

The **Resurrection Lutheran Church** is very excited to be involved in

## The Dolly Parton Imagination Library

Project for

### The Cairo-Durham School District

The program, launched by Dolly Parton and the Dollywood Foundation, aims to foster a love of reading among preschool children.

Each month a free hardcover book is mailed to each registered child beginning with birth to the age of five.

The books, chosen by a Dollywood Foundation committee of individuals with backgrounds in education, child development, academia and early childhood literacy, are classic children's books.

#### **Why are we doing this?**

Resurrection Lutheran Church (RLC) believes in caring for the community. Our goal is to assess the needs of the community and, when possible, partner with other community organizations to meet these needs.

In the past, we have helped with flood relief after Hurricanes Irene and Sandy, served "thank you" meals to the local firemen, teachers and staff, and worked with the Rotary and High School Interact Club to send home nutritious snacks to children in need on the weekends (BackPack Buddies Program).

The Cairo Community Food Pantry is also located at RLC. It is with these families in mind that we first started discussing a program such as this. Literacy leads to doing better at school, which leads to lower dropout rates, which leads to higher education and ultimately less poverty.

RLC supports education and therefore is handling the registrations and sponsorships and the placing of the monthly book order. Books from Imagination Library do not contain religious content.

### **Our plan and timeline...**

October: Register with the Dollywood Foundation, compose materials for program launch (brochures, sponsorship forms, etc), meet with school district officials

November: Seek funding from individuals, area businesses, teachers' association, school district (presentation at BOE meeting), civic organizations, library, etc.

December: Host events to launch the program and begin registering children

### **Cost Estimation:**

The Dolly Parton Foundation estimates that a community of our size will need the following amounts to fund the program:

Year 1 (based on 20% of eligible population enrolled): \$1308

Year 2 (based on 40% of eligible population enrolled): \$3147

Year 3 (based on 60% of eligible population enrolled): \$5242

Year 4 (based on 80% of eligible population enrolled): \$7339

Year 5 (based on 100% of eligible population enrolled): \$9439

Our first goal (based on the suggestion of the Dollywood Foundation) is to have two years worth of funding (\$4500) to begin the program.