



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

To my siblings in Christ,

I'd like you to take a sightseeing trip with me, not a guilt trip but one of discovery.

In a world that sees God as unimportant and faith as optional, your faith as a way of life is one of the most valuable and powerful things you possess.

Even when we reject it, faith is an unavoidable aspect of life as a human being. We cannot avoid putting our faith in things outside of ourselves to give us things like identity, worth, belonging, purpose, and security. Even a proven faith to have no faith in anyone or anything is still faith, and a faith that decides how we live each day.

It is worthwhile to take stock of where we place our faith. Fortunately, there are two valuable ways to get a clear picture of what we actually believe: our bank/credit card statements, and our schedules and calendars. Where you spend your money and your time will tell you everything you need to know. What we prioritize with our money and time is what actually matters to us. What we prioritize with our money and time shows us the little gods we actually trust to be the god who gives us everything that makes up our life and world.

I wonder what your purses and watches—or your purse and watch apps—want to tell you? Again, this is a sightseeing trip of discovery not one of guilt or shame. I would invite you to take some time to look at these as holy texts, and because money and time have no moral or supernatural power by themselves, you should allow them to speak without judgment. They are merely descriptive. We are the ones who assign value to what they say about right/wrong, good/bad, profitable/bankrupting, etc.

Next, I invite you to take some time to do an audit of yourself and your world. What have you acquired with your tools of money and time? What returns have these two tools produced in your heart and soul, in your physical and mental health, in your relationships with other people, and in your impact on the world around you?

As you look, you may find it helpful to place things into three categories:

1. Things that have produced what you may call blessings or health.
2. Things that have produced what you may call bondage or harm.
3. Things that are noticeably absent or in short supply.

This is a form of spiritual practice. A full audit is something that we should pursue from time to time, but a non-abusive daily review is a powerful habit that builds all kinds of resources over time. At the end of the day take some time and begin with category one. Asking for the gift of gratitude and generosity, take an inventory of all the sources of blessing and health you can uncover looking back over the day.



Rev. William H. Smith

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Next, asking for the gift of freedom and courage, take an inventory of all the sources of bondage and harm you can identify from the day. And lastly, take stock of what was absent or in short supply within yourself and in the world around you throughout the day. These we turn over to God to work as the Master Gardener and use as ways to teach us what God wants us to learn about ourselves, about God, and about God's creation.

There is nothing more that you have to do. You will find that everyday is a tall order. You will find too that getting through the whole thing is a big ask. Be kind to yourself as you try this on, and don't make it something that has to be long or perfect. You can do it in 3 minutes, and you can linger for a lifetime. Sometimes you will feel like it doesn't "do" anything, and other times it may feel silly. Sometimes you will realize that it's been more than

a day since you went for this sightseeing trip.

In all times, it is important to keep in mind that it is essential to do this regularly. But, in the face of all these situations of shortcoming, it is more important to celebrate what the moment of realization truly is. That moment of realization that we need to take this sightseeing trip through our day is actually two things. The realization is seeing God inviting you to take a walk with God, and the realization is also a moment of clarity when we remember that we value that walk with God.

May you find the journey filling you, and may the path become rutted with your regular and life filled steps.

The Lord be with you.

Pastor Smith

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

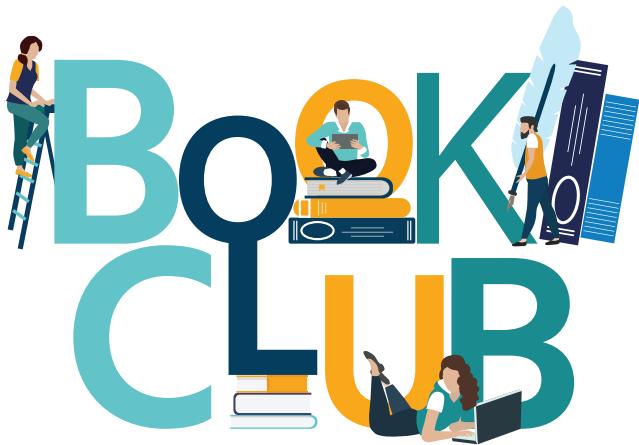
Looking for a Christ-centered camp experience for your children? Our camp ministry has three different locations and offers these programs:

- **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)

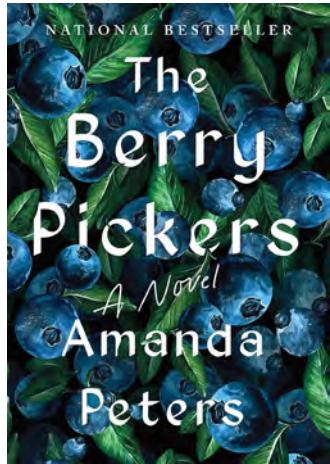
For more information go to:

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.



BOOK CLUB



Thursday, February 5th at 6:30pm at Resurrection. Sherry Avery is hosting this month as we discuss “*The Berry Pickers*” by Amanda Peters. Please RSVP to Sherry at 260-590-2214.

On a hot day in 1960s Maine, six-year-old

Joe watches his little sister Ruthie, sitting on her favorite rock at the edge of the blueberry fields, while their family, Mi’kmaq people from Nova Scotia, pick fruit. That afternoon, Ruthie vanishes without a trace. As the last person to see her, Joe will be forever haunted by grief, guilt, and the agony of imagining how his life could have been.

Also remember to bring diapers or toddler books to support our mission, The Baby’s Closet. Hope to see you at Book Club!

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday service will be held February 18 at 7:00pm following a Youth Fundraiser Dinner from 6:15pm-6:45pm. If you wish to attend the dinner, there is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center.

Help Us Rebuild Resurrection’s Photo Albums!

We’re looking for volunteers and contributions to help update Resurrection’s photo albums, capturing our ministries and community life from 2017 to today. These albums, started in 1983, tell the story of our congregation and inspire us with examples of compassion and courage.

How You Can Help:

- Share your photos (digital or physical) from 2017 onward.
- Volunteer to help organize pictures into yearly albums (we need 3–4 people).
- Include details with your photos: what’s happening, where and when, and who’s in the picture.
- Have videos or memorabilia? We welcome digital copies and can help convert old tapes. Space for physical memorabilia is limited.

Items can be dropped off or emailed to Kim in the church office: email office@rlcfw.org. To learn more about organizing albums, contact Pastor Smith at prsmith@rlcfw.org. Check out past albums above the puzzles in the youth/choir hallway for inspiration.

Let’s preserve our story together!

SNOW REMOVAL

We are in need of volunteers for **February and March** for the snow removal at the church. There is a signup sheet at the Welcome Center. Any and all help is greatly appreciated!



YOUTH

HAPPENINGS

In January the youth went to Crazy Pinz for an outing. They played Putt-Putt, rode the Go-Carts, played Laser Tag, played in the Arcade and had lunch. We got complimented on how great our large group of teens were. Resurrection is truly blessed with some great youth!



The youth will be participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring beginning **Sunday February 1, through February 8th**. They will be collecting money and canned goods for St. Mathews Food Bank after service.

There will be one pot for each, **The Patriots, The Seahawks, and Indifferents** (I don't care). You will vote for the team you think will win by placing your donations in that team's pot.
We will also have the option this year to give with your offering, please make a note on your offering if you would like to designate money to the Souper Bowl of Caring.

Valentine's Day Bingo

This is a great time to invite friends, cousins, neighbors etc. We will meet on **Friday, February 13th from 6-8 pm**. Dinner, drinks and snacks will be provided. Everyone wins! A lot of great prizes including gift cards.

Youth Ash Wednesday Dinner Fundraiser

The youth will be having a dinner fundraiser that will be held before the 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday service on February 18th. They will be serving from 6:00pm to 6:45pm. Our youth group and their families will be serving homemade soups, Casa salad, Ziano's breadsticks and DeBrand's chocolates. Please sign-up at the Welcome Center or by contacting the church office so we can get a head count. There will be a free will offering and all proceeds will go towards the youth summer service trip.

Youth Calendar 2026

February 6-8	Youth Retreat	POSTPONED
February 13	Valentines Bingo	6-8pm
February 15	Congregational Meeting	11am-1pm
February 18	Ash Wednesday Dinner Fundraiser	5-7pm
February 18	Ash Wednesday Service	7-8 pm
February 22	Fellowship Time	TBD
	Confirmation	11-12pm
March 1	TBD	TBD
March 6-8	Winter Retreat Pokagon State Park	Fri 5pm-Sun 11am
March 15	TBD	TBD
March 20	Easter Glow	8-10pm
March 29	Palm Sunday Service	9:30am
April 2	Maundy Thursday Service	6:30-8:00pm
April 3	Good Friday Service	8:00pm
April 5	Easter Sunday Service	9:30am
April 12	Confirmation	11am-12pm
April 18 or 19	TBD	TBD
April 26	TBD	TBD
May 3	TBD	TBD
May 17	Confirmation	11am-1pm
June 14-19	Confirmation Camp – entering 6-9 grade High School Servant Camp – entering 10-12 grade	TBD
July 19 or 20 to July 24 or 25	Youth Service Trip	TBD

Reconciling in Christ (RIC)

Since 1983, the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Program has been a public way for faith communities to see, name, celebrate, and advocate for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions in the Lutheran church.

The RIC Program is made up of congregations, synods, colleges, seminaries, outdoor ministries, and other Lutheran organizations.

The purpose of the Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Program is to ensure the welcome, inclusion, celebration, and advocacy for people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions; work for racial equity and commit to anti-racist work; and to support the national program.

Last year we put together a team, working on the process to become a Reconciling in Christ

Congregation, so that all of our members and guests will know that they are welcome and included in all parts of the life and ministry at Resurrection.

Our team is just finishing up a book study on the book "Those 7 References" By John F. Dwyer. Those 7 verses, are the most used verses against our LGBTQIA+ siblings. We will discuss and learn what is actually taking place in those verses. We were blessed to have someone from the team donate several copies of the book. If you would like to borrow a copy to read, please look for the books at the Welcome Center. Once done please return the book so others can use it as well.

We will then be meeting during Fellowship Hour on March 22nd and March 29th to discuss those 7 verses. There will be time for questions and answers as well.



Resurrection Lutheran Church

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Sunday, February 15th after the service

We will have lunch following the meeting but are asking that attendees provide a side dish or dessert. There is a sign-up sheet at the Welcome Center.

Church family, it's a joy to share an update on our Stephen Minister training — a program that equips caring believers to walk alongside people who are hurting and to bring Christ's love in a personal, confidential way.

Over the past four months, our trainees have been deepening their understanding of what it means to care in Jesus' name.

We began with The Person of the Caregiver, exploring how every act of care flows from a heart rooted in Christ. From there, they studied Feelings: Yours, Mine, and Ours, learning that our emotions are part of how God brings healing and wholeness to His people.

The next step was The Art of Listening — perhaps one of the most sacred skills we can offer another person in pain. They practiced being fully present, listening without judgment, and helping others share their stories. Following that, in Distinctively Christian Caring, they learned how to draw on prayer, scripture, and spiritual resources to bring God's peace into every conversation, always remembering that the Stephen Minister is the caregiver, and God is the Curegiver.

As the weeks continued, they studied A Process Approach to Caring — learning that our role is not to "fix" a person's problems but to faithfully walk beside them while trusting God to bring results. Sessions on Assertiveness helped them find the balance of speaking truth in love, while Maintaining Boundaries. Crisis Theory and Practice taught



STEPHEN MINISTRY

them how to care wisely, ensuring both the caregiver and care receiver are supported. They have discussed Confidentiality—a cornerstone of Stephen Ministry—and have even considered how to care well between visits, using technology thoughtfully when needed.

Looking toward the next stretch of training, our class will explore Using Mental Health Professionals and Community Resources, Ministering to Those Experiencing Grief, Caring for Those with Depression, and Understanding Suicide. These lessons equip our Stephen Ministers to respond compassionately in some of life's most difficult circumstances, helping them recognize when professional care is needed and how to walk alongside others through loss, sadness, or despair—always as visible reminders of God's loving presence.

Friends, your continued prayers and encouragement mean so much to these trainees. Their willingness to serve, to learn, and to grow is a witness to the Spirit at work among us. We're grateful for the way God is shaping this ministry, and we look forward to the day these Stephen Ministers will be commissioned to care for our congregation, one heart at a time.

If you have any questions on Stephen Ministry, or feel you may need a Stephen Minister feel free to reach out to me, Robert Mundroff - Stephen Ministry Leader for RLC

February Anniversaries

5	Starr & David Barnett, 53 years
9	Stacey & Justin Petersen, 17 years



February Birthdays

1	Aiden Fisher
2	Andra Blume Jonah Smith Keira Donley
4	Stacey Petersen
8	Gwendolyn Munsch
10	Sherry Avery
14	Carol Chessier
17	Gaylord Rauh
18	Jackson Groscop
21	Suzanne Seele Sarah King
26	Annelise Popovich
28	Myles Grosjean

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!

PRAY FOR



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

Sandra Bruce
Marc Young
Stephen Ministry
Trainees
Family of Cindy King
Kevin Rigby
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



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:
Dave Avery

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:
Kay Humbert

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