



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

The Alternative Life of Faith

Continuing from October and November

To know fear is human, but to be governed by it is an affront to God's kingdom. To be proud of being a Christian and a United States citizen is good, but to attempt to make any worldly nation a Christian nation is both dangerous and idolatrous. The contemporary narratives about our national identity, which some are calling Christian Nationalism, are not about faith but about power—and they are nothing new.

It creates urgency by ginning up fear, claiming that Christianity is under attack and must be protected and championed by the government to save civilization. It is a tool used to control by creating issues, assigning blame, and limiting our ability to connect with the "other" for communication, collaborative problem-solving, and community building. Without exception, a narrative that combines fear and Christianity is always a whitewashing of the ends that justify the means of some group's play for power. Fear is never a tool for Christians. It is a temptation to be avoided and one of the major planks Christians must doggedly seek God's help in removing from our eyes, hearts, minds, and souls.

One way to identify narratives of fear is their hyper-focus on issues while avoiding the underlying problems. (Abortion is an example of an issue. The systems that create greater obstacles for victims, the poor, pregnant women, and children in the foster care system are examples of underlying problems.) Narratives about issues are concerned with assigning blame and being right, and they foster distrust, division, and greater fear. The much harder, less gratifying work of addressing the problems requires us to be more concerned with solutions than with being

right. It requires us to seek collaboration with the "other" out of necessity for the sake of change. Yet it also creates shared purpose by drawing from hope.

Here is one of many places where the life of faith liberates and obligates us in today's world.

As a response to narratives of fear that spur reactions, the daily life of

faith can be slow to anger and opinion because trusting God to guide creates space to breathe and requires us to prioritize stillness and quiet to listen. It can be present and vulnerable with others because its resilience comes from trusting God to be our only true source of strength, deliverance, and self.

The daily life of faith rearranges our priorities, shifts our perspective, and changes the narrative of our story and the story of creation. It is at odds with the everyday world because it refuses its games, its rules, and its prizes. Humility, for example, is not a sign of weakness. It does not come from self-rejection. It is graciously born as we awaken to the self that is a child of God and servant citizen of God's kingdom. That self does not give time or energy to the world's understanding, approval, or respect, so it is free and empowered to quietly play God's games by the Kingdom's rules. Humility comes from learning



Rev. William H. Smith

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to trust the true prizes of real worth: purpose, belonging, identity, and unending life. It comes by serving others on their path to knowing the same gifts of God.

This life of faith prizes wisdom that is the received Holy Spirit, which imparts things like the peace that passes understanding. It is a wisdom that comes from an eternal lifetime of practicing the ways of God. God calls us to a way that values compassion over winning. It is a way resolved to loving whenever love is made to compete with what we thought was right, good, or holy. It is a way that honors God by serving the world's losers. It invests in God's economy of grace by

treasuring what the world deems trash. It worships God by quietly caring for the dignity of those who will never be able to repay us in any way. It is a way of life—a life of faith—that is so very relevant and needed in today's world.

It is for us to lean into the promises of God and step out in faith to offer the world a different picture of who it is because of who we are—not Christian nationalists, but a People of the Way, living a life of faith in a nation where we are free to be and do just that.

The Lord be with you.
Pastor Smith

CHRISTMAS EVE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Deepen your own experience while making Christmas Eve worship the beautiful thing it is for everyone else. Move some straw bales, pour some wine, pass out candles, there are so many ways to help before, during and after both services to make it all happen.

To lend a hand, please sign up at the welcome center, call the office or follow the link below.

It takes many people to make our Christmas Eve services special!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0A4AA5A92EA1FA7-christmas>

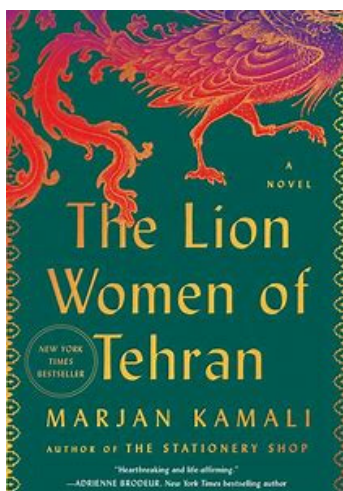
A graphic for Christmas Eve worship services. The background is dark blue with a Christmas tree branch and lights on the left. A large, glowing gold star hangs from a string. The text is in gold and white. A Facebook icon is in the top left corner.

CHRISTMAS EVE
Worship
Barn Service 6:00 pm
at the Allen County Fairgrounds
Candlelight Service 9:30 pm at Church



Our December Book Club event will be on
Thursday, December 4th at Don Hall's Factory restaurant starting at 6:00pm.
Please RSVP to Betty McCrory at 260-402-4447.

We will share a meal together and gifts of books. Please remember to bring a wrapped book for our gift exchange, and also a package of diapers and/or a book for toddlers for Baby's Closet.



Our January book club book is
The Lion Women of Tehran
 by Marjan Kamali.

Candlelight Service of Lessons and Carols

**Sunday, December 7, 2025
 4:00 p.m.**

**Trinity English
 Lutheran Church**

450 W. Washington Blvd
 Fort Wayne, IN 46802



Now in its 83rd year, Trinity's intergenerational choirs, handbells, and steel drums will offer Advent and Christmas music to complement scripture readings and the spoken word, celebrating the joy and hope of the season.

YOUTH

HAPPENINGS



Salvation Army Angel Tree

The Youth will be volunteering at the **Salvation Army for their Angel Tree Christmas Program on December 7th.** The Salvation Army collects and provides clothes, shoes, coat and two toys for children in need in our community. For teens they collect and distribute gift cards. We will be sorting toys, clothes, books, shoes etc. so that when the families come in, they can “shop”. We will meet at Salvation Army 2901 North Clinton Street at 12:30. We will provide pizza and drinks for lunch. I would like to request that if you are able, you bring a \$25 gift card for Walmart or Amazon for the Teen Angel Tree Program. They are having a hard time getting these donated, but we want to be sure the teens have something for Christmas too. Parents and siblings are welcome to volunteer with us. We will end at 2:30 pm.

Christmas Bingo

The youth will be playing **Christmas Bingo on December 21st from 11-1.** This is a great time to bring a friend, cousin or neighbor. We will have Pizza, snacks and beverages. Prizes range from candy, to games, blankets, toys, gift cards and more.

In November the youth met for confirmation a couple of times. We are learning about “Why Lutheran’s worship the way they do” and “Listening for God”. We have taken time to sit silently in the sanctuary as we learn to listen.

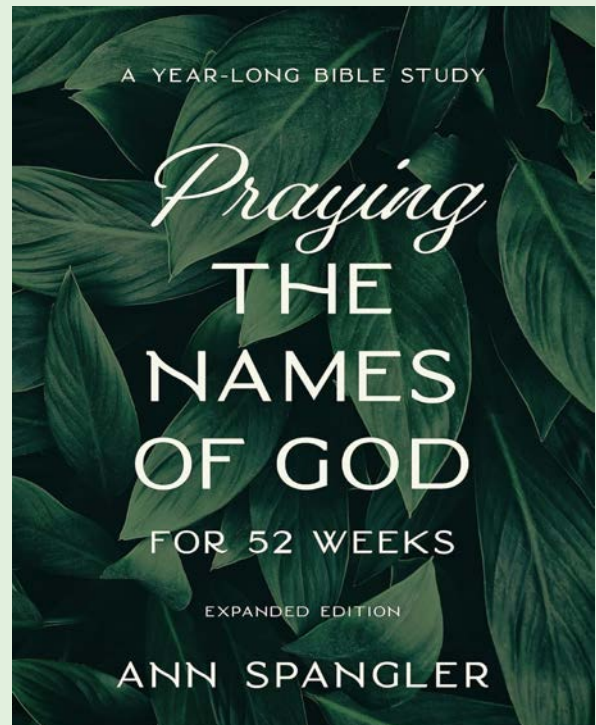
We also attended a Seasoned adult’s game night one Sunday evening. The youth really enjoyed playing and visiting with the group. If you haven’t attended one you really should. They have a lot fun!

Youth Calendar 2025-2026

December 7	Angel Tree @ Salvation Army	12:30-2:30
December 21	Christmas Bingo	11-1
January 11	TBD	TBD
January 18	TBD	TBD
January 25	Confirmation	11-12
February 13	Valentines Bingo	6-8 pm
February 6-8	Youth Retreat	TBD
February 15	Congregational Meeting	11-1
February 18	Ash Wednesday Dinner Fundraiser	5-7
February 18	Ash Wednesday Service	7-8 pm
February 22	Confirmation	11-1
February 22	TBD	TBD
March 1	TBD	TBD
March 15	TBD	TBD
March 22	Confirmation	11-12
March 27	Easter Glow	8-10 PM
April 12	TBD	TBD
April 18 or 19	TBD	TBD
April 26	Confirmation	11-12
May 3	TBD	TBD
June	Camp for 6-9 grade	TBD
July 19 or 20 to July 24 or 25	Youth Service Trip	TBD

Adult self-paced Bible study

The Bible reveals many fascinating names and titles for God that can provide wonderful insight into who our God is. The book **Praying the names of God for 52 weeks** by Ann Spangler allows you to explore the richness of these names. If you are interested in learning more about God in this way, join me in this self-paced Bible study. Each week you will go through 5-6 pages in the workbook. Then, we will meet monthly after worship in the Sanctuary. Our first meeting will be 1/25/26. The rest of the dates will be provided at that time. Let Brenda Mundroff know if you are interested in joining!



Resurrection Community Park Update



The playground is complete! The installers worked hard all day Thanksgiving Day and Friday to finish up the playground before the snow came. They did a fantastic job!

The Park Committee would like to give special thanks to Kay and Lee Humbert for preparing and serving food for the workers for their Thanksgiving. **THANK YOU KAY AND LEE!**

December Anniversaries

1	Donald and Alicia Ripplinger, 8 years
20	Craig & Andra Blume, 49 years
26	Bob & Sheila Hudson, 55 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!

December Birthdays

1	Rob Mundroff Bryan Burgett
2	Marge Van Gundy
5	Anne Rogers
7	Jenny Jones
9	Lee Humbert
10	Cindy Huckeriede Thomas Manquero
12	Shery Grosjean Cy Bentley
16	Richard Kiser Tracy White-Exner Zach Braun Sadie Lowenstein
18	Moira Groscop
19	Carolyn Aker
21	Lynne Dennis Jennifer Braun
22	Cindy Dankert
27	Robert Walker Lorenzo Manquero Masey Lowenstein
31	Starr Barnett Cheryl Walker Vivian Godfrey

PRAY FOR



Dot
Mary Paonessa
Ken Baranowski
Scott Williams
Shirley
Denise DuBois
Ashton Creek
Ed Carnahan
Danny Carnahan
Susie Carnahan
Dema Saxton
Craig
Annie Wood

Jeff Wolf
Howard
Gustavo
Sandra Bruce
Andra Blume
Marc Young
Stephen Ministry Trainees
Family of Cindy King
John Westrem
Kevin Rigby
Drew Dafforn
Family of Kaylin

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

14318 Lima Road
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>



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

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