



Our mission: Being an example of God's acceptance and grace to all

To my siblings in Christ,

Ever wonder about Easter Sunday? I do, and there are all kinds of little things that will never make it into a sermon but are interesting, nonetheless. Here are some of my favorites.

How did Easter get it's name?

The story of Easter's name highlights Christianity's ongoing ability to incorporate and adapt local customs and beliefs to connect people to Jesus in powerfully intimate ways. Since Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection took place during Passover, the early church marked Jesus' death and resurrection alongside this Jewish festival. Very early on a connection was made between the Passover lamb and the meaning of Jesus' suffering and death. The name they gave to this commemoration, Pascha, was a Greek version for the Hebrew name for Passover, Pesach (pass over/ spare). This is also the source of the imagery and name for Jesus the Paschal Lamb.

As Christianity spread to modern day western Europe, it continued to incorporate and adapt local customs and beliefs. Many pagan worship practices for the spring would have centered on the vernal equinox and included sacrifices to celebrate and invoke the returning light and renewed fertility. The name for spring in languages that preceded English and German was, Eosturmonath. It is likely that the goddess worshiped during Eosturmonath was a little-known goddess, Eostre. With time Pascha became Easter for the English-speaking church and Eostre was replaced by the God she could only dimly reflect.

How is the date determined?

In the early church, Easter was celebrated alongside the Jewish Passover, whose date is

determined using a lunar calendar. In the year 325, with the First Council of Nicaea, the date was separated from the Jewish calendar and set as the first Sunday after the first full moon after March 21 for the Western Church. The Eastern Orthodox Church uses a different calendar so its dates for festivals like Christmas and Easter are different too. The dates for Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Ascension Day, and Pentecost all change to correspond to Easter's date.



Rev. William H. Smith

What's with the egg laying bunny?

The egg has a history in the church of being a symbol of Jesus resurrection, with the egg as the tomb and its breaking open as the resurrected life. Eggs were first colored red to symbolize Jesus' blood. The egg laying rabbit can be traced back to 17th century German folklore. Like today's Santa, the rabbit left its eggs as rewards for children's good behavior. The egg hunt was part of the Easter Hare tradition. Some give Martin Luther credit for organizing the first Easter Egg hunts. The egg and the rabbit were also common pagan symbols of new life and fertility, which has been used to connect the Easter Hare (Osterhase) to the goddess Eostre.

What are some of the traditions you have surrounding Easter? Are there certain foods, clothes, stories, games, or other activities that help

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year after year to make Easter the Easter you know and love? Are there parts of your story, or your family's story, that are forever connected to Easter and what it means to you? I would love to hear the memories and activities that come to mind as you reflect on these questions.

The Lord be with you.
Pastor Smith

Free Foster Closet

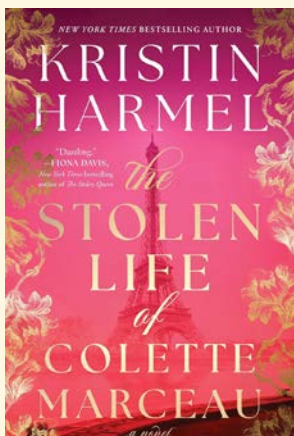
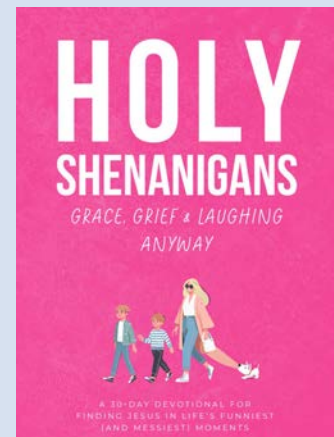
Cromwell Methodist Church has begun a Free Foster Closet for foster families who need clothing and personal hygiene items for their foster children. Some of these children arrive without anything. Cromwell has joined this worthy cause. How do Calvary and the Alliance Lutheran churches come to their assistance? Easy, we are having a diaper drive. We will be collecting wipes and diapers of all sizes. Additionally, if you have any gently used clothes newborn to women's size 3x we will gladly take them. You are also invited to come and help sort clothes.

**If you have any questions, please email
Glennie Monroe at glenniemonroe@yahoo.com.**

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Join the Monday morning Women's Bible Study as we read and relate to "*Holy Shenanigans: Grace, Grief & Laughing Anyway*" by Emily Hampton.

Our first meeting will be
Monday, April 13 at 10:30 AM.



Book Club will meet on Thursday, April 9th at 6:30 at church. We are reading and discussing the book, *The Stolen Life of Colette Marceau*. Please RSVP to Linda Conkle at 260-348-2449 if you would like to join us.

Don't forget to bring your donations to Baby's Closet.

The book for the May meeting is *Tell Me Everything* by Elizabeth Strout.

Brimming with empathy and pathos, Tell Me Everything is Elizabeth Strout operating at the height of her powers, illuminating the ways in which our relationships keep us afloat. As Lucy says, "Love comes in so many different forms, but it is always love."



SPRING WORKDAY

Saturday, April 25, 2026

9:00 AM – 3:00 PM

(Lunch served around 12:30 PM)

**Lutherwald Camp &
Retreat Center
Howe, Indiana**

(2 miles west of Howe IN on SR 120)



Come join us as we dig in and clean up at Camp Lutherwald to give back to the camp that gave so much to Elizabeth. The day starts at 9 AM and goes until about 3 PM. Come when you can, leave when you must. Bring your own work gloves and rakes and any favorite tools you may have. Snacks and water provided throughout the morning. Lunch is also provided.

A sign-up sheet is at the Welcome Center.

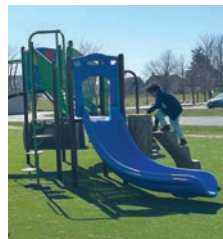
**Contact Rob or Brenda Mundroff
with any with any questions at
Robert3101@msn.com**



Park Celebration Day!

Sunday, May 3rd, 11am

There will be a dedication of the new pavilion, playground equipment and paths in the park at a special celebration on Sunday, May 3rd at 11am. Pastor will lead a Blessing of the Park and our congregation will share a meal with the many partners who helped make the new amenities a reality. **The Park Team will supply a fiesta-themed entree and ask that the congregation sign-up at the Welcome Center to bring additional dishes. This will be in lieu of our usual monthly first Sunday potluck.** In addition to the meal and blessing, the results of the Park Capital Campaign will be announced.



**Please join us in fellowship with our
park partners and get out and see
what's new in the park!**



**Resurrection Lutheran Church
COMMUNITY PARK**

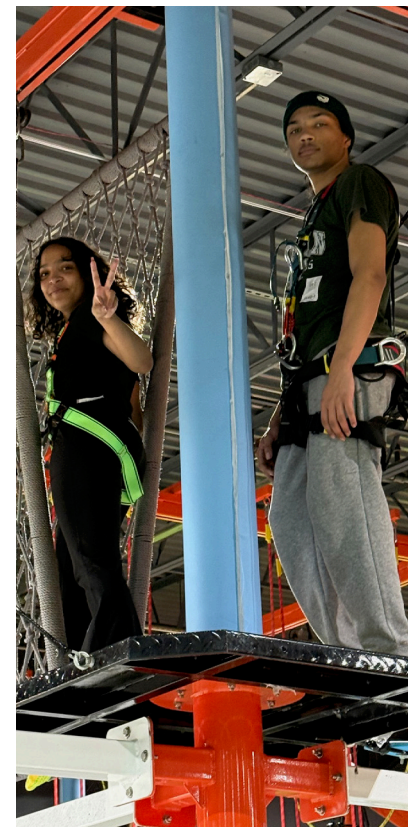
YOUTH

HAPPENINGS

The youth attended 1st Sunday potluck and then stayed to play some games. Due to Easter, we will not be having a 1st Sunday potluck in April but in May we will meet for the potluck and play games.



The youth went to **Fun City Adventure Park**, which was a first for us all. They had a great time, everyone was able to get involved, even the adults. It is definitely one that we will do again.



Calling All Current 5th Graders

June will be here before we know it and that means those who will be in 6th grade next year will be able to join us for Confirmation Camp at Camp Lutherwald. Then in September they will be able to attend Youth Group and Confirmation! We will be doing Bible presentations for our current 5th graders on May 10th during worship. If you have a 5th grader who is planning to participate in confirmation and/or youth group, please contact Sue Smith to let us know if your child will be present on May 10th to receive their Bible.

College Student Spring Finals Cards

Finals are coming up for our college students so it is time to get their cards and gift cards in the mail to let them know we are thinking of them and praying for them as they finish out this academic year or semester. If you would like to purchase gift card/s please scan the QR code or use the link below to sign up.



<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D48A5AE2BA6FB6-63285343-copy>

6th Annual Easter Glow

We were blessed with great weather for our 6th Annual Easter Glow. Having the Pavilion and Playground, in addition to the other park features, there were many more hiding places and the hunt was a little more difficult and took longer than in the past. There were 29 youth, only 9 of which are RLC members. There were a few friends or relatives of members but the rest were from the community. We had to call in some back up and set up 2 more tables as they just kept coming in. What a wonderful thing! There are other churches, groups and even families that have heard about our Easter Glow and are now doing them too. Thank you to our volunteers who filled 200 plastic Easter eggs with a number and a battery tea candle, hid the eggs and helped with prizes, food and cleanup.



Youth Calendar 2026

March 29	Palm Sunday Service	9:30 AM
April 2	Maundy Thursday Service	6:30-8:00PM
April 3	Good Friday Service	8:00 PM
April 5	Easter Sunday Service	9:30 AM
April 12	Confirmation	11AM-12 PM
April 25	Elizabeth Mundroff Work Day Camp Lutherwald; lunch provided	8AM-1PM
May 3	TBD	TBD
May 17	Confirmation	11-1 PM
June 14-19	Confirmation Camp for entering 6-9 grade School Servant Camp entering 10-12	
July 20 to July 24	Youth Week of Service (local Service "trip") More info coming soon	
June 26 to July 2 or 3, 2027	ELCA Youth Gathering	



Thrivent Action Team Grants

Thrivent has Action Team Grants available to help support RLC ministry team projects.

Here are some of the events we have used the Action Team grants for: Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Glow, Winter Retreat, College Finals Cards, Spaghetti Dinner, Outdoor Day, Kid's Club, Homebound Easter Baskets/Cups of Cheer, Godly Play Vacation Bible School, Women's Retreat and Rally Day.

Go to this link to find more information about Action Team grants:

<https://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-action-teams>

To apply for a Thrivent Action Team, you must be a Thrivent client with membership. Not sure if that's you? Visit the Membership page for details.

Apply online: [Thrivent Action Teams](#)

We have created a spreadsheet to help keep track of the available members with access to the Action Team grants. If you would like to help support Resurrection's ministries by adding your name to the spreadsheet, here is the spreadsheet link on Google Drive:

[RLC Thrivent Spreadsheet Link](#)

If you need help updating the spreadsheet or applying for an Action Team grant, please contact:

**Kay Humbert, kayhumbert@gmail.com or
Lee Humbert, lrhumbert@gmail.com**

The application process is very easy and they are quick to respond and send out the supplies. We thank you for your support in RLC ministries!
Lee & Kay Humbert

Confirmation Camp Lutherwald June 14-19th

Our current 5th graders through our current 9th graders are encouraged to attend confirmation camp at Lutherwald the week of June 14th. This is especially important for our confirmands, but those already confirmed are welcome to attend.

Confirmation camp allows us larger blocks of time over several days to go more in depth on specific topics around our Lutheran understanding of the Christian faith and how it applies to our everyday lives. Both Sue and Pastor will be at camp that week to lead studies and interact with campers.

To register your confirmand go to:

<https://lomikadmin.com/cr/register.php?cn=LW>

For more information reach out to Pastor.

Other Summer Camp Opportunities with LOMIK

Looking for a Christ-centered camp experience for your children? Our camp ministry has three different locations and offers these programs:

- **Pilgrims:** Entering Grades 1-3 (4 days)
- **Super Pilgrims:** Entering Grades 1-3 (6 days)
- **Pioneers:** Entering Grades 4-6 (6 days)
- **Trailblazers:** Entering Grades 7-9 (6 days)
- **Reading Camp:** Entering Grades 3-6 (6 days)
- **Fine Arts (FAME):** Ages 8-16 (6 days)
- **Hiking & Caving Adventure:**
Entering Grades 7-11 (6 days)
- **Senior High Camp:**
Entering Grades 10-12 (6 days)

For more information go to:

https://lomik.org/summer_programs.php

Cost should never determine whether a young person attends camp. Scholarships are available. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor directly.

April Anniversaries

15 Elizabeth & John Schlichter, 8 years

25 Sarah & Danny King, 17 years



**Is your birthday or wedding anniversary
this month but not listed?**

**Please let us know! Send an email to
office@rlcfw.org or call 260-637-5900
so we can get it listed!**

April Birthdays

3 Timothy Kiser

4 Camden Groscop

6 Madeline Jones
Robert Wrobel

10 Windezsza Maxwell

12 Donald Riplinger
Annette Nair

15 Nancy Lake

17 Dan Exner
Joni Kline
Molly Wietfeldt
Diann Williams

20 Mary Ibe

21 Shana Popovich

25 Don Conkle
Dan Heingartner
Grace VanGessel

26 Cameron DeKonick

28 William Smith

29 John Weesner

PRAY FOR



Dot
Mary Paonessa
Ken Baranowski
Scott Williams
Shirley
Denise DuBois
Ed Carnahan
Danny Carnahan
Susie Carnahan
Dema Saxton

Jo Hall
Diann Williams
Gustavo
Sandra Bruce
Marc Young
Family of Kaylin Howard
Rose Moya
Craig
Annie Wood
Jeff Wolf

Military Service:

Bailey Beyer
Jaidyn Beyer
Collin Monteith
Dakota Francis
Jon Popovich
Matthew Gephart

Homebound:

Cindy Dankert
Cheryl Goble
Pat Norris
Pat Poinsett
Wendy Jackson
Richard Kiser



Resurrection Lutheran Church

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Fort Wayne, Indiana 46818
260.637.5900
www.rlcfw.org



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

STAFF	OFFICE HOURS
Rev. William H. Smith prsmith@rlcfw.org	Monday Wednesday: 10:30am – 5pm Tuesday: Sermon prep day: Out of office Thursday: 10:30am – 3pm Nursing home worship: 4pm – 5pm Sunday: All day at RLC
Office office@rlcfw.org	Monday – Thursday: 9am – 2pm
Sue Smith youth@rlcfw.org	Monday: 10am – 2pm Wednesday: By appointment Sunday: All day at RLC
Robin Wessley accts@rlcfw.org	Tuesday

Church Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday
9am – 2pm

After church hours?

Leave a message or call Pastor Smith at 260.409.6971

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:30am
In Person Worship with Communion every Sunday

10:45am Faith Formation
September – May

9:30am live-streamed on our Facebook page:
<https://facebook.comrlcfw>



Church Council Members and Ministry Team Leaders

Pastor: Rev. William H. Smith	Evangelism: OPEN
Council President: Lorenzo Manquero	Stewardship: Team in place
Vice President: Sue Shilts	Social Ministry: OPEN
Council Secretary: Kelley Bawmann	Fellowship: Diann Williams & Julie Sonnenberg
Financial Secretary: Esther Meyers	Property: Team in place
Treasurer: Darlene Lebrecht	Worship & Music: Team in place
At Large 1: Kim Heisler	Youth: Sue Smith
At Large 2: Zach Braun	Education: Team in place

Articles for the next month's newsletter are due by the 26th of each month, if you have something you would like to add, please email it to office@rlcfw.org