

# First Lutheran *Visitor*

A monthly publication of First Lutheran Church of Crystal

August 2009

Vol. 56 • No. 8



## *Inside this Issue*

Under-development

page 2

\*\*\*

Executive Committee

page 3

\*\*\*

Community Celebration

August 23

page 4

\*\*\*

Habitat House

page 5

\*\*\*

Calendar

pages 6-7

\*\*\*

Youth

page 8

\*\*\*

First Lutheran *Better  
Neighbor* Campaign

page 10

\*\*\*

*A Community of Faith in Action*



[www.firstlcoc.org](http://www.firstlcoc.org)

# JONATHAN RUNDMAN

Next month:  
**Don't forget!**  
Rally Sunday is  
September 13!



Heartland  
Liturgy  
Worship  
Service

Sunday,  
August 23  
9:30 a.m.

*Details on page 4*

## Worship in August



Monday evening worship continues through August and features a

relaxed atmosphere for the summer. First Lutheran continues its summer tradition of offering a [30-minute worship service on Mondays at 6:30 p.m.](#) every week through August. The casual services are held in the cool air of the Youth Room or in the beautiful surroundings on the deck in the courtyard gardens.

*If you are away on the weekends this summer, why not join us for worship on Mondays.*

August 2-3:

*9th week of Pentecost*  
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Worship  
Monday, 6:30 p.m. Worship

August 9-10:

*10th week of Pentecost*  
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Worship  
Monday, 6:30 p.m. Worship

August 16-17:

*11th week of Pentecost*  
Sunday, 9:30 a.m.

August 23-24:

*12th week of Pentecost*  
Sunday, 9:30 a.m. Worship  
Monday, 6:30 p.m. Worship

## ‘Under-development’

**“I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:6).**



*Pastor Dave*

Somewhere on a shelf, in a basement, in a home of people who do not know my name, there sits a box camera. It is black, just a few inches on each side, with a lens in the center of its face and a small mirrored viewfinder on two sides. Somewhere over the years it got sold in a garage sale for a buck or two with film still in the camera. It is just a box with a cardboard handle, but it is a very special box. You see, in it is my childhood. I am in that box, in black and white.

In an age of digital photography, where phones take pictures, my idea of a crinkle-edged black and white glossy print seems oddly worthy of Fred Flintstone. Back then, we were less used to viewing our own likenesses and some never got comfortable with the idea and thus, frowned in every picture. But I was fascinated with the idea that a bit of time could be frozen and held in your hand. In a picture you were always on vacation, always at the dinner table next to your uncle Frank, always smiling, always twelve years old. **You were stuck. But you didn’t care.**

Many of us look now in the mirror wondering where the person in the old photos has gone. We are not smiling, or on vacation, or twelve any more. Uncle Frank has **been dead for decades. But here we are and the world is much less ‘black and white’** than it was. What in the world is happening? Where did the person we once know, go? **The answer is ‘nowhere.’ He or She is still there, stuck. The good thing about that aging face in your mirror is, you’re not.**

Like the old box camera still holding unused film of me as a boy, we want to believe **that the true ‘us’ is being held in reserve somewhere. There in that perfect container we are perfect, smiling, relaxed, healthy and trim. There, we hope, God keeps a record of us at our best. But, we are more than an instant of our lives. We are people called to live ‘whole lives.’ The true picture of us is still being developed.**

**This may disappoint you. Maybe the present ‘snapshot’ of life you’re living isn’t catching you at your best. But what we must see is that God, and the ever-developing act of believing in Him, is constantly alive and full; ever changing but always the same. A little like us. Don’t miss the point of this. This means that even in your “less-than-perfect present tense” God is at work in you, always developing.**

God overflows the page of our small picture of life. Faith draws us outside of the borders of the print and bids us to peer around the corners of our current confinement to see that there is much more in store for us than we can see and more than our past could ever have imagined. After all our sighs of longing to regain a world confined to three by five inches, your present moment is bigger.

The picture, your picture, is still in the camera, still being shot, still being developed. So, smile! ■

*Pastor Dave*



Linda Van Ryn  
President



Jody Eyrich  
Vice President

### New Officers on the Executive Committee

General Board meets  
Monday, August 10 at 1:00 p.m.  
Visitors are welcome.



Joan Selover  
Treasurer



Ken Howe  
Secretary



### Prayer Chain seeks your help to pray

*Will you pray for me? Would you be willing to pray for your neighbors? Would you pray for people far away who are in danger?* If you would respond to any of these requests then the First Lutheran Prayer Chain asks you to join this important ministry. We receive prayer requests of many kinds and via a phone calling tree pass the request along. This ministry sustains many people who cannot bear the trials and worries of life all by themselves. If you have an interest, please contact the church at 763-537-0372 for referral to a member of the group. Thank you.

### Global Mission Support

Equal Exchange products benefit farmers and handcraft workers in developing countries. Equal Exchange coffee, tea, cocoa and baking chocolate are available at First Lutheran.



### First Lutheran Church of Crystal

7708 62nd Avenue North  
Brooklyn Park, MN 55428-2883

www.firstloc.org

763-537-4576

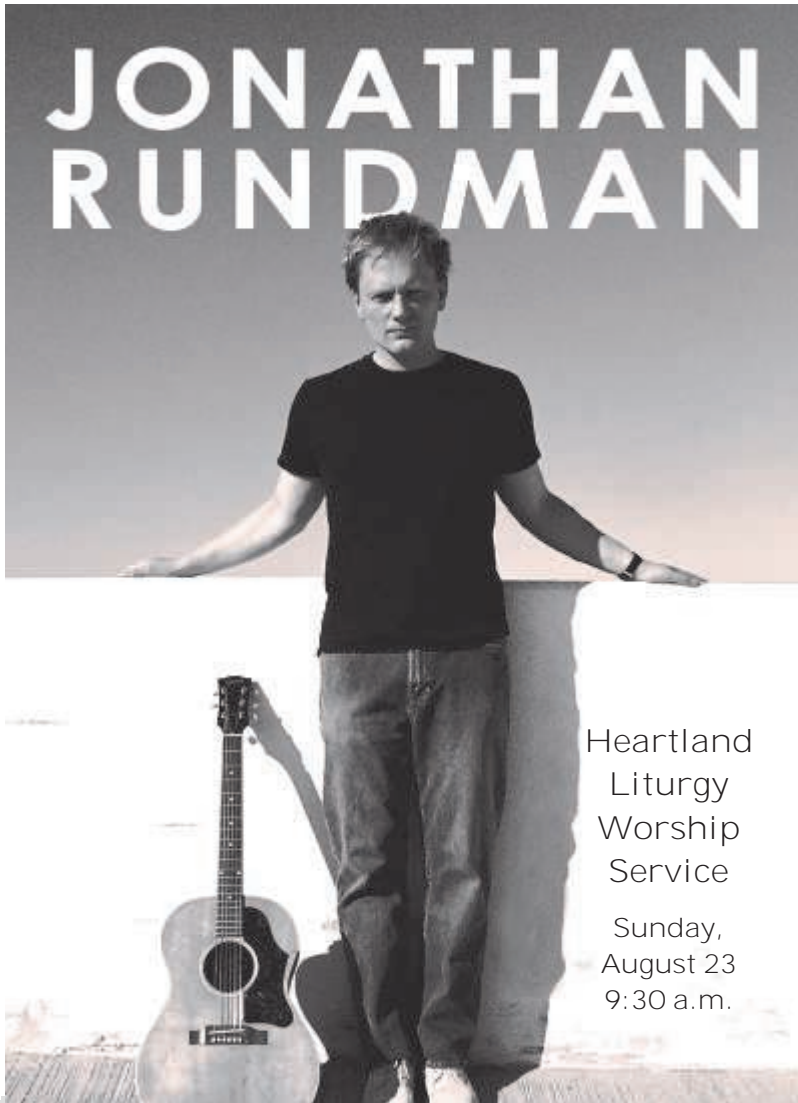
Fax: 763-537-0372

#### Staff

- Pastor: David Folkerts
- Worship & Music Director/  
Financial Officer: Mariana Duffney
- Organist: Judy Bakke
- Program Assistant: Jamey Spencer
- Jr. Handbells: Sheryl Larsen
- Secretary
- Sunday School Superintendent:  
Jennifer Hernandez
- Youth Coordinator: Kathy Larson
- Wedding and Event Coordinator:  
Carol Johnson
- Custodian: Mark McAlpin
- Security: Lyn Sanderson
- Worship AV Tech: Angie Brannick

#### Office hours

Monday-Thursday  
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.



Heartland  
Liturgy  
Worship  
Service  
  
Sunday,  
August 23  
9:30 a.m.

*Though the fig tree should not blossom  
And there be no fruit on the vines,  
though the yield of the olive should fail  
And the fields produce no food,  
though the flocks should be cut off from the  
fold and there be no cattle in the stalls,  
yet I will exult in the Lord,  
I will rejoice in the God of my salvation.  
The Lord God is my strength,  
**And He has made my feet like hinds' feet  
and makes me walk on my high places...**  
—Habakkuk 3:17-19*

## Jonathan Rudman returns for August 23 Community Celebration

Worship, Habitat/Thrivent House  
Dedication, New Neighbors,  
and Ice Cream Social

*August 23 is a big day at First Lutheran. To kick it off, Jonathan Rudman will be leading our worship service with his Heartland Liturgy. He was here last year in June, and it was a wonderful worship experience!*

Jonathan Rudman, nationally known singer and composer, begins a full day community celebration of faith at First Lutheran of Crystal on Sunday, August 23 at the 9:30 a.m. worship. Jonathan will lead the congregation and youth from neighboring congregations in a service of traditional hymns and new compositions.

At 2:00 p.m. we will gather on Rhode Island Ave. N. to dedicate the newly completed Habitat House and officially welcome our new neighbors, the Vang sisters. Following this ceremony we will get to know other neighbors from the surrounding community.

Pastor Folkerts has extended an invitation to the members of Faith International Seventh Day Adventist Church to join us on this day for an ice cream social. The Seventh Day Adventist rent our sanctuary and classrooms on Saturdays. The congregation is mostly east-African in background. We hope you will come to meet these beautiful brothers and sisters in faith.

The Ice Cream Social continues until 5:00 p.m. with music supplied by Leo Alexander and Scooter Magoo. ■



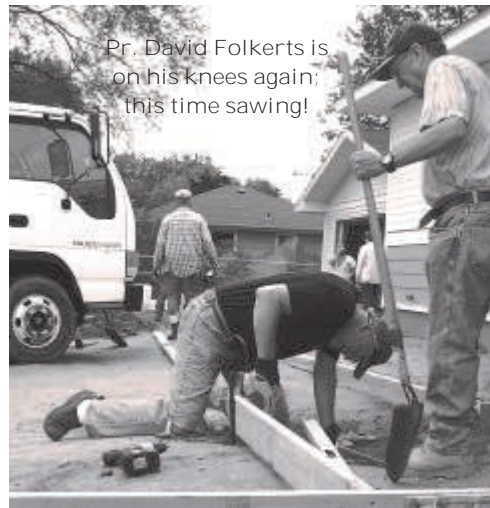
# Thrivent Builds with Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity

## A BIG "THANK YOU!"

To all those who gave of their time, talents and resources assisting with building the Habitat home and providing lunch and morning refreshments. Feel proud knowing that you have done God's work!



Gene Enfield



Pr. David Folkerts is on his knees again; this time sawing!



Bob Larson hangs a screen door



Sam Scharber and Michael LeRoy



Shirley Janzen

**Thrivent Builds**  
with Habitat for Humanity®



Anita Anderson and Karen Hogenson adding a final coat of paint



The Vang sister's dream of owning a home is soon to be a reality!

## August 2009 Calendar

Sunday							Monday							Tuesday																																																																																																								
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Jul 2009</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td>31</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>							Jul 2009							S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31		<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Sep 2009</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>							Sep 2009							S	M	T	W	T	F	S			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30										
Jul 2009																																																																																																																						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																																
			1	2	3	4																																																																																																																
5	6	7	8	9	10	11																																																																																																																
12	13	14	15	16	17	18																																																																																																																
19	20	21	22	23	24	25																																																																																																																
26	27	28	29	30	31																																																																																																																	
Sep 2009																																																																																																																						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																																
		1	2	3	4	5																																																																																																																
6	7	8	9	10	11	12																																																																																																																
13	14	15	16	17	18	19																																																																																																																
20	21	22	23	24	25	26																																																																																																																
27	28	29	30																																																																																																																			
<p><b>2</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Worship - Holy Communion, Carlson Baptism (5)</p> <p>10:30 AM Fellowship (2)</p>							<p><b>3</b></p> <p>6:30 PM Boy Scouts (4)</p> <p>6:30 PM SOS Weight Loss (10)</p> <p>6:30 PM Worship (6)</p> <p>7:30 PM A.A. (2)</p>							<p><b>4</b></p> <p>10:30 AM Staff Mtg. (1)</p> <p>6:30 PM Team Chair Mtg. (1)</p> <p>7:00 PM Ministry Teams Meet</p>																																																																																																								
<p><b>9</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Worship (5)</p> <p>10:30 AM FELLOWSHIP (2)</p> <p>12:00 PM Bridal Shower (2)</p>							<p><b>10</b></p> <p>1:00 PM FLCW Board (2)</p> <p>5:30 PM Next Step Group Cookout (2)</p> <p>6:30 PM Boy Scouts (4)</p> <p>6:30 PM SOS Weight Loss (10)</p> <p>6:30 PM Worship (6)</p> <p>7:30 PM A.A. (2)</p>							<p><b>11</b></p> <p>10:30 AM Staff Mtg. (1)</p>																																																																																																								
<p><b>16</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Worship - Holy Communion VBS SUNDAY (5)</p> <p>10:30 AM Fellowship - Thrivent Sponsored (2)</p>							<p><b>17</b></p> <p>6:30 PM Boy Scouts (4)</p> <p>6:30 PM SOS Weight Loss (10)</p> <p><b>6:30 PM Worship (6)</b></p> <p>7:00 PM Griep Support Group (1)</p> <p>7:30 PM A.A. (2)</p>							<p><b>18</b></p> <p>10:30 AM Staff Mtg. (1)</p> <p>7:00 PM Executive Team Mtg. (1)</p>																																																																																																								
<p><b>23</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Worship with Jonathan Rundman "Heartland Liturgy" (5)</p> <p>10:30 AM Fellowship (2)</p> <p><b>2:00 PM HABITAT DEDICATION - NEIGHBORHOOD ICE CREAM SOCIAL/Church Carnival</b></p>							<p><b>24</b></p> <p>6:30 PM Boy Scouts (4)</p> <p>6:30 PM SOS Weight Loss (10)</p> <p>6:30 PM Worship (6)</p> <p>7:30 PM A.A. (2)</p>							<p><b>25</b></p> <p>10:30 AM Staff Mtg. (1)</p> <p>7:00 PM Council Meeting (2)</p>																																																																																																								
<p><b>30</b></p> <p>9:30 AM Worship (5)</p> <p>10:30 AM Fellowship (2)</p>							<p><b>31</b></p> <p>6:30 PM Boy Scouts (4)</p> <p>6:30 PM SOS Weight Loss (10)</p> <p><b>6:30 PM Worship (6)</b></p> <p>7:30 PM A.A. (2)</p>																																																																																																															



Mark your calendar for Rally Sunday  
September 13!



## Youth

### Camp Wapo

Third Graders: Alexandria Adams, Brooklyn Christensen, and Hannah Reinschmidt, three third graders, will travel to Camp Wapo Friday, August 7 for their first experience at camp. They will return on Sunday, August 14.

Senior High Youth: Four of our senior high youth (Analise Adams, Evan Bern, Jesstin Larson, and David Swartchick) will be attending *TIM Team* training. During the week they will be learning team building skills and will spend the week interacting with the youth from our

congregation. They will be making a one year commitment to our congregation to work with our younger children.

4th-9th Graders: Fourteen youth who have completed 4th-9th grade will attend camp Wapo Sunday, August 9. There they will experience a variety of activities, meet new friends, and grow in their faith. The youth attending are: Bryce Adams, Victoria Adams, Cassandra Cibuzar, Katrina Cibuzar, Caitlyn Doty, Joe Doty, Joshua Hernandez, Makayla Larson, Erica Linderholm, Jordan Norcutt, Justin Norcutt, Andrew Swartchick, Michael Swartchick, and Natalie Witschen.

### Jonathon Rundman leads Worship

Jonathon Rundman returns to lead us in his *Heartland Liturgy* on Sunday, August 23 at the 9:30 a.m. service. Come and meet Jonathon after the service. *See pages 2-3 for details.*

## Back-to-School Kits

Back-to-school sales are starting so it's a great time to start collecting items for school kits.

- ◆ Spiral notebooks, 8" x 10" totaling 150-300 sheets (three 70 sheet)
- ◆ One blunt scissors
- ◆ One ruler with centimeters
- ◆ One pencil sharpener
- ◆ Six #2 pencils, with eraser, unsharpened, rubber-banded together
- ◆ One eraser, approx. 2 ½" long
- ◆ One box of 16 or 24 crayons. (Rose Art are not good.)

Remove any excess packaging to keep shipping costs at \$1.10.

Donations for shipping are appreciated.

Make your check out to FLCW and mark it LWR postage.

Grace and peace to you all!

*Jackie Mortenson, Coordinator*



## One Tomato Plant

by Pastor Louise Stromberg

**T**his year I bought one tomato plant so that I could have a few small tomatoes for a salad each week. I expected to pick about a half a dozen a week at most. By the time I remembered to purchase a tomato rack, my plant had grown rather large. So I put the plant around the rack as best I could.

Buds were already forming into little tomatoes. The plant continued to grow and I waited expectantly for the sweet, red fruit to ripen.

The first time I went to pick the ripe tomatoes, I brought a small bowl. By the end, the bowl was filled and overflowing. I took a small zip-lock bag of tomatoes to work to share. I went out to pick about a week later and had enough to fill a mixing bowl. I took three bags to work to share.

Not even a week later, I picked two mixing bowls full. This time I brought an ice cream container of sweet, red fruit to share. My tomato plant continued to bear an abundance of tomatoes throughout the season. As I thought about my expectations and the reality of the harvest, I realized that this was a wonderful example of **God's abundant blessings. God gave far beyond my hopes.** The more I shared the tomatoes with others, the more this plant seemed to produce.

**How is this abundance similar to God's love? The more we share God's love and blessings, the more God gives us to share. Whether we share a witness to God's love for us or gifts of material wealth, God blesses all that we share.** God never forgets to shower us with continued love and gifts that sustain us and our existence on this earth.

From *The Lutheran magazine*... **If you feel you don't have enough to give, listen to Basil, a fourth-century bishop, among those who developed Christian teaching on the Trinity: "What is a thief? One who takes what belongs to others. Why do you not consider yourself a thief when you claim as your own what you received in trust? The bread that you withhold belongs to the poor; the cape that you hide in your chest belongs to the naked; the shoes rotting in your house belong to those who go unshod."**

Remember the NEAR Food Shelf this month. They are struggling to meet the needs of the increasing numbers coming to the food shelf. ■

*"The more I shared the tomatoes with others, the more this plant seemed to produce."*



### NEAR Food Shelf

A non-profit volunteer organization, NEAR responds to the emergency needs of people in our community. Through a cooperative effort of eleven area churches, volunteers provide an emergency food shelf and limited financial assistance to residents of northern Robbinsdale, Crystal, and New Hope who live between 42nd and 62nd Avenues North.

*The pickin's are slim. To donate food, the Near Food Shelf is now located at 5209 West Broadway in Crystal, MN.*

\*\*\*

### Health-support ministry seeks equipment donations

We are seeking to begin a new health-support ministry for senior members of the church and our neighborhood. Members of the Health Taskforce are seeking donation of the following items for use around the church.

- ◆ Wheelchairs in good repair
- ◆ Walkers (no wheels, please)
- ◆ Blood-pressure cuffs
- ◆ Stethoscopes

If you are willing to donate any of these items, please call the church office at 763-537-4576.

## First Lutheran Church of Crystal Better Neighbor Campaign

### Sprinkler System for healthy grass

*An Eagle Scout Project for First Lutheran Church of Crystal*

#### The Community Benefits:

- ◆ Healthy grass and soil break down pollutants
- ◆ Green lawn beautifies the neighborhood
- ◆ Improves the environment: Purifies water entering into underground aquifers
- ◆ Self Draining: Will not freeze; Lower maintenance cost
- ◆ Rain Sensor: Will not water when raining or wet
- ◆ Programmable: Waters only when we want it to

#### The Environment Benefits

- ◆ Healthy dense lawns consume more CO<sub>2</sub> and produce more oxygen
- ◆ Absorbs rainfall more effectively and traps much of the dust and dirt released into the atmosphere
- ◆ Prevents erosion
- ◆ Builds soil

What the system includes Hooked to a rain sensor **so we're not watering when it's raining or wet. Waters** early in the morning to capture dew and on serve water. Will not water during the heat of the day when water is lost to evaporation. Self Draining! Low maintenance. **Don't have to worry about freezing pipes. ■**



Aerial view of First Lutheran Church of Crystal. Circled areas indicate proposed sprinkler zones.



*Estimated cost: \$3,846*

Donations needed:

\$80 buys a sprinkler head in your name (all donation amounts appreciated)

Checks may be payable to:

First Lutheran Church of Crystal and place in the special green donation pail  
All named donations will be recognized on my Eagle Scout project.

For more information, contact Eagle Scout, Andrew Pierson at (763) 533-4714 or e-mail: [andrew.pierson@comast.net](mailto:andrew.pierson@comast.net)



Eagle Scout  
Andrew Pierson



First Lutheran  
Church of Crystal

A Member of the ELCA

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Minneapolis, MN  
Permit No. 1689

7708 62nd Avenue North  
Brooklyn Park, MN 55428-2883

[www.firstlcc.org](http://www.firstlcc.org)

Return Service Requested



## Our Mission:

*We are called to awaken  
the Spirit of Christ...*

*In ourselves, through a commitment to  
a life of learning, worship, and prayer.*

*In our community, by dedication to the  
renewal of our family, our neighbors, and  
the disenfranchised, by the practice of  
our faith through acts of justice, mercy,  
and kindness.*



*In our world,  
by nurture of  
compassionate  
partnership with  
diverse cultures to*

*strengthen our common faith, for the  
enrichment of all people in Christ Jesus.*

# JONATHAN RUNDMAN

Next month:  
**Don't forget!**  
Rally Sunday is  
September 13!



Heartland  
Liturgy  
Worship  
Service

Sunday,  
August 23  
9:30 a.m.

Details on page 4