

The Resurrection and the Life

JUNE 2004

An Inspirational Newsletter of Resurrection Lutheran Church, Cairo, New York

Hurried and Tired?

...from Pastor Nelson

Many of us live hurried lives. Young singles go from *home* to *work* to *Friends* to *The Fitness Zone* to the *Mall* to the *Movies* to the *Ambrosia Diner* - then *Home* to sleep a few hours, and *it starts all over again!* Families go from *Work* to *McDonald's* to *Soccer or Little League* to *Mr. Big Stuff* - then *Home* to *Feed the Dog & Do the Laundry*; we go until *Exhaustion* and then *repeat it all again* the next day! Even those who are retired often say, "I'm so busy now, I don't know how I once held down a job!"

People are exhausted as they enter into the weekend, which consists of projects, housecleaning, lawn mowing, sporting events, and family gatherings. As Monday rolls around they are tired before the work-week begins, and then comes another hectic week with over-commitments. We hurry from one place to another, living with "routine panic," as joy and enthusiasm for life are smothered.

What is missing from the above picture? Or even better asked, Who is missing from the above picture. GOD! How does God help us with our hurried and fatigued life?

God helps us with our attitude.

The root of our hurried lives is often "works-righteousness" and guilt. In other words, we hurry so much because we feel we must please God by our efforts, or please our parents, or our children. Or, we pridefully try to keep up with what others do. And if we don't do it all, we feel the guilt of failure. The Good News of Jesus Christ is that we don't have to earn our way into His good graces. God loves us and forgives us completely, which takes away our guilt. Furthermore, we can *never* please everyone, or do everything everyone else is doing, and the Lord doesn't ask that of us.

God helps us with our priorities.

We can begin each week with the Lord. Sunday morning worship sets a direction for the week. Our sins of the past are forgiven. We have a fresh start and hope for the new week. On Sunday afternoon and evening, it is a blessing to take a break from the labor of the week. God originally designed the Sabbath as a "break" day – renewal for the soul, refreshment for the body. We do well to trust God and take a "break." The work we are called to do, will get done in His time. The "hurried" attitude fades, as we trust God enough to "take a break." Priorities *after* God fall into place: family, work, other activities.

God helps us set boundaries.

With priorities inspired by God, we can say "No" where that is necessary. We may sometimes need to say "No" to extended family gatherings, to the boss, to our children, to community activities, to church activities, to sporting events. Confidence and faith in God helps us to draw lines so that our lives are not too full, and that the most important things are not neglected.

Think of your life like a Thanksgiving Feast. There are many wonderful dishes and desserts to eat. But, if we load our plates too high, we will soon be sick of it all! With God's grace and forgiveness in Jesus, and with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we can live full, busy, and productive lives without the hurriedness and tiredness of this age.

Prayer for Forgiveness, Renewal and Guidance

Lord, you graciously give me 24 hours each day. Forgive me for so often cluttering this precious time with too many things. I ask that you would renew my attitude, help me to know my boundaries, and guide me in setting my priorities in ways that are pleasing to you. This I ask through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Summer Mid-Week Worship

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS ~ 7:00-8:00 PM

COME AS YOU ARE ~ WITH A HEART READY TO WORSHIP & RECEIVE GOD'S BLESSING!

Do you work weekends? Go away weekends?

Here's an opportunity to worship, hear God's word, sing, pray & receive strength from the Lord's Supper. Our theme is "**Famous Royalty of the Bible.**" Each night we'll examine a different king or queen of the Bible to see their faithfulness or faithlessness and what it tells us about God and faith. A time for fellowship & refreshments follows the service in the Narthex.

Everyone is welcome to this informal service – and bring a friend!

Christian Education ~ Summer 2004

New Classes Begin Sunday, June 27th

† FAMILY FAITH ALIVE – INTERGENERATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL! Sundays 9:15-10:15 am

"Church In Action" - Each Sunday we will examine a different area of what our church does (presentation by a ministry leader) and why our church serves in that area (what the Bible says about it). Participants – both Children & Adults - will have weekly hands-on ministry projects to participate in. This will be enlightening and enriching for God's children of all ages. Join in this unique opportunity to gather with others of our congregation, enjoy fellowship, service, & grow together in faith. Led by Pastor Nelson in the Conference Room.

† TWO ADULT BIBLE CLASSES: Sundays 9:15-10:15 pm

"The Parables of Jesus" led by Bill Metzler, will continue in Pastor's office. A new topic will begin in mid-July. Watch the weekly announcements and the July/August newsletter for more information.

NEW TOPIC: "The Miracles of Jesus" led by Deacon Shirley Algozzine, will meet in the Narthex. What are Miracles, anyway? Do miracles really exist? In this class participants will address those questions and more by examining 11 of Jesus' miracles and learning how they can benefit from studying them.

On-Going Classes & Groups

MIDWEEK DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS: Small groups of God's people committed to meeting regularly for study of God's Word, prayer and fellowship. Newcomers are encouraged to begin at any time.

God's Promises Group: For everyone! Every 2nd & 4th Friday evenings at 7:30 pm. Led by Art & Geri Schlobohm at their house. Call (622.3953) for directions.

Living Alone Group: Study Theme: What's So Amazing About Grace? Meets every 1st & 3rd Tuesdays at 4:00 pm in the Narthex. Led by Pastor Nelson & Helen Lee in the Narthex.

Men's Group: Study Theme – Christ Alive: A Study of the Book of Ephesians. Every 1st, 3rd, & 5th Fridays at 7:00 am. Led by Pastor Nelson at the Church. **SPECIAL FEATURE: Breakfast!**

Women's Group: Study Theme: Living in Jesus. Mondays during Youth Choir practice 6–7:00 pm led by Marcia Nelson in the Narthex. **This group recesses for the summer and will resume in September with a new topic.**

Breakfast & Bible Study for the Busy Woman: Meets the 1st Saturday morning each month from 8–9:30 am. This group, led by Marcia Nelson & Nancy Getzke, is currently studying "Adventurous Prayer". **SPECIAL FEATURE: Continental Breakfast!**

A CONVERSATION ABOUT SUMMER WORSHIP

from Pastor Nelson

INTERVIEWER: *How does the busyness of Summer relate to your worship?*

JILL: *Summer is the busiest season for me. It seems like every weekend we have something going: weddings, picnics, vacations, day trips, sports outings. Not to mention the extra yard work and gardening. I can't even think about worship.*

JOHN: *Like Jill, I'm very busy also. But I believe it's our duty to show up at church. "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy," says the Third Commandment. Sure, I'd rather be out having fun like Jill. If I get to the 8:15 am service, I can get it over with in an hour, and the rest of the day is mine.*

JANE: *Summer is a busy time. But even so, with holidays and vacation, I have more time in the Summer than any other season. I find worship renewing and refreshing for my body and soul. It helps me make better use of the time I have. It reminds me that time is not just for myself but for God and others also. I need that reminder.*

INTERVIEWER: *How does the weather influence your desire to worship?*

JILL: *We have a lot of cold and rainy seasons in the Catskills. The Summers are usually beautiful. As they say, "make hay while the sun shines." I can go to church anytime, but you don't always have great weather to enjoy.*

JOHN: *Come rain or sun, sleet or hail, you'll find me in church on Sunday. If everyone has Jill's attitude, the church would be empty on sunny days. One advantage of going to church on hot days – it's air conditioned!*

JANE: *With such lovely summer weather, it's sometimes tempting to "skip" worship. But then I try to remember Who gave us the beautiful sunshine & the warm breeze, Who gave me the health to enjoy it, Who gave His life for me so I can rejoice each & every day. These thoughts move me to praise, worship & give thanks to the Lord.*

INTERVIEWER: *Do out-of-town guests influence your worship participation?*

JILL: *When people travel a distance to see us, what kind of host would I be if I left them alone to go to church? They came to see us – not an empty house or a church. Besides, we usually plan activities on Sunday, before they have to leave in the afternoon.*

JOHN: *I don't buy that argument, Jill. If you had a doctor's appointment, you'd keep it and your guests would understand. Who's more important, some doctor or God? I go to church. I want my guests to know that I'm a good Christian. I also get to visit with friends at church.*

JANE: *The best gift I can offer any guest is a relationship with Jesus Christ. I let my guests know ahead of time that I'll be worshipping the Living God on Sunday. Sometimes they come with me. When they don't, they may ask about the service afterwards, & this gives me an opportunity to witness. If not, my worship is a silent witness that Jesus is my Savior.*

INTERVIEWER: *How do children affect your Summer worship?*

JILL: *With Sunday School & Church services, they get enough religion during the school year. I don't want to force religion down their throats. If I brought them, we'd be fighting all Sunday morning, & none of us would get anything out of it, except a headache.*

JOHN: *How will children ever respect God and the Ten Commandments, if they are repeatedly allowed to break the Third Commandment? You just make them to go to church – they'll get over it!*

JANE: *I expect my children to worship with me. There is not a discussion or argument every Sunday. Worship is something that we do as a Christian family. Sometimes they misbehave and have to be attended to. When I worship, God helps me to be more forgiving and patient toward my children. He helps me keep parenting in the right perspective.*

INTERVIEWER: *Do you worship when you're out of town?*

JILL: *Our vacation time is so short as it is – we're paying good money to be away. We can't spend time looking for a church – besides all this, Sunday is often a travel day for us.*

JOHN: *I ask Pastor Nelson for a list of the Lutheran churches in the area I'm visiting. If there isn't a Lutheran church there, then I have my excuse for not going to church. If there's a Lutheran church there, then I feel I must put my time in.*

JANE: *We do take time for worship when we're away. I enjoy fellowshiping with other Christians in different parts of the country, sometimes of different denominations. Sometimes I can encourage them in faith & sometimes they encourage me. Once in Quebec, when no English-speaking church was nearby – we had a brief family worship & devotions. I usually bring a Bulletin back to Pastor Nelson, because I know he enjoys seeing what other churches are doing. No matter where in the world I am on Sunday, it's still the Lord's Day – a day to recall his death & resurrection, and be refreshed for the week ahead.*

Coming Soon

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE: Saturday, June 5 from 8 am – 1 pm.

Again this year the Ladies Guild is sponsoring an American Red Cross blood drive here at Resurrection Lutheran Church. Contact President, Marcia Nelson (622.0438), to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are welcome.

ATTENTION! YOUTH AGES 11-14 - RED CROSS BABYSITTER TRAINING: Sat., June 12 from 9 am – 5 pm.

Sponsored by our Jr. Youth Group, this intense class uses various multi-media forms to educate and includes play safe, first aid, rescue breathing, choosing toys, and facing scenarios. Bring a bag lunch (snack & juice will be provided). Space is limited - To register, call Dawn Adams, Jr. Youth Group Leader, at 518-622-8035.

YOUTH CHOIR MUSICAL: Saturday, June 19 at 7:30 pm & Sunday, June 20 at 9:15 am

"A TECHNICOLOR PROMISE" ... Everyone is invited - from the church & from the community - bring your family & friends! Mark your calendar for Saturday, June 19 at 7:30 pm OR Sunday, June 20 at 9:15 am. "A Technicolor Promise" - Everyone loves a rainbow! Not only is it a wonder of creation, radiating beauty after a rain, but more importantly as a sign of the covenant, it reminds us of God's overwhelming love & grace. This delightful musical is a re-telling of the events surrounding this promise, sometimes presented in a humorous style, but never forgetting the strong Biblical truths which are ever present.

SUMMER ORGAN RECITAL: Thursday, June 24 from 12:15-12:45 pm in Kingston

Pam Slater, our Organist & Director of Music, will be the first featured recitalist in a series of weekly summer organ recitals. The free recital will take place at the Old Dutch Church in Kingston. The public is invited.

Resurrection News & Notes

SUMMER "PILGRIMAGE PACKS": AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX

Summer is a popular time for vacations – the children are off from school, the weather is nice, the grass is green, the flowers are colorful, and the night sky is filled with bright stars!

This summer, help your family become keenly aware of God's presence in the beauty of His creation and His unconditional love through Jesus. No matter where you go or what you do, think of your vacation as a "Pilgrimage" – a journey with God. For assistance in this, we've put together a "Pilgrimage Pack" with some simple ideas and suggestions on planning a family pilgrimage with God. Pick up a "Pilgrimage Pack" on the small table in the Narthex!

BUILDING UPDATE: For the Month of May, 2004.

Exterior Work Done – Brickwork and siding were completed.

Interior Work Done – Painting and plumbing were advanced; sub-flooring was laid; Pastor's new office was completed except for doors and trim. (He has moved into the office – It is very nice!)

Work Still to be Done – Tile flooring throughout, carpet in the chapel, ceilings throughout, construction of hallway through Pastor's old office, completion of plumbing and electric, installation of interior doors, installation of stairs, completion of soffits, some additional painting, and various small jobs.

Plans are being made for a formal dedication of the building in late September or early October, although occupancy is expected by the end of the summer.

MISSION OF THE MONTH: SonRise Lutheran Camp

SonRise Lutheran Camp is a year-round Christian renewal and retreat center offering programs and ideal facilities for youth, families, seniors, congregations, and other groups. SonRise is an outdoor ministry of the Atlantic District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, located on the shores of Schroon Lake in the Adirondacks.

You may place any gift you are led to give in the green "Mission of the Month" envelope in the pew racks during June and place it in the offering or bring/mail it to the church office. Envelopes are also available in the rack on the distribution table in the Narthex. Please make checks payable to Resurrection Lutheran Church.

FREE BOOKLET: "Life Together"

What is a family? People have many different answers to that question because families come in all sizes & shapes. Some people would include neighbors or close friends as part of their family. For others, it's as simple as "the people I live with." This booklet explores the rich and diverse context in which God defines families on earth and examines the behaviors and attitudes that characterize strong, healthy relationships. Each chapter will encourage you to examine the thoughts and attitudes that shape your view of family, and offers an opportunity to think about ways that you can nurture and grow in those relationships.

Whether for your own use or to pass on to someone else, we hope you will take advantage of this helpful booklet. The booklets are available free of charge from the tract rack in the Narthex during June, or a booklet will be mailed if requested from the office (518.622.3286).

STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT...

How Can We Enrich The Lives Of Others?

As Christian stewards, we are thoroughly convinced that all that we are and have – including our time and talents – are a trust from God to be used in His service and to enrich the lives of others. Are we willing to participate?

The Gift of Time: When God gives life, he hides from us how much time our life will have. The faithful steward uses it wisely in accord with God's will. Time, once gone, cannot be retrieved. God knows we must spend some of our time on ourselves. Selflessness is spending some of our time to help others. A church community provides its stewards with opportunities to give of their time to help others in organized projects.

The Gift of Talent: God gives everyone potential talents when they are born. One dimension of stewardship is for each person to actualize those potential talents, while another dimension is to use the talents wisely. There are various possibilities for sharing talents, including helping others; spreading the gospel; leading Bible studies; involvement in music or choir; serving as usher, lector or greeter; visitor to the sick and elderly. The list goes on and on for those creatively wishing to give of their talents & time.

The Gift of Treasure: Stewardship of treasure, correctly handling God's financial gifts to us, is the "why" of our giving. As God has prospered us, so we thankfully return to Him a portion of those gifts for His work. Although some give far more, many of God's people follow the old testament guideline of returning a tithe (10%) of their income to the Lord. It takes time to grow in financial stewardship, as in other areas of our faith life. Therefore, many plan incremental increases in giving by percentage amounts over several years. The joys and blessings experienced along the way, however, often urge people along more quickly than they had originally planned.

OUR FAMILY AT RESURRECTION

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

06/02 Josef Orin	06/09 Meadow Heines	06/21 Tracey Jennings
06/03 Margaret Johannesen	06/10 Nylah Interrante	06/21 Courtney Leis
06/03 Ingrid Leis	06/10 Olivia Rogers	06/21 Mark Suttmeier
06/04 Keith Algozzine	06/13 Christina Brauchler	06/22 Andrew Kruppenbacher
06/04 Karen Gallo	06/14 Julia Gruber	06/22 Lillie Prummell
06/05 Julie Freemann	06/15 Sergio Caridi	06/25 Daniel Hillman
06/05 Ashley Leis	06/15 Dana Statham	06/25 Mikaela McManus
06/06 Silvio Agostinoni	06/16 Gwen Greene	06/25 Karl Schlobohm
06/06 Betty Hartranft	06/16 Kyle Hotaling	06/26 Gabriela Petersen
06/07 Liam Roberts	06/17 Cassie Malone	06/26 Terry Wilk
06/07 Doris Winans	06/18 Nadia Helmedach	06/27 Evan Meyers
06/08 Victor Nelson III	06/20 Travis Getzke	06/28 Judy Knoll

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

06/01 Jon & Vikki Rath
06/02 Arthur & Sandra Murray
06/03 Greg & Sandy Benedetto
06/07 Bob & Lorraine Fricke
06/14 Daniel & Jessica Heath
06/15 Christian & Eleanor Martens
06/19 Peter & Karen Wolf
06/25 Len & Marge Edge
06/26 Bill & Kathleen Metzler
06/28 Keith & Carissa Algozzine
06/30 George & Joann Acker

MEMORIALS GIVEN

April 25 – May 30, 2004

In Memory of
Gabriela Kohler and
William & Frank Schellhorn
George Stengel

Given by
Bob & Liz Petersen
Charlotte Stengel

*Have you remembered
the Lord's work
in your will?*

AVERAGE SUNDAY WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

April 25 - May 30, 2004

203 people

(8:15 & 10:30 services combined.
Includes Palm Sunday & Easter Sunday)

2004 YEAR-TO-DATE OFFERINGS

Through May 30, 2004

Total Offerings Needed: \$68,490
Total Offerings Received: \$63,674

ACOLYTE PAGE

Resurrection Lutheran Church

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The Rev. Victor Nelson, Pastor
Shirley Algozzine, Deacon

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Web Site: www.luther95.com/RLC-CNY

**“I Am The Resurrection and The Life; he who believes
in Me shall live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and
believes in Me shall never die.”
John 11:25, 26**

Sunday Mornings AT RESURRECTION

**8:15 am
Worship Service**

**9:15 am
Sunday School
and Adult Bible
Classes**

**10:30 am
Worship Service
Coffee Hour Following**

**Wednesday Evenings: July & August at 7:00 pm
Advent & Lent at 7:30 pm**

***Trusting in the Resurrection Power of Jesus Christ,
Our mission is to make disciples who are growing in faith and are
bringing God's Word and Love to our community.***