

the Resurrectionist

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

To the lowliest shepherd and the richest of kings,
to God's chosen Israel and
to the farthest corners of His world,



God has sent His Son Jesus as a Savior to all !



Are you a shepherd or a king?

To some, you may seem to be like a king. You have a warm bed to sleep in, nutritious food to eat, clean water to drink. You live in a relatively peaceful country and have skilled medical care within an easy drive.

To others, you may appear to be little more than a lowly shepherd. You may not have the opulent homes or luxury cars of your friends and neighbors. Perhaps you endure difficult family or health issues. Sometimes it seems as though no one listens to you.

These worlds of kings and shepherds seldom intersect, but because of that holy night more than 2,000 years ago, we all have one thing we share: our Heavenly Father freely offers all a place in His family, through the birth, death and resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ.

There is another thing shepherd and kings have in common. Both were called to “Go and tell !” In Matthew 2, we read that upon finding the Christ Child, the shepherds “made widely known the saying which was told them concerning this Child,” most likely in the region surrounding their own small town of Bethlehem. The wise men “rejoiced with exceedingly great joy” (Luke 2) and returned to their home country, where undoubtedly, they also proclaimed the birth of the newborn King.

And so, are you a shepherd of a king? You are both !

You possess the greatest treasure in the universe: you are a child of the almighty God !

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

(message taken from the Lutheran Heritage Foundation)

Pastor's Pen

As the Thanksgiving weekend draws to a close, we all have so many things to be thankful for. The problem with a list is that it is so easy to omit something or someone, with no intention to overlook or omit. So, here's a short list. In no particular order and not meant to be all inclusive.

- * Our many generous donors . . . those who have faithfully supported Resurrection with dollars, time, effort and good will. Thanks to your generosity, we will pay off our mortgage in August!
- * Our Assisting Ministers. The volunteers who lead us into worship by carrying our Processional Cross.
- * Russ Henkhaus. We could not have found a more capable and talented musician for our church had we searched the entire country!
- * Readers, Prayer Leaders, Ushers, Counters, Communion Assistants. Faithful volunteers who grace our worship from Sunday to Sunday.
- * Our Parish Council and retiring president, Jim Leiber. These folks care deeply for our church, meet monthly, and make the (sometimes) difficult decisions for our church that need to be made. Each of them deserves our thanks for a faithful job well done.
- * Janet Broche. One could not find a more creative, dedicated and careful Administrator for our church if we searched far and wide. Janet is a blessing to each of us.
- * Sharon Groh and her Social Ministry Team. Always reminding us to reach out and care for others and providing us with inspiration and the opportunity to do so.
- * Our Men's group. Feeding us with delicious chili and donating \$1000 to Lutheran Disaster Response to help the disaster victims in Maui.
- * I remember with thanksgiving that it is God the Holy Spirit who has called our church into being and who sustains our church with unending, sacrificial love.

We are richly blessed here at Resurrection. Please join me in giving thanks, not just today, but all days.

For your calendar:

- * **Advent Midweek Services** – December 6, 13, and 20 . Simple Supper will be served at 6:00 pm. Evening Prayer begins at 7:00 pm. Midweek Offerings will be divided equally and donated to The St. Ambrose Heating and Cooling Assistance, 4A Humane Society, and Riverbend Family Ministries.
- * **Christmas Eve** – Candlelight Worship with Holy Eucharist at 7:00 P.M. Join us to hear the story of the Nativity of our Lord, sing favorite carols and enjoy the warmth of candlelight.
- * We have Advent Calendars available from the ELCA. They were free. Pick up one for your household on the First Sunday of Advent.

A blessed Advent to you and yours. During this busy season upcoming, remember to take time to take care of yourself, to pray, to prepare to celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord.

Peace be with you and yours! From me and my little, gray cat, Lilly.
Pr Jan



President's Message

Hope, Peace, Joy and Love

We begin the season of Advent in anticipation of the birth of Christ celebrated on Christmas Day. The common symbol for Advent is the Advent wreath with four candles, or sometimes with a fifth central candle, called the Christ candle in the center, to be lighted on Christmas Eve.

The wreath actually began in a German (Prussian) Lutheran church as early as the 1600's, but gained greater popularity after Johann Wickern produced a wreath with four white candles and six red candles between each white to count down the days of the week before Christmas.

The ELCA in 1978 recommended 4 blue candles to represent hope during the Advent season, specifically, the hope of Jesus' second coming. Prophecy tells us that it will be a terrible time for all of mankind preceding his coming. The hope is in the establishment of His kingdom, of a new Jerusalem. In the meantime, let us look for and encourage hope, peace, joy and love here and now, best reached in sharing with others. Sharing our time, our caring, and our wealth with others, including not just family and friends, but strangers, the neglected and even our enemies. Respecting all individuals, who each have a soul and are God's creation. If we can do that, then there is indeed hope.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,
Jim Lieber



Advent Midweek Services

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Christmas Eve

- * Candlelight Worship with Holy Eucharist at 7:00 P.M. Join us to hear the story of the Nativity of our Lord, sing favorite carols and enjoy the warmth of candlelight.



News & Updates

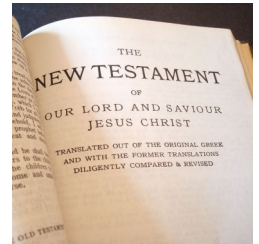


Adult Bible Study

The last week of the video series "How the New Testament Came to Be" will be held Sunday, December 17. A new study will resume January 7, 2024.

"How The New Testament Came to Be"

The basic questions facing us as we look at the historical record is quite simple. Why does our Bible have a New Testament comprised of only 27 books? With the help of dozens of original graphics, this study will help us answer this and many other questions surrounding the formation of the New Testament. Join us for videos and study



Advent Offering

Our offering collected during the Advent Midweek Worship will be divided equally and donated to three local charities: The St. Ambrose Heating and Cooling Assistance fund, 5A's Humane Society, and Riverbend Family Ministries.



St. Ambrose
Community Outreach -
Utility Bill Assistance



**January 30 - 5th Tuesday Soup's On, 10:30 am,
1st Presbyterian Church, Alton IL**



The Men's Club will not meet in December !



Dan Garner
618-792-1777

Newsletter Guidelines

Guidelines to submitting items to the newsletter (and weekly bulletin) were established earlier this year by Council. Apparently some people received them and others did not. We apologize for the confusion to those whom were left in the dark.

To All Committee Chairmen:

In order to ease the burden of editing our newsletter, we ask the following.

Please have information typed as you would like it to appear. Preferably, the submissions should be "camera ready" or formatted in pdf form for easy copying and inserting.

Limit your articles to a single page if possible. Our newsletters are becoming quite lengthy. Be concise, highlighting most significant details, goals, and activities of recent committee meetings.

Your help in this regard is greatly appreciated.

Resurrection Church Council



Book Club

Christmas is coming soon and everyone is getting ready to celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ in their own special ways. Where would we be without Him? Wouldn't it be wonderful if everyone had that thought as we hurry to buy gifts, bake cookies, entertain family and friends and finally rest our tired bodies when all is done.

Given all the Christmas preparations, the Book Club will take a break, with no book to read and no meeting this month. Maybe Santa will bring you a new book that you can share at our January get-together.

Have a safe and wonderful Holiday Season.

Merry Christmas,
Ruth Wolter
618-433-1469



Thank you to the following people who helped with trimming bushes and trees, pulling weeds, picking up fallen sticks and cutting down trees on our October workday; Joe Wyatt ... Jim Lieber ... Ruth Wolters . . .Carol Garner & Rich Kelley

We could not have done this without you!

Property Committee,
Dan and Carol Callahan

**Thank
You!**

Graceful Nails - date change and volunteers needed

**Graceful Nails at Evergreen Place will be moved to
Saturday, December 16th at 1:45 pm.**

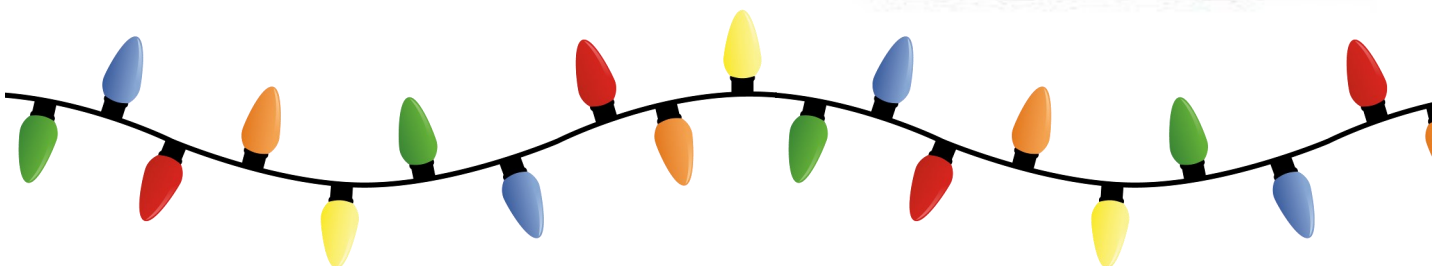
Currently Mark and Sharon Groh are the only members from Resurrection still participating in this activity. They would like to see more support. If you are able to volunteer, please contact Sharon at 404-432-3942.

About Graceful Nails - 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.



The **Christmas Giving Tree** is located in the narthex. Please take a tag or two. Bring your unwrapped gifts (in a box or bag) to the church no later than **December 10th**. Make sure to attach the bottom portion of your tag to the box or bag. Jim Lieber will make sure that they get to Salvation Army on time.

The **Christmas Coat Drive** has begun. There are two large designated containers in the narthex for new or gently used coats, gloves & hats. Items will go to families at Gilson Brown PreK - 3rd Grade. Contact Carol Garner with any questions.



Call Committee

In our last update we informed you about several staffing changes that were taking in place in our Central/Southern Illinois Synod. As of September 23rd, Rev. Greg Busboom was installed as the new Bishop. Additionally, our liaison, Pastor Ken Sandlin retired at the end of August.

Despite all the changes, we have good news to report. The new Assistant to the Bishop who also serves as our liaison for the call process, has been named. Pastor Amy Zietlow joined the Synod staff on November 1, 2023. We have already been in phone contact with her to introduce ourselves. During conversation, she was asked about a visit with our Call Committee. Her response was not only did she want to meet Resurrection's Call Committee, but she also wants to meet the congregation.

To that end, **Pastor Amy Zietlow will be here on December 17th. The plan is for her to preach on that Sunday and then meet with the Call Committee. Please plan to attend and meet the Assistant to the Bishop and our synod liaison.** This is an opportunity for us and our synod to become more connected.

We the Call Committee are looking forward to having a face to face conversation with Pastor Zietlow and forming a more personal relationship. It is exciting that the Assistant to the Bishop wants to come to Resurrection. Thank you, Pastor Amy Zietlow. Hope to see everyone on December 17th.

Blessings, Your Call Committee,
Cheryl Margherio, Janet Broche, Mark Groh, Gary Neese & Rich Kelley (Chair)

COME AND MEET PASTOR AMY ZIETLOW ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 17TH



Unhanging of the Greens will take place on **January 7** after the service. A light lunch will be served. Wear comfortable clothes to Worship !



Many hands made the Hanging of the Greens go rather quickly. THANK YOU to all those that stuck around to complete the task !!!

Highlight's from Church Council – Oct. & Nov.

REPORTS

- **Treasurer's Report September:** Expenses from September were down. A large contribution helped out. A down payment on the new epoxy kitchen floor was made. The church mortgage is now less than \$25,000 and expected to be paid off in August 2024, if all goes as planned. A contribution of approximately \$1,800 was made to help the victims in Maui with Council matching \$500 as promised from the Mission Fund.
- **Treasurer's Report October:** Total offering and income was \$10,891. We came in below budget compared to past Octobers. The cash flow balance was -\$341. We're holding our own and still in the black for the year. The checking account has roughly \$20,647 in it. \$5,000 of that will be moved to the money market account to earn interest. The remaining balance on the epoxy floor was paid. This project cost about \$2,500, resolved the issue of the buckling, loose linoleum and will be substantially more durable. If you haven't seen it yet, the finished result is most impressive and looks like terrazzo.
- **President's Report:** The Stewardship Committee is working on ideas pertaining to Ask, Think, Tell, the book that was used for Adult Study in 2022.
- **Pastor's Report:**
 - Pastor announced that Resurrection was recognized as the best Lutheran Church in the area.
 - Pastor and Russ worked diligently on the Veteran's Day Service. The service was well received and Pastor is suggesting that the Worship Committee consider purchasing advertising for next year, signage for our grounds and set a date (booking musicians, the VFW, etc. . .) to make this a yearly event.
 - Our level of outreach has been rather noticeable for the past two months. We had Blessing of the Pets, the Chili Drive Thru and the Veteran's Day Service. We have more opportunities with Advent approaching. We have a good precedent and she would like to set a goal for one community outreach event at least every two months. A Spaghetti Supper is possibly in the works for early next year, but volunteers will need to commit to making that happen before further planning takes place.
 - The Church Constitution, approved by Resurrection in 2022 is being reviewed by Pastor Richard Hertenstein and ready to be forwarded to the synod. No further action will be needed by the council or congregation.
 - The Adult Study which started Nov. 5 has shown good interest. Pastor has a handout with choices for the next topic, to start in January. The next topic selected will be shared in the Jan. newsletter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- **Audit:** Bill Stoutenborough attended the October meeting and presented the Audit Committee findings. Several recommendations were made. Those will be reviewed by those involved and discussed in more depth at future meetings. A need for internal controls was stressed.
- **Budget:** The Budget Committee met prior to the October Council meeting. Their results were shared with Council, showing a deficit due to including the hiring of a permanent pastor. The final budget was presented and voted into place on Nov. 19 at the Congregational Meeting.
- **Nominating:** In October, Tim Belfield presented some people that may be willing to serve on the council next year. Three at-large voting members and a president are needed. Possible candidates were discussed. Those elected to serve will be Neal Booth, president, Vicki Baggio, Pat Ford & Wendy Reinbold, members at large. There was open spot for the Nominating Committee as well. Jim Lieber has accepted the position.

continued on next page . . .

• **Social:**

- Donations of craft items, personal care supplies and lap robes were delivered to Riverbend Family Ministries for distribution. Mark and Sharon attended the annual RFM banquet on Nov. 2.
- Mark and Sharon are the only congregational members participating in the Graceful Nails ministry. Feedback remains positive and they will continue.
- The November newsletter highlighted non-perishable food items to donate to the Alton Food Crisis Center. The barrel at the church has remained bare for most of the summer.
- The volunteer-run Overnight Warming Locations have prepared for their 5th season of providing emergency shelter for the unhoused members on the coldest winter nights. Resurrection volunteers Mark and Sharon are encouraging others to consider helping.
- At the request of members, a Winter Coat Drive and Giving Tree will be reinstated with details to follow.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- Council approved the agenda for the Congregational Meeting that was held on November 19, 2023.
- Council had a brief discussion on having a Memorial for Sam Ellis for closure amongst Resurrection. Pastor suggested a brief addition to an upcoming service to spend some time remembering Sam and his parents (also members).



5 Fred Tiemann
7 John Droste
Carol Garner
9 Sherry Wyatt
25 Jesus of Nazareth
29 David Brown

HAPPY
Wedding
ANNIVERSARY

None that we are aware of at this time.

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

FINANCIAL STATUS – October 2023



DEDICATED FUNDS BALANCE	\$60,533.96
GENERAL FUNDS CASH FLOW	(\$341.31)
GENERAL FUND BALANCE	\$20,647.05

	<u>10/1/2023 -</u> <u>10/31/2023</u>	<u>YEAR TO</u> <u>DATE</u>
GENERAL FUNDS DETAIL		
Income		
Offering	\$10,244.85	\$120,437.62
Lenten Offering		\$1,800.30
Other Income	\$646.49	\$6,490.08
Total General Fund Income	\$10,891.34	\$126,927.70
Expenses		
Benevolence	\$275.00	\$2,810.00
Building and Grounds	\$2,338.48	\$19,197.15
Christian Education	\$0.00	\$0.00
Church Mortgage	\$2,608.00	\$26,080.00
Evangelism	\$0.00	\$394.77
Insurance	\$500.00	\$5,453.35
Office	\$511.15	\$4,648.29
Personnel Costs	\$695.60	\$6,575.57
Personnel Salaries	\$3,903.24	\$36,138.37
Social Ministry	\$22.76	\$399.59
Stewardship Supplies	\$0.00	\$138.81
Worship	\$378.42	\$3,684.85
Total General Fund Expenses	\$11,232.65	\$105,520.75
General Funds Cash Flow	(\$341.31)	\$21,406.95

We had an increase in office costs this month, but that was the only increase in expenses. Our offering was a bit less this month, but overall for the year we are still in the black.





Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

November 22, 2023

Thank You

Resurrection Lutheran Church
1211 W Homer M Adams Pkwy
Godfrey, IL 62035-3345

Dear Resurrection Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$600.00 to Lutheran Disaster Response.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God (Romans 5:1-2).

As a church, we believe that God's grace is freely given to us. This brings us peace and hope. It makes a difference in our lives. Through your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA you share this amazing grace with others and help people around the world feel the transformational power of God's love.

Your Spirit-filled generosity helps families and communities reeling from disasters. No matter the variety of disaster, no matter the variety of need, your gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response enable people to rebuild their lives and livelihoods now and far into the future.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God shines through you.

In Christ,

Amanda White

Amanda White
Director, Congregational Generosity

P.S. Please see the reverse side of this letter for your receipt.

December 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Rev. Jan S. Worms gracious@miwest.net Office Hours by appointment 618-250-1608					1	2
3 Adult Bible Study 9am Worship 10am	4	5	6 Advent Simple Supper 6pm Advent Evening Prayer 7pm	7	8	9
10 Bible Study 9am Worship 10am Giving Tags gifts due.	11	12	13 Advent Simple Supper 6pm Advent Evening Prayer 7pm	14	15	16 Graceful Nails at Evergreen Place 1:45 pm 
17 Adult Bible Study 9am Worship 10am	18	19 Council Meeting 7pm	20 Advent Simple Supper 6pm Advent Evening Prayer 7pm	21	22	23
24 Christmas Eve Worship 7pm	25 	26	27	28 Newsletter Deadline	29	30
31 Worship 10am						

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*
VACANCY, *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://www.facebook.com/ResurrectionChurchGodfrey>
<https://twitter.com/LutheranIL>
www.youtube.com/channel/UCvX9AiTIIQb2ZD76edJPifQ?

Service Time:
In-Person & Online 10AM

Resurrection Lutheran Church

1211 W. Homer Adams Pkwy.
Godfrey, IL 62035

