

VOL XLIII

October 2023

NO 10

the Resurrectionist

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



Are Christians Like Pumpkins ? ? ?

In search of something to share with you for October, I stumbled upon a great article providing an analogy of Christians being like pumpkins. No, we obviously aren't round or orange. And, we obviously aren't filled with orange gunk and seeds. However, the comparison shared below gives us a great message of encouragement.

"It's like being a pumpkin:

God picks you from the patch, brings you in, and washes all the dirt off of you that may have come from the other pumpkins. Then he cuts the top off and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, etc. Then, He gives you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see."

Here are some thoughts gathered from this:

1.We are hand selected

God hand selects us. We are chosen!

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit- fruit that will last- and so that whatever you ask in my name the father will give you." – [John 15:16](#)

2. We're washed clean

We all know how dirty pumpkins can appear at times, whether picking one out from a pallet located in the center of the store, purchasing one from a local produce stand or even picking our own from a muddy field. In order to clean them, of course we have to wash them. The blood of Jesus washes away our sins, the things that make us as humans unclean. A pumpkin has an inside and an outside. Not only does God wash us clean from the outside, he removes our sin, and in doing so, we are washed clean and made new from the inside out. We are not captive to sin, or the shame that comes with it, because through Christ we are made new!

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come. The old has gone, the new is here!" – [2 Corinthians 5:17](#)

God carefully removes our seeds of doubt, hate, greed. Instead of holding onto these unfruitful seeds, God replaces them with seeds of faith, hope and love.

3. He gives us a smile

God brings such a joy to our lives, and our smiles are living proof of this.

"My lips will shout for joy when I sing praise to you- I whom you have delivered." – [Psalm 71:23](#)

4. He shines through us

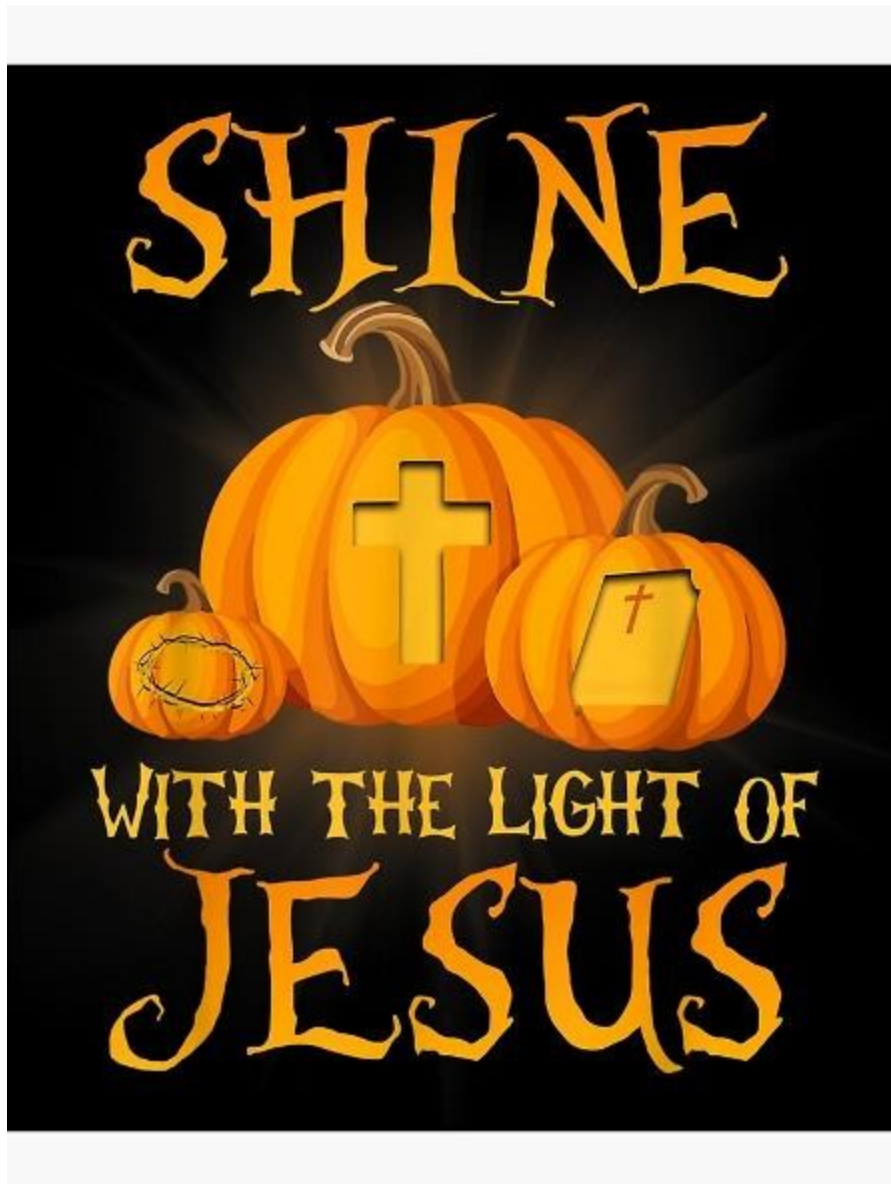
When Christ dwells in us, we shine through to the people around us. Through the darkness of this occasion, we can reflect His light to glorify our Father.

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” – [Matthew 5:16](#)

Hopefully this analogy encourages you as Halloween approaches. At a time when so many are celebrating darkness and all things scary, you can be a shining light to all believers and unbelievers. Pray for those who do not believe, your friends, family, students or colleagues, and show each of them the love that your Father in Heaven shows us.

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”- [John 1:5](#)

HAPPY HALLOWEEN





Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It's a busy month ahead for us at Resurrection and it starts October 1 with our "Blessing of Pets" after worship at 11:00 A.M. Well behaved pets on leash or in a carrier or welcome to worship with us. This is always a fun day! Please invite your friends and family to participate, too. If your pet would NOT consider it a blessing to be present, please bring a photo of your pet. An actual photo or a photo on your phone is fine. No pet? No problem! We'll ask God to bless all animals this day, so please be prepared to offer thanks for your favorite animal.

It is also Chili Month! Our Men's Group drive through chili is offered Thursday evenings in October. Please note the dates and time elsewhere in the newsletter. If you like, you'll have an opportunity to chip in a few extra \$\$\$ for Lutheran World Relief to help the victims of the wildfires in Maui.

"Dwelling in the Word" moves to a new time! It's still on Monday, but will now meet at 6:30 P.M. Hopefully this will open up new opportunities for "Dwelling in the Word" and the possibility of more participation. We may or may not meet on Monday, October 30. It depends upon the schedule for local "Trick or Treating." The decision to meet or not will be announced in the weekly bulletin.

Wood Care Day – October 8, Sunday, after worship. The wood in our sanctuary is "thirsty" and needs to be treated to keep it healthy and beautiful. After church we will clean the wood with a special cleaner recommended for us and then treat the wood with oil. The oil will stay on a few days to allow it to soak into the wood and do the most good. We'll return later in the week to wipe off the excess oil. As with all tasks, more hands make for lighter work. Please wear comfortable clothes to church and stay and help with this project. Thanks to our Worship Committee for sponsoring this project and for supplying everything we need to complete the project. All we are missing is you!

Readers, Assisting Ministers, Prayer Leaders! We would like to have more folks for all of these jobs. If you'd like to serve as an Assisting Minister but are hesitant to speak (as in saying the Offering Prayers, and such), you can serve, carry the Processional Cross, and be silent! Sign up for any or all of these tasks on the sign-up sheets on the table as you enter the church. If Kay Tucker approaches you with a schedule to volunteer, please say "Yes!" Thanks to Kay for offering to help schedule and recruit folks.

Tutoring began for me the last week in September. I'm at Penneman School in Cahokia Heights, the same school where I tutored last year. I'm even in my same tutor room, the Pirate Room, named after the big painted Pirate mural on the wall. It's the Penneman "Pirates" and this mural honors the school mascot. It's so big that it covers about half of the adjacent wall, too. I have four groups of learners. Two groups are Grade 4 and the other two groups are Grade 5 and I am tutoring English Language Arts (ELA). When I was a kid, we called it either "Reading" or "English." ELA is the new-fangled word for what I tutor, and it includes reading, along with spelling, grammar, punctuation, phonics, and reading comprehension. I tend to lean a bit heavily on phonics, punctuation, and grammar. I think those foundation pieces are critical for children to learn. I hated phonics as a child. It came right after lunch, and it was a struggle for me to stay awake. I try to make it fun and interesting, which is not always easy! Thankfully, children are pretty good at inventing games. This year, I am not tutoring Math . . . only ELA.

So, let's go enjoy some Chili, wonderful Autumn weather, and all the activities at Resurrection!

Peace to you and yours from me and my little gray cat, Lilly,
Pastor Jan



News & Updates



Chili . . . Chili . . . Chili . . . Chili



Chili Drive Thru 2 bowls w/crackers, \$8.00

October 12, 19 & 26th. . . 3:30 - 6:30pm

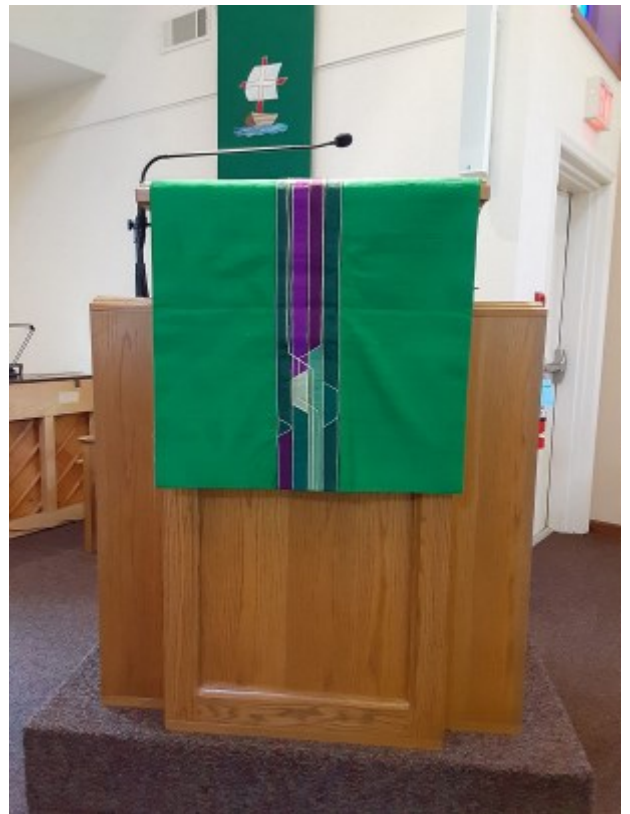
Please support the Men's Club. Tickets will be available from members and in the Narthex after services. Donations to support the costs (ingredients, to-go containers, etc. . .) can be given to Bill Stoutenborough. Proceeds this year will support the wildfires in Hawaii.

Dan Garner 618-792-1777

Worship & Memorial Committee

Thanks to our Worship Committee and Memorial Committees for their assistance in the purchase of beautiful new green paraments to adorn our alter. New wax free candles will be seen on the Advent wreath sooner than you know.

Notice how the colorful panels compliment the stain glass window above the alter.



Dwelling in the Word – NEW TIME 6:30



Mondays, 6:30-7:30 pm,
with Pastor Jan leading
Join us October 2, 9, 16, 23
October 30 to be decided



Book Club

The October Book Club meeting will be October 12th, 6:30 pm, at the Church. Ruth Wolter will be the discussion leader and her book choice is **The Keeper of Lost Things** by **Ruth Hogan**. Copies are available at the library.

Summary: Anthony Peardeew is *the keeper of lost things*. Forty years ago, he carelessly *lost* a keepsake from his beloved fiancé, Therese. That very same day, she died unexpectedly. Brokenhearted, Anthony sought consolation in rescuing *lost* objects -- *the things* others have dropped, misplaced, or accidentally left behind -- and writing stories about them. Now, in *the twilight* of his life, Anthony worries that he has not fully discharged his duty to reconcile all *the lost things* with their owners. As *the end* nears, he bequeaths his secret life's mission to his unsuspecting assistant, Laura, leaving her his house and all its *lost* treasures, including an irritable ghost. Recovering from a bad divorce, Laura, in some ways, is one of Anthony's *lost things*. But when *the* lonely woman moves into his mansion, her life begins to change. She finds a new friend in *the* neighbor's quirky daughter, Sunshine, and a welcome distraction in Freddy, *the* rugged gardener. As *the* dark cloud engulfing her lifts, Laura, accompanied by her new companions, sets out to realize Anthony's last wish: reuniting his cherished *lost* objects with their owners. Long ago, Eunice found a trinket on *the* London pavement and kept it through *the* years. Now, with her own end drawing near, she has *lost* something precious -- a tragic twist of fate that forces her to break a promise she once made.



Ruth Wolter,
618-433-1469.



Internet Security

Several of us continue to receive suspicious emails almost weekly from scammers pretending to be members of Resurrection. **Please be cautious of emails from Jim Lieber, Rich Kelley and Kay Tucker** to name a few. **Someone continues to use their email addresses in an attempt to gain access to your and my information!** One reply back or one click on something they “pretend” to send you is all it takes to jeopardize your friends, your family and other members of Resurrection. Often these emails will state they have new photos for you to check out or that Jim needs your help ASAP with something. Please, do not reply to these emails and make sure they are coming from the real Jim, the real Rich and real Kay !!!

Below are some tips to think about to keep you safe from bad emails and texts:

- Be suspicious of any email or text that asks for your personal information, credit card information or passwords.
- Look for spelling and grammar errors. Suspicious emails and texts are often poorly written.
- If you are suspicious of any email or text, do not open it. Do not open or download anything attached to it. Do not click on any link in it. And do not reply to it. Doing any of these things may spread a virus and harm your device.
- If you are suspicious of any email or text, delete it immediately.
- If you are a victim of an email or text scam, be sure to take appropriate action. Common recommendations are to change your passwords, call your credit card company, and notify credit reporting agencies to freeze or lock your information if its been jeopardized.



Assisting Ministers

The Assisting Ministers will now be teamed up for two months at a time. Here is the schedule for the balance of 2023.

Additional assistants are needed or we may have to do away with the idea. Please contact Pastor to help. You don't have to read to volunteer !

Team 1, Elyse Tillman & Sherry Wyatt – August and November
Team 2, Carol Callahan & Karen Woods – September and December
Team 3, Ruth Wolter & Kay Tucker -- October and December

Thanks,
Pastor Jan

Communion Assistants

October 1: Robin and Carol
October 8, 15, 22 and 29: Kay and Robin

The schedule for all those assisting is also online under the Worship tab.



Highlight's from Church Council – September

REPORTS

- **Treasurer's Report August:** Offering for August was \$9,876.41. Total income was \$12,295.69. We received a check for \$1,915.00 from the State of IL for land usage. This accounts for the larger than normal "Total Income" figure. A brief discussion on the actual pledged contributions and whether or not they match the pledged amounts will be looked at.
- **President's Report:** Jim commented on misc. happenings around church and gave us some follow-up details. He mentioned the possibility of the Scouts participating in Veteran's Day Sunday.
- **Pastor's Report:**
 - Pastor advised there is a problem with the sign-up sheets. The challenge of finding a good place to keep them as a visual reminder is one. People actually volunteering is the second issue. She is suggesting we drop use of the Assisting Ministers if more help cannot be secured. Assisting Ministers don't have to do the readings to volunteer. Introducing a more permanent schedule with people being responsible for their own coverage is possibly in the works. The schedules and contact numbers have all been posted to the church website as well.
 - A Veteran's Day Service is being scheduled for November 12 at 3PM. Pastor Middendorf, a USMC Veteran will preach, and the local VFW will present the colors. Area churches are being invited to participate. There will be displays and refreshments as well. Russ is still working out the details at this time.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Men's Club:** The Chili-Drive Thru will take place throughout the month of October. Tickets increased to \$8 from \$6 due to inflation. The option to round up tickets to \$10 for an automatic donation to Disaster Relief for the Maui Fires is a new spin this year. The AED has been installed in the hall near the drinking fountains.
- **Finance:** The Finance Cmte. met September 25th to begin work on the 2024 budget to be presented to the council in October and to the congregation in November.
- **Audit:** The Audit Cmte. met on Sept. 15. Nothing to report other than a few in-house items for record keeping.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- **Kitchen Floor:** Two additional bids were received for replacement of the kitchen floor. At the recommendation of Dan Callahan, the proposal from Garage Experts to install an epoxy finish was discussed. A motion was made and passed to have the old vinyl floor removed, the adhesive removed and the concrete slab refinished with an epoxy coating for \$2,500. A neutral color has been selected. There may be a slight increase in cost to have the company move fixtures back into the kitchen to avoid the risk of damaging the new finish ourselves with our aging men and limited abilities.
- **Scout Project:** Nearly two years ago, one of the Scouts had advised us he was going to repair the bridge crossing over the creek on the far end of the property and build a fire pit as his Eagle Scout project. He has secured the funds and will begin working on this soon.
- **Digital Piano:** Goodwill would not take the old digital Piano and no one really knew what to do with it, so the Scouts had fun dismantling it for scrap wood to burn. It's no longer cluttering Young Hall.





- ⇒ **Chili Drive Thru Helpers needed Oct. 11, 12, 18, 19 & 26.**
Call Dan at 618-792-1777 to offer your availability.
- ⇒ **Men's Club meeting Oct. 12 6pm. Grilling– BBQ**
brats, hotdogs and the fixings.



3 Sharon McBride
11 Dan Garner
12 Judy Kelley
14 Ruth Wolter
26 Brian Lieber

HAPPY
Wedding
ANNIVERSARY

5 Jeremy & Meagan Broche
7 Jerry & Janet Broche
15 Kirk & Audrey Rhea
Joe & Sherry Wyatt
16 Rich & Joanne Kelley
24 Sam & Irena Ellis

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

FINANCIAL STATUS – August 2023



DEDICATED FUNDS BALANCE	\$59,334.96
GENERAL FUNDS CASH FLOW	\$1,287.41
GENERAL FUND BALANCE	\$19,217.76

	<u>8/1/2023 - 8/31/2023</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
GENERAL FUNDS DETAIL		
Income		
Offering	\$9,876.41	\$96,596.65
Lenten Offering		\$1,800.30
Other Income	\$2,419.28	\$5,680.46
Total General Fund Income	\$12,295.69	\$104,077.41
Expenses		
Benevolence	\$275.00	\$2,260.00
Building and Grounds	\$2,095.00	\$14,802.06
Christian Education	\$0.00	\$0.00
Church Mortgage	\$2,608.00	\$20,864.00
Evangelism	\$0.00	\$394.77
Insurance	\$500.00	\$4,379.35
Office	\$517.01	\$3,749.79
Personnel Costs	\$979.37	\$5,105.04
Personnel Salaries	\$3,478.61	\$28,528.57
Social Ministry	\$38.29	\$347.81
Stewardship Supplies	\$0.00	\$138.81
Worship	\$517.00	\$3,026.97
Total General Fund Expenses	\$11,008.28	\$83,597.17
General Funds Cash Flow	\$1,287.41	\$20,480.24

Our "Other Income" was larger this month as we received \$1,915 from the State of Illinois for land acquisition for the road expansion on the Delmar corner. Our expenses were higher due to an annual fee for Constant Contact and our Copyright License costs.



October 2023



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>1</p> <p>Blessing of the Pets 10am</p> 	<p>2</p> <p>Dwelling in the Word 6:30pm</p>	<p>3</p> <p>Scouts 7pm</p>	<p>4</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>Worship 10am Wood Care Day 11am</p>	<p>9</p> <p>Young Hall in use 10am Dwelling in the Word 6:30pm</p>	<p>10</p> <p>Scouts 7pm</p>	<p>11</p> <p>Chili Drive Thru Work Day</p>	<p>12</p> <p>Chili Drive Thru Book Club 6:30 Men's Club 6pm at Church with BBQ</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>Worship 10am Worship Cmte. 11am</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Young Hall in use 10am Dwelling in the Word 6:30pm</p>	<p>17</p> <p>Scouts 7pm Church Council at 7p</p>	<p>18</p> <p>Chili Drive Thru Work Day</p>	<p>19</p> <p>Chili Drive Thru 3:30-6:30pm</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>Worship 10am</p>	<p>23</p> <p>Dwelling in the Word 6:30pm</p>	<p>24</p> <p>Scouts 7pm</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p> <p>Chili Drive Thru 3:30-6:30pm</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>Graceful Nails at Evergreen Pl.</p> 
<p>29</p> <p>Worship 10am</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Scouts 7pm</p>				

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*
Pator Worms, *Facebook 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*
Dan and Carol Callahan, *Property*
Sharon Groh, *Social Ministry*
Dan Callahan, *Streaming Services/Technology Team*
Neal Booth, *Web Designer*
Pastor Worms, *Worship*
Rich Kelley, *Faithful Innovations & Worship Cmte.*

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<https://twitter.com/LutheranIL>

www.youtube.com/channel/UCvX9AiTIQb2ZD76edJPifQ?

Service Time:

In-Person & Online 10AM

Resurrection Lutheran Church

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