellowship, and fun!



*Chaplain Fulton of St. Paul's Lutheran Church attended ACT night in November as a special guest speaker.*

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The Resurrection Youth Choir has been keeping busy planning an upcoming Christmas program. They also have a full plate with special music in honor of the church's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary bash.

During ACT night they meet for practice, fellowship, and fun in the fellowship hall. Before practice there is always dinner and games, so bring your appetite and your friends, because there is always room for more!

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## Red Wagon

"It always gives me a great pleasure to carry in our 'Red Wagon' food offering to the West Haysville Baptist Church who runs the food pantry. It is a 'hands on' type ministry for us, a visible sign of our love for Christ and relief of hunger here in our community.

Please try to remember to bring an item to fill the wagon. Dry goods, canned goods, cereal, peanut butter, coffee, tea, or even perhaps household paper products, soap shampoo, toothpaste, laundry soap, etc. We care about those in need."

In Christ Jesus,  
Bert Kirkpatrick

### "God's Gift of Love"

Our hope and our grace and our peace came to earth  
All wrapped up in swaddling clothes.  
That precious gift God sent here to us all.  
The Christ Child, who God's love still shows.

As He quietly lay in that manger rough  
The worshipers joyously came.  
In awe and in hope they knelt to give praise  
As they softly whispered His name.

Then leaving that place, with adoration and joy,  
Their story with others they shared.  
The manger, the angels, the choir they had heard  
God's gift that showed us that God cared.

They spread the good news all the way to their homes  
To everyone both young and old  
It was really too awesome to keep to themselves.  
What they'd witnessed had made them quite bold.

As they told that Good News on that first Christmas Day  
Let us willingly go and proclaim  
The wonderful story of that Babe sent to us  
As we tell everyone of His Name.

They story of how that gentle Christ Child  
Showed us how God wished us to be.  
By sharing God's gifts with all those we can,  
Living holy and happy and free.

By living each day with praise and thanksgiving  
Spreading abroad to every nation  
The Good News that God in love sent His Son  
Showing grace and bringing salvation.

So sing a glad song, ring bells, and proclaim  
This a time of rejoicing and love  
And joyfully celebrate God come to earth  
Immanuel, God's gift of love.

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***Mead's Corner: A Fair Trade Coffeehouse***

Mead's Corner is operated by First United Methodist Church of Wichita. Creative and unique for a church, all revenue above expenses are dedicated to direct need services in the community and world. Mead's Corner's vision is to be a place where church and community cross paths. In the first year, proceeds will assist impoverished children at Park Elementary School here at home, as well as assisting hungry children in flood ravaged Myanmar (Burma).

The new business opened November 21<sup>st</sup> in downtown Wichita at 430 E. Douglas. The menu of course includes espresso, hot or iced latte and coffee, other beverages, panini sandwiches, hand crafted gelato, and other dessert items. The intention is to operate a first-class coffeehouse with art and entertainment that provides a safe and alcohol and tobacco free environment. In the evenings there will be live music, improvisational comedy, poetry reading, and an occasional open mic night. The church is committed to doing what Jesus did, simply spending time with people in an atmosphere of acceptance. The church will host a worship service entitled NEXT, after Sunday closing and offer a once a month open conversation called "Questions About God?" led by one of the members of the church staff.

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***THANK YOU FROM CAMP TOMAH SHINGA!***

With joy and great thanksgiving, I write to share thanks with you and, through you, to all the members of Resurrection Lutheran Church for your wonderful Quarter Challenge gift of \$1000 for Camp Tomah Shinga. We are truly grateful. You are AWESOME ministry partners!

As you know, Camp Tomah Shinga has a long history of providing youth life-changing experiences through the summer camp program. Thank you for taking up this challenge, encouraging giving and supporting your church camp. We are earnest in our attempts to resource this ministry and we are convinced that Tomah Shinga will continue to be a special place for people of all ages. Your congregation's partnership is a sincerely appreciated gift in our efforts. Thank you so much for empowering us to continue the summer camping program and build Tomah Shinga's year round ministry. We are so pleased to have your partnership.

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***COFFEE BAR***

A "second altar" has been set up in Fellowship Hall! It may look like a coffee bar, but don't let that fool you! We also gather there for strength and sustenance!

The project began with memorial gifts from the families of Emma Paulson, Lydia Evans and Alice Yoachum's sister, and of Lois Schmidt. These funds were used to purchase a large coffee server. WELCA then purchased the cabinets and counter top. Ray York generously took care of the installation work and expenses.

As the plumbing runs from the sacristy, for a brief time it appeared that coffee might appear in the baptismal font and font water in the coffee, but that was quickly remedied! The whole operation of making coffee is now so simple and so much fun that Stan Jordan may be fighting for his position as official coffee maker.

**WELCA** (Women of the ELCA) is more than a small group of women gathering to figure out ways to involve people and to make money-- although those rank high on the list! The ladies meet the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. for Bible study, fellowship, and service. Recent activities have included a very successful Fall Bazaar that will clear over \$2500 to be used in support of youth activities and for special congregational needs. \$275 in available Thrivent funds will be matched by WELCA to go toward the expansion of the church's sound system.

Each month the ladies host the Haysville Chamber of Commerce noon luncheon for 50 to 60 guests. Our home-cooked meals have proven to be very popular with the Chamber. WELCA has recently received shipment of the new 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary cookbook, "Fifty Years of Cooking with the Saints." A special feature of the cookbook is the inclusion of recipes of members over the 50-year period.

The Fellowship Hall now includes a coffee bar. The coffee maker was purchased with memorial funds and WELCA carried the cabinetry and electrical installation expenses. This summer, 8 youth attended Camp Tomah Shinga assisted by scholarships from WELCA.

Our current Bible study is a 9-part study of the books of Ruth, Daniel, and Esther. All ladies of the congregation are invited to join us at any meeting!

**Christian One-Liners!**

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The good Lord didn't create anything without a purpose,  
but mosquitoes come close.

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## Church the Place to be

CTPTB (Church The Place To Be) is a group for youth fourth through seventh grade.

They have been very busy studying the “Fruits of the spirit”, cosmic bowling, and even having an overnighter in the sanctuary. The sleepover was a prelude to the early morning the youth spent serving the homeless in the community. They went to St Paul Lutheran Church to cook and serve breakfast for the homeless living in the Wichita area. This group of young people spent time having conversations, playing chess, and even playing the piano for the group that showed up at St Paul’s.

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## Thrivant and Habitat for Humanity

Thrivent Financial has approved support for building two Thrivent Builds/Wichita Habitat homes in Wichita in 2009. The three Wichita area Thrivent Chapters, through local Lutheran congregations, will again partner with Wichita Habitat for Humanity to help two families become homeowners.

Habitat for Humanity homes are a “hand up” instead of a hand out. Habitat homeowners must work 250-400 hours of sweat equity hours, helping with construction or other Habitat related activities, and complete mandatory homebuyer education classes. They sign a 20-year, zero percent interest, no-profit mortgage to cover the actual cost of building their house. A typical monthly mortgage payment including homeowner’s insurance and taxes is \$350 and an average utility bill is \$100 for these Energy Star-certified homes.

More Saturdays and more end of the week days will be available for building than for past Thrivent Builds. In addition to builders, lunch providers, greeters and financial supporters will be needed.

When: March 24 – May 2, 2009

Work days: March 24 – March 28 – Tuesday through Saturday  
April 2 – May 2 – Thursday through Saturday

Where: Habitat Village near North Arkansas and 33<sup>rd</sup> St

Plan now to be a part of this mission project. Mark your calendars and plan vacation days. Volunteer recruitment will begin in January. More information will be coming about how to sign up to help.

## Haysville Community Outreach Opportunities

H.C.O. provides for the less fortunate in our community. Each Sunday, the Red Wagon circulates during our worship offering time to receive the food, personal care items, paper products and laundry soap that you bring. Many times that red wagon has been filled to overflowing. Our Narthex ‘giving tree’ was stripped bare of children’s names for Christmas, and the gifts have come pouring back.

Do you have time to join upcoming Christmas Outreach events? All of the upcoming opportunities take place at West Haysville Baptist Church, 141 S. Lamar, (next to the Post Office).

Monday 8 December 6:30 pm	Sorting gifts for children	
Tuesday 9 December 6:30 pm	Sorting gifts for families	
Wednesday 10 December 5:30 pm	Assembling Christmas food	boxes
Thursday 11 December 6:30 pm	Wrapping Christmas gifts	
Saturday 13 December 9-11 am	Christmas food and gift distribution	



## CHURCH COUNCIL

Church council is the elected governing body of the Church, responsible for overseeing church business and committees. Council reports back to the church at annual meetings. At present the council members are: Rebecca McKusker, President, Bob Westerhaus, Vice President, Evelyn Cherry, secretary, Donna Tibbits, treasurer, Ray York, and Barry Schroeder. Council members serve as liaisons to standing committees.

At our annual meeting, part 1, Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, new council members were elected. Those elected are Darrin Deutscher, Ruth Albertin, John Larsen, and Evelyn Cherry. Per the constitution, up to eight members plus the Pastor are able to serve on council. For the first time in three years, we will have a full slate in 2009!



## **A memorable interview with charter member Lila Stout in honor of Resurrection's 50th anniversary**

*Interviewed by Maggie and Paxton Leaf*

**Q: What favorite memories of the old church do you have?**

The first service was in the basement of the parsonage. The pastor pulled a curtain across the laundry room and his wife played the piano. There was a Sunday School class for kids, mostly teenagers at that time, not any tiny ones like now. Mrs. Nielsen would take kids up the living room for Sunday School. I had just moved to Haysville two weeks before when I found a notice on my door about a Lutheran church just getting started in Haysville.

**Q: How many people were there at first?**

In 1957 there were about 8-10 people. Then two years later we built Freeberg and there were about 25-35 people.

**Q: How old is Freeberg?**

It was built in 1959

**Q: Who was the pastor?**

Leo Nielsen

**Q: How many pastors since then?**

Oh, let's see. Pastor Swenson, Pastor Freeberg, Pastor Rowalt, Pastor Lindberg, Pastor Fitz, Pastor Jensen, and Pastor Leaf

**Q: Did any pastors have kids?**

Yes the Niensens has a son and Pastor Leaf had two children

**Q: Did it have coffee fellowship?**

Yes. definitely

**Q: Was there a nursery?**

Yes but it was very small.

**Q: Did your children go to the nursery?**

Yes when we moved here, Patti was 4 years old and she went to the nursery.

**Q: What were your kids' favorite memories?**

You'd have to ask them. I'm sure Patti would say that hers was meeting and marrying Pastor Jensen.

**Q: Where was the first church located?**

On 71st Street

**Q: Wow, all our churches have been on 71st Street. How long did services last?**

About an hour

**Q: Was church better then than now?**

About the same. Some preachers preach longer than others.

**Q: Our dad ranks I bet in the top 3 of longest sermons. What was the first church made of?**

Bricks and wood, inside and cement floors.

**Q: How many people were baptized?**

Quite a few

**Q: When were you baptized?**

From what my sister's told me, right after I was born. I was a tiny baby.

**Q: To cap it all off, what were your favorite memories?**

Probably singing in the choir, watching my children grow up in the church, and all the friends I've made. This church is my family now. My parents, brothers, sisters, have all died. I depend on our church family as my family now.

**Thank you, Mrs. Stout.**

**It's so easy to see Christ alive in you!!**



*Above, Lila Stout enjoys her time with Paxton Leaf as he interviews her for this addition of the newsletter.*

*Below, Toby (the adorable dog) looks on while Maggie Leaf takes her turn asking Lila some questions.*



### **The Power of Prayer**

As of Thanksgiving, Patti Jensen (Gregory), who suffered cardiomyopathy has been showing some improvement. She is currently under the care of a cardiologist in Lincoln Nebraska. Please continue to keep her and her family in your prayers.



## **Resurrection Member Brings Joy To Local Hospital**

If you happened to be a patient on 7 west at St. Joe Hospital on Thanksgiving Day, you would have noticed some extra excitement on the floor. Channel 12 news and the Wichita Eagle were at the hospital to interview Kris Zoch, a member of our Resurrection family about a new program she brought to the hospital.

Kris has been working very hard for the past six months to introduce Pet Therapy to the patients on her floor. She felt that having dogs visit the patients on the floor would not only cure some of the loneliness of being in the hospital, but would have a positive effect on the health of post-surgery patients. She did months of research to prove to the hospital that it could be done, and that it would lower patients' blood pressure, their heart-rate, and shorten their hospital stays. She also hoped it would bring happiness to the patients and make them a little less lonely...especially during the holiday season.

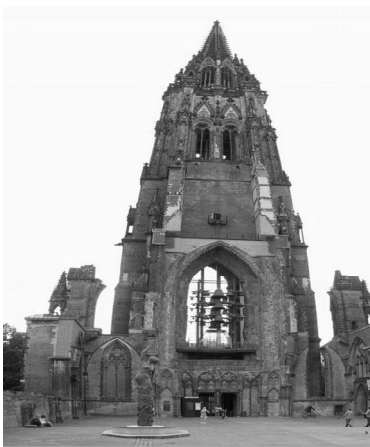
St. Joseph started allowing dogs on the floor in November and it has been a success! It is the first hospital in Kansas to allow the dogs. During the interviews patients raved about how much they loved the Yorkie (Miss Bunny, pictured) that visited that day. We were so proud to see one of our members on the news and in the paper on Friday.



## **Where's Barry?**

An opportunity at work has found me living in Germany for three and a half months. In our offices' first opportunity to work with Airbus Germany, we are learning the tools and methods they use for fuselage design. The idea was to learn as we did preliminary work on the aircraft that would eventually become the USAF KC-45, but the delay of the tanker decision has necessitated shifts to other programs. Most of that work is on the A350, the composite airplane that will compete with Boeing's 787. We have been well received by our German counterparts, fortunately for us Airbus has selected English as its official language.

There are five primary Lutheran churches here in Hamburg and at this point I have attended three of them. With their tall spires they all stand out as landmarks on the Hamburg skyline. St. Michaelis was the first church I attended in Germany, its 132 meter tower houses the largest clock of its kind in Germany. The next one was St. Jacobi which has a famous Arp-Schnitger organ, the largest Baroque organ in North Europe. The service opened and closed with pieces by Bach, if I deciphered the bulletin correctly. I have also attended the new St. Nikolai. The original St. Nikolai was heavily damaged by bombing in World War II, the 147 meter spire remains as a memorial against the war. While I know almost no German, the liturgy of the services seems pretty similar to that used back home so I can kind of follow along. Haven't gotten much out of the sermons but the music has been really nice.



I also attended church service at All Saints' Church, commonly referred to as Schlosskirche (Castle Church), in Lutherstadt Wittenberg. This is the church where Martin Luther posted the Ninety-Five Theses. The Wittenberg English Ministry has English services on Saturday evenings so I was able to understand one church service while in Germany. As luck would have it, I ended up being there while they were celebrating the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther's arrival in Wittenberg. They reenacted Luther crossing the Elbe River and entering the town with a speech at the Lutherhaus, but it was hard to get too much out of it not knowing German.

I've had the opportunity for some other weekend travels while here, including several places in Germany as well as trips to Austria, Denmark, Sweden and Greece. It's been a good experience.

## Christmas word search



- |              |           |            |                |
|--------------|-----------|------------|----------------|
| ANGEL        | FRUITCAKE | MANGER     | SNOWFLAKES     |
| BELLS        | GABRIEL   | MARY       | SNOWMAN        |
| BETHLEHEM    | GIFTS     | MISTLETOE  | STABLE         |
| CANDLES      | GOLD      | MYRRH      | STAR           |
| CANDY CANE   | GREETING  | ORNAMENTS  | STOCKING       |
| CAROLS       | CARDS     | POINSETTIA | THREE WISE MEN |
| DECORATIONS  | HOLLY     | SANTA      | TOBOGGAN       |
| EGGNOG       | ICICLES   | SHEPHERDS  | TOYS           |
| FAMILY       | JESUS     | SKATES     | TREE           |
| FRANKINCENSE | JOSEPH    | SLEIGH     | WREATH         |
| FRIENDS      | LIGHTS    |            |                |

**Read Matthew 1:1-2:1 and answer these questions!**

- Who was Jesus' mother?
- Who was Jesus' father?
- When Joseph found out that Mary was with child, what happened next?
- How did the angel come to see him?
- Who was this child to be born of the Holy Spirit and of Mary?
- What does Immanuel mean?
- What did the angels say Mary and Joseph should call the child?
- When speaking with Joseph, what did the angel say Jesus would do?
- Had anyone expected these things to take place?
- Where was Mary's baby born?

**Read Matthew 2:1-2:12 and answer these questions!**

- Who was the ruler of Jerusalem when the wise men searched for the newborn "king of the Jews"?
- What did the wise men follow as they traveled to Bethlehem?

## fun fact!

In the Christmas story, the 3 Wise men follow a star to Baby Jesus.

Our closest star is the sun. It is one of the many stars in the universe, neither the smallest nor the largest. Even though it's the closest, it's still over 90 million miles away from the Earth. It takes about 8 minutes for its warm rays to reach us—and that's a good thing! Sunlight is essential for life on Earth.



- How did Herod know where the child would be born?
- Who did the prophet say would come from Bethlehem?
- What did Herod ask the wise men?
- Why did Herod say he wanted to find the child?
- Where did the star lead the wise men?
- What were the gifts the wise men brought for the baby?
- Why did the wise men decide not to return to Herod?

*Taken from "the everything kids' bible trivia book"*

Let us know.....

How do you like your news? To help the save the trees and reduce postage costs, we are seeking out those of you who would like to receive the newsletter by email and/or the church website. To receive a paperless copy, please send us your email address at [newsletter@rxluth.com](mailto:newsletter@rxluth.com) You can also call the office at 316-522-1091.

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**OUR MISSION  
STATEMENT**

**Live the Faith! Lift High the Cross!**

**VISION STATEMENT**

**We will grow in faith and numbers by seeing Christ in  
one another in all we say and do**

**WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY AT  
8:30 AM & 11:00 AM**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR KIDS AND ADULTS  
10:00 AM**