



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

1 Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. 2 He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. (Matthew 4:1-2 NRSVue)

The season of Lent invites us into a time of greater reflection on our faith and faith practices. The first Sunday in Lent looks at Jesus’ temptation/testing. Set between his baptism and the beginning of his public ministry, Jesus is taken by the Spirit into the wilderness. He is exposed to the elements, starved, and tempted/tested by the Devil.

Temptation has gotten a lot of attention in the church over the ages. Being tempted, let alone giving into it, is generally seen as proof of a person’s spiritual and moral failing. Temptation is connected to a character called the Tempter, the Slanderer, the Devil, or the Satan. This character operates like the prosecuting attorney in a courtroom trial. The Devil’s work isn’t to trick people into wickedness. It is to prove that God’s faithfulness, love, and care for humanity is misplaced and that God’s ways are ridiculous.

So, why does addressing temptation matter in Lent’s invitation to reflection and practice our faith? First, note that Jesus’ hunger was required for the tempting to happen. The needs of the body, the longings of the heart, the churning of the mind, and the restlessness of the soul, are all forms of hunger. But this is not some mid-afternoon grumbly in our tummy. Forty days of isolation, exposure and fasting, point to a special kind of hunger, The hunger, an all-consuming hunger. It is in this all-consuming hunger that the Tempter appears to prove God wrong.

Lent is not a time for punishing ourselves so that God doesn’t have to. It is a time to reflect on our

hungers themselves. Fasting is about looking beyond our daily desire for food and distractions to reflect on our true, deeper needs, and learning to focus our cravings on what will truly satisfy and fill us. Jesus’ temptations reflect our own. The first temptation is the illusion of self-reliance. The second is to control God.

The third is to cut God out of the equation all together by using worldly power and authority—things like lying, stealing and cheating—to accomplish God’s goals.

The second reason to address temptation as a part of Lent’s invitation is that the word can also be translated as testing. It is not testing that is passed or failed. It is testing in the form of the refining process of metal, as well as the curing of clay by firing it in a potter’s kiln. The necessity of this testing is seen in the fact that it lies between Jesus’ baptism and the beginning of his public ministry.

Reflecting on our experiencing of God’s testing is necessary in our own lives of faith. Trials and tribulations are not caused by God, but in God’s hands they become a source of our refinement and to further solidify what God is creating in us. Suffering and loss are unavoidable parts of life. They do cause emptiness in us. But when we



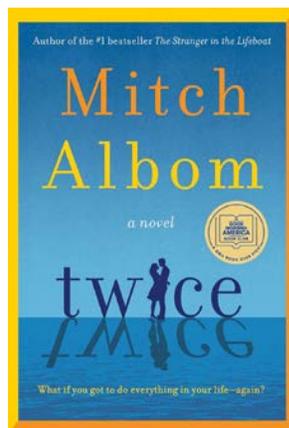
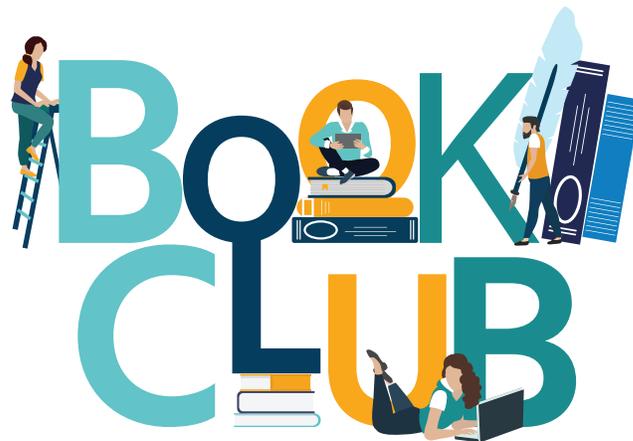
Rev. William H. Smith

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wrestle to regain our identity and direction from their hands, God distills from them sources of things like endurance and deep wisdom, which can and do create life and blessing.

I invite you to take the time in this season to reflect on the true sources of your hunger. I invite you to look beyond temptations as signs of weakness to the places where they reveal the refining of your metal and the solidification of what God continues to create in you. May you be given to know more fully the one who too was tempted and tested in the wilderness and receive more fully the refining and curing work of the Holy Spirit's furnace and kiln.

The Lord be with you.
Pastor Smith



The meeting will be on Thursday, March 5th at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. We are reading the book *Twice* by Mitch Albom. A very interesting book about second chances. Please RSVP to Betty McCrory at 260-402-4447 if you would like to join the group discussion about this book.

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

EASTER BASKETS 2026

We are collecting items to prepare **Easter Baskets & Cards** for our Homebound Members and those who have had a difficult year. If you would like to donate items, please use the [Sign Up Genius Link](#) or contact the church office or Kay. You may bring the items and put them in the tubs provided at church **by March 15**. We will assemble the baskets during the Intergenerational Fellowship on March 22.



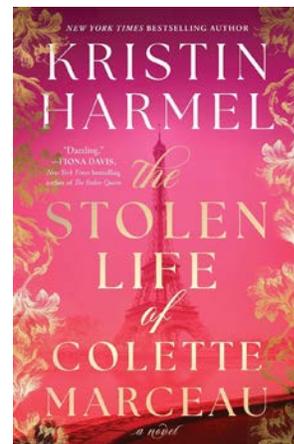
We are also asking for volunteers to deliver the baskets by Easter Sunday, April 5.

Thank you for helping to brighten the Easter season for our friends!

Kay Humbert
kayhumbert@gmail.com

The book for the April 9th meeting is *The Stolen Life of Colette Marceau* by Kristin Harmel.

Colette Marceau has been stealing jewels for nearly as long as she can remember, following the centuries-old code of honor instilled in her by her mother, take only from the cruel and unkind, and give to those in need. Never was their family tradition more important than seven decades earlier, during the Second World War, when Annabel and Colette worked side by side in Paris to fund the French Resistance.



Thrivent Action Team Grants



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

Thrivent Action Teams launched in 2014 and have supported over 1.2 million Action Teams, 16 million volunteers, have raised over \$1.9 billion in funds for communities nationwide and have over 13 million “Live Generously” T-shirts in circulation.



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.

Benefit Membership

- Clients **with a relationship** to a Thrivent life, health or annuity product
- Access to membership benefits
- Eligibility to lead two [Thrivent Action Teams](#) per year
- The right to vote for Thrivent’s board of directors and to serve, if elected, as a board member of Thrivent or your Thrivent Member Network
- No annual fee

Associate Membership

- Clients **without a relationship** to a Thrivent life, health or annuity product
- Access to select membership benefits
- Eligibility to lead one [Thrivent Action Team](#) per year
- The right to vote for the board of directors of your Thrivent Member Network
- Annual fee of \$19.95

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

YOUTH

HAPPENINGS

The youth celebrated Valentine's Day playing Valentine's Bingo. The youth earn prizes like candy, snacks, games, fidgets, gift cards etc. By providing things like Valentine's Day Bingo on a Friday night, allows for youth in grades 6-12 to come together and have fun in a safe, welcoming and loving environment



On Ash Wednesday the Youth had their Annual Ash Wednesday Dinner Fundraiser. The youth families made soup and we purchased Ziano's breadsticks, Casa's salad and DeBrands chocolate. We had 41 in attendance which might be our best attendance yet. We raised about \$400. Thank you to all who attended the meal but also those who cooked, picked up food and a huge thank you to all who stayed to clean up after worship especially since I had to leave early.





On **March 15th from 12-2:30pm** we are going to Power Up Action Park on West Jefferson Blvd. Youth need to bring \$20, which includes lunch, plus money for the arcade if they want.

You will need to go to the website <https://www.powerupfw.com/> to fill out the waiver for your youth. Jumping socks are required so if you have some please bring them along. It would be very helpful to have a count for this outing. Please let Sue know if you are planning to join us. Friends are always welcome and if cost is a concern please talk to Sue, we don't ever want money to be a reason youth can't come.

Update: Sue will be having surgery in Washington D.C. to repair her rotator cuff on April 17th. We are working on the April and May calendars. We are still planning on Confirmation Camp and the summer Youth Service Trip. We will keep you posted.

Easter Glow

**Friday March 20th
8:30-10:30 PM.**



This is for grades 6-12, friends are always welcome. The eggs will be filled with a number, candy and a battery tea light candle so they glow in the dark. Hopefully weather cooperates so that we can do it in the park. If not, we will still have it inside. The numbers are for what order prizes are picked. We make sure that everyone has eggs so that everyone will get prizes. It will likely be cold and wet so dress appropriately. It is helpful for us to know who is coming so if you know you'll be going please let Sue know.

Youth Calendar 2026

March 1	Games and 1st Sunday Potluck	TBD
March 15	Fun City Adventure Park Cost is \$20, includes lunch and jump socks Bring extra \$ for the arcade if you wish	12-2:30 PM
March 20	Easter Glow	8:30 AM-10:30 PM
March 29	Palm Sunday Service	9:30 AM
April 2	Maundy Thursday Service	6:30 PM-8:00 PM
April 3	Good Friday Service	8:00 PM
April 5	Easter Sunday Service	9:30 AM
April 12	Confirmation	11 AM -12 PM
April 25	Elizabeth Mundroff Work Day Camp Lutherwald; lunch provided	8 AM -1 PM
May 3	TBD	TBD
May 17	Confirmation	11 AM -1 PM
June 14-19	Confirmation Camp for entering 6-9 grade High School Servant Camp entering 10-12	
July 19 or 20 to July 24 or 25	Youth Service Trip	
June 26 to July 2 or 3 2027	ELCA Youth Gathering	

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 to work on the process of becoming 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.

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.

Great Day Café Spring Break

Featuring live Music by Chris Worth!



Wednesday, March 11, 2026

1:30-2:45 PM

MAIN LIBRARY MEETING ROOMS AB

Adults with memory impairments and their caregivers are invited to enjoy activities that enrich the mind, body, and spirit in a welcoming and supportive environment.



Allen County Public Library
900 Library Plaza Fort Wayne, IN 46802
acpl.info • (260) 421-1200

Easter Volunteers and Candy Donations

Easter is right around the corner! We are looking for donations of wrapped candy and volunteers to help with the Easter Egg Hunt.

Please place your donations in the basket across from the Welcome Center.

We need volunteers to fill plastic eggs, hand out prizes, purchase prizes and assist as needed. There is a signup sheet at the Welcome Center.



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.

Our brothers and sisters in Christ, let's help make this happen.

Stephen Ministry Training Nears Completion

After six months and 16 sessions of training, our newest Stephen Ministry class is nearing the finish line. This marks an important step as we renew a ministry that has been part of our congregation's life for more than 25 years. While Stephen Ministry has had limited activity in recent years, we are grateful to see this vital caregiving ministry active once again.

Since last fall, these dedicated members have been preparing to serve in a meaningful and deeply personal way. Through weekly training, they have developed skills in compassionate listening, maintaining healthy boundaries, caring for those experiencing grief, understanding depression and life transitions, and walking alongside people facing stress, illness, or loss. Each session has focused on equipping them to reflect Christ's love through steady, dependable presence.

In these final weeks of training, our trainees are focusing on two essential elements of Stephen Ministry. First, they are learning about supervision—an ongoing process that supports Stephen Ministers in their caregiving while ensuring quality, accountability, and strict confidentiality. They will also complete training on how to begin a first caring relationship well, bringing together everything they have learned and applying it to those important first conversations. These final sessions prepare them to serve with confidence, wisdom, and compassion.

Following Easter, we look forward to commissioning our new Stephen Ministers during



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

worship. During that service, we will pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as they begin this next chapter of ministry. Just as Jesus sent his disciples out to care for others in his name, we send these trained caregivers to extend Christ's care to people who are hurting.

For those unfamiliar with Stephen Ministry, it is a confidential, one-to-one, Christ-centered caring

ministry. Stephen Ministers meet weekly with individuals who may be grieving the loss of a loved one, coping with illness, navigating divorce or separation, facing job loss, carrying heavy stress, or walking through other difficult seasons of life. They provide a listening ear, compassionate presence, and spiritual encouragement. (Men are matched with men, and women with women.) The caring relationship continues for as long as the need remains. This ministry is free and available to members and friends of our congregation.

As we celebrate the relaunch of this longstanding ministry, we also invite you to consider how it might serve you or someone you know. If you—or a friend, neighbor, coworker, or family member—could benefit from the care of a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Smith or Stephen Leader Rob Mundroff to learn more.

Please keep our new Stephen Ministers in your prayers as they prepare for commissioning and begin serving. We are thankful for their willingness to step forward and help our church once again offer this important ministry of Christian care.

Rob Mundroff – RLC Stephen Leader.

March Anniversaries

5	Tami & Tim Kiser, 42 years
19	Misty & Bryan Burgett, 5 years
23	Marge & Forrest Van Gundy, 45 years
25	Darlene & John Lebrecht, 25 years
29	Linda & Don Conkle, 56 years



March Birthdays

2	Katie Manquero
3	Madelyn Fern
4	Wade Marsh
5	William Braun
7	Brent Serre
8	Perry Shilts
12	Abby Fern Julia Marsh
15	Luke Jones
18	Ashley Brzezinski
19	Craig Blume Kara Lowenstein
20	Liam Gerber
23	Curtis Wietfeldt
24	Ed Christie Tamela Kiser
27	Amy Keith

**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
Family of Izzy Sperle
Natalie
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
Sophia Wallace
Bob Soden

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: 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