

VOL XLIII

May 2023

NO 5

the **Resurrectionist**

We are an inviting community of faith where we care for all.

As spring moves into summer, we enjoy more light each day. It's hard to see anything in the dark. It's hard to know where to walk in the dark. God's light lights our path.



"You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead, they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:14-16

As you continue on building a closer relationship with God, don't keep your light hidden. Think of ways to be of service and let your light shine!

Pastor's Pen

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

May is usually a busy month and this May is no exception. You all know about Mother's Day and graduation days. Here's a celebration that may be new for you. Rogate (say *rō'ga.tē*) We will celebrate this at the end of our worship service on May 7. So, what is this special day? In short, Rogate is a blessing of the fields and gardens and we will bless our new community garden at this time. Here's a bit more about Rogate. Perhaps more than you would like to know, but here it is. This is taken from Augsburg Fortress "Sundays and Seasons." c/2023

What is Rogate?

"Stewardship of creation is an ongoing ministry in the church. The creation, which God declared good, is entrusted to the care of humankind. Exercising that care is one dimension of daily Christian discipleship. Rogation Days are a way for the church to honor God for the gift of creation and to pray for the land, the gift of labor, and the needs of all people."

Rogation Days were traditionally celebrated during the fifty days of Easter on the Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday before Ascension Day. The word, Rogation, has its roots in the Latin word "rogare" which means to ask or petition and it comes from the ancient introit for the Sunday preceding the Ascension. In some places, the celebrations of Rogation Days were quite elaborate and included processions from the church to and around fields while asking for God's blessing.

Churches that have maintained the practice of celebrating Rogation Days in our time now no longer mark these days specifically before Ascension. Instead, Rogation Days are celebrated at times and places that meet local needs. With an increased awareness of the need for the stewardship of creation both within the church and within contemporary culture, the themes of thanksgiving for the land and petitions for a fruitful earth may be adapted around broader cultural celebrations of Earth Day or at other times.

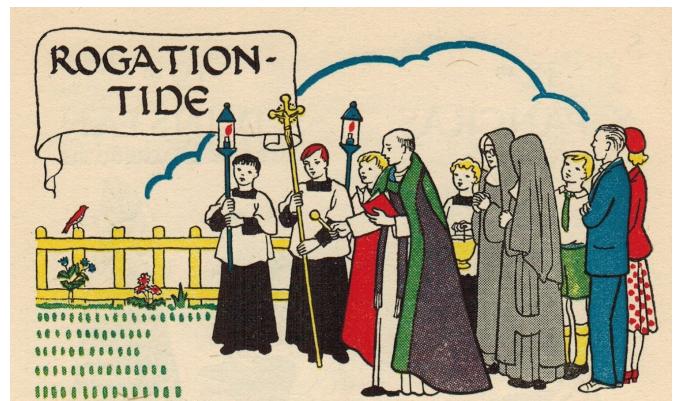
Although Rogation Days are agricultural celebrations, they are not solely for rural congregations. These days underscore the dependence of all people, urban and rural, on the fruitfulness of the earth and human labor."

During our Rogate celebration we will ask God's blessing upon the soil, seeds and water. During the final hymn we will process out of our worship space to the entrance hall. There will be a short scripture reading and then the prayers. At the close of the blessing you will be invited to take home a packet of seeds to plant in your garden.

Look elsewhere in the newsletter for details of upcoming workdays and a special day which will be attended by our mayor.

Peace be with you and yours,

Pastor Jan



President's Message

Did you enjoy our Easter service? Was it a pleasure to see some familiar faces that haven't been at church very often? Did we testify to our faith that Jesus did rise from the tomb, a sure sign that we are reconciled with God, no longer separated by our sins. With hymns and acclamations of Alleluia, we realized the great sacrifice and love of our God. Jesus returned to give the gift of the Holy Spirit which completely turned the defeat of death into the birth and establishment of the early Christian church. And that church survives today despite ignorance, wars, persecution, science, and indifference.

Our purpose as a church is to keep the faith alive, to share it with others who fail to understand the importance of a life with Christ at the center. It is easy on Easter Sunday, but harder at other times.

We are getting older, with less energy, less enthusiasm, and maybe less tolerance. If we don't like our next pastor, or organist, or church leader, we just quit, pull back and/or stop coming. The church that has been the anchor of our faith, among our family of fellow believers can no longer be tolerated if we chant too much, sing from the wrong hymnal, read from the pulpit, preach too quietly, preach too long, or try something different. How did Christianity survive for 2000 years?

Let's listen to our concerns, and overcome the barriers that are keeping us from engaging in the service and connecting with our Savior. We want this worship service to be inviting, to new members and a new pastor. On April 30th, and approximately every three months, we can gather after the service and discuss issues and concerns that arise. Together we can work out our differences. All voices are welcome. He hears us all.

Peace be with you,
Jim Lieber





News & Updates



We collected \$1800 from Lenten Offerings to support local residents challenged by their utility bills. The money will be forwarded to SACO (St. Ambrose Community Outreach).



Please join us as we celebrate the life our beloved Jeanette Belfield on Saturday, May 6 at 11:00 am at Resurrection Lutheran Church. Join her family in honoring and remembering the beautiful life of one of our most charming senior parishioners.

Defibrillator Project Update

We still do not have a firm delivery date for the defibrillator. But as soon as we do, training will be scheduled for any of our members who wish to be prepared for its use in an emergency.

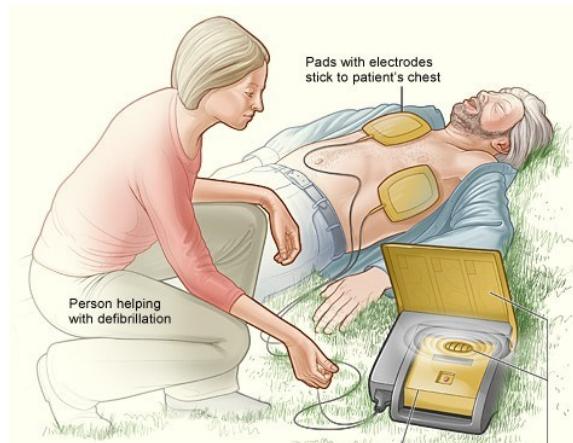
Also, arrangements have been made for CPR training. The cost for CPR training is \$29 per person but there will not be any charge to Resurrection members -- that will just be included with the cost of the project.

The Men's Group is handling the project and will back whatever cost is not covered by contributions from concerned members, plus an intended application for funds from Thrivent. If we are fortunate enough to collect more than our costs, the extra will go to youth programs.

**DONATION ENVELOPES WILL BE PROVIDED
AT THE GREETER TABLE IN THE NARTHEX**

The Men's Group is still considering this being turned into a community project. Basically, other churches would be invited to see how Resurrection has prepared for a medical emergency. We would encourage them to become prepared with a defibrillator. We would also offer them the CPR training for a fee.

More updates to follow,
The Men's Group





Blood Drive Resurrection Lutheran Church

Multi-purpose room
1211 W. Homer Adams Pkwy
Godfrey, IL 62035

Wednesday, May 31, 2023
1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: RLGodfrey to schedule an appointment.



Scan to be directed to
RapidPass®



Get summer ready. Come give 5/20 through 5/31 for an exclusive Red Cross beach towel, while they last!



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

Be part of something big. Make an appointment.

1-800-RED CROSS | RedCrossBlood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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Social Ministry

Below, you will find additional updates and news from our Social Ministry Team not already highlighted as upcoming events and/or projects seen throughout the newsletter.

(1)

Overnight Warming Centers Alton - Volunteers were notified on the last day of March that they were officially done for the season. They helped keep our neighbors warm on 17 dangerously cold nights. There was an annual end of season cleaning day held April 15th followed by a Celebration Dinner on April 16. Thanks to anyone who may have contributed to these efforts.

*Impact: **Compassion for Everyone (Resurrection guiding principle).** We open our hearts and minds to hear God's word and call, then act on the invitation to volunteer. If not through direct on-site involvement, then responding to specific requests for needed items.*

(2)

Graceful Nails at Evergreen Place- Most residents of this facility experience various stages of memory loss and/or significant physical health limitations. Tender touch and sense of style are perhaps most meaningful to seniors who have the life experience to truly appreciate nail services. Elderly residents have likely outlived their spouses and lack enjoyable human interaction in their day-to-day schedules. Volunteers will provide conversation, basic nail painting and hand massages to residents. This monthly Senior Ministry began in April. More volunteers are welcome to join in. The number of participants will depend upon available volunteers. A Sign-Up sheet for volunteers and requested supplies is hanging on the bulletin board in the hallway.

*Impact: **Creatively Growing in Service (Resurrection guiding principle).** Volunteers and participants will both experience Christ-like kindness and compassion through gentle touch and conversation.*



(3)

Madison County Child Advocacy Center, Wood River- Members toured the facility, met therapeutic staff and investigators on April 28. Wish List items of quart and gallon plastic bags were collected during April and delivered on the day of the visit. Thank you for your support.

*Impact: **Faithful in caring (Resurrection Guiding Principle).** Participating members will continue to be educated about issues and treatment of childhood sexual abuse and severe physical abuse in Madison & Bond Counties. Program is a best practice national model.*

(4)

The Resurrection Card Ministry is ongoing. Donated cards are appreciated when left in the basket on the countertop in the narthex. Personalized greeting cards are sent to individuals on prayer lists, follow-up to illnesses or absence from church, birthdays and anniversaries. Positive comments have been received from recipients. If you would like to assist in this compassionate cause, please contact Sharon.

Impact: Members and friends will not feel forgotten if not able to be in regular attendance at worship, church activities, or during times of loss or other difficulties.



(5)

On April 23 the Social Ministry Team assisted parishioners with writing letters reference the global and domestic hunger initiative. Samples and instructions were provided to those who attended. Information is on display in the narthex as well or feel free contact Sharon Groh with any questions. The letters are directed to state and national members of Congress regarding education of, and support for, the 2023 Farm Bill. This nationwide Christian citizens movement repeatedly wins large-scale change for people struggling with hunger in this country and around the world.

*Impact: **Faithful in Caring (Resurrection guiding principle).** In addition to learning about global and domestic hunger issues, members take specific advocacy steps with political leaders by writing letters and/or contacting representatives to support necessary funding for identified programs.*

(6)

Alton Food Crisis Center- food items and “Birthday in a Bag” items are delivered almost weekly, depending upon donations received. Please give generous. The donation barrel is readily seen in the narthex on most Sundays. Volunteer opportunities are available to help sort food, pack bags, load items into vehicles or work in the clothing store at the Crisis Center.

*Impact: **Compassion for Everyone (Resurrection guiding principle).** Routinely donate needed food items to those in our community who are struggling financially and emotionally.*

God's Blessings,
Sharon Groh
404-432-3942 (text or call)



Current members: Sharon Groh, Mark Groh, Ann & David Isringhausen, Judy Kelley, and Carol Garner.

Community Garden

The Community Garden Seed Planting will take place on May 13th at 9:00 am.

With winter's last freeze behind us, please join us for the planting of the seedlings and seeds for the garden. **Alton Mayor Goins is joining us**—please show your support by attending.

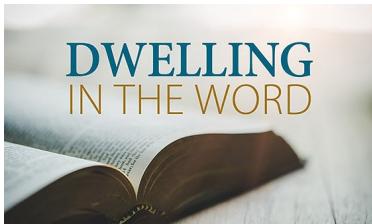


The Garden will be blessed on May 7 following the special Rogate service.



Sunday, May 14 we remember all our special Resurrection Mothers.

God's Blessings to each and every one of you for all that you do.



Dwelling in the Word

Mondays, 2-3 pm, with Pastor Jan leading

Join us May 8, 15 and 22

Highlight's from Church Council – March and April

REPORTS

- **Treasurer's Report March:** No discussion. Expenses were reported in the April newsletter.
- **Treasurer's Report April:** Total offering for the month was \$17,940, including Lenten Offerings. Total income was \$18,446. Because we are donating the Lenten Offerings, total Offering was \$16,835 and Total Income was \$17,341.
- **Pastor's Report:** Pastor felt that Holy Week was well received. Comments were made that the new sound system enhanced readings of the Passion and that worship was meaningful. Pastor attended the Faithful Innovations meeting. It was suggested that the team look into forming a Men's Bible Study. The team is forwarding that task to the Christian Education Cmte. New green paraments for the alter are being explored, possibly something a little more contemporary. Rather than ordering from a pricy catalog, Pastor suggested reaching out to a few sources on Etsy. The suggestion to construct a flower prayer cross, a cross adorned with artificial flowers where prayers are tucked in-between, was discussed. This cross would be made accessible to the public and the idea is being explored. Pastor Jan would like to do a Rogate service May 7. This is a special service blessing the fields and commerce. This service may incorporate blessing our new Community Garden. We look forward to seeing/hearing this special message. The request for more ELCA documents/resources on our Facebook page was made. Christine Simone who is currently in charge of Facebook will be contacted. Finally, she ended her report with the desire to replace the piano that left upon Harvey's resignation. Several people enjoyed the use and sound of a real piano in our church. Neal Booth will be seeking pianos from auctions, classifieds, etc. and report to council when one worth considering is possibly found. A budget of \$1500, to include tuning was set.
- **President's Report:** Jim has been in touch with Russ Henkhaus (former organist at Trinity) who has accepted the terms of the same contract that Harvey had. He will start in roughly a month. Council unanimously voted to hire Mr. Henkhaus. Jim advised additional shingles have loosened and/or blown off in recent winds/storms. He is going to attempt to make one of the repairs himself. He is hoping that we can scrape by with temporary repairs until next year when the mortgage is paid and the roof can be replaced.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- **IDOT Proposal:** Jim Lieber received a proposal for an IDOT payment of \$1,915.00 to "rent/buy" the point of our property for 5 years to allow the work on the roads. IDOT will be removing a few trees at their cost. A motion was made by Kay Tucker to accept the bid of \$1,950.00 from IDOT. Seconded by Sherry Wyatt. Motion passed
- **Mowing:** – A few bids were received by Alan Robertson. After discussion, a motion was made to accept Clark's Lawn Care Service to take over our grass mowing with a maximum amount of \$150 per mow by Robin Lusardi. The motion was seconded by Sherry Wyatt. The motion passed.
- **Roof/Shingles:** Jim Lieber spoke with GAF (shingle manufacturer) about the counter proposals Council came up with in February. GAF declined those options. A motion was made by Sherry Wyatt to accept the GAF offer of 70% shingle replacement. Robin Lusardi seconded. Motion passed. Roof replacement to take place in 2024.
- **AED:** Training the congregation in CPR and use of the AED was mentioned in the Feb. newsletter. However, it was discovered that cost would be \$30 a person with the names mentioned at the time. Cheaper options will be explored, as council felt that was far too expensive. The men's group will continue exploring different avenues for CPR training.

DISCUSSION ITEMS CONTINUED:

- **Quarterly Congregational Meetings:** Discussion included input from council and Pastor Jan. All thought that this is needed and would be a good vehicle for open dialog. The meeting is scheduled for April 30 after the church service.
- **Music Director:** With Harvey gone, Ken Rutiger will be helping out. Russ Henkhaus (former organist at Trinity) may be interested. Jim will be reaching out to him and some negotiations may be necessary.
- **Pulpit Questions:** There has been some heated chatter amongst the congregation and various committees in regard to use and placement of the pulpit. Pastor made the council aware of Martin Luther's example. She feels that this is a non-issue and the council agreed that the decision of where to stand, etc. is the Pastor's decision!

OTHER MATTERS:

- **Blood Drive:** Resurrection will host a Red Cross Blood Drive, May 31, 1-5 PM.
- **Alarm System:** Now that the new audio is in place, the alarm needs to be activated. No one is certain of the code(s) once used, so reprogramming the keypad with a new code and trying it out will be the next step.
- **Homebound:** Robin Lusardi brought up the concern that our homebound members have not received visits. Council discussed that this technically has not happened since Pastor Tegtmeier retired. She has volunteered to start doing so and is looking for others to help. This concern arose with the passing of her mother and no one was there to fill that need.

Committee Concerns: The Property Committee and the Worship Committee both need presidents. The Worship Committee now includes the following members: Sherry Wyatt, Kay Turcker, Karen Woods, Robin Lusardi, Ruth Wolter, and Elyse Tillman.



Please give Cindy Bonnell a sincere thank you for graciously tying two purple and white print fleece blankets / lap robes. They will be donated to the Oasis Center which cares for women and children's needs.

Cindy your talent is truly appreciated. And a thank you to Allison Callahan who donated the fleece for this worthy project. A gray and black one with dog faces was donated by a friend of Cindy who also wishes it to be given to the Oasis Center.





Men's Group Meeting will be May 11, at 6:00 pm in Young Hall. Dinner provided.

Adopt a Highway clean up at 5:00 pm . . . help is needed.

Dan Garner 618-792-1777



Thank you for another successful Easter Breakfast.

A huge THANKS to our cooks; Jim Heineman, Gary Neese, Tim Belfield, Joe Wyatt, Mike Gole, Rich Kelley and Mark Groh. Thanks to the great dessert makers as well. Approximately 44 members were served.

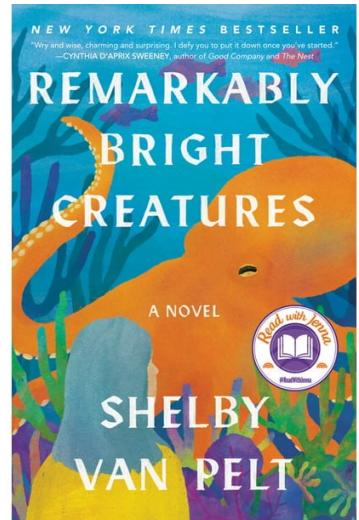
Book Club

Our May meeting is May 11th, 6:30 pm, at the church with Carol Garner as discussion leader. Her book choice is **Remarkably Bright Creatures** by **Shelby Van Pelt**. The Book is available at the local library.

This is a story about a lady working at an Aquarium who becomes acquainted with an octopus who helps to change her life in time of need. Currently on **Netflix** there is a wonderful movie called **The Octopus Teacher**. It is about a diver who became friends with an octopus and documented his adventure. The underwater scenery and animal life is truly beautiful and certainly educational.

Book Summary: "After Tova Sullivan's husband died, she began working the night shift at the Sowell Bay Aquarium, mopping floors and tidying up. Keeping busy has always helped her cope, which she's been doing since her eighteen-year-old son, Erik, mysteriously vanished on a boat in Puget Sound over thirty years ago. Tova becomes acquainted with curmudgeonly Marcellus, a giant Pacific octopus living at the aquarium. Marcellus knows more than anyone can imagine but wouldn't dream of lifting one of his eight arms for his human captors--until he forms a *remarkable* friendship with Tova. Ever the detective, Marcellus deduces what happened the night Tova's son disappeared. And now Marcellus must use every trick his old invertebrate body can muster to unearth the truth for her before it's too late" --

Thanks,
Ruth Wolter 618-433-1469



Lap Robes & Prayer Shawls

Prayer Shawls and Lap Robes are available for anyone you may know in need of comfort at a difficult time in their life, just to let them know someone does care. Whether it is an illness, loss of a loved one, bad circumstances or knowing they could use some TLC. The recipient does not have to be a member of our church, **we care for all!** On Sundays see Sherry Wyatt or Ruth Wolter, who will be happy to assist you. Or, you can call Ruth at home, 618-433-1469 who will be happy to meet you at the church for assistance.

Youth Programs

The Men's Group is sponsoring two teams this year for the Godfrey Park & Recreation summer programs. The sponsored boys' baseball team features our very own Brayden Broche. A girls' softball team is also being sponsored. Schedules of their games will be posted on the church bulletin board and website as soon as we receive them. Both teams will be wearing T-shirts bearing the Resurrection logo.

Members of Resurrection are encouraged to visit and watch the games, wear their own Resurrection T-shirts, meet the players and mingle with their parents. We intend to post the scores on the digital marquee as well. At the end of the season, we'll host a social for the teams and their families.

Thanks,
The Men's Group

GO Brayden GO !!!



Church services will continue to be live streamed each week. We are streaming to our Facebook page, the church website, YouTube, Riverbender.com, Riverbender's FB page and Riverbender.com TV (available through ROKU and Firestick). These efforts are made possible via Riverbender.com (The fee is \$50/week). Thank you to the camera operators who are helping continue our ministry. **Any additional volunteers would be greatly appreciated.**



- 6 Ashley Kinzel
- 16 Karen Woods
- 31 Mark Groh



- 10 Tim and Ruth Belfield
- 19 Dan and Carol Garner
Bud and Mary Elizabeth Jackson
- 21 David and Kay Tucker
- 22 Mike and Elyse Tillman

If you didn't see your name listed for a Birthday or Anniversary, please email Neal Booth to be added. Thanks.

FINANCIAL STATUS – March 2023

DEDICATED FUNDS BALANCE	\$57,738.03
GENERAL FUNDS CASH FLOW	\$7,143.72
GENERAL FUND BALANCE	\$24,184.82

	<u>3/1/2023 -</u>	<u>YEAR TO</u>
	<u>3/31/2023</u>	<u>DATE</u>
GENERAL FUNDS DETAIL		
Income		
Offering	\$16,835.46	\$40,469.61
Lenten Offering	\$1,105.30	\$1,200.30
Other Income	\$506.23	\$1,313.65
Total General Fund Income	\$18,446.99	\$42,983.56
Expenses		
Benevolence	\$305.00	\$885.00
Building and Grounds	\$1,511.55	\$4,596.51
Christian Education	\$0.00	\$0.00
Church Mortgage	\$2,608.00	\$7,824.00
Evangelism	\$0.00	\$394.77
Insurance	\$405.00	\$1,215.00
Office	\$379.36	\$1,651.27
Personnel Costs	\$832.21	\$832.21
Personnel Salaries	\$3,731.85	\$9,649.46
Social Ministry	\$0.00	\$0.00
Stewardship Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00
Worship	\$425.00	\$859.50
Total General Fund Expenses	\$10,197.97	\$27,907.72
General Funds Cash Flow	\$8,249.02	\$15,075.84

There was an increase in our offering, largely due to one parishioner who pays quarterly. Our Lenten Offerings are being donated locally to help with utility bills. Our income continues to grow primarily because Pastor Jan is an interim, not a full-time pastor. Still, PRAISE GOD for our offerings continuing to be strong and many people donating time and talent in addition to money.

May 2023

Sun **Mon** **Tue** **Wed** **Thu** **Fri** **Sat**

	1	2 Scouts 7pm	3	4	5	6
7 Bible Study 8:45a Rogate Worship 10am Worship Cmte. 11am	8 Dwelling in the Word 2pm	9 Scouts 7pm	10	11 Hwy Cleanup 5p Men's Group Meeting 6pm Book Club 6:30p	12	13 Comm. Garden Planting 9am 
14 Bible Study 8:45a Worship 10am	15 Dwelling in the Word 2pm	16 Scouts 7pm Church Council 7p	17	18	19	20
21 Bible Study 8:45a Worship 10am	22 Dwelling in the Word 2pm	23 Scouts 7pm	24	25 Newsletter Deadline 6PM	26	27
28 Bible Study 8:45a Worship 10am Social Cmte. Meeting at 11am	29	30 Soup's On 1st Presb. 10:30am  Scouts 7pm	31	<u>Rev. Jan S. Worms</u> gracious@midwest.net Office Hours by appointment 618-250-1608		

Rev. Jan S. Worms, Interim

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Jim Lieber, President
Robin Lusardi, Vice-President
Teresa Droste, Secretary
Kay Tucker, Treasurer
Neal Booth & Tammy Neese, *At Large Members*
Alan Robertson & Sherry Wyatt, *At Large Members*

CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Ruth Wolter, *Book Club*
Jim Lieber, *Christian Education, Evangelism*
Christine Simone, *Facebook, Youtube and Social Media*
Carol Garner, *Fellowship*
Kay Tucker, *Finance*
John Droste, *Financial Secretary*
Dan Garner, *Men's Group*
Keith Collier, *Mutual Ministry*
Russell Henkhaus, *Organist/Music Ministry*
Ruth Wolter, Sherry Wyatt, *Prayer Shawls*
VACANT, *Property*
Sharon Groh, *Social Ministry*
Dan Callahan, *Streaming Services/Technology Team*
Neal Booth, *Web Designer*
VACANT, *Worship*
Rich Kelley, *Faithful Innovations*

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<https://twitter.com/LutheranIL>

www.youtube.com/channel/UCvX9AiTlIQb2ZD76edJPifQ?

Service Time:

In-Person & Online 10AM

Resurrection Lutheran Church

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