



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

To my siblings in Christ,

She was dying. Her age made it expected but the three-week transition from an active and independent life to lying here had still been a bit of a shock. The in-and-out-and-back-in-again ER experience, the flurry of tests and specialists; the seemingly tidal flood of visits and phone calls from family and friends as news spread, and the addition of hospice nurses to her list of house guests was enough to make anyone dizzy. And now her pastor was sitting by her bed visiting while the three ring circus continued in the rest of her house.

She had been a "good" Christian her whole life. Sundays were for worship, Sunday school and family dinners. Giving to the church was always the first check written. Volunteering for the church and at the public school were a part of life. She was someone you would call if there was a need.

I had known her for close to ten years, so what she said in the middle of our conversation shocked me a little. "Pastor, I just hope that I have been good enough for Jesus to let me in when I die." All these years later, that moment has stuck with me. Her words have stuck with me. Steeped her entire life in the gospel of God's grace and unconditional love, somehow that need to earn and prove had still taken root in her heart. And though it was easy to speak to her fears with that gospel, her worry stopped me in my tracks.

How could this woman not get this foundational part of faith, that her life after death was assured by grace? Over the years, that question has made me realize that the message of grace is unbelievable. When we take into consideration all the voices, messages and agendas, both external and internal, that fill all the hours of the week, the truly miraculous thing is that this gospel,

this good news of God's gracious love has managed to survive at all! That it gain our attention, however fleetingly, is a testament to its durability and power. It doesn't fit what we know to be true.

Words like earn, prove, deserve, win, and control, make sense in this world. We know all about attaching strings, small print, and red tape. We know that people are nice to us when they want something from us. We know that people will take advantage, take what isn't theirs, take what they can get. We know that worth is determined by usefulness and that value is measured by performance and success. But most of all, we know that if something seems to be too good to be true, it is. And Jesus, by every measure, is too good to be true.

So, what do we do with the impossibility of that which we are called to believe? I tell you what I told her. God loves you. God is excited to be gracious. Your salvation is sure, and the gift of eternal life is something we have right now, even if we are lying in a bed waiting to die. God loves you. God is excited to be gracious. And it is okay if that is hard to believe. God doesn't depend on our faith to be God. We depend on God to be faithful. And God is faithful.



Rev. William H. Smith

continued on page 2

continued from page 1

It really is too good to be true, but it is true, nonetheless. It really is hard to believe, so your doubts and your divided loyalties are to be expected. The miracle is that we were able to hear God's words of grace and love over all the other noise. The miracle is that we keep being brought back to the gospel. The miracle is that we keep recommitting, keep re-believing, keep striving to hold to the only thing that was ever real, and the only thing that will ever be true. We live because we are made alive. We love because we are loved. We forgive because we are forgiven. We give as those who have received. We believe because God has believed in us. And all of this isn't because we've done enough or believed enough but because of grace.

The Lord be with you.
Pastor Smith



Just Neighbors

INTERFAITH HOMELESS NETWORK

Our next rotation to provide meals for Just Neighbors will be Sunday, August 10th to Friday, August 15th.

There is still a need for Tuesday, August 12 & Wednesday, August 13. Food must be taken to the administration building (2925 E. State Blvd) rather than the adjoining house. Please be sure all foods are in disposable containers. You may drop off the food anytime on your chosen day before 5 PM.

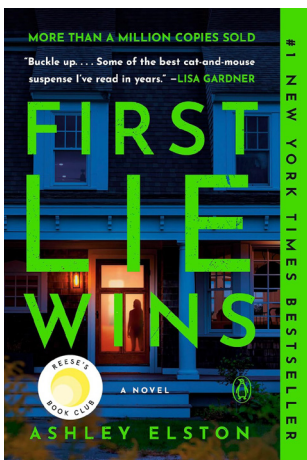
The exact number of guests will be provided as the dates draw closer. Current guest numbers are updated daily on the Just Neighbors website. Go to: ihnfamily.org

You are welcome to take a whole meal by yourself or partner with someone and coordinate your meal together. You may also reach out to local restaurants to see if they would offer special pricing for meals for this worthy cause. If you use a restaurant, you would still be responsible for ensuring delivery of the meal to JNHN.

Thank you for being a blessing!



**PLEASE
SCAN
THE
QR CODE
TO SIGN UP.**



Our next meeting is on Thursday, August 7th at 6:30 at church

Andra Blume will be our host to discuss and review the book; *First Lie Wins* by Ashley Elston, a thriller about a con artist who takes on different identities and lies to survive. Find out who Evie Porter really is, what she does for a living, and why she can't leave her past behind.

We would love to have new members. All are welcome. Don't forget to bring a package of diapers for Baby's Closet!

Please RSVP to Andra Bloom at 219-863-6348 if you would like to join us.



Thrivent Action Team Grants

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

We have created a spreadsheet to keep track of ongoing projects.

Click here to access the spreadsheet:
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1-DHMoV8ZvHRf6mL2BkbSz1U-YHjfnR6/edit?gid=494955354#gid=494955354>

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 Thrivent is quick to respond and send out the supplies. Thank you for your support of RLC ministries!

Apply online:
<https://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-action-teams>



Resurrection Community Park News

Annual Butterfly Event Thursday, August 14 6:30 pm

Please join Mary Ibe for the **Annual Butterfly Event** at RLC Park with regional monarch butterfly expert Deb Smith! Deb has collected, raised and released hundreds of butterflies over the years. You will learn about butterfly life cycles, habitat preferences and tips for raising caterpillars to butterflies. The event will conclude with a butterfly hunt in Resurrection Park and you can take home any eggs or caterpillars you find to raise and release.

All materials will be provided free of charge. Come out and experience the RLC park pollinators!
Open to the public.



HAPPENINGS

Youth Service Trip to North Carolina

As I am writing this, I am taking a break from getting ready to leave on the Youth Service Trip to North Carolina. By break I mean typing this article while riding in the car with Pastor, to go pick up the rental van.

So, what is the difference between a Service Trip and a Mission Trip? Pastor and I had a conversation about this in our staff meeting this week about how we don't do Mission Trips, we do Service Trips. The reason behind this is, the agenda of a Mission Trip is to save souls and convert people to your particular version of Christianity. As ELCA Lutheran's we believe that God gave his son to provide salvation for all. Saving souls is not our job, that was God's job. Our job is to love and serve our neighbors. We serve because we have been served. In a disaster area, people are in need of just that. So, we will join other volunteers as we love and serve our siblings of western North Carolina. While reading through our welcome packet from Lutheran Disaster Relief, they too emphasize that we are there to serve as God's hands and feet, not to convert or bible beat, but to love through service. Join us August 3rd during worship to hear about the trip as our youth lead worship.

Youth Calendar

August 3rd

Youth Sunday

Youth will participate in the service, all youth are welcome to participate but we would like to have those who went on the Service Trip there to share about the trip, or help in the service.

September 7

Ministry Fest, After Worship

This is a great time to bring friends or family to come see what Resurrection has to offer. There will be Goodie Bags at the youth table for those in 6-12 grade. Games, food, prizes, bouncy house etc.

September 14

Youth Welcome Meeting, 11am-1pm

September 21

Volunteering, TBD

Helping Emmanuel Lutheran Church with their event celebrating 150 Years

September 28

Youth/Parent Meeting, After Worship

October

Garage Sale, TBD

October 24 or 25

Huntertown Halloween, TBD

October 26

Trunk or Treat, TBD

RIC (Reconciling In Christ)

A team has been meeting monthly since February to engage and revise the Reconciling Works program for deepening RLC's welcome and clarifying its commitment to inclusion for all people. As an extension of our mission statement, "being an example of God's acceptance and grace for all" the team's work will culminate in a welcome statement for the congregation, and Resurrection's certification as a RIC congregation. This will mean that individuals seeking an inclusive and affirming church will be able to find Resurrection more easily.

The activity of the team will work to make Resurrection more aware of the experience of those regularly excluded by the larger society based on such factors as economics, education, ethnicity, cultural norms and disabilities. Using this process, an emphasis is placed on the LGBTQ+ community. The team is working toward providing opportunities for the congregation to engage learning materials and guest presenters in group settings. They recognize the need for people to have a safe place to be heard, to have questions answered, concerns addressed, and for tending points of confusion and genuine ignorance. The point is for guests to experience us as a church that

lives out its welcome statement: Working to have a greater awareness of the very different experience base and perspective of some of our neighbors. Working to understand what welcome and inclusion looks like for them. Working to identify and remove obstacles to proper diversity within Resurrection's own makeup.

With the direction of Pastor John Roberts (pastor at Emmanuel), the team is currently exploring the book, "Those Seven References". This will likely be the resource used for Resurrection's first group study led by the RIC Team. Keep your eye out for this important opportunity. If you would like to speak with a member of the team, please feel free to contact Dave Avery or Sue Smith. Please reach out to them or Pastor Smith if you would like to find another member of the team to connect with.

And remember, pursuing this work does not require conformity by Resurrection members. What is needed is a mutual commitment to compassion and respect. What is being encouraged is a willingness to grow in the understanding of and inclusion of those who are different than ourselves. Ultimately, true success requires the grace-filled inclusion of those with whom we differ.

**THANK
YOU!**

**Some of you may not know that my biological father passed away in June. Though our relationship was almost non-existent, I wanted to be there for the services and with my siblings. I am so thankful for the flexibility that was provided for pastor and I to be able to get away last minute for a few days. I also appreciate everyone being understanding in me getting behind on some things. I was told on more than one occasion not to apologize for being behind. So, instead I say
Thank you!**

I am so thankful!!

With thanks and praise I have been watching the changes in the park and the steps closer to what a few people back in 2011 dreamed that it could be!

Thanks to:

- All of those who helped make the dream of a labyrinth come to fruition
- Workers, dreamers, those who donated, wrote grants and spent hours and hours deciding what it could and should look like
- Those who have mowed, watered, sprayed for bugs and weeds
- Those who are working with the construction people on the paths, pavilion, and the new awesome playground



- The scouts who did the projects in the park, fitness stations, the fire pit, the wood shed
- Those who have donated trees and benches
- A special person who did all the music stations
- Those who have scheduled events for Resurrection folks and those who hosted events for the community (from bounce houses, to concerts, to ice cream that never froze because it was too hot :-)) to butterfly events, to geocaches, to scavenger hunts.

The list and possibilities make my heart sing!

A special shout out to a few people who have been working on this dream since the beginning and still are: Mary Ibe, Lee Humbert, John Phillips, Perry and Sue Shilts

And to those of you who have joined the team, Sheila and Bob Hudson. Zach Braun and Dave Avery (and all the families of these people who help out too!)

Thank you so much! You should all be proud of what has been and what will be. It makes my heart sing and I know it is a great addition to the community!

Peace and blessings!

Barb Limbach

MINISTRY FEST

DISCOVER WHAT HAPPENS AT RLC



Sunday, September 7, 2025 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Ministry Fest is one Sunday a year when all the group leaders present to the congregation an overview of what each does and how we make worship and community better. This year, we're thinking big. The community at large has been invited to attend. There will be park activities, games, prizes, food, and best of all, a new aspect of competition for the groups. There will be a trophy for the best display. So be sure to be creative when you design your space.

Esther will be sending out a copy of the layout to the group and team leaders. Be sure to review and advise if there are any changes needed. (We may even have a summer Santa presence).



**SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP
TO HELP WITH THE EVENT.**

THANK YOU!

August Birthdays

2	Josh Fern
3	Perri Lowenstein
4	Amanda Bentley Emory Grosjean
8	Wesley Hoot
9	Lela Dunn Glennie Monroe
10	Ed Goebel
11	Dave Dankert Laura Whitworth
13	Caitlin McCudden
14	Keontre Hughes
15	Becky Palu
17	Ben Grosjean
18	Benjamin Wietfeldt
19	Cheri Seigel
21	Ava Johnson
24	Misty Hughes
27	Caiden King

**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!**

August Anniversaries

5	Robert & Susan Soden, 47 years
7	Dave & Judy Berggren, 43 years
12	Nate & Lorah Weesner, 25 years
13	Eldon & Mary Anderson, 59 years
14	Gene & Julie Sonnenberg, 49 years
15	David & Mary Ibe, 38 years
16	Donald & Deborah Kennedy, 28 years Ken & Betty McCrory, 50 years
19	John & Karen Phillips, 58 years
22	Jon & Andrea Munsch, 16 years
25	Richard & Donna Baccari, 41 years Ben & Shery Grosjean, 18 years
27	Jeff & Steph Spencer, 14 years



PRAY FOR



Dot
Ed Carnahan
Danny Carnahan
Susie Carnahan
Dema Saxton
Craig
Annie Wood
Bill Busching
Ruby C

Mary Paonessa
Ken Baranowski
Scott Williams
Denise DuBois
Muriel
Ashton Creek
Caleb
Jeff Wolf

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

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*

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

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