



Resurrection Lutheran Church
Annual Report
2024

Resurrection Lutheran Church

A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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February 2025

Staff

Pastor Jan Worms, Interim Pastor	618-250-1608
Russ Henkhaus, Music Leader	314-520-4975
Janet Broche, Administrative Assistant	618-401-2646

Our Mission . . .

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

Our Vision . . .

To share God's care, we invite people personally and virtually into community and offer opportunities to grow and serve.

Our Guiding Principles . . .

1. Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior.
2. Transparency is key to integrity.
3. Acceptance in inviting.
4. Faithful in caring.
5. Compassion for everyone.
6. Creatively growing in service.

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I. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The year 2024 was a different kind of year for me personally in my spiritual and church life. Having served two full terms on the Church Council as an at-large member, with my 2nd term ending in December 2023, I was anticipating a pause from Council life. I thought I would be taking a break and continue with my duties as the newsletter editor and maintaining the church's website, tasks I've done for the past several years. However, it appears that our Lord had other plans, as I found myself being asked more than once to consider serving as the next President. This role was something I had personally never seen myself doing. I just didn't think I was the person to fill those shoes. Accepting the position came with a few stipulations, like Council being able to work around my challenging schedule that lacks in consistency and availability. They graciously accepted the possibility of last-minute cancelations or reschedules, I was nominated, voted in and the fun began as the new President of Resurrection.

The first couple of months of 2024 quickly presented some challenges to this new President, including having to find a new Vice President as the former moved away. Then I had to find a replacement for an at-large member. The replacements I sought out and asked to step-up were a definite asset to an already rock-solid church Council. A Council whose support I am very much appreciative of. They are to be commended for their time, dedication and valuable input. Thank you!

Other challenges naturally surfaced throughout the year, including the retirement of our organist which came as quite the surprise. "Ask and you shall receive" demonstrated itself again, as our previously retired organist blessed us with 7 more months of uplifting hymns and music. It seems that God had a reason and a plan for everything that confronted us, leading us through the obstacles. I cannot forget that many of these were often benefited by the support and guidance of Pastor Jan Worms. She was an absolute blessing to me with her experience and wisdom, sometimes at 10:00 pm. Thank you, Pastor Jan, for being just a phone call away!

This past year I also introduced a yearly theme, **Achieve, Believe and Proclaim**, something not done previously. I challenged our committees and congregation to act upon these words in both our work inside the church and out in the community. I wanted to take a second and highlight what we accomplished.

What did we **Achieve**? We achieved another fiscal year coming in under budget thanks to reduced salary and benefit expenditures. Our mortgage was paid off early and celebrated with a wonderful catered luncheon. We invested \$40,000 into CDs now earning us interest. Pastor Jan renewed her interim contract twice, showing dedication and an invested commitment to Resurrection. We also saw more members involved across the board, whether it be with the PI team, CODO (Carbon Monoxide Detector Outreach), Men's Club, Book Club and/or the Community Garden. Two new members were also welcomed by warming conversations and friendly faces. Others kept visiting regularly as well.

What did/do we **Believe**? We believe there is one God, and that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. We believe in the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ and Salvation by Grace. We believe in Eternal Life. We believed that our outreach efforts would continue to grow and strengthen our relationships with our neighbors in the community. We believed that God would continue to steer the Resurrection wheel in the direction he sees best.

How did we **Proclaim**? Resurrection opened our doors to the community with two concerts, 3 car shows and the 2nd year of hosting a Veteran's Day Service. We had a successful kick-off to our ongoing service project, CODO, keeping people safe in their homes with new carbon monoxide detectors and fire alarms. Another successful Chili Drive sent \$3,324 to disaster relief funds. Our 2nd Blessing of Pets assisted the needs of 3 different centers in our immediate community. At-home communion was reestablished. A bountiful harvest of fresh produce was shared with the Crisis Food Center and those in need from our Community Garden. Online worship continued to be made possible by the Resurrection Tech Team. And for some, they simply extended themselves via a hello.

I would say we more than demonstrated Resurrection's mission to share God's care, invite people personally and virtually into community, and offer opportunities to grow and serve. The list for **Achieving, Believing & Proclaiming** goes on, with many other involvements that probably slipped my mind upon writing this. As Church President, I am just one small piece of the whole. I would say 2024 was quite an impressive year for those of us that regularly gather for worship and make all of this happen.

Thank you for your support and looking forward to an even more rewarding experience as your President in 2025.

Sincerely,
Neal Booth

Resurrection Lutheran Church

Annual Congregational Meeting

November 17, 2024 11:00 a.m.

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

- Neal Booth opened by meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance. He began by informing everyone of some of the work that the council has undertaken this year and of some major expenses that will need to be approved to update our building.
- Attendance was taken to ensure that a quorum was reached. The result was 38 members attended, and a quorum was reached. Distribution of previous year's congregational meeting minutes, nominating committee roster, proposed budget and agenda was completed.
- No corrections were found in the November 2023 Annual Congregational Meeting. A motion was made by Neal Booth to accept the minutes as written. Mark Groh seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- The 2025 proposed budget was presented by Kay Tucker. She explained that the budget has a negative balance due to the budget reflecting the hiring of a full-time pastor. We are in good shape. She noted that we made a contribution of \$1,900 for hurricane relief. A correction to the 2025 budget is an increase of the line item for "Soups On" from \$900 to \$1,200 due to the food prices. A question arose from the floor, Jim Lieber, regarding the line item of Trash Removal. Kay explained that this subject keeps coming up and budgeted \$500 in case we choose to use a service. Rich Kelley made a motion to accept the 2025 budget, along with the above correction. Dan Callahan seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- The Nominating Committee presented the positions to be filled for 2025. They are Bob Doerr as Vice President, Teresa Droste as Secretary, Sherry Wyatt & Mark Groth as at large members. 2024. There were no additional nominees from the floor. The new Council members were accepted by acclamation.
- Neal reviewed the bids that have been received on replacing the roof shingles and replacing the front doors to be more energy efficient. He explained that due to the amounts of the expenditures, the congregation needed to approve the council spending the money. Discussion took place from many people in the congregation about the contractors and which ones the council should consider. Ryan Roofing and Lyons seem to be the favorite of many people. Kay said that the money for these expenditures will not be a burden to the church as we have money in CDs. Sharon Groh made a motion, that with the council doing their due diligence, to approve the expenditure for the roof. The motion was seconded by Rich Kelley with the understanding that the Property Committee be involved. The motion passed.
- Discussion then turned to the replacing of the front doors. Carol Callahan brought up that the congregation can help pay for the doors (and the roof) by contributions. Rich Kelley made the motion to approve the council spending the money to replace the doors with the Property Committee involvement. The motion was seconded by Mark Groh. The motion passed.
- Tim Belfield mentioned that the Nominating Committee for 2025 needs to be approved. They include Alan Robertson, Elyse Tillman and Kay Tucker. Neal Booth made the motion to accept Alan, Elyse and Kay as members of the 2025 Nominating Committee. Mark Groh seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- Neal then asked if there were other items to be discussed. Mark Groh wanted to thank Dave & Ann Isringhausen for the donation of the trailer that was used for the Community Garden. He told the attendees that over 1,000 pounds of vegetables were harvested. Dan Callahan advised that the water drains have been replaced and secured and thank Rich Kelley for the replacement of the water lines to the garden.
- Pastor Jan Worms closed the meeting with reciting the Lord's Prayer.

**Respectfully submitted,
Teresa Droste**

II. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Social Ministry

Members: Ann and David Isringhausen, Carol Garner, Mark and Sharon Groh (Chair)

With the participation of congregation members, the following community and congregation-focused ministries were engaged:

The activities of the Social Ministry Team were incorporated into other committees and outreach activities of the church and community. Member medical needs and sadly, death prevented formal meetings from being a priority. Our faith was expressed in service beyond this Committee. We believe we drew strength through visitation and phone contact.

The Card Ministry was expanded by encouraging all members and friends to send cards, especially remembering those unable to attend worship services or other church activities. A carousel filled with donated greeting cards was placed in the narthex to make it easier to share in this effort.

An outreach training in partnership with the PI Team (Planning & Implementation). Training focused on 1) writing and use of press releases, and 2) creative development and sharing of marketing / outreach materials. The training will be repeated as we strive to improve how we proclaim God's word through telling our story in the community and welcoming all. This training was an example of recognizing our spiritual gifts and how to use them in daily life.

The Alton Crisis Food Center received food donations from the Resurrection Community Garden during the long growing season, in addition to the food left in the donation barrel. Members are always responsive to requests for food. The grocery list bulletin inserts of most-needed-items proved helpful. The "Happy Birthday Bags" are a welcome treat for families but could benefit from additional promotion. We want to recognize members who provide monetary donations in lieu of food due to difficulties getting to the store for purchases. All forms of help are appreciated as the growing need for food continues to exceed resources. A Fall visit to the Center by a group of Resurrection volunteers was an informative experience. The Center includes a clothing store and accepts donations. Prayerfully consider volunteering.

- The ELCA World Hunger celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2024. Our congregation was represented on scheduled webinars and information shared with members.
- Resurrection contributed 246 non-perishable food items to the Troop #7 Scouting for Food annual service event. This was combined with several vehicle loads collected throughout Godfrey donated to the Alton Crisis Food Center.

The Oasis Women's Shelter for victims of domestic violence provides on-site shelter, counseling, and support services. Repeated donations of garden vegetables and personal care items were received with gratitude. God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday was a culmination of several months of planning that resulted in the "*Resurrection Church Smoke Alarm / Carbon Monoxide CO Detector Day of Service. A Community Partnership Project with Alton Fire Department, Godfrey Fire Protection District, and Boy Scout Troop 8007*". The September pilot event was evaluated and determined to be a success. We achieved our goals of setting up an infrastructure to support applicant information, coordination with local fire departments, we developed a database to record donations, volunteer participation, device inventory, and have a baseline for community outreach. We also created a homeowner Waiver of Liability, with input from the church insurance carrier and a legal professional. The consensus of the participating volunteers was to continue soliciting donations to enable quarterly carbon monoxide installation events for Alton & Godfrey homeowners.

In October, recognizing the research-based health benefits and emotional importance of pets to seniors, members helped achieve our social ministry outreach mission within our community by supporting our elderly neighbors struggling to pay for pet food or cat litter. We held a month-long drive to collect these items, and monetary donations. Proceeds were shared with local animal rescue organizations and Senior Services Plus for client

distribution, as needed. A re-packaging party for large bags needing to be re-sized for distribution followed worship and the Blessings of the Pets service.

We have church volunteers working with our unhoused neighbors during winter months at the Alton Overnight Warming Location (OWL) when temperatures drop to 20 degrees or lower. We've met elderly people, young people, people with disabilities, students, men and women who are in danger of hypothermia, frostbite and other medical risks in dangerously cold weather. Folks are offered warm meals/snacks provided by local organizations and restaurants. They have access to showers, laundry, companionship and a cot with a clean blanket and pillow, in a clean, safe location. A "department store" is available where they can select from donations of sleeping bags, clothing, shoes/boots, personal hygiene items, etc. Volunteers are provided with training and typically serve three hour shifts. OWL hours are 5 pm – 8:30 am at Deliverance Temple, 1125 E 6th St, Alton.

Our Advent Giving Tree was a true testament to the power of generosity and support of the individuals and families served by [Riverbend Family Ministries](#). Thank you to everyone who donated sleeping bags, personal care items, towels, kids clothing, gift cards, arts & crafts supplies, household cleaning supplies, hats, gloves, socks, and/or cash. Some of the gifts were directed for therapeutic staff in helping children and families heal from the trauma of violence and abuse.

- Throughout the year we continue to raise awareness of the nonprofit programs and partnerships that serve together under one roof, providing families and individuals with the tools they need to be self-sufficient. RFM focuses on children, youth, and families who've experienced trauma, most often due to violence, addiction, poverty, and homelessness.

We provided support to congregation and community members with medical transportation, meals, informing of community resources, and healthcare advocacy, as needed.

Charter Organization support for Boy Scout Troop #7 is ongoing. We have active engagement at monthly Troop Committee meetings and special Scout events. A Boy Scout Handbook and Merit Badge Book, with related documents are available in the narthex and on a bulletin board in the hallway for everyone to get ideas on how you might become involved. Assistance with Scout events is routinely offered and invitations for Scout roles in church activities are extended.

Immigrant Ministry opportunities are unfolding to us as a church that proclaims a mission statement: "We are an inviting community of faith where we care for all". Throughout 2024 we have periodic Hispanic visitors who have made their home in Alton & Wood River. Thank you for welcoming them and offering support. As a congregation within the ELCA we are provided guidance and tools about what it means to walk alongside immigrants and refugees as a matter of faith, not as a political issue. While we may have different ideas about how to fix a broken immigration system and may have different ways of loving our neighbors, our call to love our neighbor is central to our faith.

The Graceful Nails Ministry with Evergreen Supportive Living was discontinued in 2024. Between two to eight residents received basic nail care, hand massage and conversation each month. Resurrection members donated supplies, but additional volunteers were not available to help, and it became too much for one volunteer to sustain alone.

Serving in God's Loving Grace,

**Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Groh**

Fellowship

Coffee and donuts provided most Sunday mornings throughout the year for bible class.
Reserved Young Hall for 14 outside meetings and events. Open and close for each meeting.
Cleaned Young Hall, bathrooms, and kitchen until cleaning service hired.
Reception for Russ Henkhaus, June 23
Potluck lunch July 28
Veterans Day reception Nov 10
Refreshments following Concerts, April 27 & Dec. 7
5 Lenten suppers, Feb 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20
3 Advent suppers. Dec 4. 11. 18
Set up for Easter breakfast prepared by Men's Club
Mortgage celebration lunch Sept. 22

**Respectfully Submitted,
Carol Garner, Fellowship chair.**

Book Club

Our group meets once a month, the 2nd Thursday of the month, at 6:30 pm, with the exception of July (vacation month) and December (Christmas busy time). We also have two months, January and August, when we meet at a local restaurant for good food and fellowship, just a time to visit with each other and have an enjoyable night out. The other eight months we have a leader who chooses a book, which everyone tries to get read, and then discussed at the next meeting.

Discussions can become quite interesting, come and join us, everyone is welcome.

Ruth Wolter

5th Tuesday's Soup On

On all months that have a 5th Tuesday, we serve the needy in our community. It has been a blessing to all involved. This effort is done on a voluntary basis. The volunteers are: Carol Garner, Kay Tucker, Ruth Wolter, Karen Woods, Rich Kelley, Fay Stoutenborough and me.
They either work the dinner and/or provide food.

This past year, while I was out for health reasons, the core volunteers (Carol, Ruth, Karen, Rich, and Fay) continued with this ministry without me, but with the leadership of Kay. I sincerely appreciated and thank them for their time and dedication.

Janet Broche

Church Properties

Properties Committee Report for Year 2024:

January 9 – Repaired leaking flange gasket on Executive toilet
February 7 – Replace missing shingles
February 14 – Burn yard waste
March 1 – Clean lenses on lights in kitchen, replace 1 light above Altar
March 25 – Change 4 lights above Altar
March 27 – Burn yard waste
April 16 – Get bid to replace fence - Superior Fence
April 17 – Get bid to replace fence – Chesley Fence
May 4 – Spring Workday – powerwash shed, etc. - thanks to all volunteers!
June 3 – Meet with IDOT about water line for Community Garden
June 24 – Get bid from DH Pace for doors
July 5 – Install Twist-Lok receptacle at A/V station in Worship Center
July 15 – Install Fence (Superior Fence)
July 19 – Cut weeds on slope by Community Garden
August ? – Planted 6 new shrubs, install missing cover on lamp post
August 23 – Pressure wash Sidewalk
August 25 – Change Protection 3 breaker in Dimmer Panel
August 26 – Assist Bill Stoutenborough with installation of shades
August 27 – Train wires on floor by Secretary’s Desk, repaired white paper storage unit
August 30 – Get bids from Fischer Lumber and Lyons Glass for doors
September 7 – Install concrete square stones under fence, redid stones by A/C units
September 14 – Fall Workday – thanks to all volunteers!
September 23 – Get bid from Tycon Builders for Roof
September 25 – Preliminary excavation for roof drain lines
October 2 - Burn yard waste
October 6 – Excavate to find AT&T line
October 7 – trench new drain line for roof drains – Success!
December 28 – Burn yard waste

**Respectfully submitted:
Carol and Dan Callahan**

Worship

The Worship and Music Committee continue to support worship at Resurrection by:

Assisting with Distribution of Holy Communion during Sunday Worship,
Sponsoring an annual “Wood Care Day” where we clean and oil the wood in our sanctuary,
Prepare and clean up the elements and vessels used during Holy Communion,
Ordering and caring for altar flowers, Poinsettias and Easter Lilies,
Preparing and cleaning-up to the homebound communion kits,
Recruiting lay readers, assisting ministers, and prayer leaders for Sunday Worship,
Maintaining our vestments and providing cleaning of them as needed,
Changing paraments and hangings to coordinate with the Liturgical Year,

Planning and assisting with special services,
Filling the oil in our permanent candles,
Recommending the purchase of worship items that may be needed,
Coordinating the Hanging/Unhanging of the Greens,
And, any other worship tasks that are needed.

The Worship and Music Committee meets at least quarterly on the first Sunday of the month, after Worship.

**Respectfully Submitted,
The Rev Jan S Worms
Coordinator and Interim Pastor**

Memorial Committee

The Memorial Committee met on June 10. Those present were Pr. Jan Worms, Neal Booth, John Droste, and Dan & Carol Callahan.

Various projects were discussed, including new front doors, replacing the green cloth fence with a vinyl fence, replacing the organ, putting on a new roof, improving the look of the Narthex, changing the lighting in the Sanctuary and Young Hall to LED lighting, and replacing the brick planter box in the front of the church.

Our current front doors do not seal properly and therefore we lose heat and air conditioning through them. The green cloth fence is torn and some of the gromets no longer work. The organ has some issues...although currently functioning, it will need to be replaced at some point. The Narthex could be made to look for inviting to visitors with some new furniture. Changing out all the lighting would save us money in the long run, but is an expensive undertaking right now. The brick planter box is splitting at the corners. It has been fixed at least once, but the problem reoccurs because of the drainage with the box itself.

After considerable discussion, a vote was taken and the recommendations from the committee were to replace the front doors and replace the brick planter box.

**Submitted by:
Kay Tucker, Chairperson**

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee met on October 9 to develop the 2025 Budget for Resurrection. Those present were Pastor Worms, Neal Booth, Dan & Carol Callahan and John Droste.

Working off the template of the 2024 Budget and projections of the end of the year, 2024, we came up with a budget. There were small changes, including an increase in Building & Grounds Maintenance, the Major Repair set-aside, Mowing costs, and Pastor Jan's Retirement. The budget shows a deficit of \$29,534, largely due to the inclusion of the cost of a full-time pastor.

The Budget will be presented to the Council for their approval at the October meeting, and then forwarded to the Congregation (with any changes) in November.

**Respectfully submitted,
Kay Tucker, Committee Chair**

Audit Committee

No Audit was conducted in 2024. The Church Council, Financial Secretary and Treasurer continue to implement many of the suggestions made in the previous audit. Necessary modifications to the budget and/or budgetary line items are periodically made to keep our books current and accurately reflecting the financial status of Resurrection Lutheran.

III. AD HOC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Call Committee

Yes, it seems this year has been a quiet one for the Call Committee. We did have 2 potential nominees during the year. The one in May was unpublished to the Council and the congregation as the sequence of events listed below will explain that nothing need be reported. The nominee was outside our synod. Had been actively seeking a pastoral call in another synod for about a year without success. The nominee requested placement as a rostered minister in our synod and was accepted. Pastor Amy contacted the Call Committee through verbal communications with information on the possible nominee. The call Committee met in mid-May to discuss. After raising some concerns about the nominee, it was decided that we should proceed with discussion and clarify our concerns. After relaying our desires with Pastor Amy and her discussions with the nominee, the nominee withdrew the Roster Minister Profile from our synod. The Call Committee did not receive the Rostered Minister Profile and did not talk with the nominee.

In mid to late June Pastor Amy sent information about a different way to look at our church through a study system called "Discover and Invite". Requesting that the Call Committee be the driving force to form a team and Pastor Jan to lead the discussion. This is a rather demanding commitment for 7 sessions, meeting every other week and each session requiring 2 to 2 ½ hours per session. Members of the team would be as many members as possible of the Call Committee that can commit, a couple from Council and 1 or 2 from the congregation, hoping for 6 to 8 total. Initially Janet Broche, Mark Groh and Rich Kelley agreed to be on the team. I was not very diligent in taking on this task. Over the next several months additional people were asked but additional members could not be added. Decided to take a step back and try again later. The later date came in November but was set aside due to the 2nd nominee.

In late summer/early fall, Cheryl Margharzio stepped down from our committee. She was grieving the death of her son, and her health was making it difficult to attend meetings and especially to be involved with the Discover & Invite meetings.

The second nominee came the week before Thanksgiving in a phone call from Bishop Busboom. This is very unusual as we typically get a heads-up from Pastor Amy about a possible nominee, not a call from the Bishop. The nominee is originally from Brazil and is a second career pastor in our Synod. I exclaimed to Bishop Busboom that this is bad timing with family coming into town for Thanksgiving next week followed by Advent and the Christmas holidays. It will be difficult to carry on with the process in a timely manner. He understood but felt we should proceed as quickly as possible. All that said, what do you say to the Bishop, but we will do our best to proceed. I informed Pastor and Neal of the situation as we prepared to proceed.

We immediately received the Rostered Minister Profile. We met before Thanksgiving to review. All were impressed with the pastor's profile especially the interactions with youth, even though we have only a couple of youth. The nominee has quite an educational background and is around 50 something in age. Being from a foreign country was intriguing to us. Unanimously, we agreed to proceed with a meet and greet.

Met with Pastor Viera and his wife on December 6th. In the afternoon they were taken on a tour of the area. Both liked the area of both Alton and Godfrey. Met back at church for dinner and fellowship. It seemed to us, The Call Committee, that both would be involved in ministry here at Resurrection. Very pleasant and enjoyable evening.

After the initial meeting the Call Committee unanimously agreed to proceed with an interview. Looking at everyone's schedule the only time to meet was the following Friday or delay until after the first of the year. Not wanting to delay a month we had a very good interview on December 13th. Pastor Viera understands that we want to grow our church but that is not something he can promise. But what he could do is help us do the work and let the Spirit take care of the rest. He likes what we have going here and would help us get more involved with other churches, our neighbors and the Alton/Godfrey community.

Following the interview Pastor Viera wanted to proceed with the call process as did everyone on the Call Committee. I informed Pastor Amy and she wanted to send Neal the Rostered Ministry Profile right away, but I asked her to hold off until Council was informed.

A Letter of Recommendation was given to the Council President and Pastor Jan on the following Sunday.

On Sunday December 22nd, the Call Committee met with Council as Council was concerned about calling a full-time pastor. The Council raised the points that a full-time pastor was not needed. The Call Committee pointed out that a full-time pastor can do more than a part time simply having more time to do so. And this pastor was wanting to reach out to the community more than a part time pastor can. The other concern was the financial expense. Yes, it would be a stretch. Yes, we have had difficulties in the past and yes, we have some larger expenses coming up. It would require a leap of faith by the Council and congregation. The Call Committee urged the Council to at least talk with the nominee and perhaps the financials could be worked out. Council elected to end the call.

The Call Committee and Pastor Viera were very disappointed. After conversation with Pastor Viera, he remains hopeful for us and believes that the Holy Spirit is still at work here and with him and this was just not meant to be.

The Call Committee remains in place and will continue with the Discover and Invite which now includes Jan Broche, Rich Kelley, Neal Booth and Sharon Groh. Mark Groh because of his work schedule has stepped down, as Pastor Jan wants to have the meetings during the day and not in the evening.

Blessings,

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

Faithful Innovations Team

The Faithful Innovations Team did not officially meet in 2025. Several things contributed to this. In December 2023 Pastor Elise Rothfus, our Synod liaison for Faithful Innovations retired and no replacement was named. Our coach Ellen Koester had moved to Georgia in the summer of 2023. With all the administration changes in our Synod and the uncertainty of the Faithful Innovations program, we found ourselves on our own without Synod direction and without a coach. In addition, David Isringhausen was not able to remain on the team due to health issues. Gary Neese had a year that work consumed his time for most of the year. Despite these challenges the team remains.

Faithful Innovations Team members remain active as we have partnered with Social Ministry helping with God's Work Our Hands and other activities. Team members are also involved with the PI Team.

The Synod has assigned Jason Fisher as the liaison for Faithful innovations. He contacted me on August 26th about a training session on September 14th. Being out of town at the time and the 14th being a workday at church, and the following weekend was the car display, I was unable to make any arrangements for anyone to attend.

If we get some guidance and direction from Synod, we may get the team up and going later, but for now we will use our resources in Social Ministry, PI Team, Evangelism training in March, which will be followed by the Discover & Invite process in May.

We have enough work to do with limited people to do it. My thanks to all who have diligently served on this team. I hope it was a good learning experience for both this team and the congregation.

Faithful Innovations Team: Elyse Tillman, Sharon Groh, David Isringhausen, Gary Neese, Rich Kelley (Chair)

P.S. We wanted this note to stand out:

We truly miss David as a beloved member. One who gave us good insight in a peaceful and faithful manner.

IV. ORGANIZATION REPORTS

Men's Club

RLC Men's Club continued to grow and prosper. Roster includes 20 members from the congregation. Items of note for 2024 are as follows.

1. Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup - The men pick up debris along Homer Adams parkway and Delmar Avenue.
2. Men's Club sponsored a youth baseball and youth softball team at Godfrey Glazebrook Park.
3. Chili Drive-Thru, which was just completed, was very successful. The men made and sold 763, 12-oz. bowls of chili. A total of \$3,324 was contributed to Helene Disaster Relief.
4. Men's Club sponsored a Snowman Family at Rock Spring Park's Christmas Wonderland.
5. Made decorations for the Community Garden, i.e., cut-out vegetables to decorate the garden fence.
6. A camel cut-out was created and painted to add to Resurrection's Outdoor Christmas Nativity Scene.
7. Sponsored three "Cars, Coffee, and Community" events with 100 plus participants.
8. Prepared and served Easter Sunday Breakfast to the congregation.
9. Hosted a Spring Concert for the community, performed by Thomas Taylor and Elizabeth Clark. Attendance 59.
10. Hosted a Christmas Concert, performed by Thomas Taylor to celebrate the season.
11. Paid for video/audio extender into Young Hall so activities can be seen on-screen.
12. Purchased pens to be given out to promote Resurrection Lutheran Church.
13. Purchased 10 x 20 ft. pop-up tent to be used at church functions.
14. Built banner support frames to be used to promote activities.

As you can see, a very productive year.

**Respectfully submitted,
Dan Garner, Men's Club President**

Men's Club Financial Report

Beginning balance			<u>\$6,225</u>
Anonymous Gift		\$250	
Meal collections over cost		254	
<u>Chili Drive-thru</u>			
Chili sales	\$2,935		
Cost of sales	<u>-1,147</u>		
Profit on sales	1,788		
Donation received	1,084		
Thrivent seed money	<u>500</u>	<u>3,372</u>	
INCOME		<u>3,876</u>	3,876
<u>Auto shows:</u>			
Bench & Tables made	-288		
Tent Purchased	-214		
Other, net	<u>-113</u>	-615	
<u>Concerts:</u>			
Ads sold	500		

1st Performers	-300		
2nd Performer	-200		
Sound system update	<u>-570</u>	-570	
<u>Other Projects:</u>			
Helene Disaster Relief	-3,372		
Baseball sponsorship	-300		
Christmas Wonderland	-250		
RLC Pens	-213		
Banner stand	-130		
Nativity camel & lights	-100		
Garden ornaments	-62		
Trailer for garden	-64		
		=	
Miscellaneous	<u>-15</u>	<u>4,506</u>	
		-	
DISBURSEMENTS		5,691	-5,691
CASH OUTFLOW			<u>-1,815</u>
ENDING BALANCE			<u>\$4,410</u>

Respectfully submitted by **Bill Stoutenborough, Treasurer**

Community Garden Team

The Community Garden wrapped up another successful year. Many hours of hard work from all the volunteers and the monetary support of the congregation made this possible.

Thank you to David and Ann Isringhausen for the donation of a tilt trailer to the church. This will be utilized many times over. The water line, an item on our wish list, became a reality thanks to Rich Kelley, Dan Callahan, and the Men's Group. A little over 1000 lbs. of tomatoes, sweet potatoes, green beans, lettuce, beets, eggplant, and other produce were donated to Alton Crisis Food Center and Oasis Women's Center.

With God's grace, belief in his blessings, more than exceeded our expectations this year.

Bob Doerr and Mark Groh
Co-Chairs

V. PASTOR'S REPORT

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I've enjoyed a wonderful year serving you at Resurrection and I think we've had a good year together. We've accomplished quite a bit together. It is a continuing joy, honor, and privilege to serve as your Interim Pastor.

Membership

Holy Baptism – Wren Brown

Members Received – Jody and Tony Kluender from Bethel Lutheran Church, University City, MO on December 15, 2024

Death – David Isringhausen, December 5, 2024

Staff

Russ Henkhaus resigned as our Director of Music, citing a desire to retire. His final Sunday was June 30, 2024. Ken Rueter filled in as our organist until his resignation December 25, 2024. A search for a permanent musician to serve us continues.

Council approved increasing my contact to include two weekdays to serve you. Previously my contract was for one weekday of service. This additional day has allowed me to have more time for appointments, meetings and parish visits. I greatly appreciate this additional day and believe it has been a benefit Resurrection.

New in 2024

We have a couple of new things at Resurrection in 2024.

2nd Sunday Lunch Bunch provides an opportunity for us all to enjoy good food and fellowship. It has been well received with about eight to fifteen folks participating each month.

The PI Team (Planning & Implementation Team) was created in May 2024 with the approval of our Council. The purpose of the PI Team is four-fold:

- 1) Recruit volunteers to distribute Holy Eucharist to home bound members every other week. Volunteers will be trained by me and I will prepare a handbook for volunteers to use when they visit.
- 2) Outreach. Continued outreach to our neighbors and community is vital to the present and future of our church.
- 3) Committee/Team Structure. We have committees that don't function or haven't functioned for a long time. What do we need? Do we need all of them or just some of them? Should we combine or eliminate some of them? What do we need to do the mission and ministry here at Resurrection?
- 4) Long-Range Planning. We have no long-range plans. This is not good. Long-Range Planning will help us to set our goals, accomplish our mission and ministry in this place, and help guide the future of our church. Plus, our Constitution requires that we have a long-range planning team.

All of these purposes are more than council can accomplish and more than only I can accomplish. We're stronger when we work together.

In 2024 the PI Team established **Homebound Communion**. Homebound members receive Holy Communion every two weeks, delivered to them by a volunteer member. We have eight volunteers who bring communion to three people. I prepared a manual to use when bringing Communion, trained the volunteers, trained the Worship Committee members to prepare and clean up the portable communion kits used by our volunteers, and I am a part of the rotation of volunteers to bring Communion. The church now owns three portable communion kits, in 2023 we owned only one. Having three kits ensures that there is always a kit prepared and "ready to go" whenever needed.

The PI Team has been working on **Outreach** (or call it Evangelism, or Community Engagement). What the PI Team has accomplished and has in progress for Outreach.

Our “**Little Book of Prayer**” is an outreach tool and a prayer book created by “yours truly.” Our talented Janet Broche designed the cover and made it happen. We’ve created a ½ page card highlighting our upcoming events.

We prepared a ½ page information and invitation folder which our Men’s Group included in each bag of chili during the Chili Drive-Thru in October.

We placed stickers with “Donated by Resurrection Lutheran Church” on items gathered during our October Pet Food/Items Drive in October. The purpose of this is to simply “get our name out there,” to help raise awareness of our church and what we are doing.

Sharon Groh led us in a very helpful Press Release Writing Workshop. This will be repeated in 2025.

We formed a Sub Team to work on updating our Trifold color brochure and to create a series of rack cards to provide further information about our church, our worship and our life together. This is an on-going project.

In the months ahead the PI Team will work on our Committee Structure and Long-Range Planning.

Perking along nicely are all of the things we implemented in 2023:

Sunday Morning Adult Study. Now called “Lifelong Learners,

Blessing of the Fields and Commerce in Spring,

Blessing of Pets in October,

Evening Prayer during Advent and Lent,

Veteran’s Day Worship with the Community Invited,

Wood Care Day,

Providing ELCA Advent and Lent Resources during Advent & Lent,

Hanging/Unhanging the Greens as a parish wide event.

I look forward to continuing to serve you and to do ministry together at Resurrection. I believe that the best is yet to come for our vibrant, engaged church.

Special thanks to our Council, Committees, Teams, Janet Broché, and to each of you for making this a fruitful year of worship, outreach and service at Resurrection. You are welcome to contact me anytime by phone, text or email.

Peace be with you and yours,

The Rev. Jan S Worms

Interim Pastor

VI. Financials for 2024 Kay Tucker

2024 Year End Treasurer's Report				
			END OF YEAR	ANNUAL BUDGET
INCOME				
	FUNDS			
	GENERAL FUND			
		OFFERING		
		Pledged Accounts		
		Non pledged Accounts	152,864.16	155,000.00
		Lenten Offerings	1,800.30	
		Thankoffering		
		Advent Offerings	1,067.07	
		TOTAL OFFERING	152,864.16	155,000.00
		OTHER INCOME		
		Activity Income		
		Community Garden	1,874.43	
		Front Door Fund	125.00	
		Hall Rental Income	1,350.00	1,200.00
		Music Fund		350.00
		Recycling	24.82	60.00
		Worship Supplies		
		Yellow Barn Income	593.59	550.00
		TOTAL OTHER INCOME	3,967.84	2,160.00
		DEPOSITED INCOME		
		Amazon Smile		
		E-Scrip Income		
		Interest Income	1,956.71	1,900.00
		Thrivent Funds	612.00	250.00
		TOTAL DEPOSITED	2,568.71	2,150.00
		TOTAL INCOME	159,400.71	159,310.00
UNBUDGETED PASS THROUGH ACCOUNTS				
		Unbudgeted Accounts Donations	9,787.15	
		Unbudgeted Accounts Paid Out	9,858.05	
		TOTAL UNBUDGETED ACCOUNTS	-70.90	
			END OF YEAR	ANNUAL BUDGET

EXPENSES			
	BENEVOLENCE		
	Dues - West Central Conference	30.00	40.00
	Synod Benevolence (Budgeted)	2,400.00	2,400.00
	Soup's On	900.00	900.00
	Transfer to Mission Fund	1,000.00	
	TOTAL BENEVOLENCE	4,330.00	3,340.00
	BUILDING & GROUNDS		
	Building & Grounds Maintenance	5,134.21	3,000.00
	Electricity & Gas	6,850.15	7,500.00
	Major Repairs Set Aside	16,000.00	9,000.00
	Mowing	6,400.00	2,800.00
	Snow Removal		500.00
	Trash Removal		500.00
	Water (Barn) - Community Garden		200.00
	Water (Church)	607.91	900.00
	TOTAL BUILDING & GROUNDS	34,992.27	24,400.00
	CHRISTIAN EDUCATION		
	Christian Education		300.00
	Sunday School		
	TOTAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	0.00	300.00
	CHURCH MORTGAGE		
	Interest & Principle	12,864.00	13,000.00
	Additional Monthly Principle	7,384.78	8,000.00
	TOTAL CHURCH MORTGAGE	20,248.78	21,000.00
	EVANGELISM		
	Facebook		*8 month only
	Evangelism: Other	394.77	200.00
	TOTAL EVANGELISM	394.77	200.00
	INSURANCE		
	Monthly Set Aside	5,850.00	6,000.00
	Property & Liability	2,369.00	
	Transfer of Set-Aside Account	535.35	
	TOTAL INSURANCE	6,719.35	6,000.00
	OFFICE		
	Copier	1,874.87	2,500.00
		END OF YEAR	ANNUAL BUDGET

	Internet Access and Website	1,699.08	1,400.00
	Postage	214.00	500.00
	Supplies	643.55	1,000.00
	Telephone	450.00	400.00
	Office: Other	207.64	600.00
	TOTAL OFFICE	5,089.14	6,400.00
	PERSONNEL COMPENSATION		
	Administrative Assistant	8,929.08	20,120.00
	Guest Minister	505.71	1,300.00
	Guest Organist	6,400.00	400.00
	Organist	6,800.20	12,000.00
	Interim Minister	35,241.74	
	Pastor Stipend		80,000.00
	TOTAL PERSONNEL SALARIES	57,876.73	113,820.00
	PERSONNEL COSTS		
	Auto Allowance		1,000.00
	Basic Group Life (Portico)		
	Conference Allowance	1,856.28	1,000.00
	Continuing Education		1,000.00
	Disability (Portico)		
	Employee Federal Withholding	4,280.89	
	Employee State Withholding	2,968.77	
	FICA Allowance	1,409.52	
	Medicare	329.62	
	Prospective Pastor Expenses	379.06	
	Professional Expenses		750.00
	Retiree Support (Portico)		
	Retirement	1,800.00	
	Thrivent 403(B)		
	TOTAL PERSONNEL COSTS	13,024.14	3,750.00
	SOCIAL MINISTRY		
	Community Garden	1,115.91	
	Pastor's Discretionary		200.00
	Social Ministry Unspecified	92.98	100.00
	TOTAL SOCIAL MINISTRY	1,208.89	300.00
		END OF YEAR	ANNUAL BUDGET
	STEWARDSHIP SUPPLIES		

	Supplies: Offering Envelopes		165.00
	Supplies: Other		
	TOTAL STEWARDSHIP SUPPLIES	138.81	165.00
	WORSHIP		
	Copyright License	332.00	325.00
	Music Fund	459.99	750.00
	Other Worship	524.97	
	Portals of Prayer	342.00	300.00
	Supplies	750.33	2,200.00
	Weekly Video and Internet Hosting	485.00	
	TOTAL WORSHIP	2,894.29	3,575.00
	TOTAL EXPENSES	146,917.17	183,250.00
	OVERALL TOTAL	12,483.54	-23,940.00
	<u>YEAR END ASSETS</u>		
	OPERATING ACCOUNT TOTAL	22,067.20	
	MONEY MARKET ACCOUNT TOTAL	52,515.11	
	CERTIFICATES OF DEPOSIT TOTAL	40,000.00	
		114,582.31	

VII. 2025 Budget Kay Tucker

INCOME		
GENERAL FUND		
Offering		
	Plate Offering	\$155,000
	Thank Offering	
TOTAL OFFERING		\$155,000
Other Income		
	Hall Rental Income	\$1,200
	Interest Income	\$1,200
	Music Fund	\$500
	Recycle Income	\$60
	Thrivent Income	\$765
	Yellow Barn Income	\$661
TOTAL OTHER INCOME		\$4,386
TOTAL INCOME		\$159,386

EXPENSES		
BENEVOLENCE		
	Dues - West Central Conference	\$40
	Synod Benevolence (Budgeted)	\$2,400
	Soup's On (General Fund)	\$1,200
TOTAL BENEVOLENCE (General Fund)		\$3,640
BUILDING & GROUNDS		
	Maintenance	\$9,000
	Electricity & Gas	\$7,500
	Major Repairs Set Aside	\$30,000
	Mowing	\$3,500
	Snow Removal	\$500
	Trash Removal	\$500
	Water (Barn)	\$0
	Water (Church)	\$900
TOTAL BUILDING & GROUNDS		\$51,900
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION		

	Christian Education	\$300
	Confirmation	
	Sunday School	
	TOTAL CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$300
CHURCH MORTGAGE		
	Interest & Principle	
	Additional Principal Monthly	
	TOTAL CHURCH MORTGAGE	\$0
EVANGELISM		
	Facebook	\$0
	Other	\$200
	TOTAL EVANGELISM	\$200
INSURANCE		
	Monthly Set Aside	\$6,840
	Property & Liability	
	Worker's Compensation	
	TOTAL INSURANCE	\$6,840
OFFICE		
	Copier	\$2,500
	Internet Access and Website	\$2,000
	Postage	\$500
	Supplies	\$1,000
	Telephone	\$450
	Office: Other	\$0
	TOTAL OFFICE	\$6,450
PERSONNEL COSTS		
	Auto Allowance	\$0
	Synod Conference	\$1,800
	Federal Withholding	\$3,500
	FICA Allowance	\$1,300
	Continuing Education	\$0
	Medicare	\$300
	Portico Basic Group Life	
	Portico Disability	
	Portico Health	
	Portico Retiree Support	
	Retirement	\$3,600
	Professional Expenses	\$0
	State Withholding	\$2,700

	TOTAL PERSONNEL COSTS	\$13,200
PERSONNEL SALARIES		
	Administrative Assistant	\$9,000
	Interim Minister	\$0
	Guest Minister	\$1,300
	Guest Organist	\$400
	Organist	\$12,000
	Pastor	\$80,000
	Housing Allowance	
	TOTAL PERSONNEL SALARIES	\$102,700
SOCIAL MINISTRY		
	Community Garden	
	Pastor's Discretionary	\$200
	Social Ministry Other	\$200
	TOTAL SOCIAL MINISTRY	\$400
STEWARDSHIP SUPPLIES		
	Supplies: Offering Envelopes	\$165
	Supplies: Other	
	TOTAL STEWARDSHIP SUPPLIES	\$165
WORSHIP		
	Copyright License	\$325
	Music Fund	\$750
	Other Worship	\$0
	Devotionals(Quarterly)	\$350
	Supplies	\$2,000
	Weekly Video Hosting	\$0
	TOTAL WORSHIP	\$3,425
	TOTAL EXPENSES	\$189,220
	OVERALL TOTAL BALANCE	-\$29,834

VIII. ELECTION REPORT

There were four officers of the Congregation whose term expires at the end of the year. These are:

Vice-President: Bob Doerr

Secretary: Teresa Droste

At Large: Sherry Wyatt

At Large: Alan Robertson

Of these, the first three have agreed to serve a second time. Alan also agreed, but admitted his schedule does not allow him to attend most meetings. With that information in hand, we approached Mark Groh who had previously expressed an interest in serving on the Council. He has agreed to run.

Nominations for the 2024 ballot are:

Vice President - Bob Doerr

Secretary - Teresa Droste

At Large - Sherry Wyatt

At Large - Mark Groh

With only 1 person per office, we elected these people by acclamation.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Tucker

Current Congregational Council:

President:	Neal Booth	314-766-8782
Vice President:	Robert Doerr	618-980-4726
Secretary:	Teresa Droste	618-944-5243
Treasurer:	Kay Tucker	618-972-5049
At-Large Members:	Sherry Wyatt	618-600-2182
	Wendy Reinbold	618-593-6587
	Vicki Baggio	618-420-8758
	Margie Snep	618-234-3455
	Mark Groh	402-937-3748

Committee Leads

Evangelism/Congregational Life	Jim Lieber	618-402-0325
Fellowship	Carol Garner	618-792-1356
Book Club	Ruth Wolter	618-433-1469
5 th Tuesday Soup's On	Janet Broche	618-401-2646
Financial Secretary	John Droste	618-830-1030
Finance	Kay Tucker	618-972-5049
Properties	Dan & Carol Callahan	618-660-8155
Social Ministry	Sharon Groh	402-432-3942
Worship	Pastor Jan Worms	618-250-1608
Audit	(vacant)	
Faithful Innovations	Rich Kelley	618-791-8276
Community Garden Team	Mark Groh	402-937-3748
Men's Club	Dan Garner	618-792-1777
Memorial Committee	Kay Tucker	618-972-5049

BEYOND OUR WALLS IN 2024

ELCA DOMESTIC DISASTER.....	1,925
ELCA WORLD HUNGER RELIEF.....	710
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF ALTON.....	.601
COMMUNITY HOPE CENTER.....	533
CRISIS FOOD CENTER.....	533
GOD'S WORK, OUR HANDS....CODO (CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS & SMOKE ALARMS FOR ALTON & GODFREY).....	705
IMMIGRANT MINISTRY.....	150
MEN'S CLUB (ELCA DOMESTIC DIS.).....	3,372
OASIS WOMEN'S CENTER.....	601
RENEE'S RESCUE.....	601
SOUP'S ON.....	900
SYNOD BENEVOLENCE.....	2,400
WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA.....	147

**TOTAL MINISTRY BEYOND OUR WALLS
\$13,028**

IN ADDITION, WE HELPED WITH THESE PROJECTS:

COMMUNITY GARDEN VEGETABLES AND NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS FOR CRISIS FOOD CENTER AND OASIS WOMEN'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER; WATER DONATIONS; STUFFED ANIMALS FOR FIRST RESPONDERS; GAS & FOOD CARDS; CRAFT SUPPLIES; RIVERBEND MINISTRIE'S ANGEL CHRISTMAS TREE; SUPPORT AND SHIRTS FOR SOCCER AND BASEBALL TEAMS; SUPPORT FOR OUR LOCAL SCOUT TROUP; DONATIONS OF PET FOOD AND SUPPLIES TO SSP, RENEE'S RESCUE & 5A'S ANIMAL RESCUE FOR BLESSINGS OF THE PETS

**WE HAVE BEEN BLESSED TO BE A
BLESSING TO OTHERS!**