

The Lyons Community Church

Mid-Week Message

Wednesday, January 8, 2014



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New Year, new winds

"The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." - John 3:8

And aren't we all born of the Spirit?

The beginning of a new calendar year is always exciting for me - there seem to be so many possibilities, I am pumped on nostalgia and joy from the end/culmination of the Christmas season, and I feel energized and ready to tackle new projects, ideas and (rarely, but sometimes) resolutions. When I told Regis last week that my 2014 resolution was to rest more and to be calmer, he laughed and said, "Now I can buy that! But if you had mentioned anything about doing more yoga, I was never going to listen. That's been your resolution the last 3 years in a row!"



So, though I'd love to do more yoga this year (and every year), I'll focus more on resting, staying calm and strong, and praying hard in 2014. Prayer leads me to a closer dance with the Spirit - to more clarity about what to do with my life and my time, to more peace about what fills my calendar (and sometimes my sleepless nights). Those sound like pretty good resolutions, too, don't they? Clarity and peace...

The Spirit of the Lord is a funny thing, though, but it's no laughing matter. A new friend recently told me that she felt the Spirit urging her to leave Riverbend trailer park the night of the flood, hours before the sirens went off. She woke her teenage daughter, who cursed her out and told her to go back to sleep. But this brave woman persisted, saying, "I don't care if you don't understand or agree, just do as I tell you. You can hate me in the morning!" The Spirit protected her family from danger and ena-

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Sunday, Jan. 12

Sermon: *When the Spirit Moves*

Scripture: John 5:2-11

Special Musicians: We welcome Heatherlyn and Jason back to LCC!

TODAY!

Children & Youth Committee

**Wed. (Jan. 8) 5:30pm
Fellowship Hall (upstairs)**

The Children and Youth Committee will be meeting to discuss plans for 2014 and we'd love to set up a rotation of children's activities during Sunday worship, discuss a possible curriculum, and think ahead for some additional, non-Sunday worship events (especially for the teens). Please join us if you are interested!

Pastor's Message (continued)

bled her husband to help warn many others in their neighborhood - and all because she was ready to listen and trust a still, small voice inside her.

But how did she feel when she first felt the Spirit moving? Did she think she was nuts? Did she immediately recognize a voice of God, or did she perhaps think it was her own fears talking? What about you? Some of you have shared your stories of theophany with me (*reminder from Sunday's Epiphany service: theophany is the place where the divine shines forth to meet us here in our humanity*).

What was or is your first reaction when the Spirit says to move, speak, dance or act? Do you prayerfully consider? Do you study and ponder, talk to friends or neighbors, maybe even write out a pro-con list? Do you jump into action without blinking an eye, perhaps even before you are certain which spirit or impulse was speaking to you?

We'll take a look at one man's response to the Spirit from the Gospel of John this coming Sunday. When the Spirit said move, he had a choice to make. And so do we - each and every day, in millions of minuscule/tiny and herculean/life-changing ways. How will YOU respond when the Spirit moves?

Ever seeking God's rhythms for this new year,

Pastor Emily

Ministry Council

next Wednesday, Jan. 15th
at 6:30pm

Ministry Council will resume its third Wednesday monthly meetings next week. Please mark your calendars and send any agenda items to Chair Kitty Keim. We will be prayerfully considering the current and possible future ministries of the church.

Thanking all angels

Thank you to all the angels, small and big, who participated in our Christmas pageant and to the families who support their involvement. Thank you to all who add lines of their own (the laughs are always worth it), to Kim and Zeke for adding the musical touches that really carry the tone, and to Jani and Kitty for their extra special love and care of watching over the pageant! It's always a joy to work with everyone. Now, let's ring in the new year!

Carol Pranschke