

the Resurrectionist

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



JOY, PEACE, & RENEWAL IN THE NEW YEAR

**Dear Heavenly Father,
I thank You for the year that has passed.
I am grateful for the blessings You have offered
me in that time.**

**Remind me to trust in You When life feels
uncertain, and please forgive me when I fail.
Let me be generous with love and compassion
toward others. For I know the infinite
Possibilities that are born from faith in You.**

**In your glorious name, I pray.
Amen.**



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I don't think we could possibly have had a better December at Resurrection. Worship participation was wonderful. The Advent Mid-Week services were great. Superb and delicious soup, salad and desserts were served before midweek worship. Christmas Eve worship was lovely and certainly enhanced by the talented Tillman family. Russ's organ music never fails to be inspiring and wasn't our little choir excellent! Our sanctuary and church grounds were just beautiful with the lights, poinsettias, Advent wreath and candles. If you were unaware, those were the new oil-filled candles on the Advent wreath, purchased with Memorial funds. They were beautiful and will enhance our worship and be God-pleasing for years to come.

The festivities are not quite over. We will "unhang" the greens following worship on January 7. Please wear casual clothes to worship that day and plan to stay a bit after worship to help with taking it all down and putting the décor away for next year. There is truth in the old saying, "Many hands make light work."

Looking ahead to January, Adult Study will resume at 9:00 A.M. Sunday mornings on January 7. We will spend a few weeks continuing our discussion and learning about the Arab/Israeli conflict in the Middle East. There are some very good videos beginning to be posted on You Tube. In addition to handouts from the ELCA "Peace without Walls" initiative, we'll watch a couple of these recent videos.

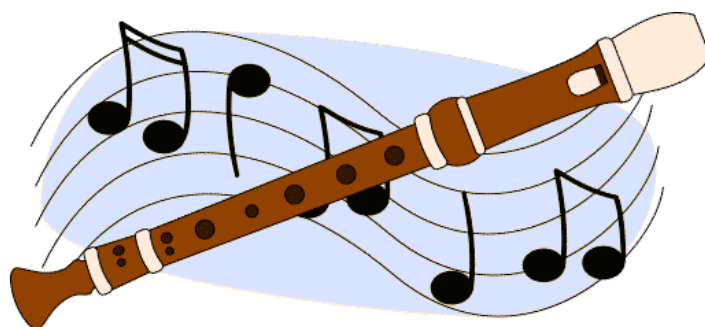
Sometime in mid to late January we will begin an 8-session video course titled, "Introduction to Islam: Dialogical Overview for 21st Century Christians." Each video session is 18-20 minutes long and presented by a variety of experts on the subject. From the course description, "Learners will gain two important perspectives from this program. First, they will get a solid overview and deeper understanding of the religion of Islam. Secondly, they will gain a new appreciation of the relationship between Christianity and Islam, including possibilities for hope and dialog in the post-September 11 era." An out-of-print book accompanies the series. If you'd like a copy, there are several used books available on Amazon and other on-line sellers. Search for "God is One: The Way of Islam" by R. Marston Speight. Copies on Amazon start at \$0.96 plus about \$4.00 for shipping.

Your Christmas bonus gift to me was a lovely and thoughtful surprise. I am thankful and grateful to you! I've used part of it to purchase a new Alto Recorder with keys. I've loved recorders since 5th Grade when I was introduced to them by my music teacher, Miss Behrens. I own several and love each one of them. As I grow older, I find that my hands don't have the flexibility or the stretch that they had in the past. An instrument with keys will allow me to comfortably and safely continue my love affair with recorders. I purchased a Moellenhauer alto made in Fulda, Germany.

It is being shipped to me from Treppendorf, Germany from a family-owned company named Thomann, which is the largest music store in Europe. It requires six – eight weeks to “play in” a new wooden recorder. Failing to “play in” properly or rushing the process can cause the wood to crack. Just like a pipe organ, and my harp, my new recorder will not develop its mature “voice” for about two years. Just like another old saying, “Patience is a virtue,” when it applies to a new wooden recorder. I’m anxiously following the progress of its shipment to me from Germany. I know that I will treasure this instrument and that it will always hold for me fond memories of you and your kindness to me.

For your calendar, please also note the we will install our new council during worship on January 14. Special thanks to our 2023 council, both those leaving the council and those who will continue to serve. Please share your appreciation with them. They have been a good council and wonderful to work with. And, please add our 2024 council to your prayers, that our gracious God may guide them and lead them as they work for us here at Resurrection.

All good hopes for you and yours in the New Year, and
Peace to you and yours from me and my little gray cat, Lilly.
Pastor Jan



President's Message

It's a New Year, and a New Beginning!

New beginnings can be both exciting and intimidating. They represent a chance to start fresh and make positive changes in our lives, but they also require us to let go of the familiar and step into the unknown.

For me, it's both exciting and intimidating being voted in as your new church president. Thankfully, I have some familiarity with the role, having served on council the past 4 years. I would like to say that I have acquired a basic understanding of how Resurrection rolls, but will that be enough? We all know that the "Resurrection Road" hasn't been the smoothest route over the past couple of years. I think it's safe to say that is a little intimidating. Thankfully, 2023 blessed us with Pastor Jan, who has committed to kicking off 2024 with us. Her wisdom, willingness to provide us with new experiences/ideas and ability to guide church council in appropriate decisions has been a definite asset. An asset I feel will help me as I charter the unknown.

There is also the intimidation of having to be the one in charge. You know, the one who gets to address conflicts, offer resolutions or say a little speech. That will be uncharted territory for me, as someone who has mostly sat quietly in the front of church on Sunday. When I was still teaching, I had to walk in those shoes daily. Do I still have what it takes to pull that off successfully 15 years later? Knowing if the words I pick, say or use will be good enough, and hopefully not offend, will be on the back of my mind . . . another slight intimidation. Thankfully those who have already worked with me on council know I'm not afraid to speak up either. Maybe a little too much sometimes, lol.

I also question if I have overcommitted myself, being stuck on a rigid schedule at the police department. My life already seems burdened as a single homeowner with an old house, large yard, pets and cars to maintain on top of daily chores like cooking, cleaning and laundry. After all, I'm just one person trying to survive in this rather questionable world. I may not physically be around as often as some would like or as often as those who served in this role previously. Regardless, I have accepted the position, exited to give it a go, and hope to make the best of it that I can. Thank you for your faith in me.

As Christians, we can find hope and strength in knowing that God is with us in all things, including the new beginnings we face. In Isaiah 43:19, the Lord says, "Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?" God is constantly at work in our lives, creating new opportunities and possibilities for us.

Happy New Year,
Neal Booth



JANUARY
january

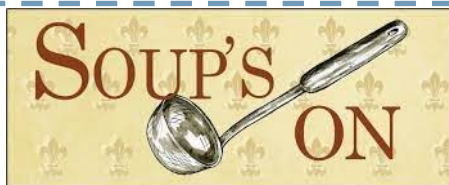
News & Updates

JANUARY
january

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 !!!



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

Book Club

The Book Club will have a social night on **January 11th at 6:30 pm at Santino's Restaurant**, anyone interested in joining us please contact me by noon on the 11th so proper reservations can be made.

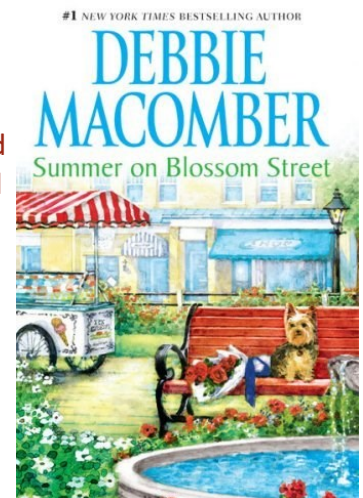
I know it is early to receive a notice about the book we will be enjoying and discussing at our February meeting, but this will give everyone the opportunity to have ample time to get it from the library, to read it, and return it for another person to pick it up.

Vera Schultze will be the discussion leader at our February 8th meeting and her book choice is Summer on Blossom Street by Debbie Macomber. The Book is available at the library.

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.

Have a joyous and happy holiday season.

Ruth Wolter
618-433-1469



Chili Success Story

The Men's Group of Resurrection Lutheran Church conducted their 5th Chili Drive-thru selling over 800 bowls of chili this year. The tickets for 2 bowls of chili were \$8.00. The customers had the option of rounding that up to \$10, with the extra \$2 going towards the Maui relief fund. The end result was nearly \$500 designated for Maui relief funds and the Men's Group matched that. \$1000 went to Lutheran Disaster Relief which administers the distribution to those in Maui who suffered from the fires.

This was truly a community event. The Telegraph told the story of the event to come and included the 3 Thursdays of chili sales in the "What's happening..." section of the newspaper. The chili was prepared in the church's kitchen over 6 different days. After the 3 days of sales, just a few bowls were left and they were quickly sold to members the following Sunday. A special THANK YOU to the community and all involved.

The attached picture shows Dan Garner, President of the Men's Group (and chief cook), symbolically presenting the \$1000 check to James Lieber, President of the Congregation.



The Men's Club will meet **Thursday, January 11 at 6pm** in Young Hall.
Dinner to follow at 7pm !

Dan Garner
618-792-1777





FYI– The Organ

As some of you may already know and/or have literally heard, our church organ is ill and running on borrowed time!

Bottom line, it's 30 years old and has served its purpose. There are three issues, unknown if related to each other at this time. There is a failing circuit board causing fluctuations in the volume (possibly damaged from battery acid or the previous surge from lightening a few years back), a non-working pedal and only one of eight pre-recording options working at this time. A service call has already occurred with Steinway from St. Louis. We were advised to keep an eye on it for the time being. Council has agreed to seek a second opinion if one can be found. . . options for such services are far and few. We are not ready to shop and receive sticker shock yet, but know that this

could be coming at a substantial expense to Resurrection! Replacement over repairs will probably something we will be dealing with in the near future.

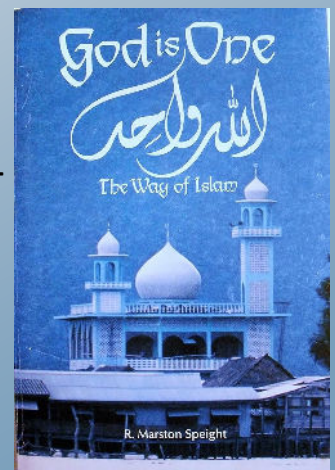
Sincerely,
Neal Booth and Council



Adult Study– Resumes Jan. 7

Adult Study will resume at 9:00 A.M. Sunday mornings on January 7. We will spend a few weeks continuing our discussion and learning about the Arab/Israeli conflict in the Middle East.

In mid to late January we will begin an 8-session video course titled, "Introduction to Islam: Dialogical Overview for 21st Century Christians." Each video session is 18-20 minutes long and presented by a variety of experts on the subject. From the course description, "Learners will gain two important perspectives from this program. First, they will get a solid overview and deeper understanding of the religion of Islam. Secondly, they will gain a new appreciation of the relationship between Christianity and Islam, including possibilities for hope and dialog in the post-September 11 era." An out-of-print book accompanies the series. If you'd like a copy, there are several used books available on Amazon and other on-line sellers. Search for "God is One: The Way of Islam" by R. Marston Speight. Copies on Amazon start at \$0.96 plus about \$4.00 for shipping.



Highlight's from Church Council – Dec.

REPORTS

- **Treasurer's Report September:** November income was down compared to the previous two years. Total offering was \$9,109.41. Total income was \$9,317.50. Total expenses were \$11,833.88 for the month. The cash flow balance for the month was **-\$2,516.38**. We were able to get a refund for antivirus software that was charged on an autorenewal last month. Council has discovered a few services Pastor Hoffman purchased on auto renewal plans that the church simply does not need or want. There was an increase in office supplies due to the extra service for Veteran's Day as well.
- **President's Report:** Jim recapped recent events throughout the past month. The Giving/Angel Tree was a success with 22 tags taken by members the first Sunday they were displayed. We appreciate Jim's efforts in making sure this happened with the late start we got this year.
- **Pastor's Report:**
 - January 7th will be the unhangings of the greens with a light lunch served.
 - Installation of New Council will take place on January 14.
 - Adult education will resume at 9am on Sunday, January 7. Conversation on exploring the Arab/Israeli Conflict will continue. In late January, Pastor will begin an 8-session study "Introduction to Islam." An out-of-print book accompanies the video. Used copies are available from Amazon, and other out-of-print resources. Anyone wishing to purchase the book should look for the title God Is One- The Way of Islam, by R Marston Speight. Copies have been seen as cheap as \$.96 on Amazon.
 - Pastor has suggested that the Men's Club consider using some of their accumulated funds to purchase additional signage in the form of vinyl banners to display on the church property for seasonal services like lent, advent, veteran's etc.
 - **Our church organ is ill and running on borrowed time!** Bottom line, it's 30 years old and has served its purpose. There are three issues, unknown if related to each other at this time. There is a failing circuit board (possibly damaged from battery acid), a non-working pedal and only one of eight pre-recording options working at this time. A service call has already occurred with Steinway from St. Louis. Pastor, Russ and Dan Callahan were less than thrilled with the service call. They were basically told to keep an eye on it, as the repairman seemed inexperienced and lacking knowledge on the issues. Council has agreed to hopefully track down a previous repairman used several years ago for a second opinion. Just know that replacement over repairs will probably be something Resurrection will be dealing with in the near future.
 - **Pastor mentioned it is an honor and joy for her to serve Resurrection. We are thankful for her time, talents and ministry.**



Council Highlights continued,

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- **Social:** Sharon Groh has resigned. Anyone interested in being chair of the Social Cmte., please contact Neal Booth or Pastor. We fervently hope that Carol Garner and the Isringhausens continue their roles.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

- Suggestions from the Audit Cmte. continue to be considered. Council agrees that some of them can and will occur. A few of them are simply not possible due to software related issues and the availability of members/volunteers that are needed.
- Neal has been in communication with Dan Garner on the outdoor prayer cross that was proposed/mentioned earlier this past year. Pastor and Council are still in favor of the project. But, neither Council or the Men's Club have been able to come to terms on what this should look like given the fact that they are constructing/erecting it. A new location that would provide a reflection area open to the public with lighting and seating that will also enhance our landscaping has been introduced. Further to be announced as Neal and Dan take back the ideas and propose them.

THANK YOU

A big THANK YOU to Pastor, Russ, the Tillman Family, the Garners, Keith Collier, Jim Lieber, Janet Broche, Teresa Droste, Ruth Wolter, Robin Lusardi, Tim Belfield and anyone I inadvertently left out. Thank you for a wonderful, reflective Christmas Eve service, whether it was via music, singing, decorating, bulletins or cleaning to name a few.

Although the service was lightly attended, those present know a lot of time and energy went into making our Christmas Eve Service something above and beyond the norm!



- 8 Robert Doerr
Mary Elizabeth Jackson
- 9 Cheryl Margherio
- 11 Bud Jackson
- 12 Joe Wyatt
- 20 Tammy Neese

HAPPY
Wedding
ANNIVERSARY

- 14 John and Teresa Droste

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

FINANCIAL STATUS – November 2023



DEDICATED FUNDS BALANCE	\$65,470.32
GENERAL FUNDS CASH FLOW	(\$2,516.38)
GENERAL FUND	\$13,845.56

	<u>11/1/2023 -</u> <u>11/30/2023</u>	<u>YEAR TO</u> <u>DATE</u>
GENERAL FUNDS		
Income		
Offering	\$9,109.41	\$129,547.03
Lenten Offering		\$1,800.30
Other Income	\$208.09	\$6,698.17
Total General	\$9,317.50	\$136,245.20
Expenses		
Benevolence	\$275.00	\$3,085.00
Building and	\$1,534.35	\$20,731.50
Christian Edu-	\$0.00	\$0.00
Church Mort-	\$2,608.00	\$28,688.00
Evangelism	\$0.00	\$394.77
Insurance	\$500.00	\$5,953.35
Office	\$636.04	\$5,284.33
Personnel Costs	\$1,036.06	\$7,811.87
Personnel Sala-	\$4,589.40	\$40,727.77
Social Ministry	\$95.06	\$494.65
Stewardship	\$0.00	\$138.81
Worship	\$559.97	\$4,244.82
Total General Fund Expenses	\$11,833.88	\$117,554.87
General Funds Cash	(\$2,516.38)	\$18,690.33

The General Fund (checking account) is decreased this month and the Dedicated Funds (money market) is increased because we shifted \$5,000 from checking to the money market.

January 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

	1	2 Boy Scouts 7pm	3	4	5	6
7 Adult Study 9am Worship 10am Unhanging of Greens 11am	8	9 Boy Scouts 7pm	10	11 Men's Club with dinner at 6p Book Club at San- tino's Restaurant 6:30pm	12	13
14 Adult Study 9am Worship 10am— New Council mem- bers installed	15 Young Hall in use 1pm	16 Boy Scouts 7pm	17	18	19	20
21 Adult Study 9am Worship 10am	22	23 Boy Scouts 7pm	24	25	26	27 Newsletter Deadline
28 Adult Study 9am Worship 10am	29	30 Soup's On 1st Presbyterian 10:30 am Boy Scouts 7p	31	<div> <p>Rev. Jan S. Worms gracious@miwest.net Office Hours by appointment 618-250-1608</p> </div>		

Rev. Jan S. Worms, Interim

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Neal Booth, President
Robin Lusardi, Vice-President
Teresa Droste, Secretary
Kay Tucker, Treasurer
Vicki Baggio & Pat Ford, *At Large Members*
Wendy Reinbold, & 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

1211 W. Homer Adams Pkwy.
Godfrey, IL 62035

