



RESURRECTION REFLECTIONS

Volume 1, Issue 5

October 2009

Farewell to Pastor Leaf & Family

By Lila Stout

On August 30, 2009, we bid a very sad farewell to our beloved Pastor Tim, his lovely wife, Martha and their children, Paxton and Maggie. We had them with us for 13 wonderful and unforgettable years. Tim came to us at a time when we were in a very low time in our congregational life. I wondered, "Could a man so young and inexperienced really get us on an uphill climb?" He was just out of seminary and this was his first ministerial call. Yes! With God's help he built our faith, our congregation, and with all of us together we even built our new church building. We have had some wonderful and fun filled times with Tim. Now God has guided the Leaf family to build another church family in McPherson, KS. Let us all pray that God will send us another great minister to lead us and guide us to more wonderful ways. I pray that God be with the Leaf family 'til we meet again.



Meet Pastor Hallstrom

by Roza Atcheson

This month I had the opportunity to interview our new interim Pastor. Here are some things about him you may not know.

1. His favorite color is deep, deep red.
2. His favorite sport is college football and his favorite team is the Nebraska Corn Huskers.
3. He picked this church because God had called him here.
4. He has a wife named Marlene. They met in college and have been married 38 years. They have 3 kids, 1 son and 2 daughters. Eric his oldest is 34 years old and is engaged to marry Jessica. Erin is his middle daughter and is married to Michi. She is 30 years old, has 2 kids, Zoe 2 and Nilis 1½ and they live in Austria. Elizabeth goes by (Bettsy) is 28 and married to a man named Bill.

5. Pastor was born in Webster, South Dakota, and grew up on a farm with Charles and Margret Hallstrom.

6. He wanted to become a pastor when he was in JR High and thought that it was his calling in life.
7. He lives in northeastern Wichita.
8. He has been a pastor for 31 years, meaning he started in 1971.
9. His favorite hymn is Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus.
10. He asked everyone to call him Pastor Tom.

So this is Pastor Tom Hallstrom for all of you who don't know him yet.



Partners in the gospel – The United Methodist Church and the ELCA.

*Full Article available in the September Area Ministry 5 Newsletter
Thanks to Pr. Sally Fahrenthold for article*

On any Sunday morning, homebound Lutherans across Wichita worship with God’s Word, music, and prayers of First United Methodist (UM) Church via television. Our members contribute food for United Methodist Open Door. The August 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly passed a resolution for “Full Communion” with the United Methodist Church, this fellowship was approved by the Methodists in 2008. Rev. James Graves, pastor of Cedar Chapel UM Church says, “This gives us a ‘sanctioned connection’ with our brothers and sisters in Christ, which a lot of our members have had informally for a long time.”

What can this mean? Although it is a new idea for the Methodists, the ELCA is already in full communion with five other churches. This is an opportunity for us to learn from each other, for joint services to become more natural, and gives us the opportunity to share clergy in the future.

United Methodist beliefs are rooted in Scripture and strongly Trinitarian. God’s grace is described in 3 ways: “prevenient grace” at work before we know and believe; “justifying grace,” which brings us to faith and salvation; and “perfecting grace” that is the power of Christ at work in the believer to transform our lives. UM leaders see us, the ELCA, as more liturgical – Rev. Graves says, “We don’t stand up and sit down as much!” they expect to gain from the ELCA understanding of the sacramental presence of Christ.

Our Central States Synod Bishop Gerald Mansholt says of the partnership, “I rejoice and give thanks for the Full Communion relationship with the United Methodist Church. The challenge now will be to discern where and how God wants us to collaborate with one another and together participate in God’s mission in the world.”

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What is “Full Communion”?

The ELCA website provides theological and mission characteristics of full communion, stressing that the Church “act ecumenically for the sake of the world, and not for itself alone.” The ELCA news service of the August Churchwide Assembly provides this description: “Full Communion means that the two churches

- ❖ Identify in one another a common Christian faith;
- ❖ Agree to mutual recognition of Baptism and the sharing of Holy Communion;
- ❖ Worship together and recognize each other’s ordained ministers for service in either church;
- ❖ Express a common commitment to evangelism, witness, and service;
- ❖ Engage in common decision making on critical matters;
- ❖ And agree to a mutual lifting of criticisms that may exist between the churches.”

Faithful Funny

A little boy was waiting for his mother to come out of the grocery store. As he waited, he was approached by a man who asked, “**Son, can you tell me where the post office is?**”

The little boy replied, “**Sure! Just go straight down this street a coupla blocks and turn to your right.**”

The man thanked the boy kindly and said, “**I’m the new pastor in town, I’d like for you to come to church on Sunday. I’ll show you how to get to Heaven.**”

The little boy replied with a chuckle, “**Aww, come on, You don’t even know the way to the Post Office!**”

Discovery Canyon!!!

What a wonderful week! With hiking shoes and open hearts, many folks took the challenge of hiking through God's wonderful canyons!! During Vacation Bible School, close to fifty people joined talents and growing faiths to experience the canyon life. Every night God's word would come to life in Bible stories. As kids and grown-ups soaked up the Word, they contemplated these commands: ask, seek, tell, serve, obey. Every night students and leaders celebrated with cheers and songs and dances and then plunged into a multitude of activities.

Projects were created to help kids remember the lessons for the day such as bandanas, t-shirts, frames, kazoos, bracelets, clay lizards, and prayer boxes. The canyon visitors were always entertained and refreshed at snack time. For some physical challenges, kids giggled and competed in contests and relays.

Many, many thanks go to the following faith-full folks who provided the activities: Claudia Howell, Karolyn Braun, and Deanna Deutscher guided young people through stories; Bert Kirkpatrick, Alice Yoachum, created one-of-a-kind themed snacks; Heather Porsch and her friend Jody led games; singing and dancing were led in the canyon by Martha Leaf; Vicki Nunn organized crafts in the caverns with the talents of Lisa Atcheson, Ashly Johnson, and Lyndsey Williams; guiding and entertaining the VERY youngest canyon visitors was Loretta Holmes with help from Holly Gonzales, Lacey DeWitt; capturing the many heartwarming moments and creating nightly newsletters were the reliable photographers, Maranda Gill and Dan Williams; and Tim Leaf inspired all at the opening and closing of activities with cheers and lessons for life in the heart of the canyon. Thank you for your faith-modeling!

The following faith-full folks were shepherds guiding young people, mentoring the many canyon visitors, and helping them make connections: Loretta Holmes, Ashley Porsch, Rebecca McKusker, and Karolyn Braun. You are a blessing!!

Still more faith-full servants helped in a variety of ways prior to and throughout the week. Hope Tjaden, Darren Deutscher, Clark and Noreen Sholts, Brian and Nikki Christiansen, Patrick DeWitt, Pam Porsch and Martha Leaf provided hands-on help, direction, prayer, and overall moral support. Thank you!!! In a nightly offering,

the canyon hikers were reminded of those residents at the Oaks Indian residence in Oklahoma with great need. Money was collected every night as well as during Sunday worship for this project. Thanks to VBS families and the Resurrection church family for the financial donations and prayerful support of this 2009 Discovery Canyon Vacation Bible School.

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WELCA Notes

by Evelyn Clark

The fall season is off to a great start for those attending Women of the ELCA meetings. Our Bible study from September through May will cover Paul's letter to the Romans with additional information about the man, his times and his letters. All study material is provided.



WELCA continues to host the monthly Haysville Chamber of Commerce dinners with 50 to 60 guests exclaiming that this is great home-style cooking.

The Fall Bazaar will be held Friday and Saturday November 13-14 and will feature baked goods, Christmas décor, gift baskets, children's gifts, and handcrafted items. Soup, sandwiches, and desserts will be served each day.



Funds raised by WELCA go to support special congregational and charitable projects. This summer 5 scholarship were given to youth attending Camp Tomah Shinga. \$1000 was given to the church's mortgage. 16 ladies of the congregation were able to attend the August luncheon hosted by WELCA at Aunt Hattie's Tea Room.



WELCA meets the second Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. at church for Bible study, fellowship, and lunch. All ladies of the congregation are invited.

**Resurrection Reflections
on the Web!**

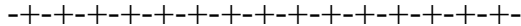
Do you read our church newsletter on our website?
WE HOPE SO!

In 2010, Resurrection Reflections Newsletter will be
available primarily via our website:
www.rxluth.com/

To conserve funds, paper, ink and volunteer time, we will
mail only to the few folks who are unable to attend our
church in Haysville, or don't have computer access.



Check us out on the web!



Looking for Confirmation Class?

FAITH NIGHT

CTPTB (3-6 graders)

AMPED (7-12 graders)

PARENTS (AGE: Yes, Aged!)

Third Wednesday of each month.

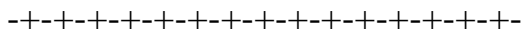
Next: Oct. 21st.

5:45 PM to 7:30 PM

Light dinner is served first

Meet Pastor Tom

Come, learn what the buzz is all about!



Soup Supper Invitation

Property Committee announces
the

**1st Annual Resurrection Lutheran Church Soup
Supper!**

Saturday, November 7th, 2009

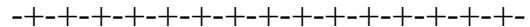
from 3:00pm-7:00pm

All homemade soups of course! The menu
includes:

- chili
- chicken noodle soup
- vegetable beef soup
- potato soup.

A raffle for all ages will also be included. Proceeds
will go toward the materials and supplies for a large
storage garage out back.

Come hungry!



Choir invitation

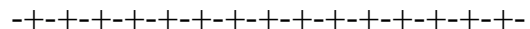
Sopranos, who sing the
highest and therefore feel
they rule, want you! Altos,
who are the salt of the earth
in their opinion, want you!
Tenors, who are spoiled
because there are never enough of them, want
you! Basses, who sing lowest and have the
most facial hair, want you!

CHOIR WANTS AND NEEDS



Come! Make a JOYFUL NOISE!

Practice on Wednesdays, 7:30 pm





Property Committee



The Property Committee is a group of church members eager to serve their church by maintaining and improving the Resurrection Lutheran property. When our church is looking well cared for, it's because the Property Committee has been hard at it, hauling decorative stones, planting trees, shrubs, and flowers, putting in sprinklers, painting, heading work parties. They are a busy group.

It's not ALL work; they have some laughs too! Did you notice the reserved parking place labeled 'Shari's Spot'? There's a Property Committee explanation for that! Now they are extending their talents to cooking! See their invitation to a Soup Supper in this newsletter.

Anyone looking for an opportunity to serve is welcome to join this growing, dedicated and hard-working committee. Meetings are on ACT night, the first Wednesday of each month, with an occasional extra meeting if there is an activity coming up. Interested but want more information? Contact John Larsen or Darrin Deutscher.



Our Third Thrivent/Habitat Home in 2009 @ Edgebrook Village, 33rd and Arkansas Streets.

There's time to be part of this joyous task! Completion is set for October 6th. Your offer to help is most welcome with any of the following:

- Prayers for build safety and completion
- Builders on all week days Tuesday-Saturday
- Lunch Providers and servers
- Greeters/Sign-in folks

Contact:

Congregational Champion, Barry Schroeder
Lunch Coordinator, Candyce Saxton

or

Habitat's Volunteer Coordinator,
Glenda
glenda@wichitahabitat.org

Scripture Saints

A HUGE THANK YOU to all the scripture saints who spoke from their hearts this summer! What's a scripture saint, you ask; Chosen people who shared their favorite scripture and then explained their choice. As a result, we grew closer as a church family. After hearing from our scripture saints, we personally recalled Bible passages giving us strength and comfort through our years of faith.

Some talks were short, some a bit longer, all were heartfelt. Very few people refused to speak as a scripture saint. A few people carried a 'Get Out of Hell Free' card in case their name be drawn. Pastor Leaf's name was drawn once and he crumpled the paper as the congregation loudly objected. For Pastor Leaf's last Sunday at Resurrection, his name was drawn, then re-drawn and drawn again! As he realized that the scripture saint jug (a coffee jug) had been stuffed, Pastor Leaf consented and based his last sermon on his favorite scripture.



Thank you again, *scripture saints!*

Evelyn Clark
Ruth Albertin
Darrin Deutscher
Todd Kaufman

Lydia Evans
Loretta Holmes
Patrick DeWitt
Tim Leaf

Marty Gould
Anita Johnson
Bert Kirkpatrick
Ed TenEyck

Ray York
Claudia Howell
Bob Westerhaus

LIVING THE FAITH

SCRIPTURE SAINT WANNABE

By Lacinda Zoch

All summer I sat in my pew with my fingers crossed as Pastor Leaf pulled a name from the “scripture saint” coffee can. I hoped that he would pull my name and the next week I would get the chance to tell the congregation my favorite scripture and the story behind it. I thought that if I could share my story with my church family it would make church easier, or more enjoyable, or at least bearable. I never did get the chance to share with you, but being person that formats the newsletter does have its perks...I wanted to take this opportunity to share with all of you, so here goes!

When Pastor Leaf came to Resurrection 13 years ago, it completely changed the way I looked at church. Instead of my parents forcing me to get up early on Sunday mornings, get dressed up, and sing cheesy songs with even cheesier dance moves, it became the place I most wanted to be. Pastor Leaf and Martha were young, they were funny, and they brought so much life to Resurrection. There were youth groups, high school bible studies, trips to Dallas and Minnesota, crazy Christmas programs (most of you will remember me falling off the table and into the Christmas tree during the “Fumbly Bumbly Angels”), family fun nights, Valentine’s dinner theatres, I could go on all day! Church was absolutely where I wanted to be all the time!

There are two incidents that changed me during early days at Resurrection. First, was the canoeing trip in Minnesota. I was in fairly good shape and was an athlete, but not at all prepared for the adventure Pastor Leaf was taking us on. We had decided to tackle a portage known to all as “heart attack” because of the difficulty, and I decided I wanted to carry the canoe. I got about halfway through when Pastor Leaf came back after carrying one canoe to the end and took my canoe from me. I took a breather, grabbed a backpack from Vicki Larsen, and we were off. When we finished that portage it was the most amazing feeling of accomplishment. Vicki told me that night at the campfire that she was so proud of me for finishing....that moment at the campfire made me feel like I could do anything. Secondly, any moment I spent with Randy and Rhonda Doll was so special. We always had a blast and they made me feel great about myself, I always thought I would follow in their footsteps and change church for someone else who felt like I did before these amazing people came into my life...unfortunately college also changed me, and not for the better.

My first Sunday in Lawrence I found the only ELCA church in town and attended, it was okay...the service was great, the people, the pastor, but I missed my Resurrection family so much. I moved on to the Missouri-Synods, then called Pastor Leaf and he recommended Lutheran Campus Ministries. I loved it there. It was mostly students and church was at 5pm! I attended there for 4 years and when my job changed I went looking for a morning service. I took this opportunity to look into all sorts of religion. I went to Presbyterian churches, a kingdom hall, anything and everything until one of my friends invited me to a non-denominational church. The selling point was that Wayne Simeon went to the church...who doesn’t want to go to church with Wayne? I loved the church; they sucked me in with contemporary music, a band, sermons that touched me, and people my age. I felt at home in church again, finally, until one Sunday.

During the prayers the pastor asked everyone to close their eyes and imagine that whatever was troubling them in their lives be taken off of their hearts. I really felt every word he said, you see, I had been struggling with obsessive compulsive order (OCD) for years. It had taken over my life starting my junior year of college. Most people think of hand washing and germs when they think of OCD but for me it was the fear of someone in my family dying that caused me to repetitiously do everything. There was a routine to every activity in my day so that I could keep my family safe. When that pastor told me to give my OCD to God, I really felt it and it touched me. Just as I felt God taking my pain and fear away I heard a girl across the room scream. Four people whipped her up and threw her outside of the church, they grabbed several more people and I could hear her screaming as they whisked her away. I will leave out the details, but the things I saw and heard in that church changed me.

For almost a year I didn’t step foot inside a church. It wasn’t until I was about to come home for Christmas Eve services at Resurrection that I realized I needed to get over this fear. Pastor Shawn Norris of Lutheran Campus Ministries at KU actually had to take me inside the church when it was empty. It was a weekday and it was just us, he had me sit there as he tried to convince me church was still a safe place to be. My OCD changed drastically. Instead of the fear that something would happen to my family I feared something would happen to me at church, my OCD became what they refer to as “scruples” I thought that if I didn’t follow the routines I wouldn’t go to Heaven.

I still struggle everyday with the fear that I need “prove” my faith and “earn” my ticket to Heaven. Although I know that we are saved by grace I can’t give up doing compulsions and routines daily so that I get to go to Heaven. I am SO scared that something like what happened to that girl in Lawrence will happen to me that every Church service is an hour long panic attack for me. I fidget, I touch the pews as I walk to communion, I have to step on certain things, I read the hymns over and over, I even leave during the prayers. I will not sit on the right side of the church, because that’s where that little girl was sitting. Last month at the Wednesday Communion Service I sat completely alone on the left side as everyone else sat on the right.

RALLY DAY!!!

by Marriah Atcheson

Rally Day started with new Sunday School classes for all ages. Teachers and children alike were all excited. We have lots of new teachers, including Pastor Tom who will lead the Adult class. During service, there was a commissioning of the teachers and students. The best part came after church...the ice-cream social started out with a balloon toss where we released balloons into the sky. After the balloons had been let go, the kids rushed inside to get in line for ice cream. They had different flavors of ice cream and all sorts of toppings for ice-cream but the main one they missed was the hot fudge. I was very surprised that we had so many people stay for ice cream. I guess when you put ice cream and balloons together you get people's attention! So all in all, the entire event was a real go getter. We all had fun and wouldn't mind having ice cream again after church.



From the Leaf Family

Thank you, thank you for allowing us to grow in our ministry among you. You were loving and compassionate, eager and willing to step out in faith, and extremely supportive of Tim's work. We thank you for the many years of care and love you shared with all of us.

What thriving, growing days you have ahead of you! We rejoice in your enthusiasm and pray that you will continue to take care of each other! God's with you!!

You will always be in our prayers and in our hearts!!

With love and thanks,
Martha and Tim

With Love and Thanks
By Maggie and Paxton Leaf

Standing here now it's hard to believe
That we are preparing and planning to leave.

But before we all go we have one thing to say.....
Actually several things that we'll miss after today.

We thank you for helping to raise us so well
And so kindly buying the things we would sell.

This church is our family day after day
We thank you for constructing a great place to play.

The children's sermons were often quite grand
But we never quite knew where our names would land.

Fun babysitters from here we have had
But eating the ice cream always made our dad mad.

It's important to thank you for being our leaders
in Sunday school, Bible school, as greeters and readers.

Even forgiveness you were willing to bestow
As through the cross our airplanes would go.

You have all been like teachers and parents of sorts
Helping us always stay on the right course.

Except for the few who would load us with stuff
Like brownies and cookies and lots of cream puffs.

Yes the food has been great morning, noon, and night
Our love of cheesy potatoes just might

Keep us coming right back to you time after time
Your comfort food made us both feel quite fine.

We will remember you always and hold you quite dear,
Our Resurrection family, as we leave you here.

We thank you for being our mentor; our friend
Please know that our love for you will never end.

God brought us to live here among you till now
Live the Faith is our motto...and now we know how.

I'm sure you'll remember the words of the boss
Always remember to Lift High the Cross!

LOST IN THE ALPHABET



Have you noticed an increase in the use and number of acronyms? Likely government and the military are the two biggest

groups influencing their use. With increasing speed of communication, acronyms are invading our language, personal and business papers, email, certainly texting and yes, church.



Here's a little multiple choice test of our church's acronyms to see if you're up to speed and maybe to help you if you're not!

ELCA: Elephants Learning Corny Acronyms,
Elegant Lace Covering Acne
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Elastic Lizards Climbing Anthills

YMT: Your Mother's Touch
Youth Ministry Team
Young Muscular Travelers
Yellow Mustard Tortillas

FAITH: Finding Answers In The Heavens
Fallen Angels Incubating On The Hearth
False Advertising Incinerates The Heart
Figuring Abnormalities In The Human

VBS: Very Busy Socialites
Victorious Brave Soldiers
Vociferous Baptist Singers
Vacation Bible School

FAITH 5: Fervent Angels Invading the Heart
Faith Acts In The Home
Fearless Acrobats Incite The Hapless
Fleeing Antelope Instinct Takes Hold

RLC Rural Letter Carrier
Red Letter Club
Resurrection Lutheran Church
Restless Little Children

WELCA: Wild Eccentric Ladies Club of America
Women's Elegant Lingerie Covering All
Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In America
Westar Energy's Leading Coffee Addicts

CTPTB: Cooking To Please The Boys
Church The Place To Be
Children Taking Peanuts To Bed
Christians Telling People To Believe

CHOIR: Cooks Having Old Indigents Return
Choir Having Open, Inviting Role
Curing Hams Over Idaho Reds
Choir

SS: Short Singles
Sassy Seniors
Sunday School
Social Studies

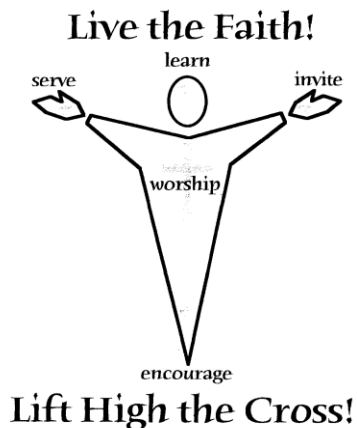
LCMS: Lutheran Campus Medical Society
Lively Children's Monthly Social
Lonely Christian Mating Society
Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

AMPED: After Midday People Eating
Dessert
A Ministry Preparing Extreme Disciples
Acting More Prudently Effecting Dates
Ask More People, Eliminate
Depression

BYOB: Bring Your Own Beverage
Bring Your Own Butter
Bring Your Own Bible
Bring Your Own Bottle

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Church Staff

Interim Pastor Tom Hallstrom
Office Administrator Cathleen Ramirez
Financial Secretary Evelyn Clark
Nursery Supervisor Holly Gonzales
Music Director Evelyn Clark
Sexton Jessica Spillman

Church Council

President Donna Tibbits
Vice President Bob Westerhaus
Treasurer Evelyn Cherry
Secretary Barry Schroeder
Ray York
Darrin Deutscher
John Larsen
Ruth Albertin

Contact us!

Phone: 316-522-1091
Email: mail@rxluth.com

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Live the Faith! Lift High the Cross!

OUR VISION STATEMENT

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

**We are a welcoming place from the curb to the
coffee pot and back
"COME AND SEE!"**

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00 AM

WORSHIP 10:00 AM