



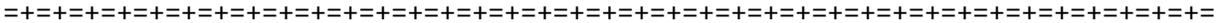
RESURRECTION REFLECTIONS

Volume 7, Issue 3

December 2015

OUR MISSION Live the Faith! Lift High the Cross! OUR VISION

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



Pastor's Ponderings

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ;

It is hard to believe that the end of the year is quickly approaching. As we look forward to 2016, and reflect on 2015, I hope that you will find new and exciting ways to participate in the life of our church.



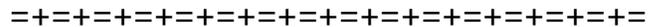
Advent begins on November 29 this year and it is the start of a new church year. I hope that you will take this time of preparation during the Advent season as a way to prepare yourselves, your homes, and your hearts for the coming of Christ.

Those working in the Central States Synod office will be intentional about prayer during the season of Advent. Taking 15 minutes each day to be silent, to be in prayer, and to open their hearts and minds to the power of the Holy Spirit. Bishop Gustafson has invited pastors and church workers to be in prayer each day as well.

I now invite you to take on this practice of prayer and meditation during Advent as well. Take 15! Set aside 15 minutes each day to be in conversation with God. This time of prayer can take on many different forms. Some like to pray with a cup of coffee in hand, while others like to journal or color or sit in the silence of their Christmas tree lights while they are praying. Remember there is no "right way" to pray.

During Advent there will be daily posts to the church Facebook page with short devotions. Please look for these. They will be from a variety of sources that will engage us all differently. I look forward to hearing how this intentional time of prayer has helped to prepare you and prepare your hearts for the coming of Christ.

Peace and Blessings,
Pr. Elizabeth Cummings



A Place In the Choir

The kingdom of the world had become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Messiah. Revelation 11:15

I can't read the words of Revelation 11:15 without doing so to the tune of the Hallelujah Chorus from Handel's *Messiah*. It rings out from the balcony of a sanctuary in my mind and transports me directly to singing in the choir on Easter morning.

As a student at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, it was my joy to be a part of the famous Christmas concert there. A mass choir accompanied by a full orchestra sang the story of Christmas for thousands each year. I wasn't talented enough to be a part of the elite choir, but it didn't matter. All of us, from the freshman choir, to the women's choirs, to the top choir were one in this experience of making a joyful, unified noise in praise of God.

Singing in a choir is like the kingdom of God. Voices join together to create a sound bigger and grander than any one voice can make alone. Our differences don't divide us, but combine to create beautiful harmony. Singing together is a preview of what it will be like to be a part of the heavenly choir one day.

From Christ in Our Home; Pastor Jessica Daum Harris

HELLO FROM YOUR COUNCIL

by Robert Nunn, Council President



Front left to right; Pam Porsch, Lisa Atcheson, Shari Jordan

Back left to right: Ray York, Barry Schroeder, Karolyn Braun, Lydia Evans, Pastor Elizabeth, Robert Nunn

Hello From Church Council

Another year has come and gone. Man, that was a quick year! Please welcome New and also returning Council Members to a fresh New Year Start. Your comments and thoughts are always welcomed.

The main focus this past year for Council was revising, updating and or adopting new Church policies and procedures, along with improvements in record keeping, filing and storage. The task was long and challenging, but needed to be done.

Completed items are as follows:

Computer Use Policy, Personnel Policies, Payroll Policies and Procedures, Accountable Reimbursement Policy, Evaluation Procedures, Reviewed Synodical Polices, Revised and Approved Church Constitution, 2016 Budget Proposal based on using our new computer finance program, Revised Job Descriptions pertaining to Office Administrator, Nursery Attendant, Musician and Sextons.

"Busy-Busy-Busy"---" Whew" --" Glad That's Over."

A few other items for future discussion are:

Child Protection Policy, Selecting Audit Committee members (*Please Volunteer*), Selecting Staff Support Committee members (*Please Volunteer*), Review Building Use Policy and Review Wedding Policy. As you can tell, there are a few items that need to be addressed, but the majority have been revised and approved. For your Reading Pleasure, a notebook with all of these descriptions, policies and procedures will be in the Church Office. On behalf of your Council, a "BIG THANK YOU" to the Congregation for your Thoughts and Prayers and for your Continued Generosity for "OUR CHURCH"; "GODS CHURCH". Your Continued Support will allow us to Grow - "GOD'S KINGDOM".

The Lord be with you!

Robert Nunn, Council President

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Good Gifts If you would like to give a gift in honor of someone, look at the ELCA Good Gifts catalog. Copies are available in the information center across from the Library or look at www.elca.org/goodgifts. where you will also see how you can make a gift on-line.

WELCA Thanks You!

Another hugely successful Fall Bazaar at Resurrection! While it's a WELCA project, it couldn't be carried out without the help of the congregation. When all the sales are complete, we'll have cleared about \$2500. Ten per cent will go to Mission Support and the rest toward scholarships for our youth to attend a week of church camp at Camp Tomah Shinga next summer.



We were also helped by a grant from Thrivent for \$250 with which we purchased food and supplies for the bazaar.



Well over 600 volunteer hours went into putting the bazaar together:

- Crafts, baked and canned goods, soups, sloppy joes and cinnamon rolls were made.
- The roadside sign was repainted and put in place.
- Flyers were distributed.
- Publicity appeared on Haysville's TV Channel and on electronic signs at the city building and Commerce Bank.
- Publicity was posted on the church's web site.
- Bazaar items were set up on Thursday.
- Workers attended the bazaar on Friday and Saturday.
- Helpers set up and put away tables and chairs in Fellowship Hall.
- And all who came and made purchases!

The annual bazaar is a terrific community outreach and an opportunity for fellowship and service. Thanks to all!

Women of ELCA



Altar Guild

by Lydia Evans



Here we are at the beautiful and busy Christmas season once again. We on the Altar Guild are all so busy planning and preparing our sanctuary to reflect the birth of our Savior. Thanks to Property Committee for putting three Christmas trees. Altar Guild, with

some other workers began decorating on Monday evening, December 7th. We had a fun time joining in this festive activity. New ideas are always welcomed, **AND of course...we always have snacks!**

In the meanwhile, by serving as sacristans, we continue to carry out our mission: *'to prepare and adorn God's house for worship'*. You might wonder, just what do sacristans and the Altar Guild do around our church? Wonder no more!



We will welcome you at 6:30 on the 2nd Monday of the month—especially each December for our Christmas decorating party.

All of us from the Altar Guild wish everyone a very blessed, happy and peaceful Christmas and a wonderful New Year!!!



****SPOTLIGHT****

Spot Light on Rick & Linda Clements



Greetings to our friends at Resurrection. Our Imaging team has asked that I tell you a bit about us, Linda & me, Rick. Linda is a very shy person and some say I am not so shy. You'd wonder how we ever "connected", and sometimes so do I. I guess it's true; opposites attract.

Me? I was born in Pratt, Kansas, the middle child in my family of five, with three brothers and one sister. An older brother is now deceased, due to cancer. I still consider myself a 'Pratt Person'. Our family belonged to Calvary Baptist Church in Pratt where I was baptized by immersion at age twelve. As I recall my baptism, it was a very frightening experience. At age 13, we joined the Episcopal Church and I was home schooled for confirmation. For fun as a kid, I hunted snakes and actually kept snakes as pets. I was featured in an article for the Pratt newspaper, the Pratt Tribune, about my hobby with snakes. Our family moved to Wichita where my dad found work. I loved to run and at Wichita East High School, I ran cross country, even at a regional meet. However, it was 'love or money' and at age fifteen, I had to quit running to work at as a bagger at Walls IGA for 50 cents an hour.

Linda is a true blue Wichita girl. She graduated from Wichita High School East, in 1964. Coincidentally, this is the same high school that I attended. :) We met in my senior year, 1962, and continued the relationship after I graduated. Things got more serious and we married Sept. 19th, 1964, at St Christopher's Episcopal Church, Wichita. Linda babysat a couple different children, in our home, to augment our combined income. I worked for Dillon's and the pay was lousy, \$1.35/hour. When Linda was pregnant, I began working at the railroad in training as a boxcar repairman. That was two years of hard, dirty work. When the railroad job closed I went to work at Cessna and was employed there for 34 years. At Cessna, I began as a sheet metal assembler, became a production problem solver, and at the last retired as a non-degreed manufacturing engineer.

Three years after we were married, Kimberly, our first child was born. Three years later, Rick Jr. (little Ricky) came along. Linda and I along with our 2 children joined Resurrection way back in 1969. At that time we owned a home up in Wichita, and decided to move closer to Resurrection, 'our' church in Haysville. Pastor Arthur Freeburg was the pastor. It was probably about 12 – 13 years later that we brought our third child, Nita King, into our hearts. We like to say that we adopted Nita, 'by love, not by law'. Through these 3 young people we now have 10 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren. Yes, Linda and I know that God has most certainly blessed us, in life and spirit!

Linda started out her 'real' working career at here in Green Meadows Nursing Home here in Haysville. She hired on way back in 1977 and worked for of all people, Gail Freeburg, wife of our late Pastor Arthur Freeburg. She initially worked in the Arts & Crafts department, giving diversions to the residents. Apparently her efforts were noticed and she was moved to Social Services.



SPOTLIGHT

There she worked her way up to a supervisory position and later was named Supervisor of Social Services. She was hired by the Haysville School district, as the playground and lunch room supervisor. This lasted just two years and she decided it was time to hang up her 'spurs', which was about the same time that I retired from Cessna. *If I wasn't going to work, she wasn't either.*

We have memories of our honeymoon at the Kansas State Fair, but now Linda & I don't like to fight the ever growing crowds. For our 25th anniversary, we traveled to Hawaii for a 10 day stay. It was great! This year was our 50th wedding anniversary. To celebrate, Linda and I boarded a cruise ship for what was supposed to be a pleasant cruise to 3 different destinations. We quickly discovered that we don't like life on a cruise ship. We especially didn't like the rough seas on our third day out which caused the second port of call to be 'scrubbed'. So Linda & I bobbed about on the ocean and worked our way to the third port. In a final conclusion, we won't be taking another cruise, even if it's free. No thank you. We wish we had gone back to Hawaii – for sure!

I joined the Haysville Masonic Lodge in 1977. This year I received my 38th year pin in Masonry. This is also my year as Master of Haysville Lodge. It's been a busy year, and I learned lots regarding the Masonry. Next month, I'll turn over the 'chair' to my son-in-law, Lee Crawford. I will say that Masonic membership is diminishing, but I hope that enough interest is generated to keep this fraternal organization alive.

Linda and I both grew up with pets in our homes. So it's no surprise that we've had pets almost all our married lives, mostly dogs. Each one was our favorite and each terribly spoiled. The first one joined us before we had been married a year. Our current dog is Prince Harry. We just call him Harry. He's a Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, just a little over 2 years old now and he is the love of our lives, hands down, the best dog ever. Yes, he's spoiled, just a little; he sleeps with us (in our bed) every night. We've had cats, as well. Our first cat was a Siamese, and she was a cat from hell. We finally had to give her away before she destroyed all our curtains and furniture. Our current cat (Gracie) has thyroid problems, but she just refuses to take her medicine. So we spoil her and feed her all she wants 2 - 3 times a day. Her favorite (current) food is canned tuna and sardines. Honestly...

Camping has been a big part of our lives. Linda & I have had all the different campers and RV'S. Starting with a basic tent we slowly worked up to bigger and better units. Our last was our biggest, most expensive, our Montana Fifth Wheel, a great RV. It was by far the largest of all that we had previously owned. Our final destination was the best too! We kept our RV at Spring Lake RV Resort for seven years, 365 days a year. We paid a little extra to leave it in place through the winter, thus assuring we would keep our parking spot.

In closing, I would like to say that we certainly enjoy the church and all the members. We ALL are blessed to be part of this church family. Linda & Rick Clements

Church Staff

Pastor..... Elizabeth Cummings
Office Administrator Cathleen Ramirez
Treasure..... Heather Porsch
Financial Secretary..... Evelyn Clark
Nursery Supervisor..... Holly Gonzales
Music Director..... Evelyn Clark
Sexton..... David & Jessie Cook

Church Council

President..... Robert Nunn
Vice President Barry Schroeder
Secretary..... Shari Jordan
Lisa Atcheson
Karolyn Braun
Lydia Evans
Pam Porsch
Ray York

Contact us!

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



The Birth of Jesus

¹ In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,

and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Luke 2:1-20 New International Version (NIV)