



Resurrection  
Lutheran  
Church

# Resurrection Report

July 2023

rlcfw.org

“Being an example of God’s acceptance and grace to all.”

To my brothers and sisters at Resurrection,

Over the last several years, the church has taken more than I had to give, and I have given more than there was to draw. The keeping of all the ministries of this congregation leading up to, during, and after the pandemic, as well as leading Resurrection through an extended time of internal conflict, has significantly impacted my spiritual, mental, physical, and relational health. The same is true for the staff.

I must tend these wounds for my own sake, for the sake of those I love most, and for the sake of my long-term ability to be the pastor I want and the one Resurrection needs. The funding and time for an official sabbatical must wait, and the extended leave of absence my counselor recommended is not prudent at this point in the life of either this congregation or my family. However, I have worked with the staff and council, the bishop’s office, my counselor, and my spiritual director to develop a plan of action.

What the council has agreed to is a brief restorative leave. In addition to my usual vacation time, I will be taking the month of August as additional paid leave. This time was strategically chosen and will be given to intentionally focus on a deeper and more permanent healing and renewal than vacation time can provide.

The council has agreed to the same for Sue, as our Youth Director, who needs this time for the same reasons, and who has also engaged the direction of a counselor and a spiritual director toward similar goals. Barb has borne the same burdens, however, her

pending retirement has presented her with different needs. I have, since she began preparing for her retirement, and especially since the beginning of this year, encouraged her to take what extra time she needs for herself as she makes this transition and prepares for what comes next in her life.

To gain the most long-term fruit, Sue and I have already committed to intentional work that will better prepare us for receiving this restorative time in August and provide for the congregation’s needs while we are away and into the fall. In addition to regular individual spiritual direction and counseling, I have joined a monthly pastoral gathering focused on worship, reflection, and solitude; recommitted to regular daily study and devotions; and begun identifying those rhythms and practices needed for my life to work well.



Rev. William H. Smith

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For the congregation, I have arranged for pastors to be here to lead worship each Sunday and provide additional pastoral care for such life events as funerals. I have been working with teams, individuals, and staff, including Sue, to make sure that all activities take place while we are away and that we are prepared for all fall events and ministries. The Renovation team's efforts are also directed toward the restorative needs of the congregation and its ongoing life and impact.

My counselor and my spiritual director will continue to help me discern how best to spend this restorative time and provide me with regular accountability. Sue and I will spend some of this time together, on our own, and with loved ones.

There won't be a daily schedule, however, this time will include intentional opportunities for solitude and listening to God; rest for the body, mind, and soul; being a worshiper instead of a worship leader; reflection and study; creating opportunities for creativity and delighting; reconnecting with family and each other; and allowing time to be simpler and slower.

Following this time in August, I will be taking vacation time during the first half of September with Sue to celebrate our twenty fifth anniversary. Again, this timing is strategic, and all the appropriate planning is being done to make sure that fall programming and events are ready to go.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to myself, the staff, or your council members.

The Lord be with you.

Pastor Smith

Friends, the Council unanimously supports Pastor Will and Sue's request for a time of renewal and healing. As members of church body, we appreciate their need for our love and support as they seek God's direction for their lives and ministry. The Council asks that you pray for Pastor Will, Sue and their family. We offer the following as a suggested prayer:

**Dear Father**

**We pray that you be with Pastor Will and Sue as they use the month of August as a time for seeking healing and renewal. Send the Holy Spirit to minister to them during this time and to restore Pastor and Sue with a renewed sense of purpose for their ministry. Just as You made your Presence known to Elijah in the desert when Elijah was overwhelmed by his responsibilities as Your prophet, we pray that you make Your Presence known to Pastor Will and Sue. Just as You did for Elijah, provide them with rest and feed them to strengthen them. Speak to their hearts with Your gentle whisper and provide them with wisdom, direction and counsel that will enable Pastor Will and Sue to effectively continue their ministry to this church body, to our community and to Your Church as a whole. Amen.**

## Treasurer Report Highlights

as of 31 May 2023 By RFMundroff

### BALANCES

Checking Account (Oper)      **\$7.8 K**      (As of 6/13/23) Working Capital **1.5 weeks** (TARGET 7.5-11 wks)  
Restricted Accounts      \$67.3 K  
MIF fund (Building)      \$ 2.7 K

### INCOME

May Oper Income      \$ 21.1 K      Budget \$28.6K (*doesn't incl. 3% Mission Support*)      Tracking 74%  
YTD Oper Income      \$ 61.1 K      Budget \$86.0 K YTD (*doesn't include 3%*)      Tracking 78%  
Other Income Dec      \$ 1.5 K      (Restricted)

### EXPENSES

May Expenses      \$25.9 K      Budget      \$28.6 K      Tracking 90%  
YTD Oper Expenses      \$85.0 K      Budget      \$86.0 K YTD      Tracking 99%

### RATIO

Month Oper Exp / Oper Income      122%      ←  
YTD Oper Exp / Oper Income      126.6%      ←

### OVERALL

Operating expenses in line with Budget & plan

HOWEVER General OPERATING OFFERINGS are LOW, have used Working Capital to fill void

- Expenses to Contributions are differing by \$6.0K / Month ←
- Restricted funds covering ministries (as per the plan)

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- The Council asks that you prayerfully consider your contribution intent for the year and whether you can modify it at this time.
- Ensure your offerings are timely over the summer months.
- Consider automating contributions so they continue even when you are on vacation or can't be here.
- See if your employer matches some donations to non-profits
- Continue to pray for Resurrection Lutheran Church and all the good we are doing with our members (of all ages); in the community; as well as our larger outreach (Benevolence, Penny collection, etc.).

If you have questions, please let me know,

Respectfully submitted Rob Mundroff - Treasurer

## **OUTDOOR WORSHIP**

Remaining Outdoor Worship dates are July 16 and August 20. We will have one service at 9:30am with fellowship after. On August 20th, we will be having a potluck (meat provided) with the members of the other churches that are in the alliance.



### **The countdown continues!**

By the time you read this I will be just at 5 months out from retirement. The transition has begun as I am on Medicare and working with my financial people about post working income. You who have made this transition know how time consuming it can be. I have moved to the lake (Big Long Lake) and moved in with my Dad. He is doing well but recently spent several days in the hospital. Things are good but it means a few more doctor appointments for a bit. I also have been going through books and files as time permits so I do not have to rush right at the end.

I am thankful for Margo, Brenda, and Judy who have planned little events each month as December grows ever closer. Several folks have expressed that I will be missed when I leave. I will miss you too. I will not soon forget the 20 years that I was on the staff here at RLC and all the people who have come and gone! Keep welcoming and loving those who walk through the doors of this church and your lives, even when it is hard.

Next month: priorities

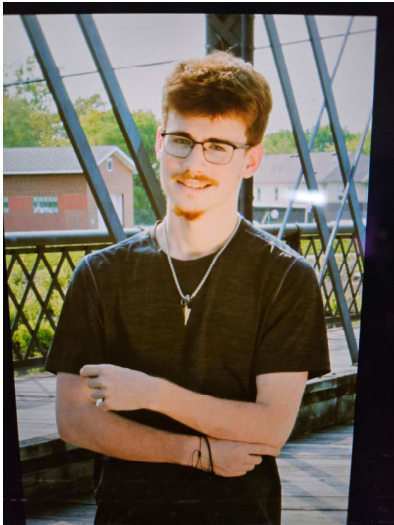
Our next opportunity to serve is just around the corner, August 13-18 will be here before you know it and we want your help filling up this sign up sheet! Grab a friend to join you or sign up for the entire meal yourself, it's always a blessing to be a blessing to others.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090F4BAAAF23A5F58-just7>



## **YOU'RE INVITED!!**

To John Weesner's graduation party on July 22 from  
3:00-7:00 PM at RLC!



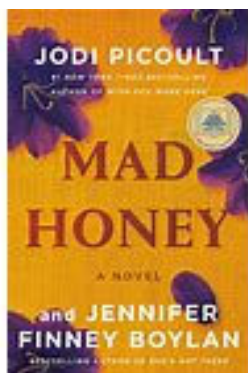
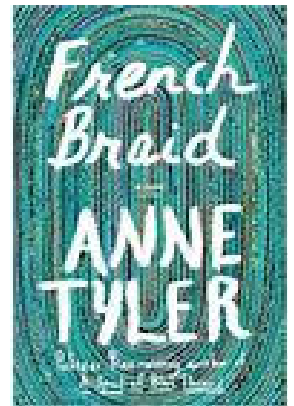
### **JAZZERCISE @ RLC**

The Auburn virtual class is meeting online on Wednesdays at 6:15 PM. In-person classes meet at Resurrection on Wednesdays at 5:45 PM & Sundays at 1 PM. Cost is \$5 per class for RLC Members who would like to try a class & \$7 per class thereafter. The monthly cost remains \$25 per month or a 10 class pass for \$50 may be purchased. Join anytime! Questions? Contact Robin at 260.570.3385

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### **Book Club**

Book Club is reading French Braid, which is full of heartbreak and hilarity, French Braid is classic Anne Tyler: a stirring, uncannily insightful novel of tremendous warmth and humor that illuminates the kindnesses and cruelties of our daily lives, the impossibility of breaking free from those who love us, and how close—yet how unknowable—every family is to itself. We will be discussing this thought-provoking book on **Thursday, July 6th at 7:00 at church**. Any interested readers are encouraged to join us. Please RSVP to Betty McCrory at 260-402-4447.



Our Book Choice for August 3rd is Mad Honey by Jodi Picoult. Olivia McAfee knows what it feels like to start over. Her picture-perfect life—living in Boston, married to a brilliant cardiothoracic surgeon, raising their beautiful son, Asher—was upended when her husband revealed a darker side. She never imagined that she would end up back in her sleepy New Hampshire hometown, living in the house she grew up in and taking over her father's beekeeping business.

Lily Campanello is familiar with do-overs, too. When she and her mom relocate to Adams, New Hampshire, for her final year of high school, they both hope it will be a fresh start.

## Youth Calendar

July 21 <sup>st</sup>	Blessed Portions	5-8:30 pm
July 27 <sup>th</sup>	Associated Churches Warehouse and Resurrection	9:30-4



### Family Service Days

#### All Are Welcome

Join us as we serve others in our community! Friday July 21st we are volunteering with Blessed Portions from 5-8:30 pm and on Thursday July 27th we are volunteering at Associated churches warehouse and Resurrection Park from 9:30-4.

If you would like to join us please contact Sue Smith at 260-494-6536 or [youth@rlcfw.org](mailto:youth@rlcfw.org).



## Fort Wayne Pride March

We will be walking in the Pride March on Saturday July 22<sup>nd</sup>. We will meet at the Northeast corner of the Martin Luther King Jr. Bridge at 1:30 pm. We will have stickers and tattoos to hand out. Feel free to bring your own things to share as well. Please contact Sue Smith at 260-494-6536 or [youth@rlcfw.org](mailto:youth@rlcfw.org) if you would like to join us.



## **Why do we show up each Sunday?**

**We do it for ourselves.** We do it to be fed. We do it to belong. We do it to round out our week and to better ground ourselves for the one to come. We come to be inspired and relieved. We come because that's what we were raised to do. We come so that our children will be given what they need to become well-rounded adults. We do it for ourselves, but there are three other central reasons that have nothing to do with us individually.

**We do it for God.** Our worship is the only thing we give to God that God has not first given us. So, it is not always a bad thing if we get nothing out of worship. We are there first to give back. Worship is about God, and it is a bonus if we get something out of it, not the other way around. The whole week is about us! What we have. What we don't have. What we want. What we need. For one hour a week, we take the time to turn our attention toward the One who gives us everything and is our everything.

**We do it for the church.** If jerks were the reason to not show up to be with the church, you wouldn't be able to pay pastors enough to be there and Jesus would have folded up shop after the first day of ministry! Unhealthy systems and abuse are to be renounced, and, if need be, avoided. Sometimes we must love others and ourselves enough to deny them the opportunity to continue hurting us. But consider this, how is the church supposed to live its calling out into the world if all the church is left to work with are jerks? And how can a jerk come to any other self-awareness unless there are people willing to provide both mirrors and examples? True transformation, not conformity, only ever comes through being loved.

**We do it for the other person.** You don't know what the people around you are going through, but I can assure you that everyone you see at worship is going through something—often times a multitude of somethings. You will rarely get to know what your neighbor is really dealing with or what difference you may make, but one thing I know for certain is that 90% of ministry is showing up. Your being there gives people belonging with others. Sometimes we hold the faith for others when they can't believe. We sing the hymns when they have lost their voice, and we pray the prayers when they have no words.

Of course, there will be Sundays when we can't be there and others when we choose not to be there, and that is okay. Worship is not a sentence, but the freedom to be absent is not to be exercised lightly because Sunday worship is not just about ourselves.



### *Ministry Fest is back!*

**We are doing something retro this year instead of Rally Day.** We will, at the request of the stewardship team, be having a ministry fest. This is a time for the ministry team/leaders, small group folks, Christian ed folks, etc. to give information, talk about, and recruit people to be involved in that area of ministry or learn more about the ministries at RLC.

This is in the early planning stages but we will be spending the summer, talking about, planning and getting ready for a fun, informative, interesting, community building time on **September 24<sup>th</sup> before and after both services**. There will be Food, Folks and Fun. So **please put this date on your “we will be there calendar”**, phone, or whatever you do to make time for important things. We do not plan these events because we like to, we do like to though. We do them because **we want you** to be informed, we **want for you** to feel a part of the life of this church, **we want for you** to be able to use your gifts and talents in a life giving way, **we want you** to be able to share your life with those you worship with on Sunday morning, **we want you** to grow in your faith and life with Christ! That’s why we do this.

So **watch for and listen for more information** in the coming weeks about Ministry Fest!



The Resurrection renovation team met on June 27th to provide status on activities that have occurred since our last meeting. A church-wide marketing plan is being developed and fine-tuned to communicate better to our community as well as within our congregation. The volunteer recruitment sub-committee is working towards developing a large volunteer pool for the next year. They have been talking to current and potential future volunteers and asking them to help in a specific area. Training will be provided to all volunteers. We are partnering with staff to define the background check process for any staff, as well as anyone who works with children or youth. If you have any questions or concerns about any of the renovation work, or if you would like join the team, please reach out to a member of the renovation team. We appreciate your prayers as well as we move forward together!

The RLC Renovation Team (Lorenzo Manquero, Brenda Mundroff, Cinamon Donley, Zach Braun and Eldon Anderson)

## PRAY FOR...

Jack Bigham  
Eddie Carnahan  
Lela & George Dunn  
Becky Schoepp  
Ben Franklin  
Dorothy Neumann  
Jeff C.  
Noah Smith  
Jeff Wolf  
Danny  
Jonathan Melcher  
Dick Van Horn

Mary Paonessa  
Jan Hieber  
Norma  
Terra Dunn  
Lynn Lanning  
Elaine Kirkendall  
Julie H.  
Parrot family  
John  
Marianne  
Mark Fisher  
Diann

### **Military Service:**

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

### **Homebound:**

Cindy Dankert  
Bob & Cheryl Goble  
Norma Greener  
Sarajane Hill  
Joyce Svoboda  
Jen Knepper  
Dot Lubberts



## *July Birthdays*

1	Linda Conkle
2	Stephanie DeKoninck
3	Rich Parker
8	Owen Palu Evan Weesner
9	Amanda Groscop Anabel Serre
10	Ryan Henry John Sherrill
13	David Barnett MaryAnn Chelius
15	Karen Fisher
16	Kaleb Hoot Tom Monroe
17	Julie Sonnenberg
18	Kendra Bosecker
22	Kenneth Kershaw
24	Betty McCrory
27	Gloria LeBeau

## *July Anniversaries*

11	Cinamon & Patrick Donley - 14
14	Justin & Sammi Gerber - 5
19	Kris & Janet Eby - 20
21	Joe & Caitlin McCudden - 5
25	Curtis & Molly Wietfeldt - 25





**Resurrection  
Lutheran  
Church**

14318 Lima Road  
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46818  
260.637.5900  
[www.rlcfw.org](http://www.rlcfw.org)



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

## STAFF

## Office Hours

Rev. William H. Smith prsmith@rlcfw.org	Monday   Wednesday: 10:30 AM - 5 PM Tues. - Sermon prep day: Out of office Thursday: 10:30 AM - 3 PM, Nursing home worship - 4 PM - 5 PM Sunday, all day @ RLC
Barb Limbach aim@rlcfw.org	Monday - Wednesday: 9 AM - 4 PM Thursday: 9 AM - 1 PM Sunday: 7:30 AM - 1 PM
Robin Johnson office@rlcfw.org	Monday-Thursday: 9 AM - 2 PM
Sue Smith youth@rlcfw.org	Monday   Thursday: 10 AM - 3 PM Sunday, all day @ RLC
Robin Wessley accts@rlcfw.org	Tuesday

*Church Office Hours:*  
Monday - Thursday  
9 AM - 2` PM

*After church hours?*  
*Leave a message or call*  
*Pastor Smith at 260.409.6971*

## Sunday Worship Schedule

8:30am & 10:45am  
In Person Worship w/  
Communion every Sunday

9:45 am Faith Formation  
September-May

8:30 am live-streamed on our  
Facebook page.  
<https://facebook.com/rlcfw>

Articles for the next month's newsletter are due by  
the 26th of every month, if you have something you  
would like to add, please send it to Robin J at  
[office@rlcfw.org](mailto:office@rlcfw.org)

## *Church Council Members and Ministry Team Leaders*

Pastor - Rev. William H. Smith	Evangelism - Open
Minister of Word and Service - Barb Limbach	Discipleship - Team in place
Council President - Dave Avery	Social Ministry - Open
Vice President - Mary Ibe	Fellowship - Diann Williams & Julie Sonnenberg
Council Secretary - Kelley Bawmann	Property - Open
Financial Secretary - Esther Meyers	Worship & Music - Team in place
Treasurer - Rob Mundroff	Youth - Sue Smith
At Large 1 - Lorenzo Manquero	Education - Team in place
At Large 2 - Evan Bosecker	