

# February 2018 Genesis Newsletter

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**From Pastor Jennie!**

## **Thoughts on Lent**

A good portion of my childhood was spent in New Ulm, an ethnically German town. New Ulm seemed full of German Catholics and German Lutherans. I'm sure there were others, too, but they were a smaller piece of this German pie.

As we head into Lent, I'm reminded of my childhood Catholic friends, who would be coerced into giving up something over the 40 days before Easter. Add on top of that their inability to eat meat on Friday and you can bet that I was pleased to be Protestant.

Looking back, however, I can see the value in some of the faith practices that were in place – although I'm pretty sure the reason behind them escaped the sad, school-aged kids who lost eating candy or watching tv for a month and a half.

As we head into Lent, I'm not "giving up" anything. I don't even consider it "adding to" my life. I am taking a journey. It will be a journey of renewal and a journey to the cross with Jesus.

Life is multi-dimensional – made up of spiritual, vocational, intellectual, emotional, physical, social and financial dimensions of well-being. They are like spokes on a wholeness wheel. The tire itself is our spiritual well-being. Everything we do influences us as whole beings. One small step taken in one dimension or "spoke" of life can spill over into the other areas.

At the center of the wheel, we are a new creation through the waters of baptism. Christ lives in us and through us, and calls us out to love and serve one another. What does it mean to be a new creation? We have received the gift of grace through Christ, who came that we might have abundant life. Abundant life is living as a new creation, being grounded and centered in Christ and loving our neighbor as ourselves. It is when we are living well in Christ that we are best equipped to pass on our faith.

We continue in Mark's Gospel, of course. Using a variety of stations, Holden Evening Prayer and Soup and Bread suppers we will begin Lent in the wilderness with Jesus. It is there that Jesus was tested and prepared by the Holy Spirit for the rest of the journey.

So, during Lent, I will continue to pray for Resurrection Lutheran Church, for you and the ministries that exist as well as what is to come. I've been asking God to make His presence known to those folks who gather with us infrequently, or stepped away during the transition period.

Let's make Lent a time of renewal both in our personal lives and as a community of faith "Called together by God's **love** to **welcome** joyfully, **grow** faithfully and **serve** gratefully in Jesus' name".

Thank you for your patience as I learn your names. If you need to contact me during the week feel free to call (or text) (651) 341-7442. My church email address is [jthul@rlcstjoe.com](mailto:jthul@rlcstjoe.com).

Pastor Jennie Thul

Pastor Linda Pedersen joined us at both services on Sunday, January 21 to install Pastor Jennifer Thul as our Senior Pastor.

Pastor Jennie answered several questions: Will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility, in the confidence that it comes from God through the call of the church? Will you preach and teach in accordance with the holy scriptures and with the confessions of the Lutheran church? Will you carry out this ministry in harmony with the constitutions of the ELCA? Will you be diligent in your study of the holy scriptures and in your use of the means of grace? Will you love, serve and pray for God's people, nourish them with the word and sacraments, and lead them by your own example in faithful service and holy living? Will you give faithful witness in the world, that God's love may be known in all that you do?



The congregation answered a couple of questions, too: People of God, will you receive Pastor Jennifer Thul as a messenger of Jesus Christ sent to serve all people with the gospel of hope and salvation? Will you regard her as a servant of Christ and a steward of the mysteries of God? Will you pray for her, help and honor her for her work's sake, and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

We all answered, "We will, and we ask God to help and guide us." Thanks be to God for the adventures that await us in the years to come.

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## Souper Bowl of Caring



On Wednesday January 31<sup>st</sup> and Sunday February 4<sup>th</sup> the youth will be participating in the nationwide Souper Bowl of Caring Event to raise funds for the St. Joseph food shelf. As you are leaving worship youth will be stationed in the narthex with a big soup pot ready to collect your monetary donations.

Did you know that when you donate money as opposed to canned goods and such the food shelf could feed approximately 20 times more families? The money allows them to purchase surplus food available to food shelves and soup kitchens in the United States. Just some food for thought!! (pun intended)

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## Seeking Faith Mentors for Confirmation Students during Lent

During Lent, there will be about 22 confirmation students seeking faith mentors to meet with them for about 30 minutes every Wednesday before or after Lenten worship. This brief 5 week commitment is another way to build assets in our youth and help them develop a mature faith. Materials for discussion will be provided but building a genuine relationship is the goal. If you'd like to help, contact Pastor Jennie.



## National Youth Gathering News “This Changes Everything.”

Ephesians 2:8 *“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.”*

Grace is a foundational and distinctive piece of the Lutheran faith. This gift, undeserved and freely given, changes lives and perspectives as people realize they are enough because of what Christ has done and are called into the world to serve their neighbor and share the good news.

We have begun planning, with a small group of students and adults, to attend the 2018 National Youth Gathering in Houston TX! We are excited to join 30,000 other young people and adults in worship, service learning and exploration! As young people desire to find someone to become, somewhere to belong and something to do, the Gathering seeks to be a ministry that helps define some of that or at least open up pathways of discovery. Ultimately, we want youth to understand the fierce love that God has for them, just as they are, and that by grace, through faith, they have been saved. When young people (or really any age person!) truly claim this reality, it indeed changes everything.

As we move forward team building and learning we ask you to keep us in prayer!

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### Bible Study - Tuesday Mornings at 8 a.m.

Not an early riser? Well, now you can join Pastor Jennie for Bible Study on a new day and time! All are invited to join Pastor Jennie on Tuesday mornings 8-9:00 a.m. for a look at the upcoming Wednesday & Sunday Bible readings. In this interesting discussion you'll get an inside look at the message for Wednesday & Sunday as well as treats and coffee!

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### RLC Discussion Group

For our next meeting on February 6, 2018 we will be reading [The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind](#), by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer. If you have any questions, contact Ellen Chovan at ellenchovan@aol.com or (320) 217-8705. All are welcome to join.

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### Resurrection Reflections and Worship Host Opportunities



You are already receiving a weekly publication sent to the e-mail address we have in our database. Open it up to be up to date on the weekly happenings at RLC. You will find signing up for Worship Host duties, and other volunteer opportunities to be a breeze! Once you have opened it, scroll down towards the bottom and you'll see a direct link to Sign-Up Genius. There you'll see sign-up opportunities for Weekly Worship hosts, Assistant Ministers and other signups as requested by our members at RLC.

It's easy to sign-up, you'll get an e-mail reminder, and it's easy for the church office to track.

## 2018 World Day of Prayer – “Informed prayer leads to prayerful action”

You are invited to attend the World Day of Prayer service at Atonement Lutheran Church (1144 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, St. Cloud) on Friday, March 2 at 1:00 PM. A Bible Study will be held at 11:30 AM. (Please bring a bag lunch).

This year's prayer service is written by the women of Suriname (located on the Northeast coastline of South America) and focuses on the story of creation. The Bible study and worship service invite us to explore issues of climate change, natural disasters, pollution and human abuse of the environment and how we might respond as God's people.



World Day of Prayer is a worldwide ecumenical movement of Christian women of many traditions who come together to observe a common day of prayer each year on the first Friday in March.

The symbol for World Day of Prayer was developed by the women of Ireland and adopted as the international logo in 1982. Its design is made up of arrows converging from the four points of the compass, persons kneeling in prayer, the celtic cross, and the circle, representing the world and our unity through all our diversity.

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### Southwest MN Synod News

**Equipping Congregations Day**  
**February 10, 2018 @ 8:30 am - 3:30 pm**



Saturday, February 10, 2018  
8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Vinje Lutheran, Willmar, MN  
Registration Information:  
Registration fee includes all materials, refreshments and lunch.

We have about a dozen people signed up to go. We will be meeting at Resurrection at 7:00 am and leaving from here for those of you who would like to carpool.

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### Thrivent members needed!!

Youth attending the National youth gathering in Houston are looking for several Thrivent members to sponsor fundraising and service projects leading up the trip in June. Please contact Rachel Kuebelbeck or Pastor Jennie if you are interested!

## Avon girl, Eliana Szabo needs our help

In this past week's Resurrection Reflection, I posted a video of an extremely talented young girl. At only 9 years old, Eliana Szabo has made many public appearances playing piano for groups, small and large. On Thursday November 24, 2017, Eliana complained of a severe headache while at her grandmother's house in Iowa. While being attended to by her mother, she became disoriented and began vomiting. Eliana began to lose consciousness and was rushed to the local hospital. She was then airlifted to the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN, and was on the operating table for life-saving surgery less than 4 hours from the onset of the headache.

Eliana had an AVM (arteriovenous malformation) that ruptured causing a large brain hemorrhage. Neuro-surgeons removed almost all the hematoma, and a subsequent angiogram fortunately showed no other AVMs. Eliana has been at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN since Thanksgiving. Eliana's father says she is showing signs of improvement, but her recovery is going to be a long process. Her physicians are optimistic about her progress but she'll likely be at the Mayo for quite a while. She is currently undergoing intense physical therapy to hopefully regain the skills she had before this happened. Her family would appreciate help with medical expenses that have occurred from being there so long.

You can find out more about Eliana on her Caring Bridge site

at <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/eliana07>.

Kathy Wirth has also started a "Go Fund Me" page to help the family with mounting medical bills.

<https://www.gofundme.com/eliana-szabo-medical-expenses>

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### *December Financial Stewardship Report*

\*\*\*\*\**YEAR END*\*\*\*\*\*

General Fund Budget Income Plan for YTD January Thru December 2017	\$ 268,400.00
Actual General Fund Income for YTD January Thru December 2017	\$ 230,726.67

**We achieved 85.97 % of our 2017 YTD stewardship budget.  
14.03 % down Thru December 2017**

General fund checking account balance 12/31/17	\$47,070.96
Designated fund checking account balance 12/31/17	\$15,362.32
Building fund checking account balance 12/31/17	\$69,113.16
Balance mortgage with Thrivent Financial 12/31/17	\$636,354.21



### **Laundry Helpers needed...**

If you could volunteer for a month of doing the kitchen laundry that would be greatly appreciated! Please let Tracey know at 363-4232

## Fare for All in St. Joseph on Monday, February 12, 2018

Fare For All, sells packages of fresh produce and frozen meat **with no quantity limit**. Prices ranging from \$10 to \$30 per package, Fare For All offer savings that are much less than retail prices. The program has no income requirements and is open to everyone who is looking to save money. There are no forms to complete and cash, credit, debit and EBT cards are all accepted.



# FARE FOR ALL

## Fare for All Frequently asked Questions

This will be our fifth year that we have served central MN healthy, affordable nutritional choices. This is a compiled list of FAQ's that have been asked in the past.

### **Q: Why is FFA an important community resource?**

**A:** Fare For All provides fresh, quality food items at a lower cost than a typical grocery store. It helps families stretch their food budget and access nutritious foods that tend to be more expensive. Most government and emergency food assistance programs serve only low income families, so Fare For All serves as a good resource both for those families and for families and individuals who don't meet certain income requirements.

### **Q: What does the date on the meat I purchased indicate?**

**A:** The date on your meat package is a freeze by date, not an expiration date. Fare For All guarantees that the meat you receive has been frozen since before the freeze by date. Once frozen, the meat is safe to eat for up to two years after this date. Fare For All is very strict in following USDA guidelines on food dating, storage, and usage – and especially about food dating! For more information on food dating visit the [USDA Website](#).

### **Q: Can I purchase food items individually or do I have to buy the entire package?**

**A:** Fare For All buys in bulk using a cooperative food purchasing model. Packages of food are put together in order to utilize volume purchasing power. The savings is passed on to participants. Because of this, you must buy in packages. The only exception is at our warehouse sales, held every other Monday in New Hope. At this location, items are sold individually as well as in packages.

### **Q: May I use my Credit or Debit Card to Purchase Food?**

**A:** Yes, absolutely. Fare For All accepts cash, credit, debit, and EBT cards. We do not accept personal checks.

### **Q: How is Fare For All able to offer food at such a low cost?**

**A:** Fare For All uses a cooperative food purchasing model that utilizes volume buying power. Fare For All purchases produce and meat in large quantities at wholesale prices. Participants are then able to buy their share of the bulk order for up to 40% savings.

### **Q: Are there any qualifications to purchase food through Fare For All?**

**A:** There are no qualifications or income restrictions; the program is open to everyone. No pre-registration or pre-payment is required.

### **Q: If I purchase food through this program, am I taking away food from someone else who may need it more than I do?**

**A:** Absolutely not. The more people who participate in Fare For All, the more purchasing power the program has. This means that greater savings will be passed onto our customers.

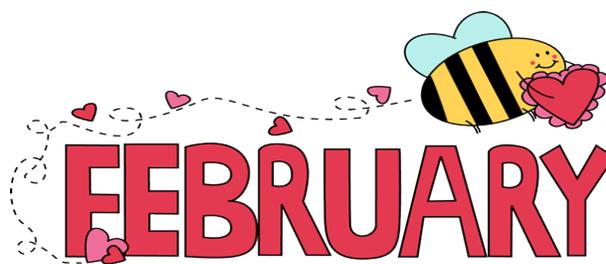
### **Q: Where does the food come from?**

**A:** All the food is purchased through wholesalers, manufacturers, or growers. The food, depending on the season, is either locally grown or sent from all over the country.

**Fare For All next distribution will be Monday, February 12, 2018 from 3:30-5:30 PM. All are welcome and new volunteers are always appreciated.**

**The Shoe Bus will be coming in April and again in August!**

# February Birthdays!



**Resurrection Lutheran Church**

610 N Co Rd 2  
PO Box 549

St. Joseph, MN 56374  
320-363-4232  
www.rlcstjoe.com  
*Address Service Requested*

**Sunday Worship 8:30 am. & 10:30 am.**  
**Wednesday Worship 6:30 pm**  
**Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2018 5:00 pm & 6:30 pm**

**Church Office Hours**

Monday—Thursday:	10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	Friday: 8:00 a.m.—noon
Pastor Jennie's Email	Jthul@rlcstjoe.com	320-363-4232
Samantha's E-mail	samantha@rlcstjoe.com	320-363-4232
Tracey's E-mail	rlc@rlcstjoe.com	320-363-4232
Bob's E-mail	rlc@rlcstjoe.com	320-363-4232