RLC Genesis

September Newsletter

Just a Note...

It seems that summer is now handing off the baton to fall, and we're off to the races with the start of a new school year and fall events. Back in my days of playing piano for worship services, one hymn you could always count on for the start of fall was "Earth and All Stars"...particularly because of the fourth verse:

"Classrooms and labs! Loud boiling test tubes! Sing to the Lord a new song! Athlete and band! Loud cheering people! Sing to the Lord a new song!"

And then the refrain: "God has done marvelous things. I too sing praises with a new song!"

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Just a Note...Continued

In my memory, that song has forever ushered in the start of a new school year. Just as school brings fresh starts for our kids, so too does the start of a new year of confirmation and Sunday school bring opportunities for our youth to reconnect with one another and learn more amazing things about God.

And adults...there are many opportunities for YOU as well! Along with Rally Sunday, we will take part in "God's Work. Our Hands" service projects on September 10, followed by a Committee Fair during our time of fellowship where you can get information about all the ways you can be involved in important committee work at RLC. (Not to mention the fact that our adult choir will begin rehearsing again on Wednesday evenings, we have the ongoing Bible study on Thursday mornings, and Wednesday morning quilters, to name a few extras.) Consider how God is calling you to share your gifts with this church community.

Check out all the articles in this newsletter about our plans for Sunday, September 10, and join us as we once again kick off and embrace the fall season! God is at work and on the move at RLC and is indeed doing marvelous things! Let's join together in singing praises with a new song.

God's Blessings,

Pastor Sarah

Blessing of the Keys

During worship on Sunday, August 27, we had a special blessing and dedication of the piano donated to RLC in memory of Ed Turley. We are so grateful to Ed's wife, Carolyn Finley, as well as to Ed's family for this generous gift. If you missed worship that morning, you can watch the recorded service on Facebook or YouTube and hear the beautiful prelude tribute played by Dr. Amy Grinsteiner, Associate Professor of Music at CSB/SJU.

RALLY SUNDAY NEWS...

It's once again time to gear up for Sunday School! Rally Sunday will be held on September 10, with festivities both during and following our worship service. Join us as we kick off a new year of learning for our Sunday School kiddos (ages 3 - 6th grade). Sunday School registration forms are available on the welcome counter in the narthex, or they can also be accessed on the website. And high schoolers and adults... It's not too late to volunteer to teach! Lessons can be prepped for you in advance, so all you need to do is come on your scheduled Sunday morning!

Blessing of the Backpacks...

All students are invited to bring their backpacks with them to worship on Rally Sunday. We will pray for friendships and classes, safety and health, and we'll commemorate the start of a new school year!

Milestone Bibles...

Also during worship, we will celebrate with those kiddos who are age 3, in 3rd grade, and in 7th grade, as they receive their milestone Bibles from the congregation. (If your child has passed these age groups but did not yet receive a Bible, please notify the church office.)

Games, Crafts, & More...

Following worship, our Sunday School kiddos will join together in games and fun to ramp up for a new year of learning about God's tremendous love for God's people. And to top things off...the Wandering Cow ice cream truck will be on-site!

"God's Work. Our Hands" Sunday!

Mark your calendars and join us for worship and service on Sunday, September 10... "God's Work. Our Hands" Sunday! We will begin by gathering in the sanctuary for a brief worship service with holy communion at 9am, and then we will smile together in the front of the sanctuary for a large group photo before we dive in and work together on various service projects that extend our reach in the community.

Special service projects that morning will include assembling birthday bags for the St. Joseph Food Shelf, setting up and implementing a free back-to-school yard sale for kids in the community, a card-making station, making "find-and-seek" rice bags for our children's ministry, and organizing and cleaning the sanctuary.

Join us for this fun, faith, and fellowship-filled Sunday as we worship and then serve those in need alongside one another.

If you pre-ordered one of the "God's Work. Our Hands" t-shirts, they will be available to pick up and wear that day! And if you missed out on the presale but would still like to purchase a shirt, some extras were purchased in various sizes and will be available for sale that day ($12 per shirt).

Committee Fair...

After our time of worship and service project participation on September 10, we will have representatives from each of RLC's committees stationed at booths around the fellowship hall. If you are looking to get involved in the congregation but are not sure where to start, come to the Committee Fair and learn more about ways to serve and grow here at RLC!

Confirmation News!

Calling all Confirmation Students and Parents of students in grades 7-9! It's that time of year again where we kick off a new year of confirmation. An **orientation day for both students and parents will be held on September 13 at 6:30pm.** All parents and students in these grades, please plan to attend!

At orientation, we will discuss the topics and schedule for the year, unveil a new plan to feed our students each Wednesday night, and talk about plans for next summer's National Youth Gathering in New Orleans (among other topics). The first day of regular class will be Wednesday, September 20. Confirmation registration forms are available on the welcome table in the narthex or can be accessed on our website. Looking forward to an exciting year!

RLC Needs You!

It goes without saying that the effectiveness of any church's ministry depends upon its volunteers. RLC is blessed to have such faithful volunteers who serve in countless ways. Thank you! We are always looking for more hands, more ideas, and more opportunities to get to know one another and to reach out further into the community. It takes all of us working together to make ministry happen.

As we gear up for fall, prayerfully consider joining one of the congregation's committees! New faces are always welcome, and the time commitment is relatively minimal. For more information, please see the list of committees and their council representatives below. Thank you for your partnership in ministry!

Council Representative

Finance
Cary Pogotchnik
pogo5751@gmail.com

Outreach
Susan Curtis
susan@curtisgroup.com

Property
Brad Kompelien
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Social Justice
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Stewardship
Sara Borgen
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Sunday School / Christian Education
Lori Schneider
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Worship & Music
Carolyn Finley
cfinley@csbsju.edu

Youth & Family
Lynn Welle
lynn_1330@hotmail.com

A Word from Worship and Music Coordinator

First, a big welcome to Jakob Waller, a SJU sophomore, who will serve as our choir director, hopefully for the next couple of years. He has a beautiful voice and, I'm told, plays a mean saxophone. We look forward to his leadership, new ideas, and hearing him as he teaches the congregation new songs, etc. Choir rehearsals will begin on September 6, 6:00 p.m, and the first meeting will be primarily meet and greet. I know Jakob would welcome new choir members. Come join us.

A big shout out and thank you to those wonderful musicians and our sound man, David Krzenski, who shared their talents for our Worship Without Walls services this summer. We hope to have one more WWW the end of September, perhaps in the parking lot, although the prayer garden has been a great setting.

Another big thank you to Carolyn Finley and the family of Ed Turley for the donation of Ed's Steinway piano. It became something of a chore to get it moved but it is now in place to serve our fellowship. Hopefully we can have some concerts and share the sound with our larger community. It was dedicated on August 27th.

On September 10th, "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday, the W & M committee is inviting you to share in cleaning the sanctuary chairs, washing windows, and straightening the hymnals/Bibles under the chairs. All hands welcome! Also, please sign up at the Committee Fair for participation in worship or on the committee.

Last, but not least, we will be doing a favorite hymn/song Sunday, probably in early October. Please add your favorites to the basket on the welcome table.

Grief Group Update

Grief Group will be resuming on Tuesday, September 26, at 10am in the Fireside Room, and we will begin working through the book Good Grief by Granger Westberg. While we all walk our own path through grief and journey at our own pace, having conversations can help you know you're not alone. Come and share, or simply come to listen and support.

Worship Without Walls

We're going to try for one final Worship Without Walls service this year! Invite your neighbors, bring your camp or lawn chairs if you have them, and join us at 9am on September 24 as we worship God together in the beauty of the great outdoors!

New Member Sunday!

Help us spread the word! If you or someone who know is thinking about becoming a member of RLC, we are planning to welcome new members during our worship service on Sunday, October 8. Please give the office a call at (320)363-4232 or send an email to Pastor Sarah (pastorsarah@rlcstjoe.com). Pastor Sarah will be in contact with those who are planning to join prior to that day to answer any questions and to talk about ministry opportunities at RLC.

Adult Forum Learning Event

This summer, SJU student Gilbert Perez has been working with his professor, Ben Durheim of RLC, on a research project at Resurrection! The subject of the project was Symbol and Social Ethics in Rural Christianity, and some of you may have participated in interviews that Gilbert conducted throughout the summer. Gilbert and Ben will be presenting their findings from this study at a special adult forum event after worship on Sunday, September 17 in the Fireside Room. Grab a cup of coffee, and head on in!

Bible Study in-person or Zoom!

Join us for morning Bible study either in-person (Fireside Room at the church) or 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. Come and share, or just come and listen. We'd love to have you join! To receive a copy of the Zoom link, please reach out to the church office.

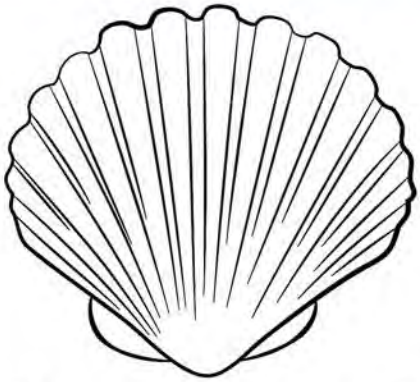
Fare for All - September 11

FARE FOR ALL

Food that makes cents

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.

Thank you, Baptism Crew!



You may have noticed we've had quite a lot of baptisms at RLC over the summer, which is such an uplifting part of our ministry together. Each new child of God receives personalized gifts made by volunteers from our congregation who work together to make the day extra special.

Thanks so much to Rich Haselhorst for creating the beautiful wooden baptismal boxes, Kathy Haselhorst for making the sweet baptismal banners, and Ridell Curtis for her work in personalizing a seashell for each. You all go above and beyond "behind the scenes" to provide these special remembrances, and you are so appreciated!

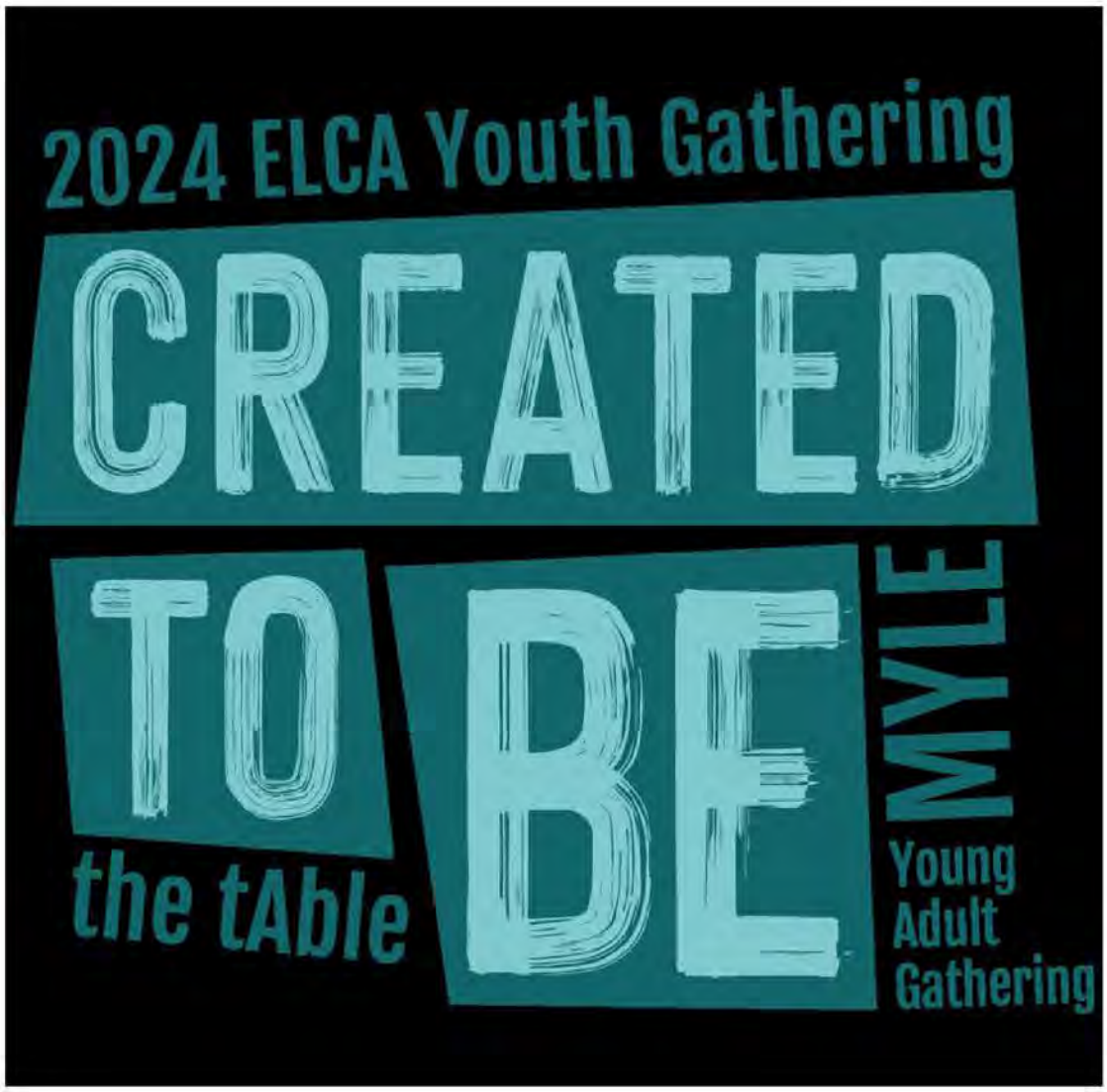
A Big Thank you to VBS!

A thank you "shout-out" to Rachel Kuebelbeck for her work in coordinating our community Vacation Bible School event again this year and to all the volunteers who came together to make it happen. This is such an important ministry for the youth in our community, so thank you so much for making it such a memorable experience for them!

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans!

Created to be! That is the theme of the 2024 ELCA National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, which will be held July 16-20. Youth participants must be in 8th – 12th grade at the time of registration (this fall). Participating in this event provides your child with opportunities to worship, serve, and grow their faith with other youth from across the country. It's an amazing and unforgettable experience!

If your child is interested, if you would like to be an adult leader/chaperone, or if you would like to learn more about this event, Please reach out to Pastor Sarah (pastorsarah@rlcstjoe.com). Otherwise, stay tuned to the Friday Reflection emails... an informational meeting will be scheduled for later this month.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Sept. Birthdays

Perry Haaland 09/02
Hunter Tate 09/03
Michelle Lage 09/04
Nancy Streng 09/04
Donna Patnoe 09/05
Jacob Hennigs 09/07
Gary Kraft 09/07
MacKenzie Lee 09/07
Sherri Pfannenstein 09/07
Eric Schwegel 09/07
Cheryl Novacinski 09/10
Anna Haynes 09/13
Kevin Schiltz 09/13
Jeff Swenson 09/13
Deborah Goehring 09/15
Marilyn Jansky 09/15
Mark Kranz 09/15
Eugene Skaggs 09/16
Krystal Grise 09/18
Chris Bernstetter 09/19
Karen Bobeldyk 09/19
Joshua Schulz 09/19
Ian Kompelien 09/22
Megan Smith 09/25
Virginia Wilkens 09/25
Makayla Keehr 09/27
Nathan Blenker 09/28
Rolland Krueger 09/28
Brooke Johnson 09/29

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

Council Highlights - August

- Rally Sunday and God's Work Our Hands Sunday will be held on Sunday, September 10. Activities include: Blessing of Backpacks and milestone Bible presentation during worship; Sunday School games and registration, various service opportunities, Committee Fair- learn more about short and long term volunteer opportunities at RLC; and an ice cream truck for Fellowship, all following worship.

- Pastor Birgitte from People's Church in Bemidji will be our guest speaker/Preacher on Sunday, September 3- we look forward to learning more about the ministry at People's Church.

- Our Landscaping project is moving forward and will begin within a week! Please excuse the temporary mess, and be sure to check it out in September!