



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

Christian. Nationalism. Patriot.

What are we to do in today's world with people screaming, through every channel possible, words and themes that are meant to scare and enrage? The powerful are using their treasures of wealth, technology, professionals, and webs of influence to hijack our emotions and chosen identity markers to serve their own agendas and goals. It is a world where algorithms and the profit driven determine much of the information we receive, and the ignorant, conspiracists, and extremists can amplify their voice around the world. It is a world where we are still humans that wrestle with our personal limitations, vices, and brokenness. In this soup how are we to know what thoughts are our own? What is really spurring our emotions? Is any of it true? What is a Christian to do? As a Christian and an American, I continue to prayerfully listen to the noise and to sit in silence, and I have discerned some things that have been helpful to me.

First, let's look at those three words because the way that they get thrown around is very problematic. **Christian**, according to Merriam-Webster, is one who professes belief in the teachings of Jesus. The problem is that Christians vehemently disagree about what Jesus' teachings call us to prioritize, believe and do. **Nationalism**, according to Merriam-Webster, is an ideology that elevates one nation, its culture and interests, above all others. The problem with nationalism is threefold. First, Christians' nationality is God's reign, God's kingdom. It has no borders. Second, the culture of our nationalism is servanthood, and our national interest is with justice, mercy, and care for the least of us. Third, unless people recognize collaboration and equality as essential to every culture and interest, nationalism will always lead to conflict between countries. How Christians' actual nationalism influences American values is

penned in the first line of the Declaration of Independence and inscribed on the Statue of Liberty.

Patriot, according to Merriam-Webster, is one who loves and supports their country. The problem with patriotism is that love can make people do crazy and sometimes hateful things. It is problematic when it leads to ends

justifying means and unfair relationships with other peoples. It is also problematic when it gets used to elevate a certain way of loving country while demonizing another. Words matter. How they are used matters. Why particular words are used matters. We must listen closely whenever people use these three words, ESPECIALLY when they are being used by people with whom we find ourselves agreeing.

All that said, there is only one Christian nation, and it is not the United States, and it is not only for Christians. Christians are called to bless the world's nations in which they live. Christians are called to be active in their systems of government to advance the causes of justice and mercy. They are to live out their faith in the everyday world by loving their neighbor with an emphasis on the marginalized and vulnerable. No amount of grandstanding will change this reality or these obligations.



Rev. William H. Smith

A Christian American, active in worldly politics, first recognizes the first amendment rejection of any one religion's marriage to government as a good thing. If we were to determine that the US was to be a Christian nation, we would first have to determine which flavor of Christian that would be, and I am not comfortable with anyone besides Jesus himself making that decision. But if we did, it would require us to erase every law and system of power that did not conform completely to the only two laws we could ever have: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your might AND your neighbor as yourself. It would require our reputation around the world to be founded on our love for one another, not our might or wealth. It would require the beatitudes to be posted in every courtroom, government building and classroom

(Luke 6:20-26), not the ten commandments. And citizenship would require living out all of Matthew chapters 5-7 and Luke chapter 6. I encourage you to read those for yourself.

Both your freedom in this nation and this denomination of Christian mean that you do not have to conform to my reflection. I do not offer it as the answer to what is a very complex set of issues. I hope, however, that it offers you some ideas that help you reflect on your own thoughts and feelings. I hope that it can add to the world of finding common ground around the common good and an increase of civil discourse and individual character and conduct.

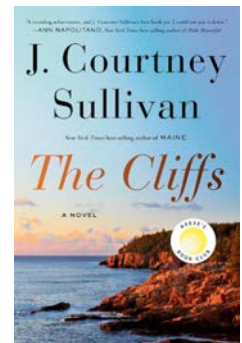
I will write on the use of fear and might in November.

The Lord be with you.

Pastor Smith



October is a busy month for book club!! We are meeting on **Thursday, October 2nd at 6:30 at church**. Please remember to bring your book recommendations for our future reading list. We will discuss the book, *The Cliffs* by J. Courtney Sullivan, A novel of family, secrets, ghosts, and homecoming set on the seaside cliffs of Maine. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Betty McCrory at 260-402-4447. One last thing, don't forget to bring a package of diapers to support Baby's Closet!



Another exciting event is Our People of the Book speaker, Mitch Albom, on **October 21st at 7:30 at PFW, Auer Performance Hall**. He is the author of *Tuesdays with Morrie*, along with many other books.

If you are interested in attending this event, please RSVP to Betty McCrory at 260-402-4447.

MINISTRY FEST

2025 Update



1. Garden Keepers

A big thank you to everyone who helped to make the fest wonderful. There were plenty of people that stayed for lunch and that visited the tables. There were about a dozen neighborhood people that attended, a few of the kids from the neighborhood are regular attendees at our events and we were glad to see them.



2. Youth Group

I need your help in determining the best table. There were 4 worthy of mention, Youth, Trunk or Treat, Fellowship and Garden Keepers. Please drop me a text or an email with your vote at 808-326-1331 or email at esther.meyers@live.com.



3. Fellowship



4. Trunk or Treat



HAPPENINGS

Fall Garage Sale and Bake Sale October 10th and 11th

FRIDAY

8 am – 5 pm

SATURDAY

8 am – 12 noon

GARAGE SALE!

It's Fall Garage Sale time!

It's time to bring us your Junk for Jesus for the Garage Sale! We are using the 1st classroom on the right and the Youth Room to put items in. Please drop off your items by Wednesday October 8th. Also, we are in need of volunteers to help set up, organize and price, be there the days of the sale to help, and people to help pack up and deliver leftover items to donate. We also are looking for anyone with a truck that could help us Saturday October 11 from 12-2.

Bake Sale

Along with the garage sale we also have a bake sale. If you would like to donate any baked goods please drop off at the church and put in the kitchen, marked Bake Sale by Thursday evening October 9th.

To sign up to help with the garage sale or baked goods please sign up using the link below, or contact Sue Smith.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D48A5AE2BA6FB6-59086538-youth>

Getting ready for the Garage sale



First Youth Meeting



The youth had their first meeting of the fall on September 14th. We had 11 youth join us to plan for the year. At our first meeting we talked about what the youth want to do for service projects, service trips, retreats, and fun outings. We also talked about what things are stressful in their lives right now. Then we worked on a Statement of Purpose. Pastor helped with this process.

The Youth Groups Statement of Purpose for this year is:

As a group we will have fun while serving and supporting others in community.

We will be respectful by respecting boundaries, listening and loving others as they are. We will keep confidentiality and not gossip to create a safe space to expand and discover our faith.

Huntertown Halloween



**Friday October 24th and
Saturday October 25th**

For the past few years Resurrection has been participating in the Huntertown Park Halloween weekend. Friday night the McCroy, Popovich and Lowenstein families sets up a table and hands out candy and Saturday night the youth group hands out candy. Last year over 4,000 people went through over the weekend. Donations of candy that will be passed out at this event can be placed in the basket in the Welcome Center, thank you!

Youth Calendar

October 5	Set up for Garage Sale Parents and siblings encouraged to attend. Lunch will be provided.	11am-1pm
October 6-9	Set up/price for Garage Sale	See Sign Up
October 10	Garage Sale	8-5
October 11	Garage Sale	8-12
October 11	Garage Sale Clean-up	12-2
October 13	Wizards World	12-2
October 25	Huntertown Halloween	4-8
October 26	Confirmation	11-12
October 26	Trunk or Treat	4-6
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 or 14	Angel Tree @ Salvation Army	TBD
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 to 24 or July 20 to 25	Youth Service Trip	TBD



YOUR SERVICE MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Everyone is welcome to the **2025 Fall Service Day!**

Saturday, October 25 from 9 am- 2 pm.

Rain or Shine – projects for everyone.

Join us to winterize the camps!

Lake Luther
5215 N 450 W
Angola IN

Lutheran Hills
6371 Bear Creek Rd.
Morgantown IN

Lutherwald
2065 W. SR 120
Howe IN

✓ Deep Cleaning

✓ Window Washing

✓ Leaf Removal

✓ Winterizing Waterfronts

✓ Log Splitting

✓ Trail Trimming

Donuts, Coffee & Lunch Provided

RSVP to Jacob by text 260-229-7324 or email
jacob@lomik.org. Share names of those attending, location,
dietary restrictions & project preferences.



Resurrection Community Park News Update

Exciting things are happening in the park!

The cement pavilion pad has been poured and excavation around the pavilion pad is ongoing.

Excavation on the playground area is well underway with the cement curbs being poured this week.

Materials for the construction of the pavilion and the hardware for the playground have been ordered with delivery coming at a later date.



Trunk
or
Treat



Come and join us for a fun and spooky afternoon at our **Trunk or Treat** event at **Resurrection Lutheran Church** on **Sunday, October 26, 4pm– 6pm**. There will be free hot dogs, chips and drinks. There will be a sign-up sheet in the welcome center for all who want to decorate their trunk. Prizes will be awarded for best decorated trunk. There is a basket in the welcome center for candy donations, thank you!

October Anniversaries

4	Dan & Carol Exner, 45 years
8	Cy & Amanda Bentley, 9 years
13	Ashley & David Brzezinski, 18 years
14	Jon & Connie Mitler, 47 years
17	Walter & Karen Fisher, 10 years
18	Josh & Abby Fern, 17 years
27	Dave & Sherry Avery, 46 years Wade & Julia Marsh, 7 years
30	Jennifer Gator, 32 years



October Birthdays

1	Terry Eby Susan Soden
3	Andrea Munsch
4	Hudson DeKoninck Walter Fisher
6	Lydia Munsch John Phillips
9	Finnley Gerber Sue Smith
10	Danny King
14	Eldon Anderson Ron Chesser
19	Connie Mitler
21	Dick Van Horn
26	Gene Sonnenberg
30	Laura Weesner

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
Muriel
Ashton Creek
Caleb
Ed Carnahan

Danny Carnahan
Susie Carnahan
Dema Saxton
Craig
Annie Wood
Jeff Wolf
Family of Kaylin
Howard
Mary Paonessa
Gustavo

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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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