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Volume 31, Issue 7

# SPIRIT

February 20, 2010

## Resurrection Lutheran Church

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### In This Issue

["I Heard It through the Grapevine"](#)  
[LYO-Led Worship Services](#)  
[Wednesday Lenten Services](#)  
[Pancake Breakfast, 3/14](#)  
[Calendar and Lectionary](#)  
[People Power This Weekend](#)

["On The Vine" Adult Forums](#)  
[Lent and Easter Offerings](#)  
[Support Group for Veterans](#)  
[Giving and Attendance](#)  
[Spirit Delivery Anniversary](#)  
[Ministry Prayers](#)

[Your Eco-Bit](#)  
[Knitting and Crocheting Lessons](#)  
[FOTCOH Silent Auction](#)  
[Hunger in America](#)  
[Girl Scout Recognition](#)  
[RLC Staff and Info Page](#)

### "I Heard It through the Grapevine"

When I was in high school, one of my favorite slow jam tunes was "I Heard It through the Grapevine" by Marvin Gaye. (If you're way, way younger than me, you can find it on You Tube!) Anyway, it's the story of a guy that's "just about to lose his mind" because his baby has gone off with some other guy.

You may have noticed a bunch of vines hanging around in the church lately. The reason is John 15:4-5. Jesus says, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing."

If you're one of the lucky ones hooked up with a Prayer Partner, you know what it's like to hang out together on Jesus' vine, singing, and laughing and praying together. During the next six weeks (AKA Lent), all the rest of us will have a chance to do that together too.

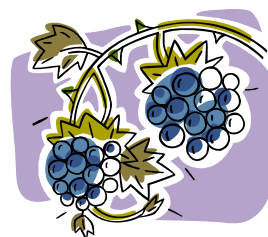
As a congregation, we're all going to be learning together what in the world it means to be a part of Jesus, the Vine. Each week you will receive several "Take It Home Tools" via email and the *Spirit*. Here are some of your Toolkit choices:

- "DailyWalk" — A one-page devotional including Scripture verses and discussion questions for each day of the week. You decide how in-depth you want to go.
- "FaithWalk" — A two-page tool for small groups featuring Bible study and discussion. Try any or all parts of this material with your small group.
- "SeniorWalk" — A one-page devotional with super-sized print that gets right to the point.
- "KidsWalk" — A two-page activity page with art, puzzles, and prayers. DO try this together at home with your family.

Open your "Toolkit" email each week, and then glean and/or print the ones that fit your life.

We also have several other resources for you to use during your Lenten devotional time. At a table by the church entryway, you'll find two booklets that you can pick up. Your choices are "Shaped by Love: Daily Family Devotions for Lent" by Karla Manternach and "From Fear to Love: Lenten Reflections on the Parable of the Prodigal Son" by Henri J.M. Nouwen.

For six weeks...we'll all be thinking and dreaming and singing and laughing and praying along the same lines, or should I say, vines. Expect to hear some gardening talk... grafting, rooting, pruning, tending, and bearing fruit.



Continued on Next Page

## “I Heard It through the Grapevine,” continued



My dad, Richard Rothe, was a fantastic gardener. He could grow anything, from flowers to vegetables, and of course, he had a sweet strawberry patch and a hardy grape vine. Most of all, he loved to make wine. It didn't always taste the best, but he was so proud and happy, we didn't have the heart to tell him. I think that's how God's love is too – our fruits may not always be perfect, but he's tickled with the results anyway.

Dad always planted way more than we needed, because he got such a kick out of giving stuff away.

I feel pretty lucky because I inherited all Dad's gardening tools. They feel great in my hands, and will no doubt last a long, long time.

So, for the next six weeks, let's start hanging out together around the Word, and keep our toolkits handy. We're sure to bear a ton of fruit, and have one “grape” celebration come Easter.

God bless you all from head to toe,

Kathy Eckert

Ministry Leader for Spiritual Formation Resurrection Lutheran Church



## LYO-Led Worship Services February 20 and 21

The high school Lutheran Youth Organization (LYO) will be leading worship at all three services on February 20 and 21. Our theme this year is TIME. The LYO band will lead music. Students are writing the puppet play and preparing videos. It will be a weekend filled with creativity and enthusiasm. Please join us. Invite your family. Invite your friends.



## LENTEN CALENDAR

### Wednesday Evening Lenten Worship Services February 24, March 3, 10, 17, and 24, 7 p.m.

5:30 p.m.	Soup and Bread Suppers
7 p.m.	Worship Services
February 24	Holden Evening Prayer Service with Stations for Prayer, Contemplation, and Creativity
March 3	Lenten Service to Be Announced
March 10	Healing Service
March 17	Lenten Service to Be Announced
March 24	Holden Evening Prayer Service

### Pancake Breakfast Sunday, March 14, 9 to 11 a.m.

The RLC Fellowship Team will be serving a Pancake Breakfast in Grace Hall on Sunday, March 14. Mark your calendars now, and watch the *Spirit* and announcements for more details.



## February 20 to 28 RLC Ministry Events

- Sat., 2/20** LYO Worship Prep, 1 p.m.  
**LYO-Led Worship, 5 p.m.**
- Sun., 2/21** **LYO-Led Worship, 8:15 and 10:45 a.m.**  
Sunday School/Zero 39, 9:30 a.m.  
"Faith and Faithfulness" Adult Forum,  
9:30 a.m.  
Adult Choir Rehearsal, 9:30 a.m.  
FOTCOH Auction Ends, 10:45 a.m.  
Wings and Prayers Service, 3 p.m.  
February 27 *Spirit* Deadline
- Mon., 2/22** All-Staff Meeting, 1 p.m.  
Stretch and Pray, 5:45 p.m.  
Disciple Bible Study, 7 p.m.
- Tues., 2/23** Stephen Ministry, 6:30 p.m.
- Weds., 2/24** Midweek Prayers, 10 a.m.  
Soup Supper, 5:30 p.m.  
First Communion Class, 5:45 p.m.  
**Lenten Worship Service, 7 p.m.**  
Holden Evening Prayer, with Stations for  
Prayer, Contemplation, and Creativity,  
7 p.m.  
Adult Choir, 7:30 p.m.
- Thurs., 2/25** "Connect" Planning, 6 p.m.
- Fri., 2/26** Stephen Ministry Workshop Set Up, 5 p.m.
- Sat., 2/27** Stephen Ministry Workshop, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
**Alive @ Five Worship, 5 p.m.**
- Sun., 2/28** **Worship, 8:15 and 10:45 a.m.**  
Sunday School/Zero 39, 9:30 a.m.  
"Being Rooted" Adult Forum, 9:30 a.m.  
Adult Choir Rehearsal, 9:30 a.m.  
FOTCOH Auction Ends, 10:45 a.m.  
Wings and Prayers Service, 3 p.m.  
February 27 *Spirit* Deadline



### February 28 Lectionary

The **Second Sunday in Lent** scripture references for February 28, 2010: **First Lesson** – Genesis 15:1–12, 17–18; **Second Lesson** – Philippians 3:17–4:1; **Gospel** – Luke 3:7–9, 21–22; and **Psalms** 27.

**Reflection:** Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek the face of the Lord again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

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### February 20 and 21 People Power Reminders

#### Third Saturday and Sunday Teams – Limited Assignments Because of LYO Service

From Monday to Thursday, please contact Marcia (663-8252; [marciafetzerrlc@verizon.net](mailto:marciafetzerrlc@verizon.net)) to report trades or substitutions. On Friday, Saturday, or Sunday morning, call the Steward for your worship service with changes.

You can also note changes on the People Power calendar posted on the bulletin board in the Nursery Alcove. Stewards: be sure to always check the calendar for the most recent information prior to the start of worship.

## On the Vine: Growing in Jesus Sunday Morning Adult Forums during Lent

Did you know that Lent comes from a Latin word that means “spring”? That’s especially hard to believe when we keep dealing with all this snow! But Lent is meant to be a time when we focus on the life and death of Jesus and on the conscious decisions and practices that keep us focused in our faith.

During Lent, we will explore what it means to be “on the vine,” to be connected to Jesus. Come join us in Adult Forum as we explore the following topics:



- February 21: **Faith and Faithfulness:** What does it mean to be “on the vine”?
- February 28: **Being Rooted:** The Sacraments as a source of growth
- March 7: **Being Nourished:** What faith practices will help us grow?
- March 14: **Growing and Drought:** How do we grow in the rough times and in conflict?
- March 21: **Producing Fruit:** Stewardship and Giving as a lifestyle of faith

Please join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am in Grace Hall as we explore together how we can grow together.

## ✦ ✦ Lent and Easter Offerings ✦ ✦

The Service Team has designated the first \$4,000 of Lenten/Easter offerings toward building materials for the Adult Work Trip which will take place from April 24 to May 1 at Sunset Gap in Cosby, Tennessee.

Any excess offerings will be given to Clare House, a ministry which provides a food pantry and a twice-weekly soup kitchen for the hungry and homeless of McLean County.

## Support Group for Veterans

Starting February 25, the McLean County Center for Human Services (CHS) will be offering a 7-week support group for veterans who struggle with anxiety and stress related to their service in the military. The group is open to veterans and a significant other, including a spouse, parent, sibling, or other family member. The focus of the group is to reduce these symptoms while improving communication and enhancing relationships satisfaction.



The group will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. at CHS which is located at 108 W. Market in Bloomington and will be led by veterans Don Taylor and Rachel Phillips. A small stipend is available to group participants who attend all sessions.

If you are interested, please call 309-827-5351.

## Our Giving and Attendance

**Dates:** 02/08/10-02/14/10  
**Offering:** \$11,831.84  
**Weekly Mission-Based Goal:** \$8,557.70  
**Year-to-Date:** \$57,183.84  
**Year-to-Date Mission-Based Goal:** \$59,903.90  
**Weekend Worship Attendance:** 172



*This information is preliminary and has not been verified by the Financial Secretary, so it may change slightly after verification.*



## Spirit Delivery Changes Anniversary

This edition of the *Spirit* marks the first anniversary of our transition from primarily mailing paper copies of the newsletter to sending it by email and posting it to the RLC website ([www.reslutheran.org](http://www.reslutheran.org)) and Facebook Page (<http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#!/pages/Bloomington-IL/Resurrection-Lutheran-Church-of-Bloomington-Illinois/144267528512>). Note that the web

version does not provide personal information about congregation members, such as phone numbers, email addresses, home addresses, or the births of babies.

Currently, about 200 recipients are emailed the *Spirit* every week, and 10 households receive it by first class mail. Several printed copies are also always available for pick-up at church.

By using a mostly electronic format, we are saving quite a bit on postage, paper, and additional office supplies. If you would like to receive the *Spirit* by email, please contact Newsletter Editor Mary Meier ([MaryMeierRLC@verizon.net](mailto:MaryMeierRLC@verizon.net)).

## Ministry Prayers

**Grafted – Faith and Faithfulness Prayer for the Day:** God, from the beginning of time, you have called your people in mercy to serve your purposes. This calling is not because of our ancestry, birthright, or any human worthiness on our part. We are grafted into you in order that we would bear fruit in your kingdom. You are the source of life and love. You are holy. All good things flow from you, and we are connected to your vine of promise. We give you thanks and praise. Amen.

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## Your Eco-Bit

### Earth-Saving, Energy-Saving Tips and Tidbits from the Eco-Justice Team

The State of Illinois has announced the Illinois ENERGY STAR® Appliance Rebate Program, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.



God's World . . . Our Hands

This program provides incentives for Illinois consumers to replace older appliances with specific residential ENERGY STAR qualified appliances, water heaters, and HVAC equipment. The new appliances must be purchased in Illinois through participating retail stores or contractors.

Illinois' program will be rolled out in two phases:

- Starting January 31, 2010, consumers can get point of purchase rebates on qualifying heating and cooling equipment through participating HVAC contractors and water heaters at participating retailers as long as funding lasts.
- Point of purchase rebates on ENERGY STAR qualified clothes washers, dishwashers, refrigerators, freezers, and room air conditioners will be available for items purchased from participating retailers during April 16 to 25, 2010.

See [http://www.ildceo.net/dceo/Bureaus/Energy\\_Recycling/Energy+Star+Rebates/](http://www.ildceo.net/dceo/Bureaus/Energy_Recycling/Energy+Star+Rebates/) or call 877-782-7005 for more information.

## Knitting and Crocheting Lessons

Wednesday, March 3, 6 p.m.

Members of the RLC Prayer Shawl Ministry Team will offer knitting and crocheting lessons from 6 to 7 p.m. (before the Lenten Service) on Wednesday, March 3. Please sign up at the Welcome Center and indicate whether you want to learn knitting or crocheting. You will be contacted about the supplies you should bring.



## FOTCOH Silent Auction Ends February 21

About 60 items, including several from Haiti, are up for bid at the silent auction to support FOTCOH (Friends of the Children of Haiti). Bidding ends at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday, February 21.

You can support FOTCOH by bidding on an item at the silent auction or making a financial contribution. All funds raised will go to operating costs of FOTCOH, the primary use being to purchase medications to dispense at the clinic. Thrivent will match \$1 for every \$3 raised, up to \$800.

For special arrangements regarding your bid or financial donation, please contact Trudy Vogel; Sharon Hoy; or Kathy Neil.

## Hunger in America: How You Can Help

According to a recent "Hunger in America 2010" study conducted by Feeding America, a network of food banks and its agencies, the need for emergency food assistance has increased 46 percent since 2006. Households with children and single mothers are especially vulnerable to food insecurity and hunger.

In a recent ELCA news release entitled "Lutherans Respond to Anti-Hunger Report, Rise in Emergency Need," Nancy Arnison, director of the ELCA World Hunger Program, said, "Lutherans are actively involved in addressing both the immediate needs and the root causes of hunger and poverty" (<http://www.elca.org/Who-We-Are/Our-Three-Expressions/Churchwide-Organization/Communication-Services/News/Releases.aspx?a=4443>).

### How can you help address the immediate hunger needs in our community?

One way is to donate food, funds, or time to RLC's Safe Harbor meal ministry. On the first and third Monday evenings of every month, Resurrection members contribute, prepare, and serve meals at the facility.

You can:

- Sign up and provide food on the bi-weekly lists posted on the Kiosk in the Narthex.
- Donate a monetary gift that will help offset the food that is purchased by RLC to cover the items not contributed by members.
- Volunteer yourself, your family, your small group, or your office co-workers to cook and serve the meal at Safe Harbor (several openings remain for March through June 2010).
- Place the non-food items needed by Safe Harbor clients listed on a handout at the Welcome Center in the donation box provided.

Contact Viola Freimann or Chris Ayers [back-up] if you have any questions about Safe Harbor.

## Girl Scout Recognition Weekend March 6 and 7

On Saturday, March 6, and Sunday, March 7, Resurrection will recognize and pray for our Girl Scouts. All Girl Scouts are encouraged to wear their official uniforms to the worship services. Any Scout who would like to participate in a worship service should contact Pastor Mary by Sunday, February 28.





# Resurrection Lutheran Church

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309-663-8252; [www.reslutheran.org](http://www.reslutheran.org)



## Schedule of Services

Alive at Five Saturday Worship – 5 p.m.  
Sunday Worship – 8:15 and 10:45 a.m.

**Sunday School for All Ages** – 9:30 to 10:30 a.m.

**Office Hours:** Monday to Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## Resurrection Staff

<b>Co-Pastor</b>	David Armstrong-Reiner	<a href="mailto:PastorDavidRLC@verizon.net">PastorDavidRLC@verizon.net</a>
<b>Co-Pastor</b>	Mary Armstrong-Reiner	<a href="mailto:PastorMaryRLC@verizon.net">PastorMaryRLC@verizon.net</a>
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<b>Ministry Leader for Administration and Finance</b>	Nikki Houseman	<a href="mailto:NikkiHouseman.RLC@verizon.net">NikkiHouseman.RLC@verizon.net</a>
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<b>Publications Secretary</b>	Mary Meier	<a href="mailto:MaryMeierRLC@verizon.net">MaryMeierRLC@verizon.net</a>
<b>Music Director for Blended and Contemporary Worship</b>	Jerry Worden	
<b>Music Director for Traditional Worship Service</b>	Doug Reiners	
<b>Church Cleaner</b>	Elda Lowe	

### RLC Vision:

Communities claimed and empowered by God for hope and wholeness

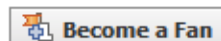
### RLC Mission:

Resurrection Lutheran Church exists to:

- Invite** people into the body of Christ,
- Ignite** passionate growth in faith, and
- Excite** believers for lives of service.



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