

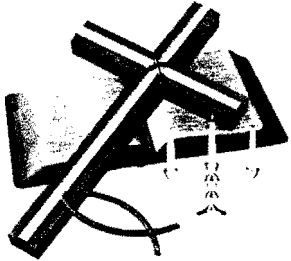


# A NEWSLETTER FOR

# LEISURE LUTHERANS

**NOVEMBER, DECEMBER, 2011**

**Editor: Erma Jean Haas**



## A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD (Ein Feste Burg Ist Unser Gott)

A well-known hymn in all Protestant circles, this hymn was written by Dr. Martin Luther in 1529. It is based on one of his favorite Psalms - #46. Many of the of the verses are familiar to those of us who memorized them as children before it became the custom to modernize the words of many old hymns.

A Mighty fortress is our God, a trusty shield and weapon.  
He helps us free from ev'ry need That hath us now o'ertaken  
The old evil foe Now means deadly woe  
Deep guile and great might Are his dread arms in fight  
On earth is not his equal. #656 Lutheran Service Book.

Luther went through many trials, because of his criticism of the Roman hierarchy, but his brave words when on trial are often quoted in sermons on Reformation Day. He did not give in to the pope, and was excommunicated. Pushed by the pope, the emperor condemned - Luther to death as an outlaw. A wealthy friend offered Luther sanctuary, "protective custody"- at the Wartburg Castle. While he was protected in the castle, Luther translated the New Testament from Greek to German, so that the common people could read God's Word in their own language, instead of having to take the priest's word for everything. In later years he also translated the Old Testament.

In many parts of Europe other churches were established, based on Luther's Bible-based doctrines, but he always stated that he didn't want to start his own church. "These doctrines are not Luther's" he said, "but Christ's." The name 'Lutheran' was first applied to those who followed him as an insult, but some other groups wanted to

reject the papacy while adding some doctrines with which Luther could not agree, and so in order to avoid confusion, he had to accept the use of the name 'Lutheran'.

Let's remember to thank the Lord that we can read His Word in its truth and purity and in our own language and then remember to use that privilege daily.

God is our Refuge and Strength a very present help in trouble-  
Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the heathen,  
I will be exalted in the earth - - -The Lord of Hosts is with us, . . ,  
The God of Jacob is our Refuge. Selah."

Psalm 46:1&2 – 10&11. KJV

..Nelda Carney

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## A NOTE FROM ERMA JEAN...



### WHAT DOES ONE DO?

Retire? Resign?

Or, just "walk away from"  
a volunteer position held for nearly 20 years?

Back in 1992, shortly after I had retired from my job as Church Secretary, I became the Director of Older Adult Ministry. It was a new program for the congregation, targeting members 60 years of age and older. Approximately one-third of Immanuel's membership fit into this age category.

After a great deal of soul searching and much prayerful thought, I feel the time has come for me to give up serving in this position effective January 1, 2012. During these near 20 years, I have witnessed the Lord's blessing in my life, and in the lives of the older adults served by this program as well.

It is my hope that the "Leisure Lutheran" ministry would continue on and not fall by the wayside. I pray that someone will step up to the plate to keep it going. True, it is time consuming and much planning is involved; but I would be glad to work with someone for a short time, sharing with them the materials and tools which I have.

I plan to carry on with my visits to our shut-ins, and, I want to continue to teach the Bible class at Rolla Presbyterian Manor as well.

*"There are different kinds of service to God, but it is the same Lord we are serving. There are many ways in which God works in our lives, but it is the same God who does the work in and through all of us who are his."* (I Cor.12:5,6) – The Living Bible.

## GUEST

### COMMENTARY.....

#### **All Dressed Up and Nowhere to Go**

*Marie Elizabeth Shade Dow*

Years ago I purchased an oil painting entitled “All Dressed Up and Nowhere to Go”. It was a form of art therapy for the artist who created a self portrait the afternoon and evening of the last day on her job. Abruptly that morning she had been informed that her services were no longer needed. As a reflection of her inner mood, she stylistically painted herself, a very petite, perky, precious young lady, as a large, boxy, squarish figure. Since I purchased the oil from the artist herself, I was intrigued and amused at the contrast. She explained that she had never been the size of the likeness in the painting; rather, the painting reflected how she felt about herself that day. The only similarity was the depiction of the dress which was painted in meticulous detail. The fortunate part of the artist’s story is that she lost a mundane, poor-paying job only later to succeed in the field she loved – art.

Likewise, I have embarked upon a new endeavor for which I have labored greatly, only to be hastily relieved of my duties just as I arrived at a workable game plan. I was not given a chance to implement my ideas. My therapy is to write of the good experiences which have happened along the way. One of these incidents follows:



#### Dispensing Justice

In this new land, I have encountered many delightful, generous and hospitable people; but none compare to the children. Where we live, there are many multi-national children, some of whom are home schooled. These little ones have flexible schedules; therefore, they have begun to ring our doorbell. At first they simply wanted to meet us, I am sure. Their smiles alone have broken the language barrier. I have often contended that if one is accepted by a child, it is a compliment to one’s kind character. Before long, the first children brought other friends (who stood shyly at a distance), and soon we had a nice circle of young neighborhood friends.

One day, the neighborhood children wanted to show me their bicycles, which they are permitted to ride around the courtyard. A spat must have occurred among the children, and

one little girl reported "So-and so has forgotten his manners." The little boy's eyes began to tear up, and I said, "Whatever it was, I am sure he is sorry. Let's try not to hurt one another's feelings."

Off they went, and I returned to my work in our apartment. It was not long before the doorbell rang once again. It was the first little boy, showing me that he had a hurt finger. I assumed that the children had settled the dispute their own way. The alleged injury did not appear to be grave, but I offered the wounded child a band-aid, and soon all parties were happy. I could not help but think, "If only all disputes could be solved so easily!"



## WHAT ARE THE LEISURE LUTHERANS DOING IN OCTOBER??

**#1** — We will be eating out as a group on Sunday, October 23 at 12:30 p.m.

**Where:** Miller's Grill at Benton Square, 400 E. 6<sup>th</sup> St., Rolla, Mo. (The old Junior High school.) We will order from the Menu. Their prices are quite reasonable. For those who have trouble with steps, there is an elevator which will take us to the dining area.

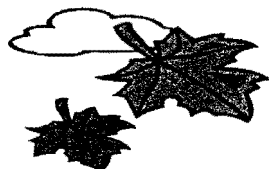
**#2** - The regular monthly Leisure Lutheran meeting will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at noon. Come for lunch and the program which will follow. The Menu: Sloppy Joe's, salads, chips, and dessert.

**The Program:** Brady Wilson, from the Recycling Center.

It seems we need to be updated often on what to recycle and how to separate items which we take to the Center or which is picked up for recycling. The rules change often. Brady will bring us new regulations and rules.

Please invite friends to all of the Leisure Lutheran meetings and activities. The fellowship is great and we like to make new friends.

Research suggests that older adults who have a strong social network are healthier, happier, and lead spirit-filled lives.





## **THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD**

**WILL BRING SOME CHANGES FOR**

**THE “LEISURE LUTHERANS.”**

For years the Leisure Lutherans have sold RADA Cutlery as a fundraiser. It is a good product and we have sold a lot of it. Recently, we have been getting rid of what we have in stock by selling it at cost. There is very little of it remaining. We have:

2 “slicers” @\$3.00 each

2 “bagel knives” @\$3.00 each.

If you should want these, please contact Erma Jean.

We have also sold Greeting cards and Christmas cards for years. We will continue to do this. Naomi Hildreth, a member of our Planning Committee orders the cards and will have them displayed – the greeting cards, at all times, in the narthex of the church; on the shelf below the bulletin board. Money for these cards can be put on Jana’s desk or in the receptacle provided. Soon , the Christian Christmas cards will be on display, perhaps on a card table on Sunday mornings. Look for them when you get ready to buy.

THE CHILDREN’S WORSHIP BAGS have been a helpful worship aid for children. Have you seen the little ones rush for one of them when they enter the church? These little bags have to be washed occasionally and refurbished with new toys and books. Would someone like to do that job?

THE HEARING DEVICES, used by those who need help hearing the sermon and liturgies, have to be checked occasionally to see if new batteries are needed. Perhaps someone else would like to have that job.

WE REALLY HAVE APPRECIATED it that Jana just automatically makes copies of the worship service in LARGE PRINT for us each week. Thank you, Jana. They are used.

## NOW THIS IS "THE LIVING BIBLE" .....

His name is Tim. He has wild hair, wears a T-shirt with holes in it, jeans and no shoes. This was literally his wardrobe for his entire four years of college.

He is brilliant. Kind of profound and very, very bright. He became a Christian while attending college.

Across the street from the campus is a well-dressed, very conservative church. They want to develop a ministry to the students but are not sure how to go about it.

One day Tim decides to go there. He walks in with no shoes, jeans, his T-shirt and wild hair. The service has already started and so Tim starts down the aisle looking for a seat.

Tim gets closer and closer and closer to the pulpit and when he realizes there are no seats, he just squats down right on the carpet. By now the people are really uptight, and the tension in the air is thick.

About this time, the minister realizes that from way at the back of the church, a deacon is slowly making his way toward Tim.

Now the deacon is in his eighties, has silver-gray hair and a three-piece suit. A godly man, very elegant, very dignified, very courtly. He walks with a cane and, as he starts walking toward this boy, everyone is saying to themselves that you can't blame him for what he is going to do.

How can you expect a man of his age and of his background to understand some college kid on the floor?

It takes a long time for the man to reach the boy. The church is utterly silent except for the clicking of the man's cane. All eyes are focused on him. You can't even hear anyone breathing. The minister can't even preach the sermon until the deacon does what he has to do.

And now they see this elderly man drop his cane on the floor. With great difficulty, he lowers himself and sits down next to Tim and worships with him so he won't be alone.

Everyone chokes up with emotion.

When the minister gains control, he says 'What I'm about to preach, you will never remember. What you have just seen, you will never forget.'

*"Be careful how you live. You may be the only Bible some people will ever read!"*

**SENIOR VERSION OF "JESUS LOVES ME" – submitted by a member.....**

**92 YEAR OLD PREACHER.....**

While watching a little TV on Sunday instead of going to church, I watched a church in Atlanta honoring one of its senior pastors who had been retired many years. He was 92 at that time and I wondered why the church even bothered to ask the old gentleman to preach at that age.

After a warm welcome, introduction of the speaker, and as the applause quieted down, he rose from his high back chair and walked slowly with great effort and a sliding gate to the podium. Without a note or written paper of any kind, he placed both hands on the pulpit to steady himself and then quietly and slowly he began to speak.

"When I was asked to come here today and talk to you, your pastor asked me to tell you what was the greatest lesson ever learned in my 50-odd years of preaching. I thought about it for a few days and boiled it down to just one thing that made the most difference in my life and sustained me through my trials. The one thing I could always rely on when tears and heartbreak and pain and fear and sorrow paralyzed me..... The only thing that would comfort was this verse.....

Jesus loves me this I know.	Chorus: Yes, Jesus loves me
For the Bible tells me so	Yes, Jesus loves me,
Little ones to Him belong,	Yes, Jesus loves me
We are weak but He is strong	The Bible tells me so.

He then presented his senior version of "Jesus Loves Me".

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1. Jesus loves me this I know,<br>Though my hair is white as snow<br>Though my sight is growing dim,<br>Still He bids me trust in Him<br>Chorus | 2. Though my steps are oh so slow,<br>With my hand in His I go<br>On through life, let come what may<br>He'll be there to lead the way.<br>Chorus      |
| 2. When the nights are dark and long,<br>In my heart he puts a song..<br>Telling me in words so clear.<br>Have no fear for I am near.<br>Chorus | 4. When my work on earth is done.<br>And life's victories have been won.<br>He will take me home above,<br>Then I'll understand His love.<br>Chorus... |
| 5. I love Jesus, does He know?<br>Have I ever told Him so?<br>Jesus loves to hear me say,<br>That I love Him every day.                         |  |

## THE LUNCH PROGRAM AT IMMANUEL LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Each school day, Chartwell's Food Service at Missouri S&T, brings lunches for the children at our school. Two members, from the congregation, have been scheduled to serve the lunches and clean up afterward. (*Note how many of these volunteers are from among the older adults!*)

MONDAY..... Bill Wuenscher and Julie Melton

TUESDAY..... Erma Jean Haas and JoAnn Sims

WEDNESDAY.... Nancy Anderson and Barbara Watkins

THURSDAY..... Connie Swetnam and Donna Glidewell

FRIDAY..... Dorothy Pascazi and Helen Mumma

### SUBSTITUTES

Kathy Carlson

Nina Haas

Char Homan

### HELPERS

Ed Haas

Andy Anderson

Don Pascazi

Since the School Secretary only works the morning hours, office help during the afternoon at the school is supplied by:

Monday: Nina Haas

Tuesday: Mary Gabel

Wednesday: Betty Canfield

Thursday: Bob Medrow

Friday: Erma Jean Haas

If you can help in some way at the school, it would be very much appreciated. Some of our older adults have adopted students in the school as adopted grandchildren; reading to them; talking with them to get better acquainted, or just being their friend. Let us know if you would like to participate in some way at the school.



# THE NOVEMBER LEISURE LUTHERAN MEETING

**WILL BE HELD ONE WEEK EARLIER THAN USUAL  
BECAUSE OF THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY**

**The Date is November 16, at Noon**

**Mark your calendar**



## **THE MENU FOR LUNCH THAT DAY:**

**A Thanksgiving Lunch, furnished by the Leisure Lutherans**

## **THE PROGRAM:**

**“The Story of Thanksgiving .... Naomi Hildreth**

**The Story of the Leisure Lutheran Ministry at Immanuel ... Erma Jean Haas**

**PLEASE JOIN US – INVITE FRIENDS TO COME WITH YOU  
THE FELLOWSHIP IS GREAT**



The “Newsletter for Leisure Lutherans” has been the senior adult publication of Immanuel Lutheran Church for the past 19 years. Issues have been published monthly; bi-monthly in 2011. The newsletters are mailed to over 200 senior members and friends of the congregation. Erma Jean Haas, Director of Leisure Lutheran Ministry, has been the Editor. Thanks to all who made contributions to and helped with this publication. This is the final issue, edited by Erma Jean.

## BACK PAGE

### RECIPE CORNER.....

#### Not-So-Sloppy-Joes

This recipe, shared by Kathy Carlson, was used at a recent LWML Rally.

1 pound ground beef  
2 tablespoons oleo  
1 large onion, chopped  
1 can chicken gumbo soup  
1 tablespoon mustard  
¼ cup catsup  
Dash of salt



Melt oleo in skillet; add meat and onion. Cook until meat is brown and onion is transparent. Add remaining ingredients. Simmer for 30 minutes. Serve on hamburger buns. Fills 8 buns. GOOD!

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“Leisure Lutherans”  
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