

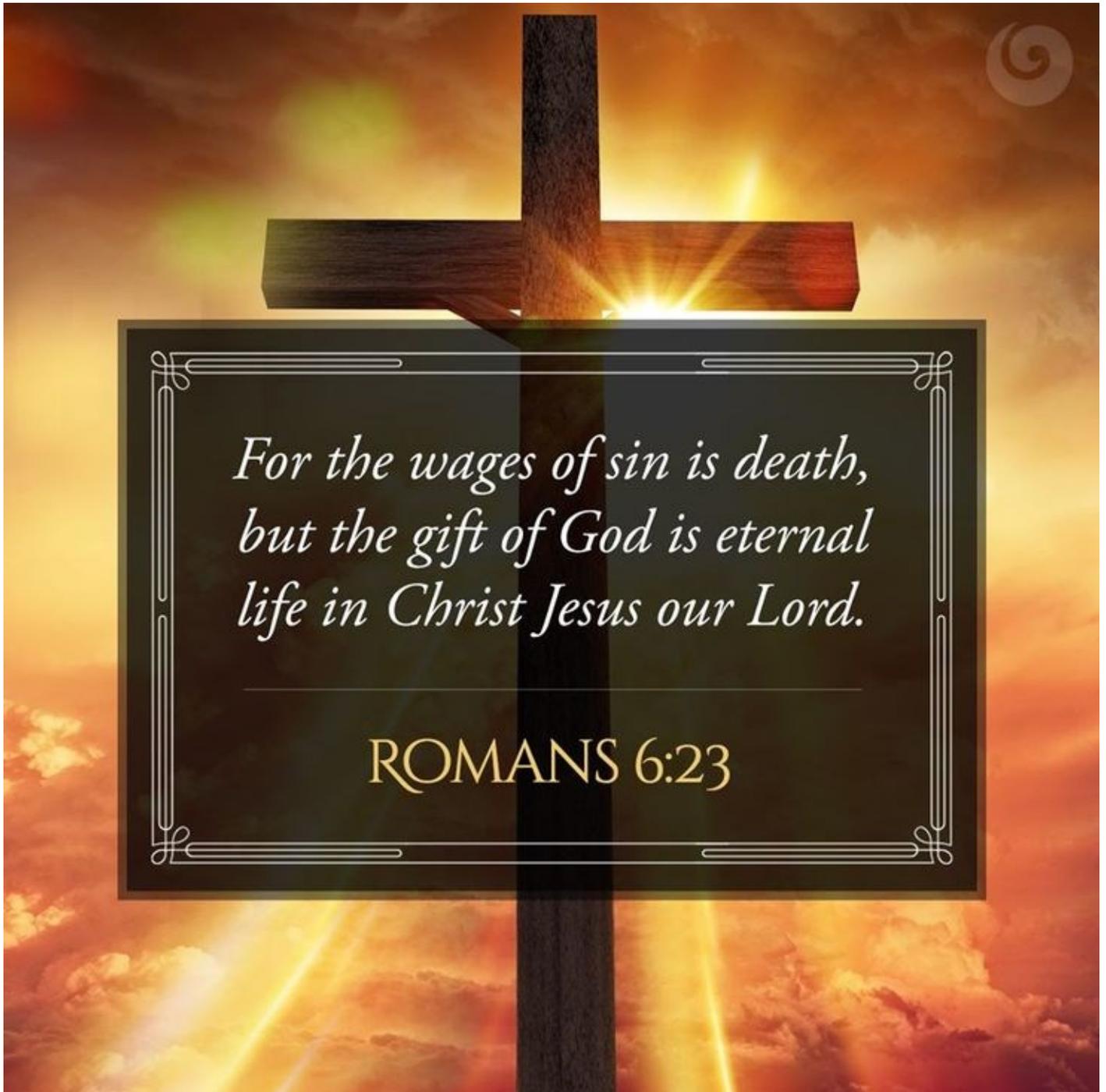
VOL XLIV

March 2024

NO 3

the
Resurrectionist

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





COME AND
CELEBRATE
WITH US THIS EASTER

- Lenten Services March 6, 13 and 20, 7pm
 - Simple Suppers at 6pm
- Palm Sunday Service, March 24, 10am
- Maundy Thursday, March 28, 7pm
- Way of the Cross, March 29, 3pm
 - Good Friday Service, March 29, 7pm
- Easter Service, March 31, 10am
 - Easter Breakfast, 9am



President's Message

March is typically considered a month for Confession and Forgiveness. As we well know, it typically aligns with the Christian season of Lent, in which we are called to repent and spiritually prepare for the celebration of Easter and Christ's resurrection. This year we will have three weeks to do so, but we will also finish the month with Easter when we are reminded that the mercy of Christ is forever greater than the sins of man.

As we serve and bear with one another in our Christian living, sin will happen. It's unavoidable. Sin occurs and has consequences, and followers of Jesus Christ deal with both. We learn that we need Christ and his Spirit to help us avoid sin and to help us confess and forgive it when it happens. James advises us to "confess our sins to each other and pray for each other." That process leads to healing.

Though we often sin against one another at home, work and sometimes in the church, we're also in the best of places to deal with it. We do so by acknowledging it, confessing it, and forgiving it. A process for some, that can even lead to helping forget it. Churches are made up of forgiven sinners who also become forgivers! A powerful statement that backs our new yearly theme "Achieve, Believe and Proclaim." We can ACHIEVE forgiveness just by BELIEVING.

God can use forgiven and forgiving followers of Jesus Christ in amazing ways to attract - others into fellowship with him and with each other. . . a.k.a. PROCLAIMING. People have even been known to say, "There's forgiveness and acceptance with those folks."

Confessing and forgiving are also the hallmarks of a healthy marriage and family. Just as God loves and forgives us, he calls us to love and forgive the people around us. When we have sinned against one another, we must confess. And then, though it can be difficult, we must also forgive, for we are called to love one another.

***Jesus, you teach us to ask for forgiveness daily. Help us also to forgive any who sin against us.
Give us the grace you have shown to us by your sacrifice for our sake. Amen.***

Blessings to you as you ACHIEVE, BELIEVE AND PROCLAIM this Easter,

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 that provides shelter and care to cats and dogs that are primarily unadoptable due to medical and other conditions.

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

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



<https://oasiswomenscenter.org/>



The Boys and Girls Club of Alton that 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.

Gift Cards

Council has moved \$1000 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 were 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.

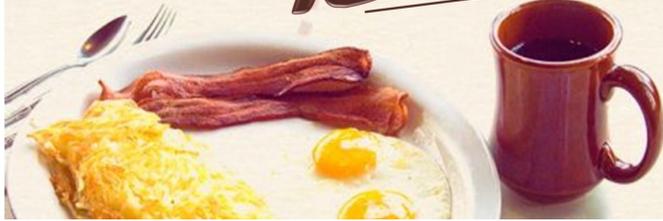
Thanks, Church Council.



EASTER breakfast

Breakfast Served at 9 AM

Men's Club will prepare at 8 AM



A Big THANKS to the Men's Club for carrying on this Resurrection tradition.

SAVE THE DATE

Our Men's Club has some exciting community oriented activities coming up.
Flyers and details to follow soon !

- The **GREAT CLASSIC MUSIC of the ERA** concert, featuring the Thomas Taylor and Elizabeth Clark duo will be held on April 27th at 6pm.
- The **Cars, Coffee, Community Car Display** will be held May 18, July 20 and September 21, 8:30 - 11am.

*Many volunteers will be needed to help us **Achieve, Believe and Proclaim His Word**. These events will be community oriented and the perfect opportunity for us to witness at Resurrection Lutheran. "Nothing is more expensive than a missed opportunity."*

Dan Garner
618-792-1777

Committee Sign-up Sheets

Sign-up sheets for those serving on a committee or active in a group like the Men's Club, Book Club, etc. . . were placed in the Narthex. We would like to get an up-to-date list of who is serving on what, and who is the dedicated chairperson. Please take 5 seconds to add your name so we can get this done quickly and clear out the extra narthex clutter.

Thanks,
Neal Booth



Our next meeting is Thursday, March 14.

Adopt a Highway cleanup at 5
Meeting at 6
Dinner at 7p

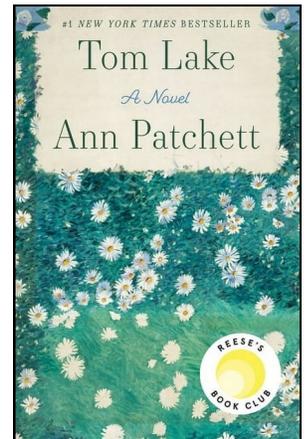


Thanks, Dan Garner
618-792-1777

Book Club

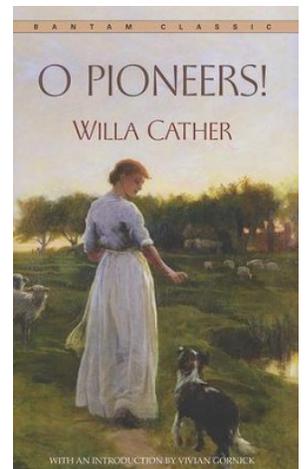
Judy Young will be our discussion leader for our March 14th meeting. Her book choice is Tom Lake by Ann Patchett. It currently is a popular read, so get your name on the list at the library. I hope to schedule leaders at least two months in advance so people have ample opportunity to get the books read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



Our April meeting will be held on April 11, with Sharon Groh as discussion leader. Her book choice is O Pioneers! by Willa Cather. It is available at the library.

Summary: "O Pioneers!" introduces us to the Bergsons, a family of Swedish-American immigrants who live in the fictional farm town of Hanover, Nebraska at the beginning of the 20th century. The story centers on the life of Alexandra Bergson, who inherits the family farm with her mother and three brothers when her father dies. Many years of crop failures force the Bergson's neighbors to give up and sell their farms, something that Alexandra's brothers Oscar and Lou wish to do but which Alexandra and her mother are unwilling to do. Instead Alexandra convinces the family to mortgage their homestead in order to buy up the surrounding acreage. Amidst the backdrop of managing the farm there develops two romantic relationships in the novel, one between Alexandra and her childhood friend Carl Linstrum, who returns after many years away, and another between Alexandra's youngest brother, Emil, and the unhappily married Marie Shabata. "O Pioneers!" is a classic portrayal of the struggles of immigrants in the great plains of America, a story of success in the face of hardship, and the growth of a young woman along the way.



We welcome anyone interested in attending our group get-togethers.

Ruth Wolter
618-433-1469

Easter Lilies

Easter is coming soon and early this year. Keeping up with tradition, we want our sanctuary to be beautified by Easter Lilies and their fragrance as we celebrate the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The price per lily this year will be \$13.80. Sign-up forms are in the narthex.

Thanks, Ruth Wolter
618-317-5157



A picture sent in by Rich Kelley. This was taken outside of The Cross at the Crossroads in Effingham, IL. For those unfamiliar, like me, this gigantic cross is 200 feet tall and 113 wide. To learn more, click on the link below.

<https://crossusa.org/>

Look closely at the reflection of cross in the foreground and Jesus in the background looking up at the cross.

Thanks for sharing Rich.

Highlight's from Church Council – February



REPORTS

* **Treasurer's Report:** Total offering was \$11,467.44. Total income was \$11,717.31. This is less than last year as we have a parishioner who pays annually and that check did not get deposited until February. Total expenses for the month were \$11,981.94. The cash flow balance was -\$264, but we budgeted a deficit of almost \$2,000 and \$1,000 was transfer funds. The disbursement of the Advent Offerings was also sent to 5A's, Riverbend Family Ministries and St. Ambrose Outreach.

* **President's Report:** Neal advised that the yearly theme had received a few compliments and that our active committees/group chairs were advised to start implementing it into their reports and updates to the congregation. Concerns with volume in the sanctuary was discussed. Several people have privately commented on difficulty hearing. The issue has been addressed with Dan C. and Tim. If you are having a problem hearing, please let someone know.

* **Pastor's Report:**

4 Council members kicked off the Midweek Lenten Suppers by signing up for 2 of the meals. Sherry and Kay volunteered to organize all the dinners.

Pastor would like to continue focusing on community outreach, as she believes it is vital to the future of our church. Some good "seeds" were planted in 2023, such as Blessing of Gardens and Pets, the Veteran's Day service and the Chili sales. She would like us to build upon and expand upon these and other creative ideas that may arise, with the goal of community outreach occurring quarterly, if not every other month.

Pastor is seeking a volunteer to expand our social media presence to include Instagram and X (Twitter).

Assembling a team of volunteers for distributing Holy Communion to the sick, home bound and hospitalized was discussed.

A request for more time to provide Pastoral Care to the sick, home bound and hospitalized was brought up, most likely to include 2 more days of paid office hours per month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

* **Men's Club:** Plans for the free concert occurring on April 27th at 6pm are underway. Duo Thomas Taylor and Elizabeth Clark will be performing random original artist's hits. The Cars and Coffee function is tentatively being planned for May 18, July 20 and Sept. 21. 8:30-11am. More details pending. The Men's Club will prepare the Easter Breakfast for us once again.

NEW BUSINESS

* **Good Shepherd Sunday:** Pastor Jan will introduce us to Good Shepherd Sunday on April 21. Good Shepherd Sunday offers the opportunity to open our hearts to welcome all into Jesus' abundant life. We will also be collecting for Lutheran Social Services of Illinois on this date.

ACHIEVE, BELIEVE & PROCLAIM

In case you missed it last month, **ACHIEVE, BELIEVE & PROCLAIM** is our new yearly theme. It will serve as our compass, guiding and keeping us focused as Christians throughout 2024. We want to share with each other, the congregation and the community how we at Resurrection will "Achieve, Believe and Proclaim." How successful this theme will become depends on you and your cooperation !

- Just reflecting on one of these words periodically in your newsletter updates/ articles or when making an announcement before worship is a perfect way to start.
- If something happens in your personal life that incorporates one of these words and you are moved to share it with others, please consider shooting me an email for the newsletter.
- In my Easter message, you saw an example of how easily I incorporated all three words in just a sentence or two. This doesn't have to be an essay and it doesn't have to be challenging task.

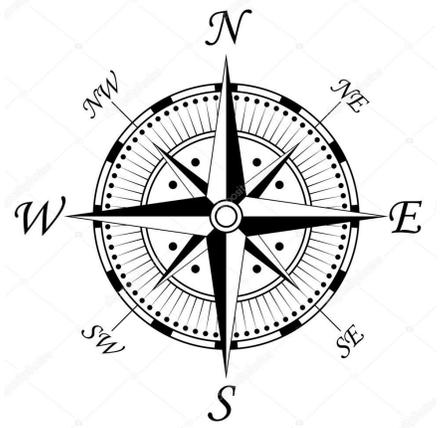
What does it mean to achieve? Achieving is to succeed in finishing something or reaching an aim, especially after a lot of work or effort has taken place.

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.

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.

Let's see if we can hold ourselves accountable and accept this challenge. Hopefully we will be able to reflect on our success at the end of the year.

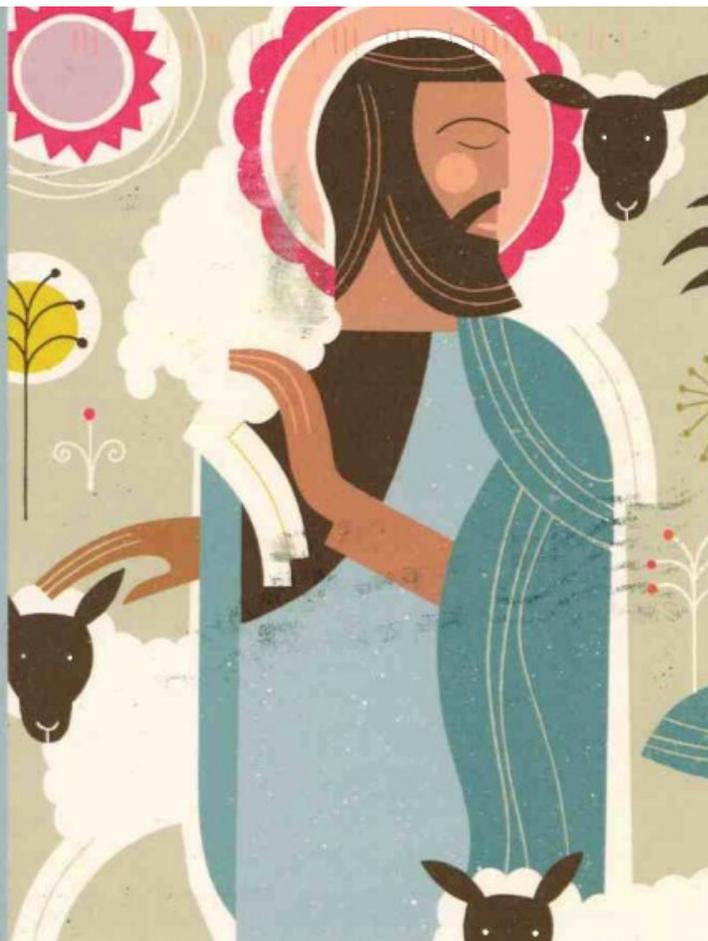
Thanks,
Neal Booth



Good Shepherd Sunday offers the opportunity to open our hearts to welcome all into Jesus' abundant life.

Save the date! April 21, 2024

 Lutheran Social Services of Illinois



HELP WANTED

A volunteer is needed to help expand our social media presence on both Instagram and X (formerly Twitter). The accounts are already created, we just need someone to put life into them via posting. If interested, please contact Pastor Jan. She can provide more details on the task. Thanks.



- 3 Jim Lieber
- 5 Vera Schultze
- 8 Keith Collier
- 11 Tim Belfield
- 22 Elyse Tillman
- 23 Geraldine Cappel
- 30 Carter Brown

HAPPY
Wedding
ANNIVERSARY

- 4 Curt and Sandy Bagwill
- 18 Charlie and Judy Kelley

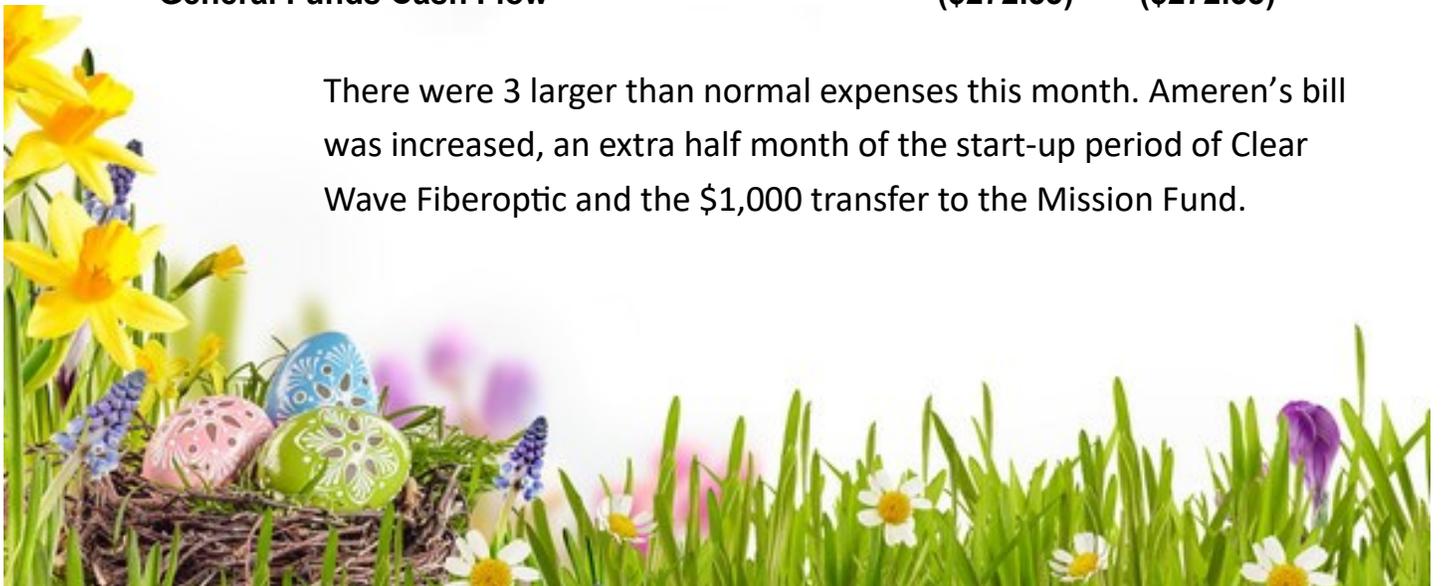
If you didn't see your name listed for a Birthday or Anniversary, please email Neal Booth to be added. Thanks.

FINANCIAL STATUS – January 2024

DEDICATED FUNDS BALANCE	\$69,004.54
GENERAL FUNDS CASH FLOW	\$272.53
GENERAL FUND BALANCE	\$20,051.19

	<u>1/1/2024 -</u> <u>1/31/2024</u>	<u>YEAR TO</u> <u>DATE</u>
GENERAL FUNDS DETAIL		
Income		
Offering	\$11,467.44	\$11,467.44
Lenten Offering	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other Income	\$249.87	\$249.87
Total General Fund In- come	\$11,717.31	\$11,717.31
Expenses		
Benevolence	\$1,275.00	\$1,275.00
Building and Grounds	\$1,430.31	\$1,430.31
Christian Education	\$0.00	\$0.00
Church Mortgage	\$2,608.00	\$2,608.00
Evangelism	\$0.00	\$0.00
Insurance	\$500.00	\$500.00
Office	\$462.16	\$462.16
Personnel Costs	\$838.29	\$838.29
Personnel Salaries	\$4,524.60	\$4,524.60
Social Ministry	\$0.00	\$0.00
Stewardship Supplies	\$161.73	\$161.73
Worship	\$189.75	\$189.75
Total General Fund Expenses	\$11,989.84	\$11,989.84
General Funds Cash Flow	(\$272.53)	(\$272.53)

There were 3 larger than normal expenses this month. Ameren’s bill was increased, an extra half month of the start-up period of Clear Wave Fiberoptic and the \$1,000 transfer to the Mission Fund.



March 2024

Sun

Mon

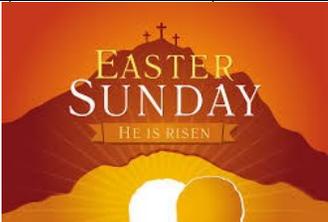
Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1	2
3 Adult Study 9am Worship 10am Young Hall in use this afternoon	4	5 Scouts 7pm	6 Lenten Meal 6p Worship 7p	7	8	9
10 Adult Study 9am Worship 10am	11	12 Scouts 7pm	13 Lenten Meal 6p Worship 7p	14 Men's Club at Church 5p Book Club at Church 6:30pm	15	16
17 Adult Study 9am Worship 10am Church Council 11am	18	19 Scouts 7pm	20 Lenten Meal 6p Worship 7p	21	22	23
24 Adult Study 9am Palm Sunday Worship 10am	25	26 Scouts 7pm	27 Newsletter Deadline	28 Maundy Thursday Service 7pm	29 Way of the Cross 3pm Good Friday Service 7pm	30
31 Easter Breakfast 9am Easter Worship 10am						

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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Service Time:
In-Person & Online 10AM

Resurrection Lutheran Church

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Godfrey, IL 62035

