

New Life News

Riz's Reflections...

Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. – Acts 10:34-35, 44-45

Dear Church,

Peace be with you. This month we celebrate the birth of the church on the day of Pentecost. Jesus told the gathered disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit to come and empower them to be witnesses to the ends of the earth. The birth of the church was miraculous, awe-inspiring and united believers from every nation (read Acts 2). It was also deeply unsettling to the Jewish community who saw many people leaving the synagogues to become part of this new community that became known as Christians. I think we could understand their displeasure with an Exodus of friends and family leaving their ancestral faith tradition and following a new religion whose leader had just been publicly executed and his followers claiming that he had been raised from the dead. So many people converted to Christianity as the Apostles testified to the good news that the religious authorities had them imprisoned. There was an outrage over the perceived apostasy of the Jewish converts, who maintained that this was a new thing that the God of their ancestors was doing by raising up Jesus.

It was offensive enough for this new religion to siphon off believers from the Jewish community, but what Peter did next was shocking even to the new converts! Peter was led to the house of Cornelius, a Gentile or non-Jew, which Jews were forbidden to associate with, let alone visit. Cornelius was offensive all the more to the Jews because he was a Roman centurion, part of the occupying force that oppressed the Jewish peoples. Peter met with the family and friends of Cornelius and shared with them the good news of Jesus Christ, and as he was speaking the same Holy Spirit that fell upon the Jewish converts in Jerusalem fell upon "even" the Gentiles. The new converts were all baptized and became part of the family of the new covenant.

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WE ARE
AN
INCLUSIVE
FAITH
COMMUNITY

Riz's Reflections (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

This narrative from Acts that details the birth of the church clearly demonstrates how difficult it is to deal with a change from what we know. The Jewish leaders were upset about the exodus of Jewish converts from the tradition of the Torah. The new Jewish converts were disturbed by inclusion of the Gentiles whom they were previously forbidden to interact with. The Jewish insiders who converted now became the outsiders, and the Gentiles, previously on the edges of the margins were now included in a new covenant family. Both groups found it extremely difficult to accept this new thing that God was doing. Change is difficult, yet it is inevitable. Every generation has to grapple with change as we seek to adapt to changing social, political, environmental and religious change. We don't want to change because we know what we know and were comfortable with

that. With the advent of change comes the prospect of the unknown and that "unknown" can make us wary and even double down on long-held beliefs. But if we are reluctant to adapt to the kingdom of God, we are missing the blessing that's on the other side of the door of change and actually holding the door shut for others who want to be a part of the new thing that God is doing. The Holy Spirit continues to blow where it will as it did during Pentecost and I pray that we might also be empowered by the Spirit to exhibit the kingdom of heaven to the world. Let us be encouraged by the words of our Lord and Savior, "In this world you will experience difficulties. But take heart! I have conquered the world." (John 16:33).

In Christ,
Rev. Riz

Change The World for First Nations Kitchen



FIRST NATIONS KITCHEN

Your change in the Offering Plate this month and in the Bowl of Abundance the last Sunday of June helps support First Nations Kitchen in their justice-focused, Gospel-based ministry to provide food to indigenous people who would not otherwise have access to high-quality, fresh organic food in an environment of radical hospitality and cultural empowerment. Our financial support helps FNK prepare and serve a Sunday evening meal of indigenous food for mostly Native American guests at All Saints Episcopal Church in Minneapolis. If you prefer, donate cash in an envelope marked for First Nations Kitchen or donate by check to New Life, memo First Nations Kitchen. Watch for occasional opportunities to volunteer on a Sunday to help prepare and/or serve a meal. Thank you for joining in this community ministry.

Contact Information

Ministers: New Life Congregation
Minister of Word & Sacrament: Riz Prakasim, ext 211 (Sabbath Mondays)
riz@newlifechurchroseville.org
Church Administrator: Maryfran Moen, ext 220
maryfran@newlifechurchroseville.org
Director of Music Ministry: Julie Lueck, ext 217
juliel@newlifechurchroseville.org
Administrative Assistant: Deb Griffin, ext 210
deb@newlifechurchroseville.org
Intern: Akila Adamu
marakibara@gmail.com
Preschool Director: Sher Noot, ext 219
director@northcomopreschool.org
Communications Collaborator: Pam Schoon
communications@newlifechurchroseville.org

Church Leadership

Buildings & Grounds: Cynthia Erickson
Celebration & Worship: Daley Tubbs
Church & Society: Mari Hirabayashi
Congregational Care: Pam Hord
Education & Nurture: Patty Gould
Finance: Whitney Kerns
Stewardship: Deb Griffin
Membership & Growth: Nancy Irsfeld
Personnel: Amy Lane
Nominating: Cindy Ward-Thompson

"Ruling elders have responsibilities for the life of the congregation as well as the whole church." ~ PCUSA Book of Order

NEW LIFE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
965 Larpenteur Ave W
Roseville, MN 55113
Ph: 651.488.5581
Fax: 651.488.3590
newlifechurchroseville.org
SUNDAY WORSHIP: 10:00a
CHURCH OFFICE OPEN
10a—2p
Tuesday - Friday

June 2019						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 11a Anuak Women's Group 2p Daring Group
2 STEWARDSHIP CELEBRATION 10a Worship 11a Fellowship 5p Firing Line	3 ALL DAY INTERIOR SPRINKLER INSPECTION 6:30p Senate DFL District 66	4 9a TOPS 11:45a Staff Mtg	5 9a Quilters 10:45a Meals on Wheels	6 6:30p Big Book AA	7 6p Anuak Youth Group	8 9:30a Care Coordinators 11a Anuak Women's Group
9 DAY OF PENTECOST GRADUATION SUNDAY COMMUNION SUNDAY VISION TEAM COMMISSIONING 10a Worship 11a Fellowship 5p Firing Line	10	11 9a TOPS 11:45a Staff Mtg 6:30p Faith Formation	12 9a Quilters 9a Men's Breakfast	13 6:30p Big Book AA 7p Building & Grounds	14 6p Anuak Youth Group	15 NEW LIFE NEWS ARTICLES DUE 11a Anuak Women's Group
16 10a Worship 11a Fellowship 5p Firing Line	17 7p Finance	18 9a TOPS 11:45a Staff Mtg 1p Former Dementia Cargvrs 6:30p Esther Cir 6:30p Personnel	19 9a Quilters	20 6:30p Big Book AA	21 6p Anuak Youth Group	22 11a Anuak Women's Group
23 10a Worship 11a Fellowship 5p Firing Line	24	25 9a TOPS 6:30p Session	26 9a Quilters 9a Men's Breakfast 10:45a Meals on Wheels	27 6:30p Big Book AA	28 6p Anuak Youth Group	29 11a Anuak Women's Group
30 10a Worship 11a Fellowship 5p Firing Line						

Thank You!

Thank you to Roger Seaborg for taking care of the landscaping flowers for the last 23 years! They have been a cheery welcome into our building.

Roger is retiring from this volunteer activity. Thank you for your service, Roger!



Volunteer Spotlight



Earl Hoekman and his wife Linda have been members since 1974. Earl has been an elder and head of Building and Grounds and is currently very active with Building & Grounds but has also been involved in the music program. Earl's background in farming and engineering has led to him holding 13 patents! Earl has volunteered

countless hours installing, maintaining, and repairing many of the church's mechanical, plumbing, security, IT components and systems. He also got his boiler license to be able to test the church's boilers. To learn about the different systems, Earl has read many manuals and codes - all before YouTube videos came out. Earl would love to share his knowledge with others as New Life goes forward. Consider being a part of this dynamic team.

Volunteer Opportunities

There are many opportunities and needs that need to be filled around the Church. What gifts and talents can you leverage in New Life's community? Studies show that people who give by volunteering are happier. Do you want to volunteer as part of a group? Do you have an idea that would help others become part of our community? Is it time to restart something like the Wednesday workers? Are you able to write and communicate ideas? Do you bake, garden, enjoy children, like computers, have a gift of organization, or a mechanical bent? We have a place for you!

Please contact me or the office to find your giving spot!

Here is a short list of needs:

- Outside trim painting
- Boiler training – great for anyone with a mechanical bent
- Writing thank you notes
- Sorting through files
- Shrub trimming
- Wedding Coordinator
- Community Garden Coordinator
- NLPC's flower beds
- Sound System team

Thank you for your consideration.

Maryfran Moen



North Como Preschool News

Well, the hallways are quiet and the classrooms are bare. No giggles and laughter anywhere. It's time for me to reflect on another year done. As I sit at my desk and think back over the year, I recognize all of the Blessings that we have been given. We have a beautiful space that we have been granted by New Life's mission. We have had wonderful families who are committed to our program. We have had an amazing team of teachers who are here because this is more than their job, but rather their calling to make a difference in the lives of children and families. And we have had the most wonderful group of children, to teach and, more importantly, to learn from, because they teach us about life each and every day. And we have this community of support from the members of New Life Church, it's staff, and the Roseville/St Paul community, who hold us up and have helped us become who we are over the past 49 years.

It is with humble gratitude that I am a part of this community.

Sher Noot, NCP Director



Stewardship Celebration Sunday

The first Sunday in June has been declared **Stewardship Celebration Sunday**. We've been collecting pledge cards from our generous community for two months, so it's time to celebrate our success. We're hoping to fill the calendars on the kiosk in the Atrium. As of this writing, we have pledges to get us through April 9th, 2020... 253 days...so we're at about 72% of our proposed budget! Thank you!

There will be cake at fellowship time!

Committee members are: Deb Griffin, Elder; Alesia Biro; Bruce Nelson; and Darroll Skilling.

Celebrating our Graduating Seniors GRADUATION SUNDAY

JUNE 9th

It is a bitter-sweet moment in the life of a church when we honor and celebrate our graduating seniors, who we send off to continue their journey of learning and faith. Here is the Class of 2019:

Ariyana Aikens

daughter of Kristen & Jason Aikens

Future Plans:

Attend Brown University in Providence, RI

Fun fact:

Aiyana has designed bulletin covers for the church.

Jack Kachel

son of Susan & John Kachel

Future Plans:

Attend University of Minnesota Twin Cities

Fun fact:

Jack has played guitar in worship many times.

Kaelan Lucas

daughter of Robin & Tom Lucas

Future Plans:

Attend Winona State University

Fun fact:

Kaelan has sung in worship with her sister and other youth

Daley Tubbs

daughter of Maureen & Steve Tubbs

Future Plans:

Attend University of Wisconsin—Whitewater

Fun fact:

Daley was the director of High School Musical

Joe Pedro

Son of Tricia & Jeff Pedro

Future Plans:

Attend University of Wisconsin—Whitewater

Fun fact:

Joe was the stage manager for High School Musical

We wish each of these young people all the best as they begin this new stage of their lives.

Interesting Facts to Think About

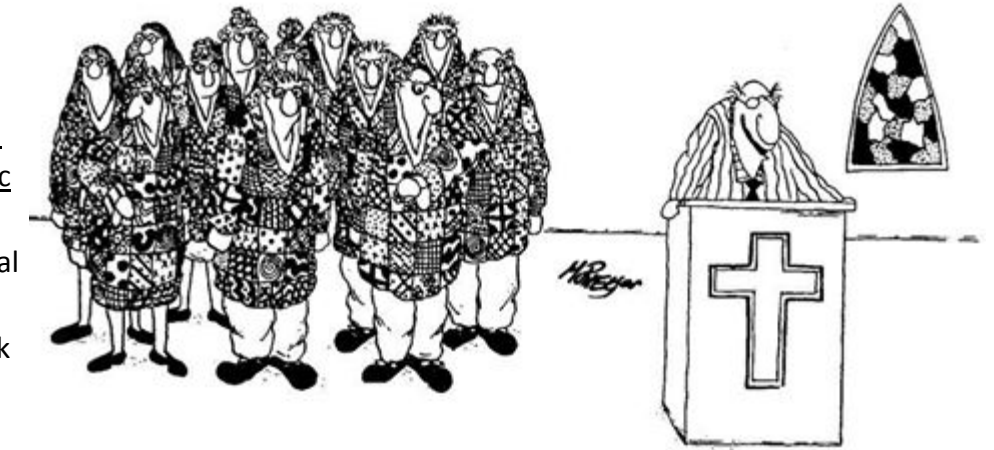
Did you know that St. Paul & Minneapolis are two of the top ten cities in the U.S. for access to public parks? It has been proven that being out in nature is very beneficial for both mind and body. Yet **1 in 5 kids** plays outside only once a week or less and the average American child spends **5 to 8 hours a day** in front of a screen! Be sure to get any kids you know outside as much as possible and you go too!

Greenland is melting four times faster than previously thought, and Antarctica is losing six times as much ice annually as it did forty years ago.

The past five years have been the hottest five years in recorded history (2014-2018)

Sales of plug-in electric vehicles increased by more than 80% in 2018 over 2017.

Owatanna is revving up its economy and helping the environment by manufacturing electric buses.



"Many thanks to the Ladies' Quilting Club for the new choir robes."

June Birthdays

2nd— Pat Griffin	17th— Isabella Hillstead
3rd— Erica Inks	18th— Whitney Kerns, Darroll Skilling, Kari Thomas
5th— Valentina Wanna	19th— Favour Adamu
8th— Cathy Bagaglio, John Bagaglio	21st— Jill Holterhaus, Isaac Leggs
9th— Kay Konkell	23rd— Kathleen Sarrazin
10th— Michael Wilson	24th— Ariel Abongmbu, Ani Heikkila
11th— Erik Hendrickson	27th— Michael Bahnemann, Kendall Maghakian
12th— Leif Brandsness, Sam Ihlenfeldt	28th— Molly Cacek, Norm Clark
14th— Aundrey Drake, Ken Koehn, Conor Smith	30th— Roger Carlson

Happy Birthday

The past has come and gone and the best years are yet to come!

Wishing you a long, happy, and healthy life!



May Earth Day Fun and Summer Activities

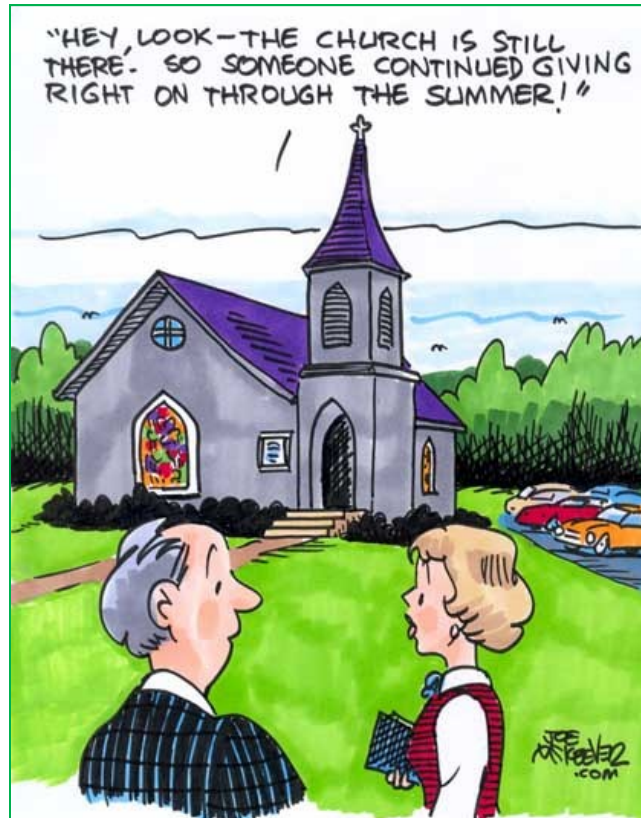
Our May 5th Earth Day Sunday was fun and we hope everyone learned something new about plastics, climate change, waste reduction, and other ways to help God's good Creation. Many of you gave a donation to help plant Moringa Trees, which not only will help people nutritionally but they will also help fight climate change. This summer is a great time to recycle more, as well as possibly trying out composting at one of our compost drop-off sites like MIDWAY at 1943 Pierce Butler Route (M-W-F 11-7, Sat.9-5, Sun. 11-5) or Como Park at 1149 Beulah Lane next to the Humane Society and west of the ball fields (open 24/7).

Good News for **Roseville** residents: The city will begin its first **composting site** sometime this summer at the leaf collection center on the east side of Dale St. just south of County Rd. C!

Many people will have a chance to be involved in picnics, parties, and outdoor events which could be planned to be **low- or no-waste occasions**. You can let everyone in on what you are trying to do so it becomes a group effort. Our youth will be excited if you find ways to ditch plastics or heavily packaged foods, or if you are making sure your plastics are recycled carefully.

This is also a good time to **plant native pollinator plants**. As you may know, bees and butterflies that we depend on so much for food are having a very rough time. Minnesota beekeepers reported losing 50% of their bees in the 2017-2018 season and 80% of the Monarchs in California are gone!

However, we know what is killing our pollinators and there are solutions. Plant a pollinator-friendly yard or patio. Avoid products (herbicides, etc.) that contain neonicotinoids (neonics) and glyphosate (like Round-Up). Be careful about insecticides you use...you can check with the U of M Bee Lab for best advice or native plant sales experts who often have good pollinator insect info. You could also talk to Willa Childress, Pesticide Action Network, MEP Pollinator Cluster at 612-254-9222 or Willa@panna.org.



Pentecost Offering during June

For Children at Risk, Youth, and Young Adults

This special Presbyterian offering celebrates the birthday of the church by inviting us to invest in the church's greatest resource – our youth. This investment includes assistance for children at risk and faith-building opportunities for youth and young adults. **40% of the offering** is designated for a local program focused on children at risk: this year, it's for **21st Century Middle School Academy**, Liberty Community Church's uniquely effective and critically needed after-school and summer academic enrichment program for children in north Minneapolis. **60% of the offering assists Presbyterian child advocacy and youth/young adult ministries.** Special envelopes will be in the pews through June; checks go to NLPC, memo Pentecost Offering. Thank you for investing in our church's future!

Your Vision, Our Future

Now that we've had our town hall meeting, let's move forward as a faith community! Read the report from Session: go to the link in the May 22nd E-Notes, or pick up a printed copy from the Opportunities table.

Vision Team Forming

In response to the findings of the Your Vision: Our Future study, Session is commissioning a **Vision Team** to continue this work.

The Vision Team will consist of up to 12 members: 1 Current Elder, the Pastor, 1 representative from each of the seven main committees (Building and Grounds, Celebration and Worship, Church Finance/Stewardship, Faith Formation, Membership and Growth, Mission and Outreach, and Personnel) and up to three at-large members.

The Vision Team will be charged to study, develop and recommend to Session actions regarding use of the building and our worship practices; develop and set a structure and meeting calendar for the team; assign roles and responsibilities to members; develop communication practices and conduct ongoing data collection; develop a 10-year strategic plan with measurable goals and objectives to sustain the work; report monthly to Session and annually to the congregation.

Committees and individuals should submit names prior to the May Session meeting (May 28, 2019). Names can be submitted through a committee, in person to a current Elder, via e-mail to Riz or via sign-up on the Action wall in the Atrium.

The final team will be commissioned during worship on June 9th. The team will need to meet and complete their initial tasks by the June Session meeting. Yes, the pace is going to be fast!



Welcome, Anuak Church!

During their April meeting, Session met with and agreed to open up our church building to the Anuak Refugees Ministry for both their youth and women's groups. Starting in late May, the youth, led by Dr. Joseph, **began meeting on Friday evenings** and their women's group, led by Martha Ongelli, **began meeting late Saturday mornings**. Please take a moment to welcome our brothers and sisters in Christ!

Sweet Potato Pound Cake

1 cup butter, softened
2 cups sugar
4 eggs
1-1/2 cups cooked, mashed sweet potatoes
3 cups flour
2 teaspoon baking powder
1 teaspoon baking soda
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon vanilla

(Sweet potatoes may be put in a blender.)

Cream butter; gradually add sugar, beating well. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Add sweet potatoes; beat well. In a separate bowl, combine flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, nutmeg, and salt. Gradually add to sweet potato mixture, beating well after each addition. Batter will be stiff. Stir in vanilla.

Spoon batter into a well-greased 10-inch tube pan or two standard-size loaf pans. Bake at 350 degrees for 1 hour or until tester comes out clean. Cool in pan for 15 minutes. Remove from pan and let cool completely.

Serves 10-12.