



RED HILL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL

newsletter

November 2011

THIS WAY IN...



Dear Red Hill Family and Friends,
In Paul's letter to the Philippians, Paul comments on his life as a follower of Jesus who is facing persecutions, struggles, fears, and even hope, as well as his desire to keep on fighting "the good fight of faith."

Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.

¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 3.12-14)

I love Paul's use of words in v.14: "I press on..." I do not have to tell you that we live in difficult times! We are facing the worst economic circumstances in decades; the political debate increasingly lacks civility; gas prices fluctuate as does the stock market! On the personal front, as your pastor, just in these past few weeks, I have listened as people have shared with me their life circumstances: divorce, financial struggles, medical issues (sickness and dealing with insurance companies), job losses and long-term unemployment, depression, fears about the future, regrets

about the past, struggles with children (younger and older!), and frustration with their children's school systems. In addition, some have said to me they feel a general sense of disenchantment and spiritual numbness, along with a loss of faith. Did I miss anybody?

A statement made by one of our folks has stuck with me: "You know pastor, no one at work laughs anymore. Everyone is so serious! It seems the joy has gone out of everything." Perhaps these circumstances describe you? Or, perhaps you are going through other challenges as well? What do we do? Where do we turn?

Of course, struggle is no stranger to the Christian life. In fact, from Genesis 3 on, the Bible tells us stories of conflicts and fighting's, fears and frustrations, at different times and in different cultures within human history. What is constant in all of these stories are the promises and power of God for His people who are experiencing difficult times!

Commenting on the issue of suffering and the Christian life, theologian Paul Edwards writes,

But suffering in the Christian life is the rule, not the exception. From the day Christ called us to follow Him he fully disclosed two prerequisites: denying ourselves and taking up our cross. When Saul of Tarsus was converted on the road to Damascus, he didn't experience a Benny Hinn-esque healing. On the contrary, God blinded him, left him in that condition for days and sent a reluctant evangelist by the name of Ananias to inform him of how much he would suffer for the name of Christ (Acts 9:15-16)...And suffer he did. Consider what Paul endured: five times beaten with 39 stripes, three times beaten with rods, stoned, shipwrecked three times, a night and a day floating in the sea, danger of all kinds, weary and in pain, hungry and thirsty, naked and cold...

If you are like me, I read about the persecutions, the floggings, and the trials of the early Christians like Paul (in

fact, even some Christians today) and consider my problems are so small compared to them, and of course, I then add a little guilt to my list! Yes, in some ways, and depending on our particular “issues” today, our struggles may seem less dramatic. Yet, they are still struggles. No matter what we may be facing right now, the question is: “Will I allow my problems, uncertainties, pains, and/or fears, draw me closer to God or farther away from Him? As we consider both our present challenges, whatever they may be, and those struggles in the lives of our ancestors in the faith, there are two themes that offer a way forward:

***God’s Purpose.** When things in our lives are going smoothly, it is all too easy to focus on the gifts rather than the giver of those gifts. Similarly, it is easy to get discouraged and even angry at God because we lack what we need and want. Perhaps we believe that God has deserted us? Consider the biblical character, Job. One of the themes in the book of Job is the existential and theological question, “Will Job (you and me) bless and praise God during the bad times as well as the good?” Job understood deep in his soul that God is God no matter what our circumstances:

“...and (Job) said: “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised.”

Job says, “Everything I have comes from God anyway.” He gave it to me; He can take it all away. It is His right. The end of the story is that God later restored everything the devil had taken away, twice as much. God is in control—no matter what!

Consider the Patriarch Joseph. Joseph is an example of how one handles being intentionally hurt by the people you thought were your friends (or family!). Joseph was his dad’s (Jacob) favorite! Of course, this made his brothers jealous. Joseph’s brothers sold him into slavery in Egypt and then told Jacob that Joseph had been killed by a wild animal. While in Egyptian slavery, the wife of an Egyptian official’s (Potiphor) attempts to seduce him. Joseph refused this advance because of his faith in God. Consequently, Potiphor’s wife falsely accused Joseph of attempted rape and Joseph is put in prison where he spends years wondering, I’m sure, “Where is God in all of this? However, as the story goes forward Joseph was exactly where God wanted him. Later on, Joseph rose to a position of prominence in Egypt and there was a great famine. Because of his wisdom both Egypt and Israel were saved. Later he came face to face with the very brothers that tried to hurt him. In one of the most powerful verses of scripture that tells of God’s faithfulness, Joseph says to his brothers:

“You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.” (Genesis 50:20)

God was in control and God was working through the circumstances and situations to fulfill His purpose. God didn’t cause Joseph’s brothers to sell him into slavery, or tell their father Jacob his son was dead. However, God redeemed the circumstances and used them to bless Joseph, his brothers, his father Jacob, and two nations!

What about you? Could God be working out His purposes for your life (and for others) through your struggles? Could God be using your present circumstances to strengthen your faith, your hope, and your love? Do you have a hope that flows from a resolute trust that God is in control and He will provide for every need? Can you trust that even if circumstances seem otherwise, God is at work *birthing* something new in the midst of your struggles now? Only you can answer those questions but I will respectfully say, absolutely yes!

God’s Plan. Often, God will use our trials, frustrations, and brokenness to get our attention. In Psalm 138:8 (ESV) the Bible says,

“The LORD will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.”

Notice what the Bible does NOT say; “The Lord will work out my plans for my life,” or “The Lord will work out the plans I want for my life.” It says, “*The Lord will work out His plans for my life.*”

Author and Pastor John Ortberg makes this same point when he writes,

“One of the great statements of the Bible reads: ‘For I know the plans I have for you,’ declares the LORD. Plans to prosper you, and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope, and a future.’ Jeremiah 29:11... We all have plans. But God does not say: ‘I know the plans YOU have for you...’ In the Bible, God is always interrupting somebody’s plan.

Adam didn’t plan on getting created.
Noah didn’t plan on building an ark.
Abraham didn’t plan on becoming the father of a new nation in his 90’s.
Esther didn’t plan on stopping genocide.
Moses didn’t plan on defying Pharaoh.
Mary didn’t plan on getting pregnant.

Not a single story in the Bible begins: “Then someone had a great plan...” But God has a plan. Better than our plan. So even if we have many disappointments, we have something else, something to be grateful for. We are part of somebody else’s plan; a better plan, from a Better Planner. His plan is better than we could invent ourselves in a million years.”

Next month, I will have more to say about our “plans” in relationship to God’s plans through the story of Mary and Joseph found in the Gospel of Luke. I am sure that as a young couple, they had a plan: get married, raise a family, and live a nice, uneventful, quite life in Nazareth. But then, an angel showed up and changed their plans! Because God changed Mary and Joseph’s plans, Jesus was born and our lives (and this world) have never been the same.

Understanding and trusting in God’s purposes and plans, gives us the courage and strength to persevere by hanging on to Jesus every day. At the 1968 Olympics, an hour after the marathon’s winner crossed the finish line, Tanzania’s John Stephen Akhwari limped across that finish line, injured in a fall early in the race. Asked why he didn’t quit, he said, “My country did not send me 7,000 miles to start this race. My country sent me to finish.”

Likewise, God has sent us on a mission, a “race” that will take the rest of our lives. God’s promise is that He will be with us here, every moment of every day and will help us to finish our race. God will empower us to, along with Paul, “*press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.*” God also promises us that because of Jesus, He will be there to meet us at the end of our earthly race; when all the strivings and sufferings of this life are ended.

“Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.”
(2 Timothy 4.8).

Press On!

Pastor Seth



North American Lutheran Church Update

On Sunday, October 9, Red Hill was blessed to have Dr. James Nestingen with us to share the mission and vision of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC). The NALC is a recently formed Lutheran denomination stemming from the work of Lutheran CORE (Coalition for Reform). The NALC boasts a roster of over 300 churches despite the fact that they are only one year old. The four core values of the NALC are: Christ-centered, confessionally Lutheran, congregationally based, and mission oriented. Read more about the NALC by visiting their website at www.thenalc.org.

Evangelism and World Mission Conference Recap

Over the weekend of October 7-9, Red Hill was proud to host a Conference on Evangelism and World Mission presented by the Wittenberg Institute and the North American Lutheran Church. The conference featured speakers from as close as Concordia University, Irvine, and as far away as Africa. We were also pleased to welcome the new bishop of the North American Lutheran Church, Rev. John Bradosky. The conference featured presentations on confession and absolution by Dr. James Nestingen, Crossing Cultures and Languages by Dr. Yohannes Mengsteab, and the Challenge of Islam by Adam Francisco. All who participated were blessed to hear from such top-notch theologians. Thank you to the volunteers who helped make this special event happen: Amanda Oldham, Trisha Gebhardt, Deborah Alg, Carol Hill, Gloria Odden, John and Marilyn Baab. We hope to host more conferences like this in the future.



NALC

North American Lutheran Church

WORSHIP

November Sermon Series: "The New Testament Challenge"

During the month of November, we will continue the sermon series begun in October, "The New Testament Challenge." What we discover in the pages of the New Testament is a *challenge* that will change

our lives: trusting in the saving work of Jesus Christ for us as well as trusting Him *daily* in all of the challenges we face in our lives. Here is what we will be "challenged" by in the month of November:



November, 6th (All Saints Sunday): "The Challenge of Eternity." Revelation 21.1-8; Matthew 25.1-13

As the old saying goes, "Eternity is a long time!" The Bible tells us that one day we will die. Those who trust Jesus and His salvific work will live with Jesus in heaven forever. Likewise, those who do not trust Jesus will spend an eternity apart from Jesus. The Bible refers to life apart from Jesus as *hell*. When we die, do we go to heaven right away? What is "heaven?" What is "hell?" What happens to those who are not Christians? The challenge is to live faithfully and fully in the present time and yet keep an *eternal* perspective.

November, 13th: "The Challenge of Law and Gospel." Romans 3.19-26; Mark 1.14-15, 21-28

God speaks through the scriptures in two fundamentally different ways. God speaks a word of Law that tells people what to do and not to do, threatens sinners with divine punishment, wrath, condemnation and death. God also speaks a word of Gospel that promises grace to undeserving sinners, grants forgiveness, and offers salvation and new life. The challenge is properly distinguishing Law and Gospel in the scriptures and the Christian life so that we might both understand the entire witness of scripture and live as obedient disciples of Jesus Christ.

November, 20th (Christ the King Sunday): "The Challenge of the Trinity." Genesis 1.1-2, 26-27; Ephesians 1.2-8, 11-13; Matthew 3.13-17

One of the most challenging doctrines in scripture and Christian theology is the doctrine of the Trinity. While the word *Trinity* does not appear in scripture, the revelation of this Biblical God who is one in three persons clearly does. The Lutheran Confessions affirm, "... it is true indeed that God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who is the eternal and

essential righteousness, dwells by faith in the elect who have been justified through Christ and reconciled with God..." (Formula of Concord, "Solid Declaration," Article III) The challenge of the Trinity is the revelation of the one God who, in His love for us, is *creator, redeemer, and sanctifier*; a God of mutual self-giving love and perfect community.

November, 23rd (Thanksgiving Eve Service): "The Challenge of Gratitude." Luke 17.11-19

Being grateful is truly a mark of spiritual maturity. The challenge of the New Testament is to understand that all of life is a gift from God. Consequently, our response should be an "attitude of gratitude" and a desire to share what God has first given to us.

November, 27th (First Sunday in Advent): "The Challenge of Readiness." Mark 13.24-37

Readiness for the return of Jesus; this is a recurring theme in the New Testament. The season of Advent begins with the recognition that while Jesus came to earth as an infant at Christmas, one day Jesus will come again as King of Kings and Lord of Lords in glory. No one will enter the kingdom of God by works, nor will mere religion save anyone. Because Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords we can be ready for Jesus' return and sure of our salvation no matter how cataclysmic the Last Day shall be.

Upcoming Worship & Music Ministry Events

Reformation Sunday: Pacific Brass Ensemble in Traditional Worship!

Sunday, October 30th at 8:30am

Reformation is the "birthday" of the Lutheran Church and in honor of that, we will be joined by the renowned Pacific Brass Ensemble in performing the liturgy and singing some stalwart Lutheran hymns!



Contemporary Worship will be in the CLC at 10:00am on this morning.

All Saints Service –

Tuesday November 1st at 12:00pm in the Sanctuary.

All Saints Day is sacred in the life of the Christian church. *All Saints* celebrates the baptized people of God, living and dead, who are the body of Christ. As November heralds the dying of the landscape, we hold this service to remember all who have died in Christ and whose baptism is complete. Please join us.

Thanksgiving Eve Service - November 23rd at 7:00pm in the Sanctuary. See above for details.

Rejoice Always! *Third Sunday in Advent December 11, 2011 at 8:30a.m.*

Our 8:30am traditional worship service will feature the voices of the BIOLA Conservatory for Music's Women's Chorus. Please join us as we journey through Advent and consider the mystery and miracle of the Savior's birth!

Hodie...This Day! *Concert December 11, 2011 at 7p.m.*

Join the Red Hill Lutheran Church Chancel Choir & Orchestra, along with other music ministries of Red Hill as they present some of the most beloved and moving Christmas music of all time in the Sanctuary of Red Hill Lutheran Church! Featuring Z. Randall Stroope's *Hodie* and John Rutter's *Gloria*. This is always a highlight in the church year, you won't want to miss it!

Worship in November

This month, we conclude "Year A" in the lectionary cycle, and we prepare for two important "festivals" in the church year: All Saints Day (November 1st) and All Saints Sunday (November 6th), and Christ the King Sunday (Nov. 20th). Add to that the celebration of Veteran's Day (Nov. 11th), Thanksgiving Eve on Nov. 23rd and the beginning of Advent on Nov. 27th and you can easily see: this is one *busy* month! *All Saints*, though often observed, is not always given the gravity it deserves. During this time, we are reminded that the church is a communion not only of the living and local, but of the dead cannot divide us from the body of Christ, because Jesus Christ has conquered death. The day therefore has a dual focus. We commemorate those who have died. But we remember them not for themselves and in themselves, but because of what God has done in them. "When the church praises the saints, it praises God himself, who has triumphed through them. Those who are still in the church on earth are supported and encouraged by the fellowship of a throng of witnesses, who fought their way with effort and pain, and who now in the company of the redeemed are watching and supporting the church on earth in its present struggle" (Philip Pfatteicher, *New Book of Festivals and Commemorations* [Minn.: Fortress, 2008], p. 533).

Lest we forget, it was the eve of All Saints Day (Oct. 31st) that Luther chose to post his Ninety-five Theses on the Wittenberg church door, because he knew many people would be at

church the next day and see his posting! In that spirit, we encourage everyone at Red Hill to renew their faith and return to worship this November!



BIBLE STUDY

Adult Sunday School

We continue our study on the book of Ecclesiastes every Sunday morning at 10:00 a.m. in the CLC. The book of Ecclesiastes contains reflections of an old man as he considers the question of meaning in life. It is believed to have been written by Solomon, probably the wisest, wealthiest, most powerful person who ever lived. Despite all his "success", he concludes that life here on earth, apart from God, is meaningless. Only the person who lives in the fear of the Lord can enjoy God's good gifts and grasp the true meaning of life. People of all ages will benefit from this study.



DISCIPLE U

Wednesday Morning Adult Class

"Foundations: The Core Beliefs of the Christian Church"

Wednesday 7:15 a.m. Prayer Chapel

Teacher: Pastor Seth

In the book of Romans, the Apostle Paul encourages believers to, "... *not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will*" (Romans 12.2). The renewing of the mind happens when the truths of God's Word are studied, understood, and applied in the believer's life. A renewed mind leads to a renewed way of life; a way of life that is dedicated to practicing and experiencing God's "pleasing and perfect will."

On Wednesday mornings, we are examining some of these basic truths from God's Word. The organized study of the basic beliefs of the Christian Church is sometimes referred to as "Doctrine," "Systematic Theology," and/or "Apologetics." Whatever the title, these core beliefs shape our thinking and "theologizing" as believers—they renew our minds! Bring your Bibles and join us for a time of prayer, singing, and a hearty discussion of:

"The Trinity: One God or Three?"

"Creation: How Could God Do All That in 7 Days?"

"Salvation: Saved not Just *From* Hell but *For* Life!"

"Sanctification"

"Good and Evil"

"Heaven and Hell"

"The Church"

"The Return of Jesus"

You are welcome to join us at any point in the study. The class ends at 8:00 a.m. If you have the time, after the class you are invited to join some of the class for breakfast at Coco's in Tustin!

Wednesdays in the Word.

Wednesdays in the Word

We encourage you to mark your calendars and make Wednesday nights another regular “church” time outside of Sunday worship – especially if you are not yet committed to a weekly study program. We begin with a community meal for all ages beginning at 6:15pm. There is no charge for dinner, but a free-will offering will be accepted. At 7:00pm, we divide into age-appropriate education groups. Kids from nursery through Jr. High will go to their respective rooms and the adults will stay in the CLC for their study.

This month, we conclude our series on “The B-I-B-L-E.” We’ve been learning about how we got the Bible, why the Bible is the sole rule and norm for our life, and what difference this makes in our life today. We still have three more weeks in the study and will be doing a survey of the Old and New Testaments as well as discussing how to study the Bible and dealing with higher criticism. Join us anytime! We encourage all members of Red Hill to attend this important study as a foundation for a new series we’ll be starting in January taking us through the whole Bible in 31 weeks.

Bible Study for Red Hill Church Families

When: 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. 6 - 7:00 PM

Where: At Red Hill, in the CLC

Who: Young families at Red Hill. The study will be geared toward families that have kids around ten years old and younger, but this is not a hard and fast rule.

Why: To connect with other young families and couples with young kids. To develop the worship lives of our families at home. Child care, with Bible activities will be provided

What: We will begin with a study on the topic of Worship in the home, centering around family devotions, prayer, singing, and spiritual leadership in the family. This study will run through December.

Leaders: The group is led by Jason & Mindy Harney

Got a question for a pastor or staff person? You can email us straight from our website at:
www.redhillchurch.org

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE



Red Hill Lutheran Women

Please join us at one of our four Bible Study Groups on Tuesday, November 1, 2011 for fellowship and sharing God’s word. All four circles are studying *I and II Thessalonians*.

Deborah: 9:30 a.m. - 11985 Lambert, Tustin
Sheila Feher - [714-639-2030](tel:7146392030)

Priscilla: 12:00 p.m. - in the Music Library
Yvonne Cole - [714-505-8709](tel:7145058709)

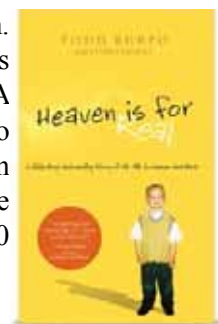
Rebekah: 7:00 p.m. - 55 Carson, Irvine
Marlene Thorson - [949-766-1510](tel:9497661510)

Lydia: 9:00 a.m. - in the Music Library (baby-sitting available)
Celia Young - [714-832-4197](tel:7148324197)

Choose a group that fits your schedule and contact the person listed. For more information, contact Coordinator Shelley McCollum, sckmccollum@att.net or [714-832-3837](tel:7148323837).

RHLW Bookclub!

The Red Hill Lutheran Women Bookclub will meet on Tuesday, November 15th, 1:00-2:30 p.m. in the music library. Our book choice is *Heaven is for Real* by Todd Burpo “A little boy’s astounding story of his trip to heaven and back.” All Red Hill women are welcome. Any questions, please contact Marlene Thorson, [949-766-1510](tel:9497661510) or emthor@cox.net.



Coughran Baby Shower

Next Spring Isaiah and Andrea Coughran are expecting an addition to their family and you are invited to join us for a celebration of the newest Coughran baby! The Youth will be hosting a baby-shower for Isaiah and Andrea in the CLC on December 4, 2011 at 11:30. Please come join us for a light brunch and the pleasure of celebrating the newest member to the Coughran clan. If you would like to make a donation towards their gifts, there will be someone at the Youth Table to accept them. If you have any questions please call Laurie Oard at [714.544.1466](tel:7145441466). Thank you!



The Coughrans with their 1st born, Roscoe



Getting to know:

Joel and Jennifer Feeser

Boy meets girl in college choir = friends. They travel to Italy (Rome to Venice) with college concert tour = ❤️ Latest “chick-flick”? No, just a little romantic background on our “get acquainted couple” - Joel & Jennifer Feeser.



Joel (like a few of our favorite leaders) is a PK, who left his birthplace of Kingman, AZ, when his father was called to start a new church in Clovis, CA. He moved to So. Cal. after high school to attend Chapman University, where he sang with Jennifer Roland in the University Choir. Jennifer is a native Californian, born in Westlake Village, migrating to OC and graduating from Brea Olinda High School. When not singing or touring, they earned their respective degrees in Business Administration and Organizational Leadership. Their most cherished memory of these years, however, is the choir’s private tour of the Sistine Chapel, where the 85 members joined hands and sang “Were You There?”

After dating for a year while attending Jennifer’s home church, they sought a “church of their own.” They visited Red Hill (where they had sung with Chapman). After receiving warm welcomes from Pastor Tom and the congregation, they soon made it their home church, and the following year (2004) were married in our sanctuary. They lost no time in becoming active: Evangelism Board, School Board, Wedding Assistant, Sunday school teachers, “Dinner for 8” (a small group still together after 7 years) and as new member mentors. Since 2005 Joel has continued to be involved with the Chili Cook-off despite the fact that one year, while chopping vegetables, he sliced off part of his thumb. That batch of chili was named “9-finger chili.” (Any of you taste it?) The ministry closest to Joel and Jennifer’s hearts, however, is their 6 years of assisting as Contemporary service Praise Team Leaders. Their hope is to help the congregation feel worshipful by offering a seamless musical presentation, with no distractions, to allow the Holy Spirit to work within our hearts. (Perhaps influenced in Rome by Leonardo daVinci’s “Do you know that our soul is composed of harmony?”)

Joel has been involved in marketing and sales in several venues and is now with Universal Services of America. After receiving her degree in psychology, Jennifer is a School Psychologist at Newhart Middle School in Mission Viejo. They enjoy life in Anaheim Hills where they share their appreciation of music: classical to show tunes to jazz, and attending concerts and plays, but primarily relishing



A Night of Praise: Christmas Edition Wednesdays in the Word this Advent

Wednesday, November 30th

7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Christian Life Center

Wednesdays in the Word will continue through Advent with three very special events. The first is “A Night of Praise – Christmas Edition.” This will be an evening of worship music and Christmas songs led by Isaiah Coughran and the 10:00 praise band. Come and enjoy a remix of some old Christmas favorites with a rockin’ twist as well as a few of Isaiah’s own songs, both old and new. It will be loud. It will be fun. It will be worship. Don’t miss it!

time with their adorable 18-month-old blond cherub, Annabelle Joy. Be sure to say “Hi” to all three of them on the patio next Sunday and come and hear them sing at 10:00, November 13th.

MISSION/SERVICE

MISSIONARY CORNER

How then shall they call on Him of whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? Romans 10:14

What is EEMN?

EEMN stands for East European Missions Network. Their mission is partnering together for rebuilding and equipping the Body of Christ in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

A woman in Slovakia said, “Please keep coming. We need you here. You Americans are always so clear, bold and straight forward in preaching the Gospel.”

Thanks be to God and Red Hill Lutheran Church members for your prayers and financial support for the ministry of EEMN.

For more information, please view their web site at www.eemn.org.

COMPASSION IN ACTION

“Bear ye one another’s burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ.” - Galatians 6:2

O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good because His mercy endures forever. Psalm 118:1.

Rejoice and be glad! Remember all that we have comes from the Lord!

However, what happens when we are discouraged or in the middle of a crisis and we cannot seem to find the words to speak to God in prayer?

Red Hill Lutheran Church offers others to pray for you. This is called intercessory prayer, a prayer where another petitions God for you. Your plea can be between you and God but another will put your concern before God.

So whether you want to praise, give thanks, or cry for help to God, remember to use the slips of paper for the “Compassion in Action” basket, either before or after communion each Sunday. In love and compassion, others will pick up your prayer request on the way out of church and be your intercessor through-out the week. You will be blessed.

Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity

Red Hill Lutheran Church and School have joined together with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and other local Lutheran churches to build a home this fall in Huntington Beach. Due to various problems getting this project approved through the city of Huntington Beach, the build schedule is very tight.

Because this project is funded through a grant provided by Thrivent, 50% of the volunteers who serve on the construction site need to be Lutheran, and 25% need to be Thrivent members. You don’t need to swing a hammer to volunteer. Other ways to serve include helping with morning hospitality, providing lunch or snacks for the work crew, or assisting in the job site office. Most of these jobs require less than 2 hours of volunteer time but count as a half-day of service.



Of course, helping with construction to build the home is always a popular way to get involved. Because of the number of churches participating, Red Hill only has 6 spots available on our assigned construction Saturday, November 19, 2011. However, if the interest and availability are there, we may coordinate some work teams to help with the construction during the week.

To learn more about the project, or to sign up to help, please contact Amanda Oldham at amandaoldham29@gmail.com.

Evangelism Team

Evangelism is the responsibility of every Christian—not just a “committee” or “team.” Evangelism in the truest sense of the word is spreading the news, the “good news” (Gospel) of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection. However, it is the responsibility of a local church to equip its members to evangelize, create a climate of hospitality, and to assimilate new people into the life of the church.

If you would like to help in building and evangelizing culture here at Red Hill, you are invited to join the **Evangelism/Assimilation Team** here at Red Hill. Headed by Pastor Seth, this team will be responsible for *reaching, equipping,* and *releasing* new members into the ministries of Red Hill and the world! If you are interested in this ministry, you can email Pastor Seth at sbritton@redhillchurch.org or mark your Worship Response Card, “Evangelism” and he will connect with you and get you involved in the life-changing world of evangelism and assimilation!

rhlc YOUTH

For more info contact Isaiah Coughran at icoughran@redhillchurch.org or 714.544.3131 x 108

The Foundation

High School Ministry

We meet on Sunday nights in PPU (Peter's Parish Underground in the CLC Building). Come and hang out with us from 6:30PM to 8:30PM. We spend our time in worship, Bible study, and long term Salmon re-migration pattern planning. We will review maps, chart new courses to redirect Tuna from their present migration patterns, and rewire their circuitry so that they will smoke themselves. They're delicious smoked. I expect to see you at our meeting if you know what's good for you and you are in high school.

petersparish.com

Learn to Cook [November 20th, 2011]:

Thanksgiving is a time for eating. So, it's time to get into the Spirit of that season with some home cooked food. Maybe you're thinking, "hey that's great, but I don't cook," or "Turkey is delicious, that sounds splendid", or my personal favorite, "Why should I eat turkey when McDonald's exists?" I can't answer that question specifically, but I can tell you that you can learn to cook prepare, cook, and (most importantly) eat a Turkey. You will also learn to prepare a few desserts, side dishes and decorate a few costumes for the evening (There will be a gluten free & vegetarian option for those who need it). So, plan on meeting up with us at 12pm - 9pm for a time of preparation, cooking, eating, cleaning up, pooping, and then going home full. I mean it. And bring a friend who likes to eat... and poop. I'm serious.

Mark Your Calendars:

November 20th Thanksgiving Feast [Free Food & you can learn to cook!]

December 18th Progressive Dinner [We will need 3 Host houses - Appetizers, Dinner and Dessert - Please sign up!]

March 2nd-4th Forest Home Winter Retreat [Cost \$175.00]

Quote: "Reason is the enemy of faith" - Martin Luther (that sounds reasonable...)

For more info contact Isaiah Coughran at icoughran@redhillchurch.org or 714.544.3131 x 108

ninety-nine:1

Junior High Youth Ministry

Ninety-nine:1 meets in Peter's Parish Underground (CLC Youth Hall) on Wednesday Nights from 6:30pm till 8:15pm. At 6:30pm we serve dinner. We finish up our dinner and free time at 7:00pm and that's when we dive into our activities for the night, which include: games, music, Bible study, small groups and an assortment of random, tasteful activities. Come join us; we hope to see you there!

www.petersparish.com

November 23rd, 2011

Hey Gang, it's time to get turkified!!! It's time to let that tryptophan course through your veins. It's time to run around like a bunch of Turkeys (how is that different than every week? - it's not I guess). Anyway, this is a chance to come, share our most thankful memory, have fun and eat good food. We'd love for you to come and to invite a friend!!!! The event is free. Gobble. Gobble.

Quote: "What if I'm right and you were wrong? What if you knew it all along?" -

Face to Face

Progressive Dinner December 14th, 2011 (6:00pm - 8:45pm)

Alrighty Then! We are looking for 3 homes. 3 homes that would allow us (50 jr. high students and counselors) to invade your home, eat your food, and leave with a meager thank you... Does that sound like your type of ministry???? Just kidding - We give a great "Thank You". We are honestly looking for 3 homes: 1 to host an appetizer course, 1 to host a dinner course, and last of all 1 to host a dessert course. This event is a ton of fun. We are also looking for drivers with cars that seat 6-15. Please let us know if you or your vehicle is available. Please contact Isaiah Coughran at 714.501.7256 or at icoughran@redhillchurch.org for details or to volunteer your home, your car, or yourself for the evening.

Upcoming Events:

November 23rd Game and Feast Night

December 14th Progressive Dinner {we are looking for 3 homes to host our annual progressive dinner: Appetizers, Dinner and Dessert. If you are interested, please email Isaiah at the address below}.

January 6th-8th Forest Home Winter Retreat [Cost: \$175.00 per camper]

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (CONFIRMATION)

If you (or your child) are a 7th or 8th grade student, there is still time to enroll in the Confirmation ministry at Red Hill. The rite of Confirmation is the process through which a baptized person renews their baptismal vows, publically confesses his/her faith, and is received as a member of the church. Confirmation at Red Hill is a two year period of instruction (typically, 7th and 8th grades) where the Bible, Christian history, and the Lutheran Confessions are explored. At the end of this two-year period of instruction, a student may affirm (confirm) their faith in Jesus.



Confirmation meets on Wednesday evenings, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Christian Life Center. Middle school students are encouraged to stay for our Middle school youth ministry, "99:1" which begins at 6:30 and concludes at 8:15 p.m. If you have any questions about Confirmation, you can call Pastor Seth at 714-544-3131 ext.110. or sbritton@redhillchurch.org.

FIRST COMMUNION

Our next First Communion Sunday will be on November 6th during the Contemporary worship service. This sacrament is available to children 2nd grade and up who have been baptized. The classes will be held on October 30th in the Day Care room after the last service. Please watch the Sunday bulletins in October for further information. The study materials, which must be read and learned prior to class, will be available for purchase beginning October 3rd on the patio at the Children's Ministry table (cost is \$5). Please call Monica Matallana at x100 for further information.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

D2 (Disciples Too!) & Sunday School continues to grow!

A very special thanks goes out to all parents and children that have taken part in our new and exciting Sunday school program at Red Hill Lutheran Church! D2 is growing each week because of you! We meet Sundays at 10:00am, D2 will meet as usually, signing in at the front tables, getting your child's nametags, and signing them into their age-appropriate classrooms. Come join us for this very special time of worship, new friends, and an opportunity to continue to grow in faith! *Please keep this enthusiasm going- your energy, commitment, and faith in this church each week makes us stronger and is truly awe-inspiring!*



Wednesdays in the Word Continues: Core values, New ideas!

Thanks to all who joined us in sharing God's word this past Wednesday night with Wednesdays in the Word. This year, Children's Ministry wants to provide each one of your children with a venue where they can be valued, celebrated, and gain a sense of belonging. That is why our WITW program has now been renamed in order to provide your children with a group where they are the focus. Welcome our new Wednesday night program: The W.I.C.K.S! (Wednesdays is 'cause kids shine!) Dinner is served at 6:15pm, to be followed by the distribution of kids into their small worship groups at 6:45pm. *With change comes excitement, and excitement allows for new and exciting ways for God to be honored!* Please join us for a special night of worship and friendship.



Children's Ministry's Upcoming Events

On Friday, **November 4th starting at 5:30pm** we will be having our first Sleepover Shut-in! This will mean that Grades 1-6 can bring a sleeping bag to stay over in the CLC for a night filled with activities and silliness, all while learning about God's word. Outside fun kicks off at 5:30pm and then inside for a pizza dinner and activities! (*Note: Children can opt to not stay over all night, and may be picked up at 8:00pm if necessary*). Children's Ministry challenges all children to be disciples and bring a friend or classmate. In order to stay overnight, your child and any guests must fill out a permission slip no later than Oct. 30th, 2011. Permission slips may be obtained outside of the Performing Arts room or at the Welcome table at Sunday School. Please spread the word about our exciting ministry, and we hope to see as many of you there as possible!



RED HILL LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Red Hill Lutheran School was well represented in the Tustin Tiller Parade. A special thank you goes to Mike Booke and Isaiah Coughran for sharing their musical talents as they led our middle school praise band on the back of our RHLS float, which was decorated with our theme of "Shining God's Light for 50 Years". Thank you to RHLS parent, Colleen Toledo, for blessing us with her artistic talents and designing the beautiful lighthouses for the float. Our 24 young ladies in the middle school spirit line squad performed along the parade route under the guidance of Coach Jennifer Brenner. Principal Cindy Jordan traveled the parade route in a bright red convertible driven by our very own Pastor Joel Kelly.



RHLS Staff and students at the Tiller Days Parade!



Red Hill School

www.redhillschool.org

Find out more about our Youth Ministry at:

petersparish.com

Find out more about Red Hill Lutheran Church at:

redhillchurch.org

Follow us on twitter:

[@redhilllutheran](https://twitter.com/redhilllutheran)



November Birthdays

- 11/1 Alex Buzby, Deborah Redfern
- 11/2 Ray Baird, Helen Gower, Yvonne Meade, Gloria Ramstead
- 11/3 Scott Browne, Miriam Lacey, Emily Rodriguez, Kurt Stauder, Cindy Wilcox
- 11/5 Adeline Veronica
- 11/6 Larissa Berry, Joel Feeser, Thelma Raulston,
- 11/7 Rachel Kitano, Frank Smith
- 11/8 Troy Barring, Myrtle Carlson
- 11/9 Vicki Austin, Sara Barring, Paul Granell, Jonathan Hartfiel
- 11/10 Kristin Missakian, Jasmine Torgerson
- 11/11 Bryan Gunderson, Liz Weber
- 11/12 Sonja Maher, Doris Rogers, Ryan Sprosty
- 11/13 Lori Cona
- 11/14 Verl Harnapp, Reenie Larson, Jim McCracken, Gloria Odden
- 11/15 Patti LeBrun
- 11/16 Juan Martinez, Chase Renzi
- 11/17 Griffin Christensen, Adam Curiel, Jennifer Norment, Evelyn Standridge
- 11/18 Jean-Marie Hundebly, Caroline Laird, Vicki Schaffer, Tom Schell, Katherine Wong
- 11/19 Connie Fan, Gwen Hall, Taine Howard, Hannah Penniston
- 11/20 Devon Cox, Tiffany Illingworth
- 11/21 Paul Burlingham, Kayla Jernegan, Miles Martin, Victoria Cope
- 11/22 Christina Corbin, Donald Kramer
- 11/23 Julie Britton, Robert Jones, Lisa Park-Bertea
- 11/24 Nancy Enriquez, Susan Smith
- 11/25 DeLaney Demsher, Nate Pauline, Ryan Umphrey
- 11/26 Eric Day, Calvin Hohener, Spencer Paxton
- 11/27 Grant Davies, Roy Dixon, Mike Phillips
- 11/28 Sue Garnett, Diana Howard
- 11/29 Gayle Demsher, Madison Keefe, John Olsson

November Anniversaries

- 11/2 Chris & Robin Lancaster
- 11/4 John & Marilyn Norment
- 11/5 Brad & Peggy Wong
- 11/7 Paul & Michelle Pooler
- 11/9 Brian & Traci Cline
- 11/10 Marc & Thu Shioya
- 11/11 Tom & Kathy Groff,
- 11/14 Phyllis & Michael Morales
- 11/17 Patrick & Janet Bagnall
- 11/20 Jim & Linda Machgan
- 11/21 John & Sarah Chamberlain, Creighton & Harriet Rinderknecht
- 11/22 Glen & Kim Waipa
- 11/24 Darrin & Wendy Joe
- 11/26 James & Jennifer Shumar
- 11/29 Andrew & Nannette Milligan

Barbara Grahn Memorial Fund

In August, Barbara Grahn, beloved member of the Red Hill community succumbed to cancer. She is dearly missed. Since her passing, a memorial fund has been set up to celebrate her life.

Donations for this fund will be accepted through December of 2011. If you would like to donate to this fund, please contact the church office or email info@redhillchurch.org.

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RED HILL LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL

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Newsletter November 2011
Volume 17, Number 11

IN THIS ISSUE

November marks the end of the church year with Christ the King Sunday and the beginning of the church year and the story of the events that led up to the birth of Christ in Advent. We also celebrate that most American of holidays with Thanksgiving and we have lots of other events on our bustling campus. We hope you and your friends and family will join us for Sunday worship and the events found within this Newsletter. For more info, visit our website, redhillchurch.org or email info@redhillchurch.org.

Highlights:

Pastor Seth offers an article about persevering through the “good fight of faith” through these difficult times... **page 1.**

A bit of info from our NALC Conference and the Evangelism and Outreach conference is provided on **page 3**

Our worship community ramps up the action in November. Find out what’s going on... **page 4**

Read about the famous RHLCC couple, Joel and Jennifer Feeser and their life journey together... **page 7**

If you’re feeling called to help draw more people to Red Hill Lutheran Church, please check out Pastor Seth’s invitation to join the Evangelism Team... **page 8.**

Updates and information about our Youth and Children Ministries are found here... **page 9.**

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