

RLC Genesis

May Newsletter



A Look at the Month Ahead...

Here's a snapshot of special events happening at RLC this month. Check out the calendar on our website for the most up-to-date information!

- May 3 - Confirmation Service Night at Kids Fighting Hunger (6-7:30pm)
- May 7 - Final Day of Sunday School
- May 8 - Fare for All Distribution and Shoe Bus (3:30 - 5:30pm)
- May 10 - Final Day of Confirmation
- May 14 - Mother's Day Breakfast following worship
- May 18-19 - Annual RLC Garage Sale
- May 21 - Graduate Recognition Sunday

Just a Note...

If April snow showers bring May flowers, we should have fields full of them this month! As the hours of sunlight increase, the days grow warmer, and the grass grows greener, we are THAT much closer to summer! As exciting as that might sound to many of you, every year about this time, I DREAD one thing...having to take Bessie out for the first time of the season. No, Bessie is not an adorable goat that I seriously consider buying each year to help take care of our lawn. Rather, it's the nickname I gave to our stubborn lawn mower. When it comes time to mow the lawn for the first time each season, after Bessie has had a chance to sit idle in the garage all winter long, I just know it's going to be a battle to get her to start. It never fails. After a minimum of 20 solid minutes of pulling on that starter cord, hearing sputters and groans of protest from good ol' Bessie (not to mention seeing the occasional puff of black smoke), the engine slowly begins to kick into gear, and I can finally get started on the lawn.

This year, as I contemplate starting Bessie up for the first time, it makes me think about how we humans sometimes react just like that old lawn mower when it comes to getting to work for the sake of the gospel. There have certainly been times in my life where I have sputtered and groaned when it came to answering God's call to serve. Sometimes we get too comfortable in our lifestyles or we feel like we're not possibly qualified or equipped to actively serve God at a particular point in time. But, despite our reluctance to get started, there is certainly much work to be done for the kingdom of God.

When God gives a tug on your "starter cord", how is it that you react? Do you sputter and groan in protest for awhile, or do you rev your engine, eager to get going? As we gear up for the summer months, take some time to think about your God-given talents and the ways in which God has put those talents to work so far in your life. Then, think about the ways in which God might be calling you to serve today and into the future. Each of you has unique abilities and gifts that are needed in this world. The next time you feel that tug in your life...don't be afraid to jump into action for the sake of the gospel.

"Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone" (1 Corinthians 12:4-6).

God's Blessings,
Pastor Sarah

New Members

•welcome•

NEW MEMBERS



If you or someone you know would be interested in joining the RLC church family, please contact the church office and/or email Pastor Sarah (pastorsarah@rlcstjoe.com).

A New Member Sunday will be held early this summer.

Confirmation Class at "Kids Fighting Hunger"



On Wednesday, May 3, our Confirmation students will be heading to Kids Fighting Hunger (KFH) in Sauk Rapids to help package food for those in need.

Parents - as a reminder, we will be meeting at KFH at 6pm. If your student needs a ride, please let Pastor Sarah know asap. (We will need to leave the church by 5:30pm.) Looking forward to an evening of service, teamwork, and fun!

Annual Garage Sale



The Outreach Committee along with the Youth will be holding a garage sale on May 18th and 19th, and they are looking for donations of clean, gently used items. So, as you are spring cleaning remember us!! If you have any questions, Susan Curtis or Angela Haynes can help you out. All proceeds of the sale will go to the 2023 intergenerational mission trip to Peoples Church and new furniture for the Youth Room. Please note we are unable to accept mattresses, underwear or computers/electronics.

Mother's Day Breakfast

The Outreach Committee will be serving a breakfast on Sunday May 14th to celebrate moms and all who nurture. The breakfast will start after the 9:00am worship service. A free will donation will be accepted, with all proceeds going to the 2023 Mission Trip Fund.



Sunday School End-of-Year Party!

On Sunday, May 7, there will be an end of the year party hosted right after church (10:15-10:45am). This will be the very last day of Sunday School for the season, which means it is time to celebrate! There will be fun carnival games, awesome eatery, flower pot painting, face painting, yard games, and a relay race. Come, bring your lovely Sunday Schoolers, and enjoy the festivities!



Youth Sunday Event

Calling all 6th - 12th Graders!!!!
May 21st, meet at 10:45 a.m. in the Youth Room!



Church Camp 2023!

Check out the Welcome Table for information on Green Lake Bible Camp near Spicer or look online for information on Luther Crest Bible Camp near Alexandria. Scholarships are available to help cover the cost of Summer Bible Camp for kids in kindergarten through grade 12. Please email rlc@rlcstjoe.com with your child's name, age and what camp they plan to attend for more information.



Graduate Sunday - May 21!

On Sunday, May 21, we will be celebrating our high school seniors during our worship service! Please join us as we wish them well in their future endeavors and have a special time of fellowship in their honor.

*If you have a high school senior and have not yet completed the informational sheet, please return it to Pastor Sarah this week (pastorsarah@rlcstjoe.com) so we can ensure your child is included in the celebration.



First Communion Celebration



Congratulations to those who received their First Communion at our Maundy Thursday service on April 6:

Elle Marie Ahrndt,
Sophia Burnos,
Charlie Burnos,
Eleanor Roberta Curtis,
Will Krueger,
Landon Perry,
Emma Gladys Pogatchnik,
Max Siegel, and
Macie Siegel.

May God bless them as they continue their faith journey!

Livestream Equipment Upgrades

Exciting improvements have been made to our OBS/livestream area. In addition to all the work with the sound system from previous weeks, a new desktop computer has now been purchased and installed, thanks to funds that were dedicated for technology purposes. (Thank you to Peter and Kendra Ohmann for their work installing the new computer!)

In addition, electrical work was completed by Roger Linn, who invested countless hours and made it through obstacles in the attic and walls to ensure the wiring was properly installed to make everything work. Thank you, Roger!

Breakfast Ministry



In support of a Breakfast Ministry started by member David Dawson, the Outreach Committee is collecting scrip to help cover the cost. The Breakfast Ministry happens every Sunday and is directed at youth from the St. Cloud area who come from homes broken apart by many reasons such as divorce, imprisonment, or abandonment. If you are interested in supporting this ministry please stop at the interest table in the narthex and leave your name and donation with Connie. Thank you for your support!

Grief Group



Grief is a very difficult journey that ends up touching the lives of everyone at some point or another. While we all walk our own path and journey at our own pace, getting together with others and having conversations can help you know you're not alone.

RLC will be offering a grief group discussion every other Monday, beginning May 22, at 10am in the Fireside Room. If you've experienced the loss of a loved one, please consider joining us, whether that grief is fresh or ongoing. Come and share, or simply come to listen and support. If you have questions, please see Pastor Sarah or send her an email (pastorsarah@rlcstjoe.com).

A Quilting Fieldtrip

The RLC Quilting Group was recently invited to visit and tour Quiet Oakes Hospice House, an organization to which they have donated many of their quilts in the past. Thank you, ladies, for your dedication and hard work and for making a difference in our community!



"Baby Shower" for Bailey



As many of you know, our Office Manager, Bailey Bussmann, recently had a baby boy! Little Finnley was born early and is still in the hospital (but doing well). Many of you have asked how you can help, so we thought we'd offer Bailey a little surprise "baby shower" through gift cards from Scrip (Target, Amazon, or restaurants so her family can grab a bite to eat together). If you would like to contribute, stop by the Scrip table following worship. Thank you!

Could YOU be our next Treasurer?



Do you have a finance background and a willingness to put your talents to use for a great cause? RLC could use your help! If you're willing to learn the ropes or hear more about what our Treasurer position entails, please reach out to Rich Haselhorst or Pastor Sarah for more information.

Zoom Bible Study!

Join us for morning Bible study via Zoom on Thursdays at 9am! Together we look at and discuss the lectionary texts for the upcoming Sunday. It's a great group with good conversation, and there's no participation pressure. Tune in and share, or just tune in and listen. We'd love to have you join! To receive a copy of the Zoom link, please reach out to the church office.



Fare for All – May 8

Fare For All, a local non-profit food program created to make fresh fruits and vegetables more affordable to Central MN families, will be selling their frozen meat packs at RLC on Monday, May 8, 2023 from 3:30-5:30pm.



Fare For All sells packages of fresh produce and frozen meat with no quantity limit. With prices ranging from \$11 to \$35 per package, Fare For All offers 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 on their grocery dollar. There are no forms to complete, and cash, credit, debit and EBT cards are all accepted.

Fare For All has teamed with Good in the Hood to support their Shoe Away Hunger Campaign. Gently used shoes will be available for purchase for everyone. Children's shoes go for \$2.00 and adult shoes range from \$5-\$10. All proceeds go directly to the purchase of food for food shelves. Shoe donations are also welcome.



May Birthdays

Willow	Blenker	5/3
Adam	Ahrndt	5/5
Michael	Curtis	5/6
Taylor	Goebel	5/6
Bailey	Schulz	5/8
Marie	Andreasen	5/10
Sam	Andreasen	5/10
Calvin	Olson	5/12
Sophia	Voigt	5/12
Maurice	Durheim	5/13
Erin	Nelson	5/14
Wyatt	Goebel	5/15
Dale	Hasch	5/15
Rene'	Krueger	5/15
Scott	Goehring	5/16
Peter	Nelson	5/19
Laurie	Rudnicki	5/19
Brock	Ahrndt	5/21
Brielle	Ritter	5/21
Mark	Beeler	5/24
Ella	Henkelman	5/24
Mike	Jagielski	5/24
Connie	Roberts	5/24
Melanie	Thompson	5/24
Cassandra	Birr	5/26
Courtney	Birr	5/26
Thomas	Dosch	5/26
Serena	Andreasen	5/27
Hudson	Huls	5/28
Stephanie	Schwegel	5/29
Daphne	Voigt	5/29
Anika	Schneider	5/31

For corrections or additions, please reach out to the church office so our records can be updated. Thank you!