

RISEN LIFE

Music To My Ears

From Pastor Mike

A journalist once asked Carl Sandburg, "What is the ugliest word in the English language?" After a few minutes Sandburg replied, "Exclusive." The ugliness of exclusive depends upon whether we are among the included or the excluded. We pride ourselves on being members of exclusive clubs, living in exclusive neighborhoods, dining at exclusive restaurants, vacationing at exclusive resorts, belonging to exclusive churches. Being an insider carries with it a sense of pride and security. Most of us, however,

the rejected, the pushed-aside or the left-out, it hurts!

The conflict in the early church centered on the question of who is in and who is out. Are gentiles to be included? Peter and Paul debated that one until Peter had a dream and concluded that "God shows no partiality" (Acts 10:34).

The Book of Acts is the story of God's grace through the Holy Spirit, pushing the early church out to the margins and breaking down the barriers among the people.

People report receiving the gift of acceptance at Risen Lord.

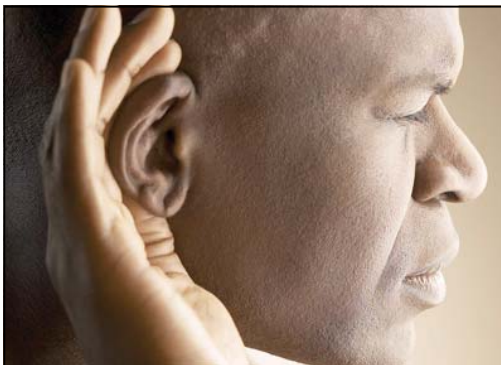
have been excluded often enough to agree that exclusive is an ugly word. When we are among the marginalized,

Judging people by whether or not they are "one of us" thwarts God's reign of justice, generosity and joy.

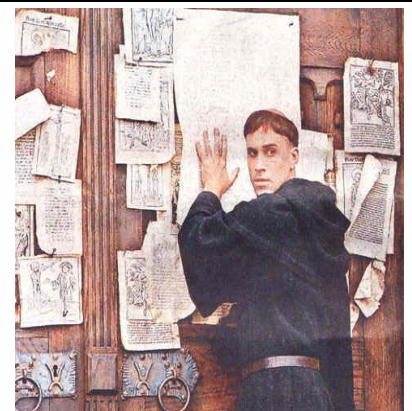
One of the gifts that people report receiving at Risen Lord is the gift of acceptance. People feel like they belong long before they ever officially join. I like that. It makes me proud to be your pastor.

For some reason, you are able to accept people just as they are whether they agree with you or not. Keep up the good work, my people.

Pastor Mike



Open Forum to Discuss ELCA Policies



On Monday, October 12 at 7:00 the Risen Lord Congregational Council will hold its monthly meeting in the Sanctuary. The primary agenda topic will be recent ELCA Churchwide policy decisions. Although all Council meetings are open to the congregation, we are specifically noting this meeting because we know that people have expressed concerns regarding human sexuality.

We want your input on how this could impact our congregation's people, our mission, and our future. I will have information available, so we will take time to clarify the decisions and answer questions, as the topic is complex. If you have thoughts on what actions we should or should not take, we would like you to share them.

The website for the assembly and all relevant materials can be found at www.elca.org/assembly.

INSIDE...

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- Facility Master Plan
- Dinner Club
- Maturing Stewards

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CROP Walk October 4



Get your walking shoes ready! CROP Walk will be held Sunday, October 4. Registration is at 1:45 and the walk begins at 2:00 p.m. There is a new start and finish location this year. Grace United Methodist Church at 1300 E. Adams Dr. in Franklin. 25% of the donations will go to the Inter-church Food Pantry of Johnson County.

Why do we walk? The answer is simple: "We walk because they walk." There are 840 million people who go to bed hungry every night. They are people just like you, but because of poverty they must walk to accomplish the most basic task:

- They walk for food.
- They walk for water.
- They walk for firewood.
- They walk to escape violence.
- They walk to seek shelter.
- They walk to farm their fields.
- They walk to find employment.
- They walk to go to school.

The CROP Walk is fun, but it also is an opportunity to learn what millions of people have to do each day just to survive — they walk. When you walk in the CROP WALK, you walk with the world. You walk to alleviate hunger at home (25% goes directly to the InterChurch Food Pantry) and around the world!

If you are interested in walking or sponsoring a walker call Genie Garrett 796-1612.

Facility Master Plan Introduced

Rally Day, September 13th, served as the setting for the introduction of Risen Lord's revised facility master plan. Our facility master plan documents where additional structures should be placed on our property and what the end use of those structures should be.

That plan, the culmination of many months of work by our Building Committee and architect Steve Alexander, was developed based on input members provided during several small group workshops earlier this year. Alexander is the architect who designed our current facility.

The rally day presentation, delivered by Alexander, explained how the facility master plan would serve as our map to the future. Of equal value was Alexander's explanation of how the plan evolved, including several options that were considered and the reasons why they were ultimately discarded.

One of the interesting features the plan envisions is an outdoor, terraced amphitheater that could be used for concerts, movies, etc. Alexander explained that construction of this area would be relatively easy to accomplish when site work is done to move our existing drainage swale in order to conform to the new plan.

Following Alexander's presentation Pastor Mike offered an opinion that discussions of a future building project include consideration of a new sanctuary. Pastor Mike said that our growth might be limited by the size of our current sanctuary. This prompted a very invigorating question and answer session. Several questions to Alexander focused on projected uses of our current sanctuary. Alexander said that its location adjacent to an expanded narthex makes it an excellent candidate to serve as a large, multi-purpose area, possibly a family life center. He said it could even be remodeled to include a second story with rooms for small groups to meet.

facility master plan answers only the question of 'where'. Other questions such as what, when, and how will require further study and extensive discussion between our members. Voter approval would be required before any construction could start.

Dinner Club

Risen Lord Dinner Club will meet on Friday, October 9, 2009, at 7:00 p.m. at Bravo Italian Restaurant in Greenwood Mall. Any adult member or couple is welcome to attend. This place has great food and great service. Hope to see you there. For reservations, call Lin Montigney at 887-0628 or e-mail her at linseet@comcast.net by Friday morning, Oct. 9th.



Regarding future building plans, our

MATURING STEWARDS DO THE RIGHT THING

October is a great time of the year. In many parts of our country the leaves are changing colors and providing some beautiful scenery to delight our eyes. The harvesting of grain (corn, beans and the like) is either completed or in the process of being completed. Many fruits, like apples, and vegetables like pumpkins, are also being harvested and stored away.

Farmers, orchard owners and gardeners are God's stewards who prepare the fields, orchards and gardens, plant the seeds, cultivate and fertilize the plants, and then wait for the Lord's blessings of sunshine, rain, and seasonable weather so that the harvest may be gathered in to provide food for all of God's creatures. God blesses this faithful stewardship.

The Apostle James writes: "See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains." (James 5:7 NIV) Those who

work in fields, orchards and gardens know that while they contribute much to a good harvest, but they also know that without the Lord's blessings there would be no



harvest. They can do their best to get the fields, orchards and gardens ready for seedtime and harvest but the good harvest will take place only if the Lord blesses the fields, orchards and gardens with the kind of weather necessary for a bountiful harvest. After doing all they can, God's stewards must wait upon the Lord who "opens his hand and satisfies the desires of every living thing." Psalm 145:16 NIV)

We who have been called to faith in Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit are also called to be good stewards of all that God has entrusted to us to manage wisely and well. On October 31st we celebrate Reformation Day--a day to remember and give thanks for all the beautiful spiritual blessings God has given to us through the work and ministry of his faithful steward, Dr. Martin Luther. Through Luther God called the church back to Scripture Alone, Grace Alone and Faith Alone so we can know for sure what his will is for our Christian living and giving.

As stewards of the Gospel of Jesus as well as all the rest of life and life's resources, we are called to patiently and faithfully give of our time, talents, financial resources and Christian witness for God's glory and the welfare of people whose lives we touch.

Maturing stewards really do the

MISSION FOR THE MONTH

Our Lord says, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matthew 25:40).

During the month of October Risen Lord Church will be collecting non-perishable items for the Johnson County Interchurch Food Pantry. Canned goods such as vegetables, fruits, pastas and pasta sauces, stews, meats, canned milk, etc. and non-perishable boxed items such as pasta, macaroni and cheese, cereals, etc. All items donated will be delivered to the Food Pantry to coincide with the annual Crop Walk on October 4. Bring your donations to the basket in the Mission Corner in the commons area.

I'M GLAD YOU'VE ASKED!

Q. *The website looks different. Are there more changes coming.*

A. Yes! Read on.

Risen Lord's website is in a constant state of 'update' to keep up with the growth and changes the church is experiencing. Anyone who may have current pictures of worship, Sunday School, Bible Study, Youth Quake or special events to share a copy with the church. It can be a printed picture or an electronic/digital picture on a CD or a flash drive. Bring your pictures to the office. If you would like the picture back please indicate as much and we will be glad to return it to you. Electronic/digital pictures should be in the .jpg format. You may also email pictures to worship@risenlordlc.org.

Photos can also be uploaded on Flickr. Sign in as risenlordlc47@yahoo.com with the password [6727RLLC](#).

LOOKING AHEAD

November

November 5 MOPS
 November 13 Dinner Club
 November 16 Ministry Teams
 November 19 MOPS
 November 25 Thanksgiving Eve
 Service
 November 28 Hanging of the
 Greens

December

December 3 MOPS
 December 17 MOPS
 December 24 Christmas Eve
 services

January

January 7 MOPS
 January 21 MOPS



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**Sunday Morning
 Worship Schedule**

8:15 Worship
9:30 Sunday School
10:30 Worship