



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

Continuing from last month's article:

We make the mistake of assuming that a word is unchanging. The reality is that definitions may not change, but a word depends on the goals of the speaker, the mindset of the listener, and the context of their being used to give them so much of their meaning and power. Among other things, words distinguish one thing from another, creating opportunities to elevate likeness and otherness. If you look at all the polarization today, it is clear what has been elevated by words. Words like Christian, nationalism, and patriot have been used as weapons to create division and stir up mistrust and fear.

The thing is, as Christians, Jesus commands us to tend to the 2x4 in our own eye instead of scoffing at the 2x4 in our neighbor's. Each of us has been impacted in our positions, opinions, and perspectives by the agendas of the fear sowers and their words. The actual underlying problems may be very real, but the emphasis of division is not on problems, it is on issues. It is not on solutions but on assigning blame. It is more concerned with being right instead of doing good. We have all turned to these idols, and this is especially true when we withdraw out of apathy or hopelessness. But why? It is the way of fear.

We know that fear is a response that is rooted in the most basic parts of ourselves. It primes us to respond quickly and energetically. We also know that fear can be manufactured and that people in a state of fear are easier to influence. From a place of fear, we are naturally primed to assign blame for the threat. Communication and understanding become far more difficult in a place of fear because we are primed to defensive stances. In a place of fear, distrust is natural, but it can be further manipulated to the point of

dehumanizing the "other" in our minds.

It always starts small, often beginning by pointing out an attribute or characteristic that is different, which can then be used to make fun of the "otherness" with name calling and jokes. Clothing, income, employment, education, accents, religion, foods, and cultural practices

are typical source material. The hazard is that the seemingly harmless, silly and funny joke making and name calling can easily transform the "other" from different into inferior, which can transition into seeing them as less than human. The transformation is usually slow and subtle until it isn't. My WWII era grandpa didn't arrive overnight at his perspective on the Japanese as "Nips", and it wasn't purely spontaneous when our nation decided to place Japanese Americans in internment camps.

Fear has no place in the kingdom of God, and it is not a tool to be wielded by Christians. Fear, and only as an overwhelming awe, may be found in the presence of God Almighty alone. Again and again we hear it in the Bible. For example, "I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9) Jesus tells a parent, "Do not fear, only



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believe.” (Mark 5:36) 1 Peter tells us not to fear what others fear. (3:14) And 1 John 4:18 says, “There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear...”

But the Bible is only a foundation for the actions of faith, so we must be careful how we use quotes. It is not an unquestionable book of clear answers. It is a tool that the Holy Spirit uses to work faith in us. God desires faith not being right. Paul, quoting Habakuk, says repeatedly that the righteous will live by faith (not by quoting scripture). Faith opens us to the eternal life that the Holy Spirit calls us to live out of in the here-and-now. Faith calls us to know certain things like that we are held by God’s love because of God’s grace; that our identity, value, belonging, and purpose come from that love; that our hope and joy are found in God’s promise; and that God is the source of every provision that is actually secure.

This is why any narrative that tries to gin up fear by casting Christianity as being under threat or a victim of assault is suspect. The foundation of the faith is in a God and kingdom that cannot

be threatened. It can certainly be misused and misrepresented but never threatened. Jesus does not need our protection. God does not need us to preserve God’s authority. Even in places where the church is openly persecuted the church persists. So, the narratives of threat and persecution as a reason for action to protect Christianity is nothing more than a whitewashing of actions that serve other agendas and plays for power. This same awareness is needed when Christian nationalism is used to gin up fear in others. We, as Christians, must reject the 2x4 of fear in ourselves. These narratives point to issues, not the actual problems. Conversations about problems focus on solutions, those about issues focus on blame and being right. One creates opportunity for collaboration and draws from hope. The other fosters distrust and division and grows fear.

It is time for us to lean into this way of things, this slow, vulnerable, yet resilient, way of prioritizing humility, wisdom, compassion and resolve: the way of faith. We will look at what that way of faith looks like next month.

The Lord be with you.
Pastor Smith



Book club will be meeting on Thursday, November 6th at 6:30pm at church. Please RSVP to our host, Judy Berggren, at 260-704-3619.

We are reading the book ***Queen of Sugar Hill*** by ReShonda Tate. Please join us in our discussion of this enlightening story based on the life of Hattie McDaniel.

Best selling author ReShonda Tate presents a fascinating fictional portrait of Hattie McDaniel, one of Hollywood’s most prolific but woefully under-appreciated stars — and the first Black person ever to win an Oscar for her role as Mammy in the critically acclaimed film classic *Gone With the Wind*.

Also please mark **December 4th** on your calendar for our **Book Club Christmas Dinner**. Remember to bring a gift wrapped book for our book exchange and diapers for Baby’s Closet.



Resurrection Community Park Update

Exciting progress in the park!

The asphalt paths have been completed and the dirt around them has been graded and seeded.

The framers are finishing up the final details on the pavilion and should be done soon. The west wall has the cedar installed and stained to match the rest of the pavilion.



The playground equipment has been delivered and they are going to start installing it this week. It will take about two weeks to finish. After it is installed, a second team will install the turf that will require 6-7 days, weather permitting. If the weather does not cooperate, they will install a fence around the playground and we will need to provide signage to help keep people out of the area.

YOUTH

HAPPENINGS

GARAGE SALE PROCEEDS \$2,500

**Thank you to everyone
who helped!**

Whether you donated, volunteered to sort, bake, price, work the sale or pack load and deliver, you helped make this sale successful! We had 32 people volunteer for a total of 306.75 hours. In addition to that, there was another 28 hours of preparation or Facebook sales. We have made about \$2500. After our sale, we donated leftover items to Martha's Closet, Blue Jacket, Animal Care and Control, 5 Little Libraries, Salvation Army and the Restore.

Wizards World

The youth met at Wizard's World in Huntertown for our outing last month. For many this was their first time there. There were so many pinball games! It was a lot fun! I think this will definitely be something we do again.



Huntertown Treat Trail

Resurrection volunteered to hand out candy at the Huntertown Park Treat Trail. Ken and Betty McCrory and their family volunteered on Friday and the youth group volunteered Saturday. About 3,000 people came through the treat trail. The youth handed out candy, got to walk the trail and, those who wanted to went through the Haunted Trail.



College Care Packages

Each fall we send out care packages to our college students. We hear back that it is very helpful, makes them feel connected and they are thankful for their package. If you have a student in college, please send their address to Sue Smith at youth@rlcfw.org or 260-494-6536. If you would like to donate, please use the Sign-Up Genius link below.

[SignUp Genius College Care Packages](#)



This holiday season we are supporting **Salvation Army's Angel Tree Program** to help those in need in our community. We will have a tree set up in the gathering space with tags that you will take with you, use the information on the tag to purchase items and then return the items unwrapped with their tags. **Please bring items to the church and place under the Angel Tree by December 7th.**

Youth Calendar

November 2	Confirmation	11-12
November 2	Game Night @ church	5:30-8:00
November 9	Confirmation	11-12
November 9	Service Project	TBD
November 14	IHOP on Washington Center`	10 pm-12 am
November 16	Confirmation	11-12
December 7	Angel Tree @ Salvation Army	12:30-2:30
December 21	Christmas Bingo	11 am -1pm
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 pm
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	Confirmation	11-12
April 12	TBD	TBD
April 18 or 19	TBD	TBD
May 3	TBD	TBD
May 17	Confirmation	11-12
June	Camp for 6-9 grade	TBD
July 19 to 24 or July 20 to 25	Youth Service Trip	TBD

Homemade Pumpkin and Dutch Apple Pies, just in time for Thanksgiving!



Order Form Name _____			
NAME	# OF PUMPKIN	# OF DUTCH APPLE	Pick Up Date Check One 11/25 11/26

Our Alliance Partner – Calvary Lutheran Church in Cromwell is taking orders for homemade Pumpkin and Dutch Apple pies. The pies are **\$9.00 each** and they will be delivered to Resurrection on **November 25 or 26**, just in time for Thanksgiving! The proceeds are used to underwrite Calvary's **monthly Community Meal Ministry**. Look for the order form (sample above) on the counter in the Welcome Center. Payment is due at time of pick up.
Thank you for your support.

Christmas CUP OF cheer

Be a part of extending fellowship to our homebound members by helping make a **Cup of Cheer** for them. On Sunday, December 7th, after worship, as we snack and visit, all ages will be invited to pitch in. If you would like to help donate goodies, please use this link

[SignUp Genius Cup of Cheer](#)

Or let Kay know. **Please bring your items to church by Sunday, Nov. 30.** If you volunteer to deliver a cup and goodies, they will be ready to go when we are done on Dec. 7. Questions? Reach out to the church office: office@rlcfw.org or to Kay Humbert. Thank you!



It's Turkey Time!



We are starting to collect donations of money for the ST. MATTS FOOD BANK so that they can supply Thanksgiving meals for the folks that use their food bank. There is a Turkey box and a food box at the Welcome Center for you to drop your donations. Checks should be made to Resurrection Lutheran Church with a note that it is for the food bank.



THE BRIDGE — 20/30 GROUP —

The Bridge 20/30, is a growing group of young adults in their 20s and 30s from across the Fort Wayne area. it was started this year by members of local Lutheran churches as a way to build community, strengthen faith, and provide a welcoming place for young adults to connect.

We meet every **Tuesday evening** for a mix of Bible study, devotions, service, and social events. Each week looks a little different—sometimes it's a study or devotion night, other times it's a casual meetup or game night—but the goal is always the same: faith, fellowship, and friendship.



NOVEMBER EVENT SCHEDULE

FACEBOOK: BRIDGE 20/30 GROUP FT. WAYNE | INSTAGRAM: THEBRIDGE2030

4
NOV 2025

MEETUP - RACK & HELEN'S
TRIVIA | TACO TUESDAY

7 PM 525 BROADWAY STREET
NEW HAVEN, IN

11
NOV 2025

THE PORCH NIGHT: SERIES ON VANITY: A STUDY OF THE
BOOK OF ECCLESIASTES

BRING A BLANK T-SHIRT & GET FREE 20/30 BRIDGE
SCREEN PRINT BY ANNIE!
7 PM HOLY CROSS YOUTH CENTER
3420 N. ANTHONY BLVD

18
NOV 2025

THANKS & GIVING: PROJECT 216 SERVICE PROJECT
FOOD PACKING EVENT TO FIGHT HUNGER FOLLOWED
BY FELLOWSHIP

7 PM 3020 CONGRESSIONAL
PARKWAY, FT. WAYNE

25
NOV 2025

FRIENDSGIVING

BRING A DISH TO SHARE & GRATITUDE DEVOTION

7 PM THE GARDEN
3308 N. ANTHONY BLVD

November Anniversaries

5	Tom & Glennie Monroe, 47 years
6	Tim & Kelley Bawmann, 31 years
21	Pastor Will & Sue Smith, 26 years
29	John & Dianne Joustra, 21 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!

November Birthdays

2	Cynthia Sherrill Christie Serre
3	Forrest Van Gundy
5	Joshua Braun
7	Dave Berggren
8	Misty Burgett
11	Blain Keith
14	Kay Humbert
15	Janet Eby Kenzie DeKoninck
16	Jeff Dennis
17	David Ibe Cannon Schlichter
20	Cole Hoot
21	Kenric McCrory Darlene Lebrecht
24	Joy Poinsett Dave Exner Stephanie Spencer
27	Samantha Gerber
30	Patricia Gottschalk Dana 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
Family of Kaylin Howard
Mary Paonessa
Gustavo
Bailey Beyer
Jaidyn Beyer
Sandra Bruce
Andra Blume
Marc Young
Stephen Ministry Trainees
Family of Cindy King
John Westrem
Kevin Rigby

Military Service:

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

Homebound:

Cindy Dankert
Cheryl Goble
Pat Norris
Pat Poinsett
Wendy Jackson



Resurrection Lutheran Church

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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