remember
rejoice
1942
75 YEARS
2017

ROSEVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH
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ANNUAL REPORT



A Community United by Grace







ROSEVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH 2017-2018 ANNUAL REPORT

CHANGING LANDSCAPES AND A CHANGING CHURCH

Lauren J. Wrightsman, Senior Pastor



For the past year, the congregation of Roseville Lutheran Church has been celebrating our 75th year anniversary and we have gathered under the theme, "Remember and Rejoice." Over the past months, we have spent time remembering the past ministries of Roseville Lutheran, and rejoicing in the ways we are continued to call and serve.

In the life time of the Church, 75 years is but a blink of time. While I have never had an opportunity to visit some of the earliest remnants of Christian communities in the eastern areas of Egypt, Jerusalem, or Syria, I have had the opportunity to step foot inside a few churches quite a bit older than ours: St. Peter's Basilica in Rome (built in the 4th century!), San Miguel Mission, Santa Fe, New Mexico (the oldest church in the United States built in 1610) and other churches of significant age.



There is one church, however, that has made a lasting impression on me. Its located in Skagen, Denmark. *Den Tilsandede Kirke* (The Sand-Covered Church) was built in the 14th century and was the largest church built in Denmark at its time. Located in the upper northern area of Denmark it is now a tourist attraction as – the name signifies – it is almost now entirely covered by sand. Beginning in the 1600s what was once fertile land became a desert of windswept sand dunes and the rising levels of sand began to bury the foundations of the church. Eventually the sand found its way into the interior of the church through every crack and crevice. By the late 1700's the door was almost completely covered and had to be dug out regularly just to hold services.

Despite the ever increasing issues, the people of the church refused to let it be closed down. But the changing climate was too much for them and the church was abandoned in 1795. All that is left of this once considerable church building is the crow-stepped steeple. It is truly remarkable to see.

So, what does this have to do with us? Certainly, no sand dunes are threatening us! There is no need to shovel out our doors from feet of sand every time we wish to gather in! No...but, we are also part of a changing landscape. One that has slowly changed the neighborhood around us.

We are part of a changing landscape.

The Roseville area has changed considerably in the last 75 years. What was once a wide-open space has now blossomed to become a strong residential and vibrant retail area. And, with that change, comes a change in the community we serve. Compared to 75 years ago, Roseville is now a community of rich ethnic diversity, it supports a growing, aging community, and over 11% of it's population lives in poverty. This is the changing landscape our congregation is called to serve!

This is the changing landscape our congregation is called to serve!

Over the past year, you, the members of Roseville Lutheran Church, have shown that we are well positioned to respond to the changing landscape and needs to which we are called to minister.

Our calling in our mission and vision statement to "Love God • Love your neighbor" has sparked new conversations, ministries and commitments:

- "Our Neighbors and Me," an educational and outreach team, encourages our members, friends and community participants to engage in conversations about race and justice and sparks us to action in our local community
- Through the work of our Mission and Outreach Committee and other committed volunteers, we have strengthened our partnership with area ministries such as: Keystone Community Services, Bridging, Project Home, and other ministries that directly serve the growing needs of our changing community
- Our commitment to serve and be a part of the growing needs at Central Park Elementary has flourished and been strengthened through countless service hours and tutoring sessions
- We open our doors for those suffering from addiction, grief over the death of a loved one, blood drives and food drives

The list goes on and on and I thank each and everyone of you for the ways you continue to respond to the needs of those around us!

Roseville Lutheran Church is poised for great things ahead! There is an energy about this place! You can feel it in worship as we raise our voices together in song and praise, in the laughter and noise of countless kids as they come together for Cornerstone, in the thundering of feet as 100+ teenagers move about the building during Confirmation, or in the quiet moments of reflection and prayer as people gather to support, encourage and love one another. Through the power of the Holy Spirit we will continue to be led, enriched, and encouraged to be a place of peace, prayer, and hope for an ever-changing world and community.

Thank you for all you do, for your commitment and prayers! It is a pleasure to serve within and among you as we consider and respond to the changing landscapes and ministry needs around us.

Blessings,

Lauren J. Wrightsman

Pastor Lauren J. Wrightsman

STORIES HAVE POWER

Sara Spohr, Associate Pastor



I recently found a book called "I'm Terrific" in a little library at the rec center in my neighborhood. It caught my eye because it was a book my mom read to us when we were kids, so I brought it home. It's a story about Jason Everett Bear, a good little bear, who gives himself stars when he does terrific things. He is so proud of himself, but so terribly annoying to his forest friends. He tries being nasty to change his reputation – but of course that is annoying too. In the end, he realizes that being himself is the best thing to be, and his friends quite like this version of Jason Everett Bear. It isn't the best story I've ever read, but nostalgia is strong, and now the book is on my shelf. What's more, this new story simply delights my niece. Now she knows the story of Jason Everett Bear too, and wants to read it again and again and again.

Stories have power. It is fascinating to me that something I heard as a kid so many years ago came right back to me. Stories we've heard before, we love to hear again and again. Stories help us to make sense of our own selves and connect us to others in beautiful and sacred ways. Stories inspire us, shape us, transform us, and help us to see people in new ways.

This is why the Christian church gathers around story. Specifically the story of the love of God for humanity. The story of the love of God that sent Jesus Christ into the world to live, die, and be resurrected. The story of the love of God that continues to stir up a Holy Spirit among us today.

This past year at Roseville Lutheran we have been telling lots of stories. We started by telling the stories of a rich and faithful 75 year history of this church. God began a work among the people of this church that continues today. We didn't just tell that story looking back, we also turned to the future as well. We let the story of God's work among us for the last 75 years move us forward to a future where God will continue to call us children of God. A future where we will continue to be servants who share generously, love unconditionally, and worship faithfully.

We have a story to tell.
A beautiful story. A sacred story.
A story that shapes and transforms lives.
Let us never cease to share this story.
Tell it again, and again, and again.

As I look at the past year and the one ahead I think of three key areas where God's story is being told and lives are being shaped by this most sacred story.

First, in our **weekly worship and education gatherings**. You've noticed, no doubt, that we tell God's story during story time, we read the story, and then in the sermon we interpret the story. Did you also know that when our children go to Cornerstone they hear that same story again? Our families leave Roseville Lutheran on a Sunday morning having heard God's story four times! When you hear a story repeated like that, you remember it. Our adult learners are taking in this story too. We participate in the story because it matters to our lives. As we continue to create meaningful worship experiences and effective ministry to our children and youth, the story will continue to be told in ways that engage and inspire. What fun it is to tell the story together.

Second, in our Lent and Easter season, specifically our **Lenten Devotionals**. I asked about 35 people to write a daily devotion this year. Most of them said yes, with little hesitation. They said yes, to telling God's story. It was such a wonderful thing to have our people writing and others reading, we all grew to know God and each other better through this project of Biblical storytelling. As we look to the year ahead there will certainly be more opportunities for this kind of devotional writing. I'll also be asking you to participate in a storytelling project this fall, where you'll keep notes in a personal notebook and be able to tell the story at the end of each week of how God is moving in your life. These stories will help each of us to be attentive to how God is active, how we are growing, and how connected we are to the people around us.

Finally, in **Mission and Outreach** activities. A very faithful task force has spent the last year researching, reflecting, deliberating, planning, and eventually making recommendations about the ongoing mission and outreach activities of Roseville Lutheran. This is storytelling too. I know a story about a middle school boy from our church who happened to see a retired gentlemen from Roseville Lutheran at the YMCA. They didn't know each other, but they made a connection because they were both wearing the same ***Live Generously*** t-shirt, a shirt they had gotten through a serving project at church. The middle school boy started telling his new acquaintance about building a dresser for Bridging. He was so excited. He had built a dresser with his confirmation small group on Wednesday and then he'd built another dresser with his family on Sunday. He told a story of how serving in God's name had impacted his life and he told it with enthusiasm. As we implement these new recommendations for our work with Mission and Outreach this is our hope, that we make an impact on need in our community and world, and that our people would have a story to tell about how God is active in their lives.

In Exodus 6:20-21 Moses tells the people *"When your children ask you in time to come, 'what is the meaning of the decrees and the statutes and the ordinances that the Lord our God has commanded you?' then you shall say to your children, 'we were Pharaoh's slaves in Egypt, but the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand...'"*



Did you catch that?

When your children ask you a question, what should you do? You should tell them a story. Tell them a story about a God who listens to us. Tell them a story about a God who rescues us. Tell them a story about a God who saves us.

Tell it again, and again, and again.

Then say, thanks be to God.

Pastor Sara Spohr

Did you miss a Sunday? Hear previous sermons online:

rosevillelutheran.org



TOGETHER WE INCARNATE THE MISSION: LOVE GOD • LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

Rolf Olson, Visitation Pastor

Christ's heartbeat of love pulses at RLC each week. Caring ministers move into the community to visit our elders – sometimes helping with chores, sometimes buying groceries, sometimes sharing Holy Communion. On every occasion Christ is there.

Currently there are 27 members of RLC who receive regular contact from the Care and Spiritual teams, ably led by Linda Hetland, Ken Groth, Carol Solie (Care team) and Georgia Nygaard (Spiritual team). Our Prayer team, led by Pam McCulloch, serves to connect our entire ministry with the movement of the Holy Spirit. I serve as pastoral liaison to these teams.



An African saying claims that every herd of elephants needs the old ones because they know where the water holes are. RLC is blessed with elders who give us a sense of perspective, of history, of where God has moved in the past and may be moving us into the future – where the watering hole of Living Water can be found. Together we incarnate the RLC mission: ***Love God, Love your neighbor.***

After only five months on the job I am grateful to Roseville Lutheran Church and its leaders for this opportunity to serve, and to Pastor Dick Carlson for paving the way for me.

A CARING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY

David Booms, Church Administrator



And the testimony is this,
that God has given us eternal life,
and this life is in His Son.

– 1 John 5:11

As the Church Administrator I and my staff support the vision, mission, core values, and all of the various ministries of the church in its day-to-day operations. This is done via our communications team, office staff, facilities team, worship support team, and our hospitality team.

There is one particular type of event here at this church where Worship and Music, and all of the groups I mentioned in the previous paragraph, come together and that is funerals. Weddings and funerals are the two major rituals in contemporary culture in which virtually everyone participates. Both involve families, and both are often held in church. Unlike weddings, however, funerals are seldom anticipated or planned for. But even in the grief and pain it often is a celebration of a life, whether short or long. Through it, families have an opportunity to draw closer to Jesus, to build up a support system, partake in a delicious meal, and to receive comfort from family, friends and the community. The goal of our ministry is to provide a caring Christian community where every person can find strength and support when they are hurting. It is our privilege to be able stand alongside families when life seems dark and bleak.



I wish to take a moment to specifically thank those that work to make funerals and all of the various happenings here at RLC go smoothly: Steve Henry – Campus Manager (and his staff), Connie Marchio – Hospitality Manager, Daniel Pederson – Communications Manager, and Trish Clifford – Administrative Assistant. I would like to draw your attention particularly to Jim and Carmen Mulder who over the last few years have been our funeral hosts. Lastly to the volunteers (who are just too numerous to list) that have set the table and produced the food for the many services that we have. May the Lord bless you all.

A lot has happened over the past year, with one highlight being the celebration of the start of our 75th year as a congregation. I recommend looking at the stories (on the next page) submitted by Steve Henry, Connie Marchio, and Daniel Pederson as they share about the ministry happening in their areas of the church and community.

Since the last annual report and at the time of the writing of this article, 46 new members have joined RLC, 20 members have died and 29 were baptized. In total 2,910 individuals, listed as Members and Friends, call Roseville Lutheran Church their faith home.

Blessings,

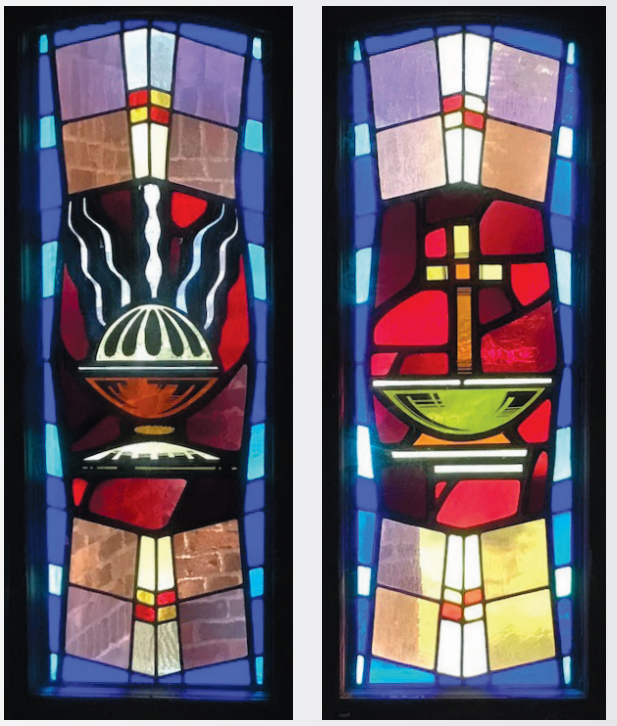
David Booms

ROSEVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH



NEW BEGINNINGS

Stephen Henry, Campus Manager



You may have seen the plaque with a listing of the Charter Members of RLC. Did you know at the time of the congregation's founding it went by the name ***Rosetown*** Lutheran Church? Times (and names) change but some things remain. Joseph and Helen Armstrong lead that list of Charter Members. Now Helen Armstrong loved that original chapel. No doubt it held many good memories for her. Helen's wish was to leave a gift to preserve that sacred space.

Over the last year in preparation for the celebration of RLC's 75th anniversary we used Helen's generous gift to paint all the chapel's exterior trim, re-carpet the great hall, and perform major restoration work on over 11 stained glass panels to bring them back to original condition.

This space is now home to the youth ministry where it provides a gathering place for confirmation and youth groups. What better purpose could this serve than to provide an investment in future generations and the spiritual health of our young people? With funding from outside group rentals we were also able to make the AV system for this room even better.

This coming year with another generous gift, we are looking to put new roofs over our heads. A new envelope, if you will. And what will that new envelope contain?

There is a song that goes "Make new friends, but keep the old." This also applies to our spaces here. As the church facility has developed, some areas were left undeveloped and uncared for, while other areas were rededicated for a new purpose. The Facility Ministry is making efforts not only to try maintain the buildings but to bring them up to date for future generations.



TOUCHED BY MANY HANDS AND MANY HEARTS

Connie Marchio, Hospitality Manager

The Hospitality Ministry is touched by many hands and hearts! With the 75th anniversary celebration completed, I have come to realize how many people care about the mission of this church and our vision to be a community united by grace. This is a wonderful journey, and the progress and momentum we are experiencing are thanks to the generosity and care of our wonderful volunteers and staff.

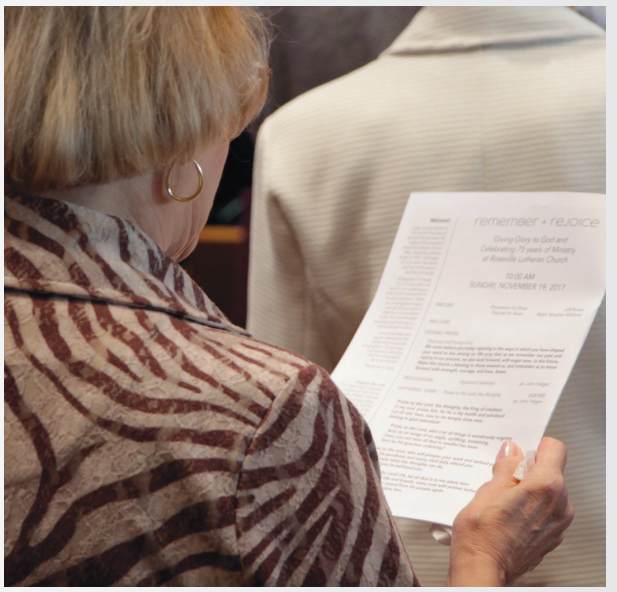
All the work and care that went into producing our 75th anniversary celebration showed every one of our 918 guests (from RLC and the wider community) that business (a well-run kitchen) and pleasure (the RLC hospitality experience) go hand in hand.

The Roseville Lutheran Church Hospitality ministry is stable and successful. It is a continuing challenge to be mindful of staying within our budget while we delight in making things work and fit each unique situation. This success is possible thanks to the cooperation and creativity of all involved.

Thank you! It has been a pleasure serving Roseville Lutheran Church – and the Roseville Community – this past year. I'll keep you posted on some exciting new adventures planned for the coming year!

I LOVE TO TELL THE STORY

Daniel Pederson, Communications Manager



Some of you may know another hat I wear is that of musician. I sing in the small ensemble, *InVocation*, (who had a concert at RLC this spring) and direct the choir at Linden Hills United Church of Christ. Thus, you may not be surprised that the title of my article refers to a hymn, ELW 661, in fact!

One thing that has been a delightful surprise is how the idea and importance of "Story" has been bubbling up here at Roseville Lutheran Church. I see it in how the Stewardship Team (see p. 6-7) has been instrumental in starting our "I Am RLC" series with interesting getting-to-know-you articles about RLC folks. I see it in how we are shifiting to a Narrative Budget this year (see p. 10-11) . In fact, that change led to a new emphasis in this year's Annual Report. We asked for – and many responded with – stories. Stories of impact and connection, of mentorship, or re-connection with one's faith and community.

Receiving stories like these makes it easier for me and Stephen Gallen (Communications Specialist) to do our job of sharing the story of Roseville Lutheran Church. My hope is that we can continue to "tell the story" not only of Jesus and his love, but of this "community united by grace." There is a reason that those words are the first to be seen as you enter the commons from the south, and what a wonderful reminder to see our mission "Love God • Love Your Neighbor" as we are sent into the world. Thanks be to God!

What is Stewardship?

What happens when we embrace the idea that **everything** *in our lives – and life itself –* **is a gift from a God***?*

Along with being thankful, there is a sense of treasuring this incredible gift and intentionally caring for it. This is stewardship.

RLC's stewardship ministry envisions our community living with whole-life generosity. **Whole-life generosity is a life** *(time, talents, resources)* **released to God for others.** *It enables each of us to live with* **intention, gratitude** *and sense of* **abundance***.*

RLC STEWARDSHIP

GOD'S GIFTS our GRATITUDE

Sustainable Giving Plan

- Share the story of RLC's ministry so people understand the impact their gifts have on the community.
- Educate about the governance and funding of the church to teach people that RLC is a lay driven and funded organization.
- Emphasize online giving to reduce the impact of missed weekly offerings (for example, a cancelled service due to snow) and create a baseline to plan ministry programming around
- Encourage intentional resource sharing to fulfill Jesus' call to love our neighbors.
- Emphasize text giving to enable people to give in worship without cash and to respond to special asks
- Hold strategic special appeals to teach about RLC's work and to encourage new people to give spontaneously
- Partner with other ministries to engage people in RLC's mission.

STEWARDSHIP: JOYFULLY TELLING THE STORY

Trupti Storlie, Stewardship Committee Chair

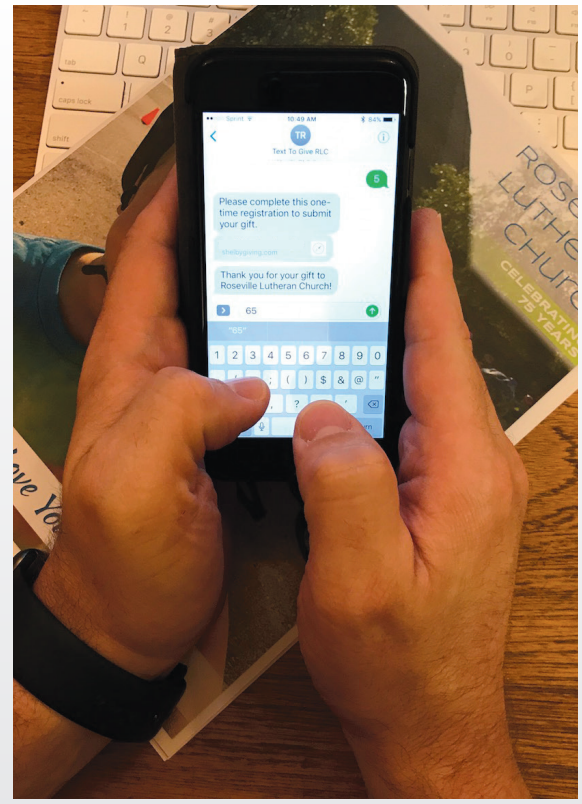
PRAISE 75 – THANK YOU!

In 75 hours, you raised over $75,000 to fund our ministry and programs. I am still blown away by the enthusiasm and joy you showed during that time.

Our younger and newer families are listening, but we need to go to them. 15 minutes before our campaign deadline, our youth leader Michael Jordan sent an email message to all the families who have children in programs at RLC: "$3000 left, can you help us get there?" They responded through many smaller online gifts. Our primary way to reach our members throughout this campaign was online.

Our programs and ministry are right-sized and meeting our congregation needs today. Our congregation feels we are living into the mission we defined last year and they are excited about our programs and recognize the importance of our staff. The congregation knows the value our staff brings to our church to minister to our people and help our congregation carry out our shared mission. We will raise the necessary funds to keep our staff leaders.

Maintenance and capital needs. We have building maintenance and new needs that must be addressed. We need a comprehensive plan to fund these needs, not just initially, but to maintain our structure for years to come.



Text to Give

Text <amount> to 651-383-1504

Our fall annual giving campaign is a time of reflection on God's blessings in our lives and to invite people to support RLC's mission through regular and increased giving. This base is important to our long term sustainability. ***In fact we have an open match gift: if 14 more sustainers sign up by the end of the year, a generous donor will release $10,000 to RLC.*** However, we now recognize the need for an annual end of year campaign that joyfully tells the story of our work and invites people to support the ministry. For those who accept the invitation, we will continue to educate and encourage them to make a long-term commitment in the fall.

CHALLENGES TO GIVING



To remain fiscally responsible and thrive, we still need to address the broader challenges to giving that we face. Many factors impact religious giving:

- Credit cards are now a primary form of payment (rendering the offering plate useless)
- A wide and prolific range of non-profits ask for money (support that used to go through church)
- People tend to give spontaneously versus regularly (volunteer-led church appeals must compete with slick corporate campaigns)
- Institutional distrust about how money is used (societally speaking).

Additionally, people approach church differently: They go to one church for a great confirmation program, a second for small group ministry and a third for Sunday worship. For others, they experience Christian community through ministry service, listen to sermons online, and attend worship for communion. Busy lives draw people into a pattern of monthly church attendance.

While we know more work is necessary, we are getting better at meeting people where they are to engage them in ministry and provide tangible options for them to support the ministry.

EXPECTATIONS

Strong pastoral and lay leadership, an authentic worship experience, excellent preaching, strong education programs, and a caring community: we have much to be grateful for and optimistic about at Roseville Lutheran Church. The message and teachings of Christ are as relevant today as they were in his time. But the challenges of sharing that message exist today as they did in his time.

Thank you for your support of the Stewardship and Gift Development committee at RLC. We are excited to see what is ahead of us!



HAPPY 5TH ANNIVERSARY, STEWARDSHIP TEAM!

The Stewardship Team at RLC was rebooted in 2013, this year we celebrate five years! Here are some team members celebrating five years on the team:



GREG JOHNSON • Greg kick started our team as a Task Force in 2012 and led as chair for the first three years. Being an IT guy, he has championed our move to new technologies and has constantly encouraged the team to promote online giving and text giving. He recently started a series of education offerings, and is creating a stewardship "curriculum" for RLC.

SARAH RICHTER • Sarah works professionally in the areas of community engagement and fundraising. She is an incredible resource of information, new ideas, and best practices and has been instrumental in setting direction around our Annual Campaign, initiating our "I Am RLC" project, and most recently our very successful ***pRAISE 75*** campaign.



TRUPTI STORLIE • I am the chair of the team and was formerly a software implementation consultant/project manager, currently I'm at home with my girls. My role is primarily trying to figure out how to take the great ideas and energy of the team and put them into action at RLC.

Leaving us:



KEITH GILBERT (Council Liaison) • Keith has been a perceptive voice at our table for the last two years and has been willing to jump in and support the team in any way. We are grateful for his involvement.

Welcoming:

MICHELLE MENNICKE • Michelle, her husband Brad, and daughter Amelia (5 years old) have been at RLC about 3 years. Michelle runs a local foundation and just finished a graduate degree in non-profit management (Congratulations!) We are so excited to have Michelle on board.

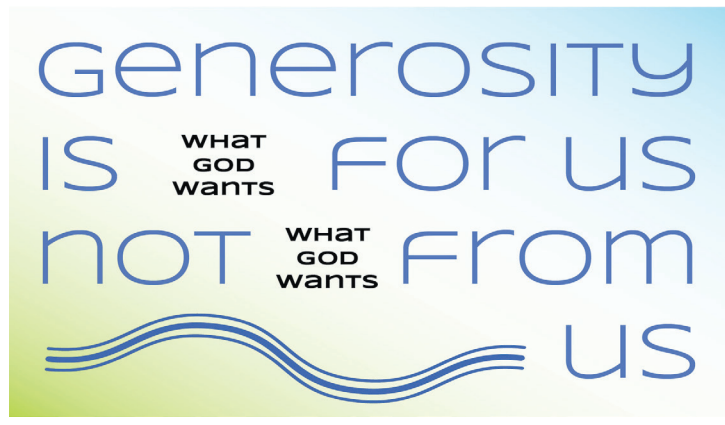


IN THANKS!

We have an incredible staff who are insightful and forward thinking about stewardship at RLC. Our ability to execute complex strategy and ideas is because of their hard work, creativity, and commitment to this process.

I am grateful to this dedicated team; the work of funding a non-profit organization is not easy and it is an act of faith. This team makes this work rewarding and fun.







FINDING A CONNECTION

Jane Lagerquist, LIFE Ministry Chair

A highlight of this year, was our kick off 40's style Swing Dance party to the 75th Anniversary. As a planner, without RSVPs, one never knows quite how many people to plan for. Working with Arthur Murray Dance instructor Macky, we explained that we would have about 10-15 dancers in the class. Our RLC 18 piece Jazz band was to be our centerpiece, John Helgen coordinating a large band featuring 3 singers. Our LIFE ministry team decorated the venue with "Lawrence Welk" style lighting, tables and centerpieces. Retro candies and cookies, with a sherbert punch made from our 1947 Church reception menu. What a joy to have so many filling our lobby, pews and dance floor. We had 40 people learning to dance on our improvised Dance floor, dancers laughing and swinging. Lovely interactive concert, filled with the music of our talented RLC Jazz band and Soloists. The Swing Dance was a great success and a great kick-off to the Anniversary celebration.



RLC Life Ministry *offers social and service opportunities so that all may find a connection at Roseville. This year we allied with the Preschool program, Youth Ministry, Children's Ministry, RLC Jazz, the 75th Anniversary committee, and Project Home to create events that benefit and support our church. Events such as the Hymn Sing, Swing Dance, Hoppin' Helpers, Card Making, Restaurant Week, Saints Game, Coffee and Canvas, and Bowling provide a warm, welcoming environment for connections to be made.*



RUN TO WIN! IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITY

KJ Bach, Endowment Committee Chair

The RLC Endowment Fund was established in 1974, as RLC was just over 30 years into its ministry serving the north metro area. Contributions are added to the Endowment Fund principle and the interest earnings are the means to fund projects/ministries the Endowment Committee selects from grant request submissions. Thanks to all who contributed to the Endowment Fund this past year. Blessings to those who were awarded grant money for their ministries.

The Endowment Fund has net assets totaling $481,594. A portion of the investment earnings from the fund (generally around 5%) goes to support projects/ministries which apply for grant funds. All grant requests are prayerfully reviewed by the Endowment Committee before awarding grant requests in May and October. In 2017 the Endowment Committee awarded grants to the following:



Banyan Kids Club: Run to Win with Endowment Support!

[*A message of thanks from Banyan*]

RLC Endowment supports the Banyan Kids Club program (a January–May faith-based discipleship program). This year's theme was 1 Corinthians 9:24-25 "You've all been to the stadium and seen the athletes race. Everyone runs; one wins. Run to win. All good athletes train hard. They do it for a gold medal that tarnishes and fades. You're after one that's gold eternally." Just like racing athletes, we are all moving toward goals in our lives. They may be small, like getting your homework done on time or being a better friend, or they may be longer term, like going to college or having a successful career. We all want to "win" in our personal races – to accomplish our goals. "Winning" doesn't mean pushing others aside or down in order to get ahead. We want to win with integrity. Just because you win in life doesn't mean that other people need to lose. We want everyone to win their own race. Over 100 youth from the Phillips neighborhood participated in Kids Club this year and learned about a variety of the character traits it takes to "win the race." Thank you for generous support!

MAY 2017 GRANTS ($11,750)

- RLC Van
- RLC Nursery School for educational materials
- RLC staff development
- RLC admin for self-service giving and registration.
- RLC "Our Neighbors and Me" Adult education
- RLC 75th Anniversary outreach color magazine.
- RLC Worship Center lighting upgrade

October 2017 Grants ($9,879)

- RLC Endowment Fund promotional materials
- RLC Staff member as Notary Publiic
- RLC Staff development
- Banyan Community Kid's Club
- RLC "Our Neighbors and Me" Racial Justice Retreat
- RLC Worship Center lighting upgrade

our neighbors and me

The Endowment Committee has generously supported the RLC "Our Neighbors and Me" (ONAM) activities. Last July, through an Endowment Fund grant, ONAM sponsored a well attended Sunday morning four week speakers series entitled, "Racial Justice in Our Community." This series featured Jake Von De Linde, Don Samuels, Professor Karen McKinney, and Professor Johnathan Stewart and Collette Campbell. This spring an Endowment Fund grant funded a gift to the Justice Choir in support of their work with our church and community during April, and the May "Let Justice Roll" Workshop featuring national speaker and author Duchess Harris, and Jake Von De Linde. Without the Endowment Fund grant program these activities may not have come to the Roseville community.

The Endowment Committee members are: KJ Bach, Chair, Jan Biebl, Tony Richter, Dorothy Tostengard, Rich Wendland, Tim Hanson, Eric Lagerquist, Trish Smedsrud and Julie Cannon, along with our Church Council representative Jeff Johnson.

Sharing our financial gifts is a key element of our Christian faith. Through your gifts to the RLC Endowment Fund we provide RLC and local area ministries with much needed funding. It's the gift that keeps on giving. Your gifts can be a legacy to your passions. Please remember Roseville Lutheran or the Endowment Fund in your celebration or memorial gifting and in your estate planning.

WHAT A YEAR IT HAS BEEN!

Laurel Hofeldt, Director of Finance and Data

Love God • Love Your Neighbor. What a year it has been!

The Finance Department at Roseville Lutheran has the privilege of applying the financial gifts of our members and friends to furthering the mission to Love God and Love Our Neighbor. And what a year this has been! Here are just a few examples of your generous support of our mission.

Sheridan Story provides food for children in need at Central Park Elementary to take home in their backpacks for the weekend. In addition to the wonderful volunteer support to fill the backpacks, we received $4,200 in financial contributions to help purchase food and supplies. Thank you!

In February the youth staff hung 150 red envelopes in the Commons, requesting donations to support summer trips for our young people. Within two weeks, those envelopes were filled and returned with financial support totaling $14,000. Thank you!

In May RLC partnered with Feed My Starving Children and Incarnation Lutheran Church to pack 750,000 meals and feed over 2,000 hungry children in the poorest parts of the world every day for a year. Your donations provided $22,000 toward the cost of ingredients needed to send these life-changing meals. Thank you!



To end our fiscal year strong on June 30, we came together on April 22 to worship, gather, eat ice cream and kick-off our spring ***pRAISE 75*** campaign. For the next 75 hours, 425 individuals gave gifts totaling $76,000 to support Children Youth and Family, Worship and Music, Fellowship and Care, Outreach, and Adult Ministries. Our day-to-day ministry within and outside of RLC receives over 95% of its support from your offerings and donations. ***pRAISE 75*** was a fun way to end the year in good financial standing and look ahead to another year of loving God and loving our neighbors. Thank you! Thank you for your generous support of these ministries!





PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2017-2018



Jeff Johnson, Congregational President

Through God's Grace Roseville Lutheran Church will end its fiscal year in the black. *pRAISE 75* was a wonderful success. Thank you to staff, volunteers, and all who shared their generous gifts. Thanks to you, ministries continue to thrive and grow in the name of Jesus Christ at RLC.

Over the past year council has been aware of deferred maintenance issues, The majority of the work is needed on various rooftops on our campus. A Roseville firm has been hired to supervise/manage the roofing projects. You can expect to see some activity in these areas in the very near future. This work could not be put off any longer without causing continued collateral damage to our facilities.

Council is also in the process of communicating with our various ministry committees. We're looking at language in the bylaws and constitution to make sure that our committees are represented accurately in their bylaws and constitutional writings.

Did you know that we had a record number of kids go to camp last summer?

Did you know that this year we have a record number of seventh graders Enrolling in confirmation classes?.

Isn't that GREAT!

By the grace of God Roseville Lutheran Church is providing meaningful ministries throughout our communities and our world. Thank you all for your time, talents, and gifts to keep our ministries thriving, healthy, and meaningful.

It has been my privilege to serve on the Executive Committee for the past three years. I'm amazed and very proud of our staff and lay leaders. Thank you!

With Love,

Jeff Johnson

Thank You!

ANNUAL MEETING SET FOR 10:00 AM, JUNE 17, 2018 IN THE SOCIAL HALL

Proposed Agenda:

1. Opening Prayer
2. Review of Meeting Rules
3. Approval of Prior Year's Minutes
4. Congregational Vote to Amend the Church Constitution
5. Election of Lay Leaders
6. President's Report
7. President-Elect's Report
8. Budget Proposal and Vote
9. Report of Election Results
10. Closing Prayer



As a member of RLC, please plan to attend and be involved in this important meeting where we elect the future leadership, discuss budgeting for future resource allocations, and vote on that budget. There will also be an opportunity for additional questions and comments at the end of the meeting.

Note on Minutes from 2017 Annual Meeting: the draft of the minutes from last year's annual meeting will be reviewed for approval at this year's meeting. Hard copies will be available at the Welcome Desk after June 1, or you may read the draft of the minutes on the church website.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO RLC CONSTITUTION

At our June 17 Annual Meeting, we will discuss and vote on this proposed change to the Roseville Lutheran Church constitution. A letter has been mailed to all voting members with this information and further details.

The RLC Council recommends this proposed amendment to (Section IV Fiscal Year and Meetings of the Congregation, Subsection 4.5 Regular Annual Meeting of the Congregation, a. Date) of our Constitution.

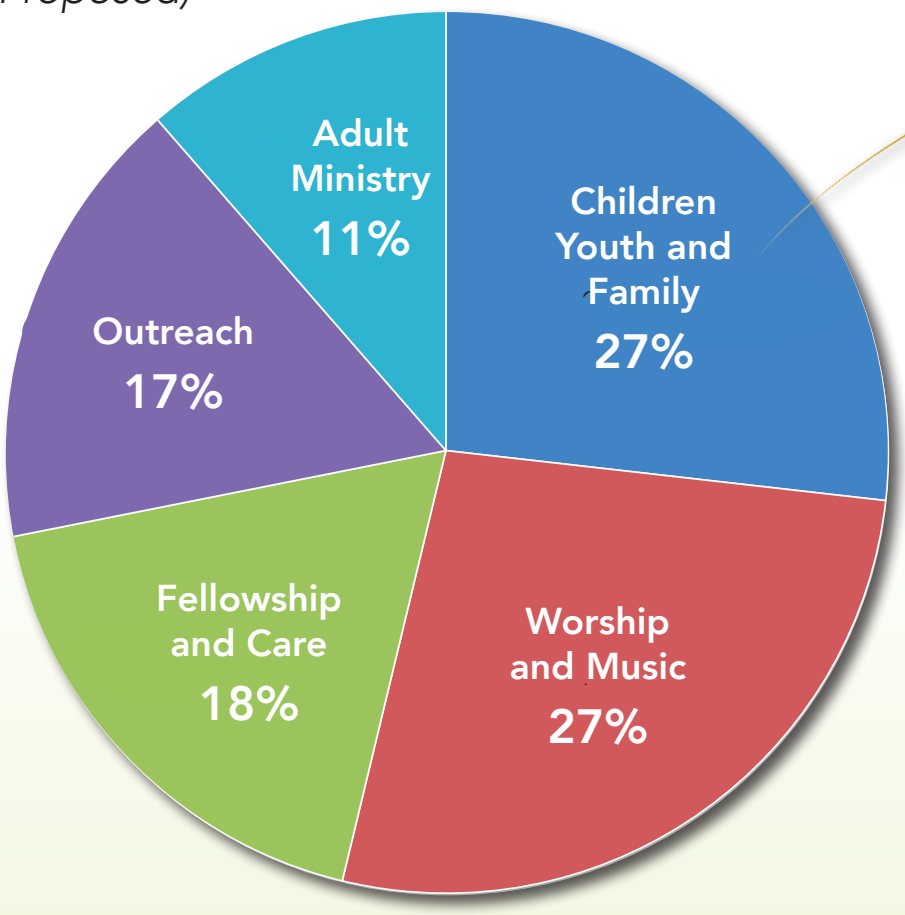
The current wording reads:

> *The Congregation shall have one regular annual meeting which shall be held in June on a date designated by the Congregation Council.*

The proposed amendment is as follows:

> **The annual meeting of the Congregation will be held between June 1 and no later than September 30 on a date and time designated by the Church Council.**

RLC 2018-2019 Ministry Budget: $1,689,250
(Proposed)



Roseville Lutheran Church Proposed Budget

	2017-2018 Budget	2018-2019 Proposed
RECEIPTS		
General Offering	1,408,000	1,327,500
Special Asks to Budget	-0-	148,250
Building Fund	61,000	61,000
Hospitality	55,000	57,000
Building Fees	-0-	20,000
	1,595,000	**1,689,250**
EXPENSES		
Salaries	907,120	935,200
Benefits	212,851	222,400
Mission and Outreach	84,480	79,600
Hospitality	50,000	51,000
All Other Ministries	65,475	62,250
Business Operations	128,722	139,300
Property and Building	206,352	199,500
	1,655,000	**1,689,250**
OFFERING SHORTFALL	(60,000)	-0-

Telling our Story

NARRATIVE BUDGET: A NEW PERSPECTIVE

John Shardlow, President-Elect



It is with confidence and renewed hope that I share the proposed budget for the 2018-19 Church year. If you have been around Roseville Lutheran Church lately, I know you have felt the energy and vibrancy that runs throughout our diverse ministries. Our 75th Anniversary celebration was joyful and spirit-filled. Our children and youth programs are growing, with record numbers attending camp this past summer, thanks to your generous support.

Our mission to Love God, Love Your Neighbor, has guided every decision we have made this past year and it is shining the light on our journey into our 76th year of service. It is an exciting and inspiring time to be a part of RLC.

We are blessed by both a talented and dedicated staff and amazing volunteers. We are actively exploring new ways to communicate with each other and the broader congregation. One of the ways in which we want to improve communication is by preparing a "Narrative Budget." Please see the following page as we share the stories and illuminate the connections between our budget and all the amazing ministries that our church supports.

This pie chart on this page starts to tell these stories by dividing our proposed budget into five areas of ministry: Children, Youth and Family; Worship and Music; Fellowship and Care; Outreach; and Adult Ministry. These percentages reflect our best efforts to allocate our staff time and other expenses to the ministries that they serve.

Our proposed budget is also summarized by a side by side comparison with the 2017-18 Budget. This reflects approximately a 3% increase over the past year. There are a couple of key items to note. First, this past year we did not account for a special ask to budget, focusing instead on a Stewardship campaign to increase member giving by 10%. While many responded positively to this request, our decline in givers offset the increased giving by some members. The successful ***pRAISE 75*** Campaign raised over $75,000 in 75 hours of giving. That response allowed us to balance the 2017-18 budget.

The previous budget anticipated an offering shortfall of $60,000 that we hoped to erase through our Stewardship activities. The proposed budget includes a amount of $148,250 in Special Asks to Budget. There are many positive things that came out of the ***pRAISE 75*** campaign, new givers and new sustaining, online givers, but for planning purposes, this budget anticipates an end of the year campaign.

The primary increase in the budget is due to a modest, cost of living increase in salaries, benefits, and some unavoidable business operation related increase. The budget continues to reflect a very lean operation and our staff and ministry teams have always been prudent in their spending. The Church Council has approved this budget to provide the financial resources we need to continue our mission and vision for Roseville Lutheran Church



CHILDREN YOUTH AND FAMILY

Through weekly programs, we educate our children and youth about what it means to lead a Christian life which invites us to love God and our neighbor. We equip our families and leaders to further deepen their understanding of how to live this out within our community. We empower all ages to show their love through service to their neighbors both near and far in all of our trips, camps, and events.

- Over 3,100 hours of volunteer service in the past year from our children, youth & families
- Peer Ministry Leadership and RECHARGE Conference train and energize our leaders
- Over 400 children, youth, and adult leaders participated in a summer trip, growing in fellowship and deepening their faith
- Cornerstone plants seeds of faith that parents can nurture at home. Through music, puppets, story and activities, the children hear the same message presented in worship.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Roseville Lutheran is a community of believers who gather in weekly worship to celebrate Christ our Lord. Worship takes different forms with a variety of services aimed at fulfilling our mission to gather as a community united by grace. As a worshipping community we respond in thanks to God through worship, prayer, song and music. From the contemporary sounds of our 11:00 am Sunday worship, quiet and contemplative 8:00 am, or the more traditional sounds and tempo of our 5:00 pm Saturday and 9:00 am Sunday, we come together to

- hear the word
- be reconciled to God and with one another through the sacrement of Holy Communion
- be sent into the world to love God and neighbor
- lift our voices and sing

And what a beautiful sound it was when we came together Nov. 19 to celebrate our 75th Anniversary!





FELLOWSHIP AND CARE

Fellowship is a warm handshake, a hot cup of coffee, a blessing, or in serving the Lord's meal. In the early church "they broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all people." (*Acts 2:46-47*).

We strive to make every visitor, member, or guest feel they are special and belong here. Our Roseville Lutheran family also includes people who would love to attend church, visit with church friends, and hear their pastor, but may be experiencing health issues that keep them at home. One meaningful way we like to keep these friends connected is by sending a CD of the current week's 9:00 service so they can continue to worship with us. They also receive the accompanying bulletin and a fun activity page. What a joy it was when one of our members called to thank us, saying, "I feel I am a part of Roseville Lutheran Church!"

OUTREACH

Roseville has changed in the last 75 years. Many families deal with economic uncertainty and many first generation immigrant families are settling into a new reality. As a church we feel called to focus in Roseville, and make a difference in the lives of our neighbors. We're increasing opportunities to engage in acts of service and to build relationships within our congregation and community.

- Central Park Elementary - we provide 75 backpacks with weekend food, over 20 weekly volunteer tutors connect with students
- Bridging - provide dressers for families transitioning out of homelessness
- Keystone - RLC donated over 1775 jars of peanut butter and 2000 lbs. of laundry soap
- Project Home - In February, we provide emergency shelter space for families facing homelessness, thanks to 150 volunteers





ADULT MINISTRY

We have a rich tradition of Adult Education and Bible Study at Roseville Lutheran Church, as well as Prime Time events for seniors and LIFE ministry events for all ages. This past year's celebration of our heritage and history was a focal point for many of our educational events in the fall. As we moved through Lent the congregation was invited to dive deeper into the Gospel of John through daily devotion, weekly Bible study and educational events on Sunday mornings with Professor Karoline Lewis and others. Other activites included:

- A series of educational events centered on stewardship, finances and giving
- Studies on race and justice centered under the theme of "Our Neighbor's and Me"
- Parenting classes for those raising children and teenagers.

RLC LAY LEADERSHIP CANDIDATES FOR 2018-2019

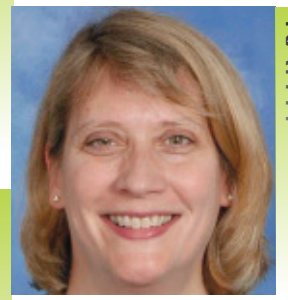






















JESSICA HENRY – Council Vice President

Member for: 31 years. ***Hopes and dreams for RLC:*** My hope for our faith community at RLC is that we continue to grow in our relationships with God and one another, as we become an even more vibrant and welcoming place for all people who seek to know God.

MARY PETERSON – Council

Member for: 22 years. ***Hopes and dreams for RLC:*** All of us at RLC are part of a Christ-centered circle. We may be in different places on our faith journey; however, we have a shared purpose in deepening our relationship with Christ and one another. My hope is that our RLC circle continues to flexibly widen; welcoming all who wish to join – life is better together!

MICHAEL TOSTENGARD – Council

Member for: 31 years. ***Hopes and dreams for RLC:*** My hopes for Roseville Lutheran are that it continues to serve its current membership and, if possible, can incorporate some newer, less traditional members and become more diverse. That would be great

DAVID WERNER – Council

Member for: 10 years. ***Hopes and dreams for RLC:*** Dreams for RLC: For RLC to be a vibrant, engaging, enthusiastic and financially stable ministry. That RLC is and always will be a church home that shares the Lord God's love, guidance and wisdom to all in need.

ERIC ANDERSON – Endowment Committee

Member for: 16 years. ***Hopes and dreams for RLC:*** My dream for Roseville Lutheran is to continue growing the church as a place where all people can feel welcome, feel connected, and can elevate their faith. I strongly value the outreach to youth in our congregation. Through our own two children, we have witnessed Roseville Lutheran as a place where youth can develop their faith and gain meaningful friendships.

KATHY PETERS-MARTELL – Endowment Committee

Member for: 18 years. ***Hopes and dreams for RLC:*** I hope RLC will maintain a friendly, active, and involved congregation, while attracting new and diverse members to keep our programs vibrant; that RLC will retain its talented and dedicated pastoral staff, and continue to support spiritual growth, encourage fellowship, and provide relevant outreach and mission opportunities to make a difference both locally and globally.

DOROTHY TOSTENGARD – Endowment Committee

Member for: 15 years. ***Hopes and dreams for RLC:*** This is a second three year term for me. I would hope that the endowment committee will continue to provide information to everyone and encourage them to consider ways in which they can provide assets for the future, a good way to leave a legacy.

JIM STARK – Nominating Committee

Member for: 35 years. ***Hopes and dreams for RLC:*** My vision for RLC is to enable our lay leaders and staff with resources to help our congregation focus on the changes that are occurring in our community. By focusing on these changes we can unite our community and members by grace through Christ.

SHARON BOYCE – Nominating Committee

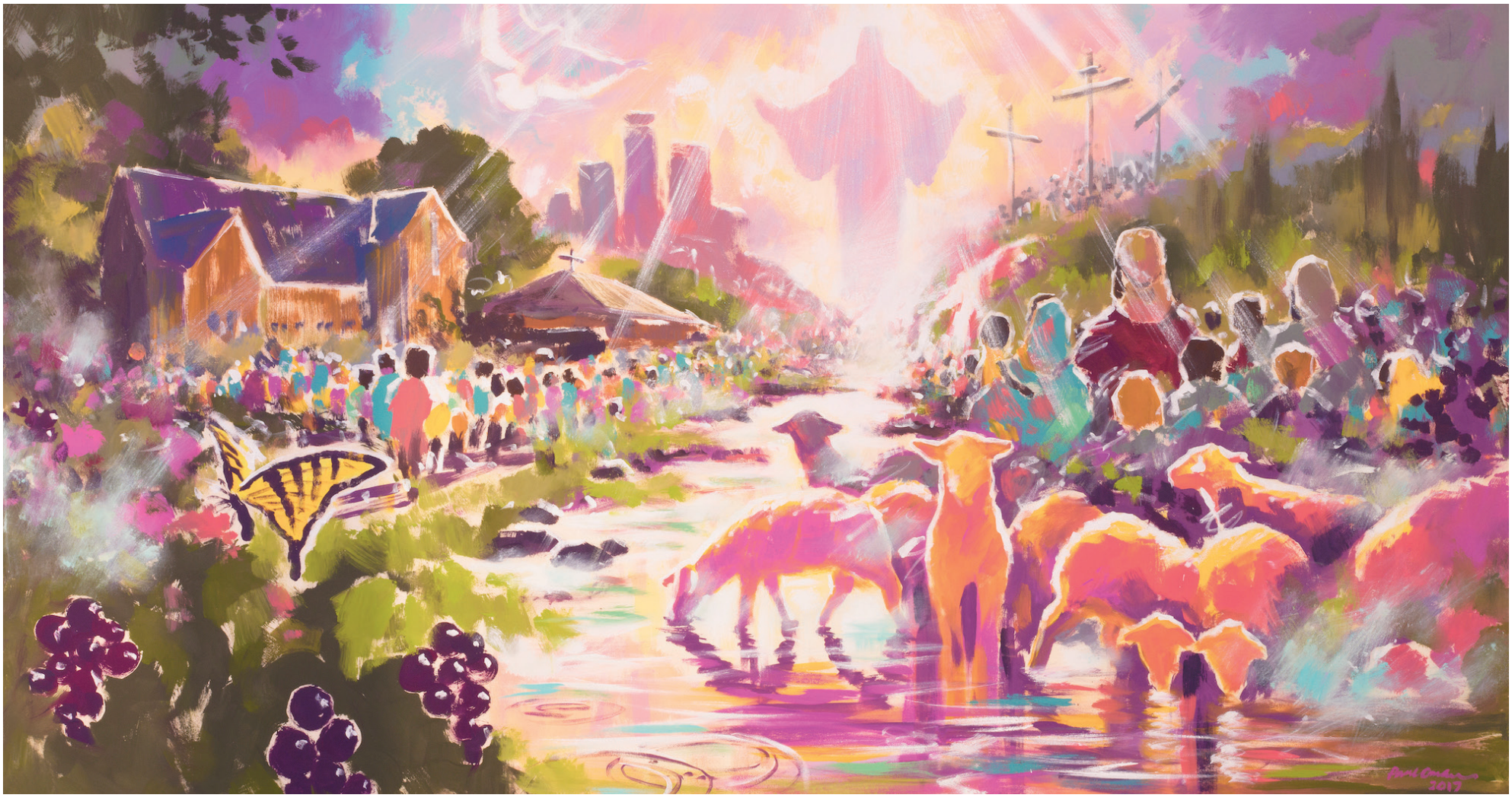
Member for: 38 years. ***Hopes and dreams for RLC:*** That we continue to be an active congregation to Love God, Love our Neighbor but be more intentional about it. I also want to see more inclusiveness not exclusiveness for all who may enter our building. We have a good start with this due to discussions on diversity and having such welcoming greeters at our front doors so we need to keep it going.

ROXANNE SCHULTZ – Life Ministry

Member for: 64 years. ***Hopes and dreams for RLC:*** I hope to help Roseville Lutheran Church continue to grow and follow God's law and words.

GEORGIA NYGAARD – Adult Education

Member for: 22 years. ***Hopes and dreams for RLC:*** We as Americans live in a land of liberties. One liberty is the freedom of religion, the liberty to worship almighty God as we choose and the freedom to worship together as a community of believers. This is truly a gift that we seek to appreciate and nourish. As we are nourished by our faith and trust in God, my vision is that Roseville Lutheran Church will continue to share this love of God within the church and out into the greater community.



Remember + Rejoice (above)
Paul Oman

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia (below)
Judy Dodds

GLORIFYING GOD THROUGH ART

Sue Metzger, Design Team Chair

The Design Team seeks ways to glorify God through art and design. Our hope is that creativity enhances worship and brings fresh insights and new understandings of God's Spirit into each of our lives.

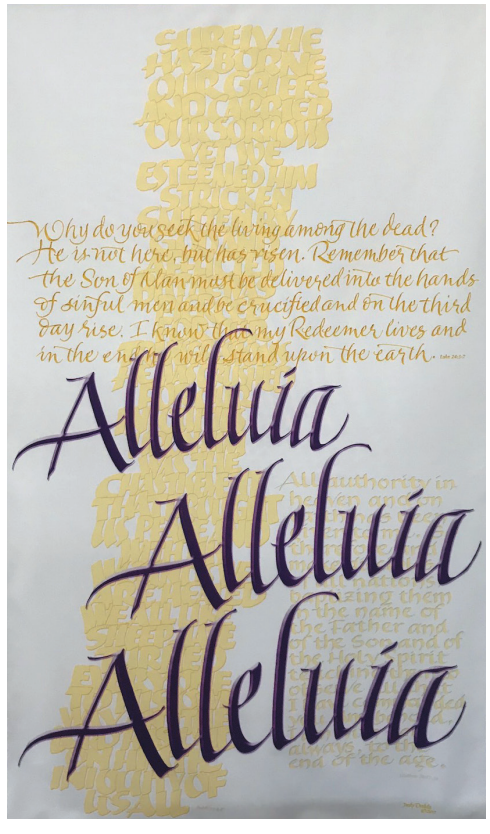
75TH ANNIVERSARY WORSHIP CELEBRATION

"Remember and Rejoice" was the theme of the original acrylic painting commissioned for the November 19, 2017, celebration. During that worship service, Paul Oman painted the 5 foot by 9 foot canvas depicting "...people of all generations and eras touched by, and moving towards, the light of God. People of Biblical times and of today are illustrated in the piece as Roseville Lutheran Church 're-members' our history and looks towards the future now defined by Christ." The painting hangs above the worship center doors with a description next to it for all to see and rejoice in our history. "I am in awe of the beauty and meaning of the painting Paul Oman created during our 75th anniversary worship service...what a gift for all members, old and new, to reflect and remember" was a comment expressed by a member of RLC.

ALLELUIA EASTER BANNER

"The Easter banner 'Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia' gave me goose bumps. It is beautiful and glorious piece of art" was one comment shared Easter morning. The banner was designed and produced by Judy Dodds, a professional calligrapher and a member of our congregation. The artist herself said of the piece, "We are awakening to a new morning, a new day full of possibilities and opportunities to walk with our risen Lord, take joy in his presence and share the joy of life in him. In our "Alleluias" we honor and worship him." The banner will be displayed at funerals and will be part of the processional during Easter services.

Another of our design projects is an outgrowth of our congregation's new mission and vision statements. Upon entering the Commons one sees on the north wall the phrase "A Community United by Grace," letting you know you have come to share God's grace with all people, both inside and outside of our walls. When you leave by the south doors on the upper wall is the scripture "Love God, Love Your Neighbor," reminding us to go out into our world loving God and bringing that love to all people.



MUSIC: INSPIRING US TO ACTION

John Helgen, Director of Music Ministry

At Roseville Lutheran, many, many musicians – singers, ringers, and players of all ages and descriptions – participate in our vocal choirs (Senior Choir and Children's Choir), handbell choirs (Jubilate, Bells of Praise, Joyful Ringers), Praise and Worship ensembles, Youth Band, RLC Brass ensemble, and the RLC Jazz band, leading the congregation in song and adding great variety and enrichment to our worship. In addition to these ensembles, many individuals serve as vocal and instrumental soloists, cantors, and accompanists for a wide variety of musical needs. Here are some of their stories:

Be joyful in God, all you lands; be joyful, all the earth. Sing the glory of God's name; sing the glory of God's praise.

– Psalm 66

TOM LUND – Since I joined the RLC Senior Choir almost 20 years ago, I have learned not only a lot about music, but also how much music means to those who sing and those who worship with us. Our director tells us, with some frequency, to sing so that the listener can understand the words, and I have come to realize that our songs convey as much of the Christian message as does preaching. I believe that every single choir member feels honored to be able to make The Word come alive in song and, just perhaps, to touch someone with the message we bring.

JILL CORDES – I have been singing in the Senior Choir and other smaller musical groups for the past 30 years at RLC, and our children have sung in all the choirs and have played in the brass group. Singing has allowed me to share the gospel with others through music. The text from the songs we sing fills me deeply with great joy, giving me energy to spread that good news to others beyond RLC.





KRISTINA OLSON – God has enriched my life with a love of music. Growing up, my grandmother would remind me that God gives each of us so many gifts and talents which become blessings when they are shared. With those words of wisdom held in my heart, I have been sharing my love of singing at RLC by participating as a vocal leader during worship services, with the confirmation program, and with the RLC choir. I have witnessed incredible talents from our youth when they sing along to songs during worship. I have witnessed the cry from our congregation as it joins in "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying." And I have witnessed the joy music brings when my daughter dances in the aisles during 11 AM services. I participate in music ministry at RLC because I feel a calling to share the gifts with which God has blessed me, and I hope that others are inspired to share their gifts as well. My grandma was indeed correct – when I am able to share my song with the RLC community, my heart overflows with blessings!



MALCOLM OLATUNDE – I sing on Sundays at 11 AM in our Praise and Worship Group (PWG). My family and I have been brought closer together through our joy and love for music. It has greatly impacted my 6 and 10 year-old children, who re-live the songs at home, in the car, and speak about them in their schools, sharing the powerful and remarkable stories that are presented in the songs. We have made new friendships through music that I believe would not have otherwise been possible. We are provided with a sense of belonging, and have created a circle of close relationships that we now enjoy and look forward to each week.

KATY HUSBY – I love being a part of the music ministry at RLC, where I sing in the Senior Choir as well as with the RLC Jazz band. Singing is a wonderful way to spread the message of God's love to all who listen. Events like concerts and special worship services also bring people from outside the RLC community in to listen and be impacted in a positive way.

TRISH CLIFFORD – I play a variety of instruments, but my primary one is my voice, which I carry with me wherever I go! The natural impulse of music is to respond to life. Music has the capacity to inspire us to action, calm us, irritate us, evoke powerful memories, lift us to heights of ecstatic joy, or open the floodgates to sadness we don't even know we have. Our faith stories, often as seen through our musical heritage, connect us and help us better understand each other. The words we sing often influence the words we speak and the things we do. I grew up singing about justice, peace, and hope. The music we sing in worship tells me that God thinks those things are important, too. I sing in the RLC Festival Choir and our 11 AM choir, and had the wonderful experience of joining three area choirs for the Gospel and Jazz Festival held at Calvary Church. Those who participated are still talking about the profound effect of the day on our hearts and our faith. It was a perfect example of a community united by grace!

MUSIC: OUR STORY AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Music, especially singing, has been inextricably linked to our story as God's people, who have sung throughout history. While Scripture and our Christian tradition attest to the gifts of instruments and dancing, the human voice has been given central place in the Church's music. The role of music in worship takes as its starting point the singing of the whole congregation. Martin Luther regarded music first and foremost as gift: "God creates music as part of the whole creation and gives it to humankind to develop and shape".

Music has a big impact in sharing the message of God's love and we welcome your participation. To find out more about becoming involved in music at RLC, contact John Helgen: jhelgen@rosevillelutheran.org or call 651-288-4236.

HANDS-ON INVOLVEMENT IN OUR COMMUNITY

Dave Tetzlaff, Mission and Outreach Chair

You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart …
… and your neighbor as yourself.

– Luke 10:27

It has been an exciting year for the Mission and Outreach Team at RLC. We are moving to a more local focus with events that allow hands-on, member involvement. Through your giving, RLC was able to fund these great events.



BRIDGING

RLC held our annual Dresser Build. Through your giving and support, RLC was able to come together to build 51 dressers, wrap 120 towel bundles, make 55 tie blankets, wrap 163 Kitchen bundles and make 21 cleaning kits. RLC will continue to support Bridging programs and have our annual event.

PROJECT HOME

RLC hosted our guests this past February. RLC members really welcomed and supported our guests, who are in critical need of housing support as they work toward getting out of homelessness.

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

This was another successful year in our efforts with FMSC. Through your generous giving, RLC met its $22,000 commitment to the event. Through our partnership with Incarnation Church, we packed 100,000 meals for starving children throughout the world.



KEYSTONE COMMUNITY SERVICES

Keystone is our local food shelf and social support for those in our community requiring assistance. In addition to all the coins in the RLC offerings supporting Keystone, RLC held 3 food drives during Thanksgiving, the March Minnesota Food share month and peanut butter drive and Soap Scoop. Keystone has been a wonderful partner that assists those experiencing financial strains and needs in our local community.

CENTRAL PARK ELEMENTARY – TUTORING AND SHERIDAN STORY

Through the Sheridan Story, RLC is supporting Friday food packs for students affected by hunger. RLC gives financial support and volunteers to bring packs of food each Friday. This year, we supported 27 students with the goal to increase to 35 students next year at $130 per student for the year. The Central Park tutoring program continues to grow as this group brings desperately needed educational support to students struggling with their class work. (See sidebar: ***Here I Am, Send Me***)



MISSIONARY IN SLOVAKIA

This summer, RLC will host our Slovakia missionary, Janka Mineková and her family from Martin, Slovakia. As we grow our relationship with Vision Slovakia, Janka and her family will be involved with many events and programs at RLC and with RLC families this summer.

OUR NEIGHBORS AND ME

After the shooting death of Philando Castile in Falcon Heights brought the reality of racial disparity to light in our own community, the Our Neighbors and Me group was formed. Their response was to hold book clubs and speaker forums for RLC members and local friends to attend. Recently the Justice Choir and a retreat to broaden our awareness to social and racial issues in our community were presented. RLC will continue Our Neighbors and Me programs in 2019.

It is through your gifts that RLC can support local partners with our time, talents, and treasures. The Mission and Outreach team will continue to focus events and giving towards local partners that serve in our community. While your financial gifts are necessary, there are tremendous opportunities to grow in our Faith and Service to the Lord. I encourage every member to seek out a ministry they are personally drawn towards, and get involved in our 2018-19 church year.

HERE I AM, SEND ME

RLC Tutors at Central Park Elementary

"I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart." Every time I sing these words from "Here I Am, Lord," (ELW 574) I have an emotional response, a prodding, a nudging, a desire. What am I supposed to do? How might I serve? Where am I needed? These thoughts might last for a day or so, and then they are gone as I return to my daily routine.

That changed 3 years ago when I became a tutor at Central Park Elementary. I now hold many children from our community in my heart. And there have been times when I have asked the Lord to lead and guide me as I strive to connect with these children. The interactions are not always easy, but I can say that the rewards far outweigh



the struggles. And there have been many times when I have felt God's presence as he shows me how to best hold these children in my heart.

I also experience God's presence during fellowship and sharing time with other tutors. We support one another, we listen, we advise, we laugh, we share a deep commitment and caring for the children. As the students get used to us, they become eager to spend time with us. It is very heart-warming when they put their arms around us and say, "Can you pick me today?" We get to share our love of learning and watch them respond and grow. Surely this is a gift from God.

I will hold your
people in my heart

GROWING IN FAITH (continued from p. 18)

And he took bread,
gave thanks and broke it,
and gave it to them, saying,
"This is my body given for you;
do this in remembrance of me."
In the same way, after the
supper he took the cup,
saying, "This cup is the new
covenant in my blood,
which is poured out for you."

– Luke 22:19-20

FIRST COMMUNION WORKSHOP AND SEDER MEAL: IMPACT AND MEANING

Each spring on the Saturday before Palm Sunday we offer a First Communion Workshop for all students 3rd grade or older and their parent or significant adult. This workshop helps kids and adults learn more about this Sacrament in a fun and engaging way.

We bake bread, play games, do a service project and dig into our Bibles. This milestone in a child's life culminates with a Seder Meal for the families and important people in each student's life on Maundy Thursday. This symbolic meal combines families with Table Leaders who walk through the significance of items on their plate, tying to the Last Supper and also the Exodus story where God rescues the Israelites. It is a very meaningful and special evening for these students and their families.

When the Seder Meal is over, families worship together at the Maundy Thursday service, where these students receive their First Communion. If you have a child that you feel is ready for their First Communion, you are welcome to join us next spring for this impactful experience.

DISCOVERING WHO YOU ARE (continued from p. 20)

in their faith and friendships. Here is some information about our Youth Ministry (by the numbers) over the past year:

Camp Hiawatha – 73 Campers, 7 Youth Leaders, 4 Adult Leaders
Idaho Mission Trip – 16 Youth, 4 Leaders
BWCA – 21 Youth, 3 Leaders
MEA Getaway – 47 Youth, 5 Leaders
FLOCK – 20 youth weekly average, 5 leaders (thank you college young adults!)
Bagels @ Dawn – 15 youth weekly average
Holy Hoops – 12 youth, 3 coaches
Graduating Class: – 42 youth
Confirmation Class – 31 youth



In addition to the programs and events listed above, we also offer a variety of other opportunities for our youth and families. We hope through all of their experiences here, our youth will learn to more deeply love God and to love their neighbors as they discover more about themselves. Of course, all of these programs could not happen without the support of this congregation. Thank you to all of you for the many ways you support the youth ministry of RLC: Prayer Partners, Mentors, Weekly Leaders, Trip Leaders, *Invest in Our Youth*, and more! Through your love, support, and encouragement, you all have shaped Roseville Lutheran into a place where our youth want to belong!



A Community United by Grace

ONE BOOK, ONE CHURCH, ONE WORD IN ADULT ED.

Mary Erickson, Adult Education Chair

In Adult Education many of our sessions tied into the lectionary and whole church initiatives. Dr. Mark Throntveit began our year of 10:10 Faith and Fellowship presentations discussing Genesis and Exodus. Each session coincided with our weekly Scripture reading, and the Cornerstone students' lesson. With everyone focusing on the same scripture, we were using the same words and families were able to discuss the lesson at home.

In October and November we continued tying into the conversations taking place around our 75th Anniversary. The theme of Remember and Rejoice was emphasized with two weeks on *Memories and Mentors*, and Jim Boyce's session *Abounding in Thanksgiving*. The *Memories and Mentors* sessions featured RLC members sharing memories of the church or their faith mentors. During the time between speakers table discussions focused on each of our memories. Many thoughts and experiences were shared while discussing RLC's rich history.

During Lent we continued the "one" theme as part of the whole church study and reading of the Gospel of John. Dr. Karoline Lewis led three sessions on John. Pastor Lauren's Wednesday Bible Study was based on John; *The Gospel of Light and Life* by Adam Hamilton, and congregation members contributed individual devotions based on John for the "One Book, One Church, One Word" initiative. Many members have shared how meaningful this experience was for them and how much they learned and appreciated this approach and emphasis.

We completed our year with presentations on "The Art of Contentment" led by Pam McCulloch; Gracia Grindahl's "Preaching from Home, Women Hymn Writers." The 500th Anniversary of the Reformation brought Andrew Wilson the "Walk from Erfurt to Rome" and Michelle DeRusha with "Martin and Katie Luther." Dr. Jim Boyce led "Grace – What is it, How do I get it?" and a study of the Book of Philippians. David Fredrickson discussed the book of Acts.

In June three RLC members will be leading *Summer Psalms*, They are Jim Roste, Psalm 23; Bud Helman, the Creation Psalms; and Mary Schultz, Psalm 13.

LOVE GOD
LOVE YOUR
NEIGHBOR

DIVING DEEPER WITH ENRICHMENT CLASSES

Jenifer Johnson, RLC Preschool Director

Hello Roseville Lutheran Church! We have had a fantastic year at RLC Preschool! We added Enrichment Classes on two afternoons and they have been received well! Here is a great story about that –

Last year we had parents ask about offering classes to extend their child's day or offer a specialty class. Our preschool team decided we would offer Enrichment classes that addressed both. The classes would have a special subject that the students would dive deeper into, plus the class would be offered in the afternoon with a lunch hour. Students who extended their day from the morning could bring a lunch, and then go to the class in the afternoon.

For the first half of the year, we were able to offer an Enrichment class on Monday afternoons only. The class was called "Creation Station" in which the students discovered different topics that related to science. For example, they found out what makes ice melt the fastest, what happens to a candy cane in different liquids, and learning about habitats of various animals. By December, students and parents were asking if we would offer another afternoon class because they loved it so much.

As our staff was planning the next Enrichment Class, one parent came up and asked, "When is the second class going to start?" I replied with the date. She responded, "Oh, good! My son keeps asking me and he can't wait to be in another fun afternoon class!"

By March, we were able to start the second afternoon Enrichment Class called "Book Nook." During this class students read a book and retell it either by acting it out, with puppets or through art. It is amazing how much more our students at RLC Preschool have been able to take a big "Splash" into learning new things!

ENRICHMENT CLASSES CONTINUE

As we move forward to next year, we will continue to offer Enrichment classes on Mondays and Wednesdays. As we continue to keep getting more interest in our preschool, we hope we can add more opportunities.

We have appreciated the positive feedback! Plus, RLC Preschool has had great parent and community support for our programs this year.

Thanks to the congregation for their prayers and monetary contributions. We are thankful that we can share God's love and minister with you by carrying out our mission, "Love God. Love Your Neighbor!"

Play ♥ Learn ♥ Share God's Love

ROSEVILLE LUTHERAN
Preschool





SEEING THE WORLD THROUGH A CHILD'S EYES

Roseville Lutheran Childcare



Her short blonde hair was tied up in pig tails the first day she bounded up our steps. Her face was adorned with a smattering of freckles, and her cheeks seemed to be permanently pink. She smiled shyly, not quite sure whether or not she could really allow herself to let go of her mother's hand.

Harriet Carol Davis (Hattie) was the youngest of three siblings, so she was already used to learning from older children. She followed happily, soaking up every skill and lesson she could. She started with us at age two in September of 2015.

It was mesmerizing watching her grow. Having a conversation with Hattie was like communicating with a small adult. She surprised us every day with how quickly she absorbed every lesson and skill we presented.

Over the years we had the privilege of witnessing her adopt the compassion and understanding of Jesus after eagerly listening to the stories. We could see her imagination spark with intrigue as she participated in dress-up and impromptu music performances. We beamed with pride when she would recite instilled lessons about how we treat one another.

One of our favorite things about Hattie were the things she'd say. One of her most memorable exclamations was "Suey you're just like Santa Claus! You make children happy every day!" She was pure joy in human form.

When Hattie grew close to age five, we noticed a definite shift in her role. Now being the oldest, she had become the leader. The other children routinely erupted with joy each time Hattie arrived at the childcare house. She would immediately settle into the routine, delegating make-believe tasks before announcing what new adventure she would be taking them on.

At RLC childcare, we offer care for children ages infant through age five. Hattie will be leaving us next month. This sweet girl is a prime example and reminder of just how much of an impact we have the opportunity to make. In some of their most formative years, we have the honor of teaching them love, kindness, respect, how to create, and so much more.

We get the chance to really see the world anew through each child's eyes. The lessons never get old, just as watching them learn and grow never gets dull. Every departure brings with it such a bittersweet mix. How sad it is to say goodbye, but how wonderful it is to know we made a difference.

With grateful hearts,
The staff of Roseville Lutheran Childcare

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES: GROWING IN FAITH TOGETHER

Julie Hanson, Director of Children's Ministry

Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms.
– 1 Peter 4:10

TEACHING KIDS ABOUT GRATITUDE AND GENEROSITY

Each child, age 2 through 4th grade put together Blessing or Gratitude Jars in Cornerstone this spring. This activity helps kids identify things they are thankful for and ways they can share their time, talents and gifts. These jars were sent home to include their family in the project. Drawing out a heart from the Blessing Jar at bedtime has a preschool child saying "Thank you God for my bed" or "Thank you God for good food." Drawing out a heart from the Gratitude Jar for the older kids challenges them to "Help the neighbor with lawn work" or "Go through my toys and donate the ones I no longer play with" and other ways to share with others. If your child did not get a Jar, you may pick one up at the CYF desk in the lobby outside the main office.

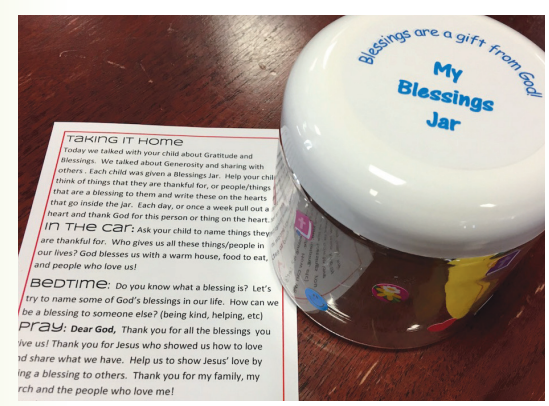


Each year at RLC we offer Serve Sundays where the congregation and Cornerstone families work side by side to bless others by packing care packages for our RLC graduates in the fall, making bath and kitchen bundles and building dressers for Bridging in the winter, or scooping 2000 pounds of laundry detergent into smaller baggies for Keystone Community Services!

These are such wonderful service projects. The challenge is how to serve in other ways with as a family. How can we be generous with what God gives us outside of church organized events? Learning that God gives us each gifts that we can share to bless someone else is teaching the kids to live abundant and generous lives. Sharing time with an elderly neighbor, or by being a friend to someone in Cornerstone that seems lonely are life lessons. Kids can't learn this on their own. They need parents and grandparents to model this behavior so they learn by example. Jesus commands us to be kind to others and sharing our time and gifts. This is living our RLC mission of Love God, Love your neighbor.



GROWING IN FAITH (continues on p. 16)



MENTORS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Deacon Abby Matter, Director of Faith Formation

Ever since I began working at Roseville Lutheran Church, the confirmation ministry staff has been dreaming about ways in which we could connect youth and adults from the congregation to form meaningful relationships. We wanted to find a way for intergenerational ministry to take root in this congregation that would make a lasting impact on the lives of youth and adults alike. This year that dream came true with the launch of Lenten mentors.

In early December at the ninth grade parent meeting, I asked confirmation students to find an adult mentor from the congregation to meet with one on one during Lent. While some students were initially apprehensive about it, I was excited as I searched for adults to commit to six weeks with a ninth grade confirmation student.

One night after teaching large group in January, a ninth grade student, Ben, approached me. He said that a male pastor blessed his family at the Christmas Eve worship service and that he was friends with his grandpa. Ben didn't know him, but he wanted to see if he would be willing to be his Lenten mentor. It only took a few seconds to connect the dots and realize Ben was talking about Pastor Dick Carlson. I told Ben I would ask and get back to him. The next morning I called Pastor Dick to share what had happened the night before. And after explaining what the Lenten mentoring program is, I asked if he would be willing to be Ben's Lenten mentor. Dick wholeheartedly agreed to it.





They met for five weeks during Lent. Dick soon learned that Ben was on the Roseville Area High School swim team and in the band. "This was a point of entry for me," Dick said, "I am always looking for a point of entry and this was one," as they were both interested in swimming and music. Dick asked for Ben's swimming and band schedule and soon Dick was sitting next to Ben's mom, Sonja, at his district meet and then in the audience at his band concert. But that was just the beginning, while Dick and Ben had similar interests; the relationship was not surface level. On Wednesday nights they were digging deep and sharing their thoughts and convictions with one another. Dick said, "It was so refreshing and energizing for me to talk with Ben and sense we both are seeking to learn and live the story of Jesus in our life and in the world."

It was so refreshing and energizing for me to talk with Ben and sense we both are seeking to learn and live the story of Jesus in our life and in the world



On Confirmation Sunday, Dick sat in the pews as Ben affirmed his baptismal call and also played piano. "He took his seat on the bench at the piano and put a small timer in front of him and God's spirit flowed through him as he improvised his selection, "Peace Be with You" – oh how beautiful and moving was this moment," said Dick. After the service, Dick and his wife Carolyn were invited to Ben's home for lunch.

Upon reflection of the Lenten mentor program, Dick said, "I experienced the blessing of meeting a young man who is now my friend. It is a relationship that I treasure – of mutual respect and love – where the Spirit of the Lord and life is found. This mentoring program enables these relationships to happen and hopefully, continue. People from all backgrounds will now be able to share their story within RLC's confirmation program. I look forward to following Ben in his involvement at RLC and at RAHS and will pray for him and his family."

Our Lenten mentorships were all I could have hoped for and more! Ben and Dick are a fine example of the fruit of this program, but they were not the only ones. There were thirty-one adults paired with ninth graders this year! One mentor said, "I was really impacted while looking around RLC as we were getting settled for our conversation. I'd never seen so many pairs of young people and adults just focused and engaged in listening to each other. We don't do that enough anymore without a screen or a game or homework that has to be completed. I was just amazed at how people seemed to be seriously in thought and conversation, or laughing and sharing funny stories...it was pretty great." Another said it was a "very positive experience. I would definitely do it again! When it ended, I missed it and I heard she (her mentee) did too."

Lenten Mentors are just one aspect of our Wednesday night Confirmation program for seventh through ninth grade students. Others include retreats, lock-ins, service nights, fellowship nights and lesson nights. We also offer Sunday morning programs for fifth through eighth graders that meet during the ten o'clock education hour. All of these programs are open to everyone – you do not need to be a member to participate! You can learn more at www.rosevillelutheran.org/ages-and-stages/.



DISCOVERING WHO YOU ARE

Michael Jordan, Director of Youth Ministry

When our youth affirm their baptismal vows on Confirmation Sunday in the spring, we lift up the belief that they are still near the beginning of their lifelong faith journey. Many of these youth will go on to lead Cornerstone on Sunday mornings to give back to this community while still growing in their faith; others will join with High School youth for the weekly youth group (and some do both!). The unique aspect of ministry with high schoolers is that they are now piling on rigorous academics, a plethora of activities, and part-time jobs in the effort to make their college applications stand out and set themselves up for a successful future. In this reality, they make difficult decisions about what they will be involved in, which only adds to the stress in their lives. That is why the layout of our high school ministry programs focuses on having a wide welcome. A welcome where we are overjoyed for the presence of the youth whether they seem to be the prodigal son returning after a long absence or they are the older brother that has been constant through this entire time. It is into this welcoming community that one 9th grade youth, Max Dukes, entered.

Max came to church regularly in 3rd – 5th grade, but then he and his family stopped attending. From Max's perspective, there was nothing wrong with RLC, but there was also nothing strongly pulling him to keep coming back. This past fall, another 9th grade youth who was a friend of Max's invited him to join us on our High School Fall Retreat – MEA Getaway. We spend the long weekend in October up at Camp Castaway located on Pelican Lake. This retreat is consistently a highlight for all our youth, and this past year we almost doubled in size from previous years thanks to many others also inviting their friends to join them for this faith forming weekend!

Since I had no clue who Max even was, I invited him to also come to our weekly youth group, FLOCK, that meets on Tuesday nights so that he could also get to know some of the other youth before going to MEA Getaway. The first Tuesday in October Max showed up to FLOCK. He has come back every week since! Max has now become one of our most dedicated youth who is participating in practically everything we offer.

He joined the Holy Hoops basketball team, which was restarted here at





RLC after a 5 year hiatus. He is signed up for two of our summer trips – Camp Hiawatha and the Boundary Waters, which are both offered through Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry. He even applied to be on our High School Leadership team for the coming school year so that he can deepen his faith and learn how to be a better leader among his peers. This was amazing to see. Someone who had virtually no connection to our church has now jumped fully in and wants to be here more and more!

Church has made me feel good about myself.

When I asked Max about why he was getting more involved, he responded, "Church has made me feel good about myself." At the beginning of the year, Max was unsure of who he was as a person. Many of his friends in school got along with him but wanted him to share more of his own thoughts and feelings. He was always hesitant to do that though because he was still trying to figure out who he was. By coming to FLOCK and actively participating in other programs here, Max said that he was way more confident now in opening up to his friends. On his application for the Youth Leadership Team, Max wrote, "Roseville Lutheran has helped me grow as a leader because I know it's important to check-in on people." Whether he sees them in person or not, Max is someone who realizes the importance of showing people that you care by actually following up with them. Since Max was brand new to the programs here this fall, he now "knows what to do to make people feel more comfortable here." Through this year, he realized it was good to show others that he cared, and that he didn't need to keep others at a distance. To let others in to see who he is – which is a deeply compassionate guy – it helped others around him to also open up more.

Max has discovered who he is, and he also learned that no matter what, he will always be a child of God. Not only is Max now a part of this community, but also this community here is a part of him. Max has come to realize the plethora of gifts and talents God has given him, and he is excited to put them to work here at RLC.

DISCOVERING WHO YOU ARE (continues on p. 16)

It is always nice to know we have youth participating, learning, and growing