

# The Spirit

of Ridgefield-Crystal Lake Presbyterian Church

## 1 John 1:1-4 The Word of Life

*1 We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life—  
2 this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with the Father and was revealed to us—  
3 we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.  
4 We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.*

This passage makes it very clear that John's experience of God is not as an object, distant and mysterious, but as a living power in all of life. For John the word God is a verb, not a noun.

God is active: healing; seeking; loving; reconciling. God is constantly at work drawing us closer. A living presence made visible and experienced in and through Jesus. How else can you explain Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection if God is just "out there somewhere"?

When someone is living through a "situation" of any variety, they are often asked "What are you doing about it?" Should their answer be "Waiting to see what happens next", then they are often regarded with scorn or suspicion. Individually we also all know the frustration of "not being able to do anything". We too are "verb like" always doing, always active.

However, there is a danger point here. How many of us have ever offered, or perhaps worse still, been on the receiving end of an answer before the question has been asked? Sometimes in our rush to act, in our need to be in charge, in our determination to do something...we may act wrongly. This is especially true when it comes to discipleship. Our activity is only effective if it is rooted in God, and rooting takes time and patience. To do God's work we must know God, trust God and follow God, so that our activity becomes God's activity.

Malcolm Muggeridge, British writer and broadcaster, wrote "God will liberate us from our dark little dungeon of our own ego". With patience, perseverance and time God will lead us into the freedom of acting within God's plan and not trap us within our own plan, and give us the wisdom and honesty not to equate the two.

Neither God nor discipleship can be rushed. There are no short cuts there is no by-pass road, there is only the slow building of a relationship which is marked by love and trust.

Take time; be with God in Word and action, in Jesus. Amen. - Pastor John

# Summer Fresh Food Distribution Sunday, August 7 – 12:00



*Share your food with the hungry,  
and give shelter to the homeless.*

- Isaiah 58:7

*If I gave everything I have to the poor and even sacrificed my body, I could boast about it; but if I didn't love others, I would have gained nothing. -1 Corinthians 13:2-4*

This is a RCLPC opportunity to do just this! On August 7, the Mission Outreach Team is coordinating another Fresh Food Distribution for the community here at the church. You are invited to do any of the following:

- Help sort and distribute food
- Greet others, set up and serve the meal
- Contribute financially to the Food Distribution Fund

Most importantly – Come enjoy and share a meal in fellowship hall making new friends with others from throughout the community! (Please sign up so we can prepare accurately)

Look for a sign-up sheet in the Gathering Place or give a call to the church office or Joan Jensema. Thank you RCLPC for your support and responding generously to the needs of God's people! Your generosity and hospitality is a true response to what we are called to do. In order to support this mission, please remember that parking may be a bit compromised this day before and/or after the 11:00 service. Please park in the overflow parking area if at all possible. Thank you!

~ Mission Outreach Ministry Team

# End of Summer Kids' Game Day!

## 10am-11am

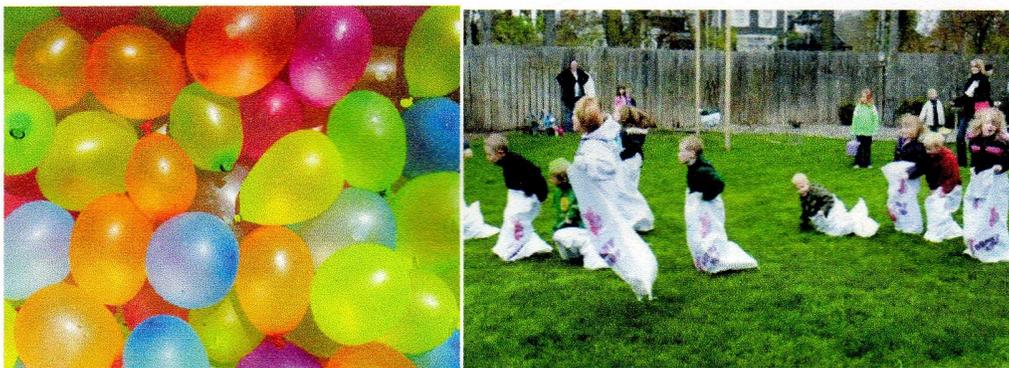
### Sunday, August 21, 2016

**Calling all Kids!!**  
**Pre-school through 6<sup>th</sup> grade**

Let's make some new friends and have some end-of-summer fun together by playing games on the church lawn! ***Please bring a friend! If you bring a friend who doesn't go to RCLPC, you will both receive a special treat!*** We'll also be inviting kids from the neighborhood around the church to join us, so come have some fun and make some new friends!

Weather permitting, we plan to play several group games outside. You may get a bit wet, so bring a towel. ☺

Come with your friends to worship at 9:00am and stay for the 10:00am games, or come for the games at 10:00am and stay for the 11:00am service. We will meet in Fellowship Hall at 10:00am. If raining, we will play the fun games inside.



(Pre-School Parents: Please plan to attend with your child.)

Questions? Email Anna Larsen at [BanAnna90@gmail.com](mailto:BanAnna90@gmail.com).  
This is Anna's Confirmation project.

## Hello, Dolly!

Thanks to all of you who supported **RCLPC Theater**'s production of **Hello Dolly**. We raised \$4855 for these missions: Diaper Bank, Living Waters for the World and PADS. (Out of that, under \$800 was spent on groceries; the desserts were all donated.) It would not have been a reality without so many of you participating by building, crewing, sewing, cooking and purchasing tickets. It was a wonderful success because of all of you!



## Help Locally, Directly, Immediately

People in Crystal Lake sometimes need emergency funding that other agencies are not able to provide, so they apply to Good Samaritan Ministry. You can help people who need assistance with a utility bill, etc. while helping the other volunteers at Good Samaritan, by volunteering once a month to spend a couple hours in our office meeting people and giving them checks to help with their emergency. Your involvement is needed. Contact Dennis Faulds 815.477.2489 to volunteer and for training, or for more information.

## Children's Summer Sunday School

### Resumes in September

Please stay tuned for more exciting information to follow regarding kick-off Sunday on September 11, 2016. Enjoy the rest of your summer.



**Next SPIRIT deadline is  
September 2nd**



## Talamore Trot

The Talamore Trot is a 5K fundraising event to benefit Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome. Olivia Harrison's granddaughter, Abby is coping with this incurable disease. This fun event will take place on September 10, at Tomaso Park in Huntley, IL. For more details, please visit:  
<https://www.facebook.com/TalamoreTrot5K/>

