

VOL XLIV

February 2024

NO 2

the Resurrectionist

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





Lent is coming! Not only does time fly, but Ash Wednesday is early this year – February 14. So, if it seems as though we have just celebrated the baby in the manger, God with us, as we are quickly called away to begin the Salvation Journey to the Cross and beyond. It's not our imagination that it is a quick call to the next part of our Salvation Story.

We begin with Ash Wednesday, February 14, with Holy Eucharist and the Imposition of Ashes at 7:00 P.M. There is no soup supper before worship.

For those of you who appreciate the opportunity for additional worship during Lent, we will gather for Evening Prayer at 7:00 P.M. each Wednesday of Lent. There will be a light supper before worship at 6:00 P.M. each Wednesday.

Traditionally the church has taught that we do well to consider practicing the Discipline of Lent: Prayer, Fasting and Acts of Love. Let's take a moment to consider each of these.

Prayer. During Lent we are encouraged to set aside a bit of extra time for prayer. This could include participating in the Wednesday Evening Prayer and Fellowship before, adding a few extra moments to your daily prayer time, or focusing your prayer on a particular intention such as praying for peace, our congregation, those in need are just a few suggestions. The need for more prayer for our world is huge. A few minutes of additional prayer time not only enriches your relationship with your Savior, but is also a simple way to do some good for our hurting and needy world.

Fasting. Any fasting that you do must be done with careful attention to your health and well-being. Never fast from liquids or water and be cautious about skipping any meals. Rather, think of and practice fasting as consuming less. Smaller portions of meat, more fruits and vegetables, eating two smaller meals, eating a plant-based meal, less or no fast food, and the like. Most of us could use a few less calories in our lives. Church tradition teaches us that any \$\$\$ that we save by eating less be given to those in need. In sum, eat less and consider an extra donation to your church or favorite charity. You might use any time that you save in meal preparation for more minutes of prayer or combine that prayer with a little walk. Just a thought.

Acts of Love. Just like it says. Make it a point to extend a small kindness to someone who needs a little kindness in their day. We should always be doing this whether it's Lent or not, but during Lent make a bit more of a conscious effort to be kind, to help, to reach out to others with encouraging conversation or compassionate listening. Pick up an extra food item to bring to church to share with hungry neighbors. The hurting and needy world we share needs much more of all of these little acts of love. During Epiphany we hear again how we as Followers of Jesus are called to bring that Light of Christ into the world in our daily lives. Carry that Epiphany Light into Lent and beyond. Doing so will be good for you and good for our world, and good for your family, neighbors and friends.

Early February there will be two resources for you to pick up at church to use during Lent. They are from our church – the ELCA. One is a small devotional booklet. The second is a timeline poster for you to follow during the fasting season. It is similar to an Advent Calendar without doors. Each day offers a suggestion for you

to consider adding to your day. These items are free to us from the ELCA and I hope that you enjoy them and that they are enriching for you.

Adult Study continues at 9:00 A.M. on Sunday mornings. Currently, we are viewing a discussion and video series on Islam. Discussion is lively and informative. Join us, if you haven't done so.

Looking ahead, when we finish the series on Islam, we will begin a six-session video called "Experiencing God." Some of the questions and topics we will talk about: "Who is God?," "What Kind of God,?" "Jesus – God's Surprise," "Jesus – God with Us," "Who is the Holy Spirit?," and "The Spirit is Life." We should have a starting date for this series in the next Newsletter.

Saturday, January 27, we welcomed Wren Broche into the Body of Christ through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Could there possibly be a more joyful note on which to end this article? Nope. Nothing is more joyous than Holy Baptism when we hear again how Wren (and each of us) become God's own child through this Holy Sacrament and how Wren (and each of us) receive the forgiveness of sin and the promise of Eternal Life. Nope. Nothing better. Nothing more joyous than to be reminded again of God's incredible love for us, shown through the death and resurrection of Our Lord Jesus.

To each of you, many joys and blessings this Lent and Peace to You and Yours from me and my little gray cat, Lilly.

Pastor Jan



Lenten Services

All services will be held at 7pm. Lenten suppers may or may not be happening this year. Please see the weekly bulletin for further announcements pertaining to the meals. At this time, the Worship Committee has not yet met and Carol Garner will be unavailable to coordinate due to recovery from an upcoming surgery. We are working out a resolution.

- * Ash Wednesday- Feb. 14- 7pm (no supper)**
- * Feb. 21 & 28**
- * March 6, 13 & 20**

President's Message

Last month we flicked the calendar to a new year. As Christians, we come face to face with the fact that our days on earth are numbered and unknown. As the psalmist wrote, "Teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." No thoughtful person can approach New Year's without some contemplation. We are reminded of the brevity of time. We also look back over our failures, mistakes, and missed opportunities, and vow that we will make better use of our time during the coming year.

As we begin anew, in 2024, let's all try to take time to be pleasant, to smile, to extend the small courtesies we often omit. Let's show a little more love to our family, both at church and home. Psychiatrists tell us that most people are starved for love. Take time for a goodbye kiss, handshake or pat on the back. Let us take time to get better acquainted with all our families, both nuclear and extended. We are not machines. We are not robots. The secret of a happy home is that members of the family learn to give and receive love. Let us take time to express our love in a thousand ways.

Valentine's Day Prayer

Thank you God for
Those who love me unconditionally
Teach me to
Express love well
And to love myself
Send me strength to love
when times are tough
Standing on your promise that Love
Endures all things.
Amen

Happy Valentine's Day

Neal Booth



AN IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

As your new President, with Pastor and Council's approval, I have decided to introduce something new to our congregation this year.

Starting today, we are going to attempt to implement a yearly theme into our activities and involvements at Resurrection, whether that be a committee meeting, a council meeting, worship, a hymn, a Men's Club activity or showing our generosity to others.

This theme will serve as our compass, guiding and keeping us focused as Christians throughout the year. How successful this theme will become depends on you and your cooperation !

Without further ado, this year's theme will be . . .

ACHIEVE, BELIEVE & PROCLAIM

What does it mean to achieve? Achieving is to succeed in finishing something or reaching an aim, especially after a lot of work or effort has taken place. I believe our Men's Club will be showing us some "achieve" later on this year with developing activities they have in store for the community. How can you achieve?

What does it mean to believe? Belief is to have confidence in the truth, the existence, or the reliability of something, even without absolute proof that one is right in doing so. Only if one believes in something can one act purposefully. As Christians, we also know it means "trust" – that we believe so strongly in God that we are willing to commit our lives to Him and live the way we know He wants us to live. Right now, I "believe" in you, my fellow parishioners, excepting this yearly theme challenge and showing me and others how you're going to achieve it. See how those two words work hand in hand.

What does it mean to proclaim? By definition it is to declare something publicly, typically insistently, proudly, or even defiantly in either speech or writing. As Christians, we proclaim by offering prayers, befriending, sharing verses of comfort and hope and inviting to name a few. Will the Book Club encourage a new member to join us for worship? Will the Men's Club proclaim to someone buying a bowl of chili? Will you or I convince a neighbor or friend to join us on a Sunday who has strayed away from church?

How will you **ACHIEVE, BELIEVE & PROCLAIM**? You are simply encouraged to reflect on these 3 three words at your next committee meeting, social event or gathering here at church or outside with the community. You are encouraged to share examples via a message before church, a newsletter submission or any other way you see fit. Let's see if we can hold ourselves accountable and accept this fun challenge for 2024.

Sincerely,

Neal Booth



News & Updates



Lenten Offerings

Council has decided to split our Lenten Offerings three ways given the phenomenal response we had for Advent. **A little over \$600 went to each charity** (St. Ambrose Utility Assistance, 5A's & Riverbend Family Ministries) **from Advent Offerings.**

Lenten offerings will be going to . . .



Renee's Rescue Sanctuary of Godfrey which provides shelter and care to cats and dogs that are primarily unadoptable due to age, medical and other conditions.

<https://www.facebook.com/Loverboy050809>

The Oasis Women's Center of Alton which provides emergency shelter and supportive services to victims of domestic violence.

<https://oasiswomenscenter.org/>



The Boys and Girls Club of Alton which provides diverse activities that meet the interests of all youth and works on engaging young people in activities with adults, peers and family to promote self-esteem and reaching full potential.

<https://bgcalton.org/>

Gift Cards

Council has moved \$1,000 from the Reserve Fund into the Mission Fund to support the purchase of gift cards for those in need. There has been a recent uptick in requests. Cards from Schnucks, QT and Aldi will be purchased. If you would like to purchase additional cards and/or donate towards any cards you are invited to do so. We have been purchasing them in \$20 increments.

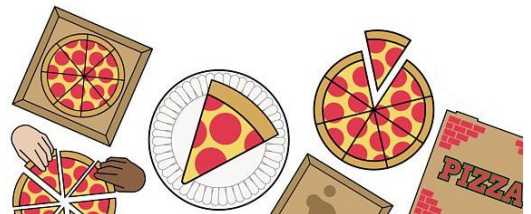
Thanks, Church Council.



We will meet Thursday, Feb. 8th.

Pizza served at 6pm.

Meeting will follow at 7pm.



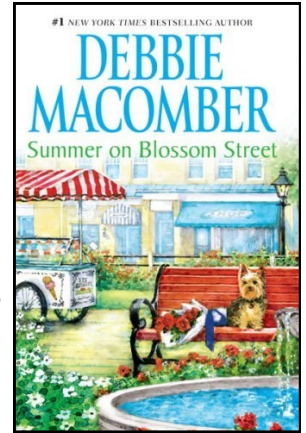
Thanks, Dan Garner
618-792-1777

Book Club

We had a wonderful evening at Santino's for our social night on January 11th. As usual the food was excellent and so was the fellowship we shared. Update on members unable to attend; Janet Broche is recovering well after her surgery and Brenda Dale is also doing well recovering from a broken hip. Prayers and get well wishes from all of us.

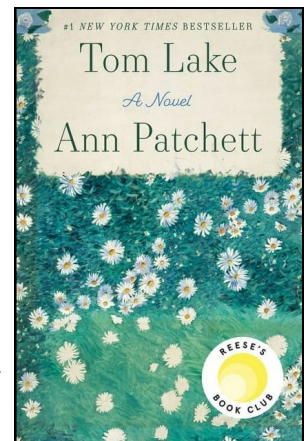
Vera Schultze will be the discussion leader for our next meeting on February 8th, 6:30 pm, at the church. Her book choice is Summer on Blossom Street by Debbie Macomber.

Summary: Upbeat cancer survivor Lydia and her pragmatic sister, Margaret, start a "Knit to Quit" group in their Blossom Street yarn store in Seattle, bringing in a delightful assortment of customers for weekly self-help sessions, including a local baker who wants a baby as much as Lydia does, a super-stressed chocolate magnate who takes the knitting class after his doctor suggests it, and a young woman who is trying to quit obsessing about a broken engagement.



Judy Young will be our discussion leader for our March 14th meeting, and her book choice is Tom Lake by Ann Patchett. It currently is a popular read, so get your name on the list at the library. I hope to schedule leaders at least two months in advance so people have ample opportunity to get the books read in time.

Summary: In the spring of 2020, Lara's three daughters return to the family's orchard in Northern Michigan. They beg their mother to tell them the story of Peter Duke, a famous actor with whom she shared both a stage and a romance years before at a theater company called Tom Lake. As Lara recalls the past, her daughters examine their own lives and relationship with their mother, and are forced to reconsider the world and everything they thought they knew.



We welcome anyone who would like to attend our group get-togethers. Just reach out to one our readers and/or Ruth.

Ruth Wolter
618-433-1469

Highlight's from Church Council – January



REPORTS

* **Treasurer's Report:** Total offering was \$18,330.30. Total income was \$18,505.11. The monthly total is higher than the past two years, but the yearly total is almost identical. Total expenses for the month were \$11,642.92. This is slightly lower than it should be due to a few late adjustments not included, including secretarial pay. Our year to date cash flow is \$25,752.76. If you look at our budget projection (based on hiring a full-time pastor for part of 2023), we are actually \$62,838.76 in the black over the 2023 budget.

* **President's Report:** Neal suggested the idea of a yearly theme that all committees, Council and Pastor will reflect on throughout the year. A motion was made and passed to implement Achieve, Believe & Proclaim. Details to follow.

* **Pastor's Report:**

- Holy Baptism of Wren Broche took place on Saturday, January 27.
- Ash Wednesday is Feb. 14. There will be a 7pm Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes. No supper will be served.
- Lent Midweek Services will be February 21 & 28 and March 6, 13 & 20. Soup or supper is pending a Worship Committee decision as Carol Garner will be unable to organize the meals due to an upcoming surgery.
- Adult study of Islam began and will have 8 sessions. Experiencing God will follow with 6 sessions.
- Devotion booklets and time line posters for at-home reflection during Lent were obtained from the Synod for free and will be handed out.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

* **Call Committee:** Rich Kelley has been in communication with Pastor Zietlow, the liaison to candidacy, who has suggested that retired treasurer Ken Finkle from the Synod be invited to review our profile and financial status. Basically, this will be a review of what is being presented to those seeking a call and how we are being perceived. Council accepted Rich's proposal and unanimously voted to reimburse Mr. Finkle for his time and commute.

* **Men's Club:** Dan Gardner advised that the Men's Club met on 1/12/24 and came up with several ideas and/or activities they would like to spend some of their accumulated money on. Council approved of all the suggestions and unanimously voted to let the Men's Club proceed as they see fit. More to follow on the activities as the Men's Club advance on their ideas.

* **Social Committee:** Anyone interested in leading the Social Committee, please contact Neal or Pastor Jan.

NEW BUSINESS

* **Renewing Pastor's Contract:** Council unanimously voted to renew Pastor Jan's contract for another 6 months. ***We are thankful for her dedication, time and talents and fresh ideas that are keeping us functioning as a whole.***

* **Secretary Compensation:** Council voted to compensate Teresa Droste as acting secretary for part of November and all of December. She will submit hours for the month as January as well.

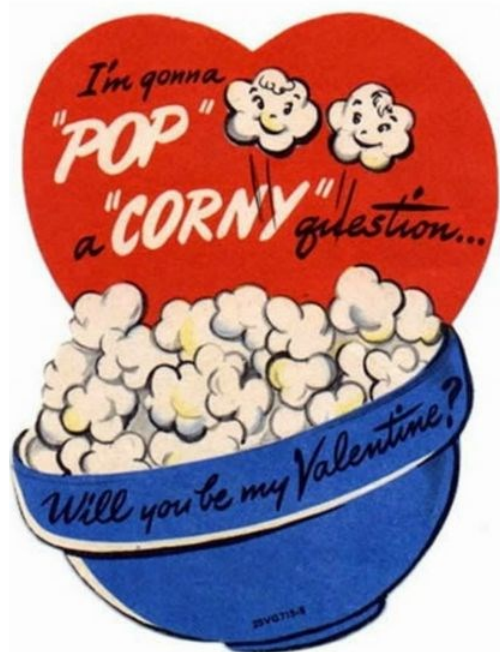
Council Highlights continued,

* **Thrivent:** Neal shared with council that some of our Thrivent Members may be missing out on the opportunity to have money from Thrivent directed to the church as a general donation just for being an eligible member. More to be shared in the newsletter after he contacts them.

* **Lenten Offerings:** Lenten offerings for 2024 will be split between Renee's Rescues, Oasis and The Boys & Girls Club of Alton.

* **Requisition Forms:** Based off suggestions from the audit committee, a requisition form was created. However, the form has already become an obstacle in some cases, so we have altered it. Purchases under \$200 will not require the form or authorization. Purchases between \$200-400 will require the form and then be forwarded to Neal or Pastor for a signature. Purchases over \$400 will have to go before Council for approval.

* **Mission Funds:** The Mission Fund has dwindled down over the past couple of years without being replenished. \$1,000 from the Reserve Account will be transferred over.



HAPPY
Wedding
ANNIVERSARY

6 Ann Isringhausen
14 Pat Ford
18 Neal Booth
Rich Kelley
20 Teresa Droste
22 Meagan Broche

4 Curt and Sandy Bagwill
18 Charlie and Judy Kelley

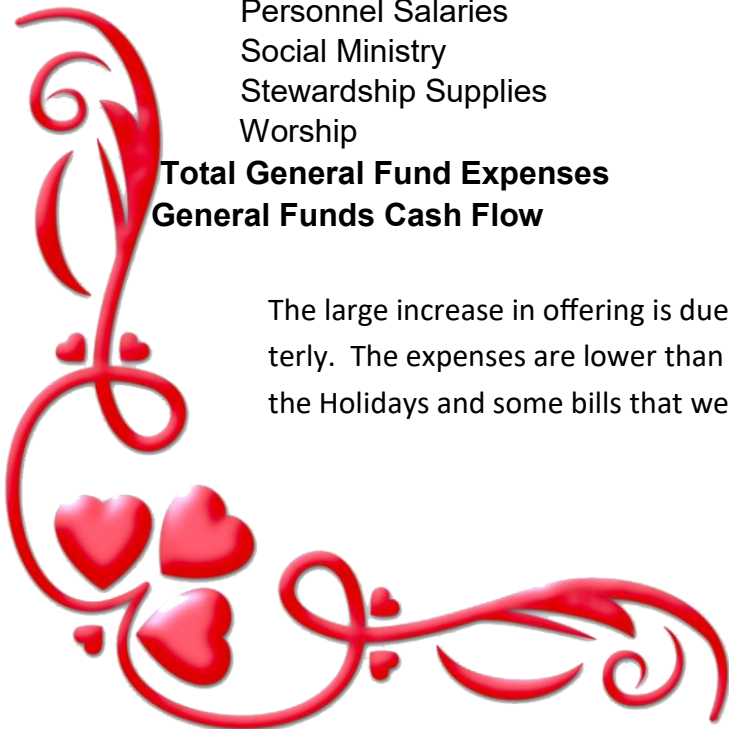
If you didn't see your name listed for a Birthday or Anniversary, please email Neal Booth to be added. Thanks.

FINANCIAL STATUS – December 2023

DEDICATED FUNDS BALANCE	\$66,720.32
GENERAL FUNDS CASH FLOW	\$6,862.19
GENERAL FUND BAL- ANCE	\$21,781.64

	<u>12/1/2023 - 12/31/2023</u>	<u>YEAR TO DATE</u>
GENERAL FUNDS DETAIL		
Income		
Offering	\$18,330.30	\$129,547.03
Lenten Offering		\$1,800.30
Advent Offering	\$1,819.02	\$1,819.02
Other Income	\$174.81	\$6,872.98
Total General Fund In- come	\$18,505.11	\$154,750.31
Expenses		
Benevolence	\$275.00	\$3,360.00
Building and Grounds	\$1,419.65	\$22,151.15
Christian Education	\$0.00	\$0.00
Church Mortgage	\$2,608.00	\$31,296.00
Evangelism	\$200.00	\$536.58
Insurance	\$500.00	\$6,453.35
Office	\$198.54	\$5,482.87
Personnel Costs	\$1,018.91	\$8,830.78
Personnel Salaries	\$4,996.80	\$45,724.59
Social Ministry	\$0.00	\$494.65
Stewardship Supplies	\$0.00	\$138.81
Worship	\$426.00	\$4,670.82
Total General Fund Expenses	\$11,642.90	\$129,197.79
General Funds Cash Flow	\$6,862.21	\$25,752.76

The large increase in offering is due to a parishioner who pays quarterly. The expenses are lower than the actual expenses because of the Holidays and some bills that were shifted to January.



February 2024

THE BASH

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<div>Rev. Jan S. Worms gracious@miwest.net Office Hours by appointment 618-250-1608</div>				1	2	3
4 Adult Study 9am Worship 10am	5	6 Scouts 7pm	7	8 Men's Club at Church 6pm Book Club at Church 6:30pm	9	10
11 Adult Study 9am Worship 10am	12	13 Scouts 7pm	14 <div>HAPPY Valentine's Day</div>			
18 Adult Study 9am Worship 10am Council Meeting at 11am	19 Young Hall in use 10am	20 Scouts 7pm	21	22	23 Newsletter Deadline	24
25 Adult Study 9am Worship 10am	26	27 Scouts 7pm	28	29		

HAPPY
Valentine's
Day

Rev. Jan S. Worms, Interim

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Neal Booth, President
Robin Lusardi, Vice-President
Teresa Droste, Secretary
Kay Tucker, Treasurer
Vicki Baggio & Pat Ford, Wendy Reinbold,
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://twitter.com/LutheranIL>
www.youtube.com/channel/UCvX9AiTIIQb2ZD76edJPifQ?

Service Time:
In-Person & Online 10AM

Resurrection Lutheran Church

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