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Nov. 19, 2020

RLA NEWS AND NOTES



"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:9

Open Your Gift (And Then Give It Away!)

By Karen Ehman of Proverbs31 Ministries on November 6, 2020

[https://proverbs31.org/read/devotions/full-post/2020/11/06/open-your-gift-\(and-then-give-it-away!\)](https://proverbs31.org/read/devotions/full-post/2020/11/06/open-your-gift-(and-then-give-it-away!))

"Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God." 1 Peter 4:10 (CSB)

Have you ever been envious of another person's talents — or even their spiritual gifts — secretly wishing you were more like them? I remember being envious of one woman who was fabulous at all things crafty. She could sew. She made her own greeting cards and knitted darling mittens for her kids. On the other hand, I do not have an ounce of crafters blood coursing through my veins. My own children knew better than to bring me a badge to sew on their uniforms when they were younger. I would reach for the hot glue gun! Yet another woman had the spiritual gift of evangelism and seemed to effortlessly share the gospel with others while I became tongue-tied when I tried. Even though each of us as believers has been fashioned by God in a unique way, sometimes it is tempting to look at somebody else with their particular package of strengths and abilities and wish we possessed it.

In time, I finally came to the place where I decided to discover — and then be content with — my specific wiring when it came to natural talents and spiritual gifts. How freeing this was! Rather than looking at one of my siblings in Christ, wishing I held their abilities, I began watching God use me as He touched the lives of others. First Peter 4:10 speaks about the gifts we've been given: *"Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God."* From this verse, it is clear that not just some of us, but every single one of us has received a gift.

When I set about discovering my distinct skills, I found out I have a knack for cooking and baking. I can use this interest to reach out to a new neighbor with a loaf of pumpkin bread or to help lighten the load of a hurting family from church by making them supper one night. And, as a person who loves to talk, I discovered I have the spiritual gift of encouragement. (Romans 12:8) I can use my words — whether spoken, typed or texted — to uplift and cheer others. In fact, encourage means, "to impart courage." My words can reassure others, "I believe in you. You can do it!" These inspiring words might help them bravely face what lies ahead. Now, what is the purpose of having a gift? Is it so we can pat ourselves on the back for having it? Nope. Look again at what 1 Peter 4:10 says, "... use it to serve others." You are not the intended recipient — the people in your life are. Your gift is a tool God will use to serve others, to build them up and help them find their places in His Kingdom.

Another fact to note? We don't all have identical gifts. There is nothing matchy-matchy about the ways we serve. We are stewards of *"the varied grace of God."* The word *varied* in the original Greek language is *poikilos* — perhaps my most favorite word of this verse. It means many colored, diverse and manifold. Wait, what does manifold mean? Since my husband, son, brother and stepbrother all build cars for a living, I know there is a car part called a manifold. Maybe its definition can help shed some light on this concept: *A system of pipes that divides a flow and carries it to more than one place.* What an accurate depiction of what our gifts do for the family of God! When we accept that we're not all the same, we maximize, carrying the love of God to more than one place, compounding the impact we have on the lives of those within our sphere of influence.

God, in His infinite wisdom, knows exactly what type of people will be drawn to His heart through the gifts, abilities and resources each of us possesses. Make it your aim to not only discover but to embrace and then use your unique talents to touch the lives of others for the sake of the gospel.

Father, help me to not envy the abilities You have given others but to discern the ones You have given me. Then, may I use them for Your glory. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Congratulations 1st Quarter Honor Roll

"A" Honor Roll - Cole H (8), Rachel H (8), Olivia L (8), Lexie S (8), Hunter R (7), Emma H (6), Eva L (5), Levi R (5), Ava L (4), Makailyn R (4), Micah R (4), Gunj P (4), Lydia S (4), Shepard R (3)

"A/B" Honor Roll - Espen L (7), Sohan P (7), Audra D (5), Josiah P (5), Serena H (4), Liam S (4), Chloe R (3), Bella M (3), Micah P (3)

Gift Cards through Scrip

Gift cards can be ordered through the RLA Scrip program. You receive the gift cards at full face value, but those companies provide a percentage of their value to RLA. Stock up grocery cards, prepare for travel with gas cards, use them as stocking stuffers, or add them to your stash.

Browse the full list at:

shop.shopwithscrip.com/shop/product/browse

Scrip Orders & Payment Due Tuesday by 3pm

Sign Up to Order Online

<https://shop.shopwithscrip.com/Login/Enroll>

(Use Code: 1959264L19695)

or order in the RLA office

Staying Home for Illness

We appreciate that many of you seem to be erring on the side of caution when our kids are ill and keeping them (and sometimes siblings) home. With the prep-work required to shift to a digital format (especially in the younger grades), our teachers may not be able to post everything in Google Classroom. If your child 3rd-8th grade student is feeling well enough to do some work, some of their assignments will be posted online, often after the class period. Everything else will be available when they return to school. We will work with your child for extended deadlines to get caught up with the work they missed. If your child will be out more than 3 days, let your teacher or the office know and we will work with your family to make more comprehensive arrangements based on your situation.

Skillet Fundraiser Extended

Ticket orders are extended to Mon. Nov. 30!

Broasted Chicken Dinner for Four from the Skillet for \$25, each ticket includes 8 pieces of broasted chicken, 1 pint of mashed potatoes, ½ pint of chicken gravy, 1 pint Kluski noodles, 1 pint seasoned green beans, 4 yeast rolls with honey butter, & an 8" pan of double chocolate brownies. The tickets don't expire until April 30th, 2021 so save it for a tough week or give it as a gift. These tickets make great stocking stuffers!

November Charity

The National Junior Honor Society has chosen the Northern Food Bank as November's charity. In addition to our normal collections, there are a couple of extra fun ways to participate this month:

- Friday Jean Dollars and Chapel Offerings will be collected as usual
- Students can also bring in non-perishable food
- Turkey Time!!! Some of our 8th grade students have volunteered to enter our annual turkey competition. Each participant will have a jar in the office for students to "vote" with donations. The "winner" with the most donations will dress as a turkey on the last day before Thanksgiving!

Yard Signs for Sale

If you or someone you know would like a double-sided RLA yard sign, they can be purchased in the office for \$12. If you let Miss Lisa know, she can bring it out to your car if you don't want to come into the building.