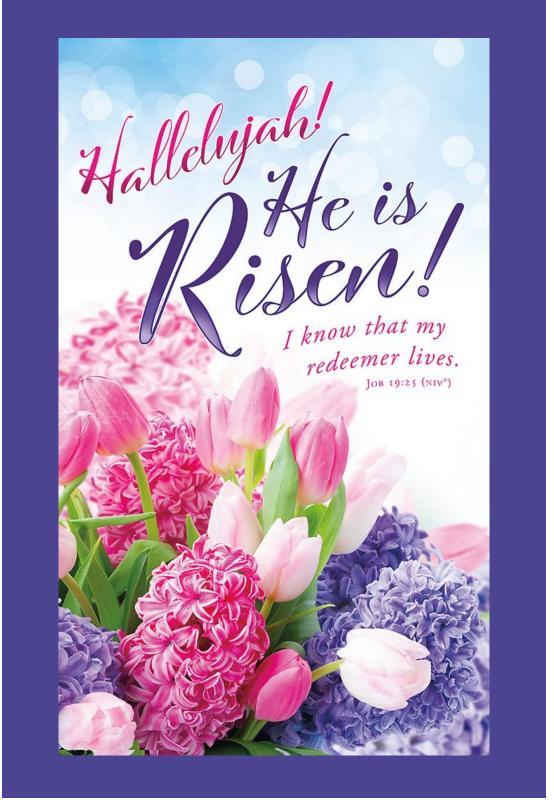
VOL XLV April 2025 NO 4

Resurrectionist

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



The Christian and Politics

This past November we suffered through one of the most acrimonious elections in American history. Before going any further, let's define acrimonious. Acrimonious is an adjective meaning "caustic, stinging or bitter in nature, speech, behavior, etc." If you watched the debates, followed the national news and/or read posts leading up to the final days and hours of November 5, 2024, you completely understand acrimonious.

Now that it is over, regardless of whether or not you favor the outcome, a concern about mixing faith and politics was recently brought to Council's attention. Unfortunately, that concern surfaced too late, as two long-term parishioners have departed Resurrection as a result. While it was a personal decision and our doors will always remain open to them, is there something all of us at Resurrection could have done differently?

Many people say that we shouldn't mix faith and politics. Why even venture into such dangerous waters? Let's consider the following;

Colossians 1:18

¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

Galatians 6:10

¹⁰ Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

Colossians 1:18 teaches us that Jesus must have first place in everything. Politics is a "thing," so we must make sure that Jesus has first place in our thoughts and actions regarding them. The Bible commands us to do good to all people whenever we have the opportunity (Galatians 6:10). An election is an opportunity, so we must wrestle with how to "do good." What if, in voting a certain way, I end up doing good to people on one issue but bad to them on a different one? Do they cancel each other out? If we can sort issues according to how much harm or help each is likely to accomplish, can we vote in such a way to favor the "big" issue and yet maintain a clear conscience before God as we vote against a "lesser" issue? How do we even sort out issues? And what if I deem an issue to be "big," but you deem a different issue to be big? What then? Can we both be pleasing to God? Am I responsible for the unforeseen consequences of my voting choice? Must I be omniscient to vote "Christianly?"

Wow, do you need a moment to read that again? Go ahead and do so, I know I did. Hold on though, it gets a little deeper. What if I vote for a person who says some offensive things, but with whom I agree on what for me is my most important policy issue(s). Knowing that I'm aware of the "offensive," does that mean I should instead vote for someone I find to be more pleasant, but who promotes a policy I find repugnant? Does this sound familiar from the many, many issues that cropped up in 2024? Maybe you yourself were in stuck in that challenged mindset, unable to square yourself with biblical morality. Then we could throw in our varying interpretations of

biblical morality, but let's not go there today. What a mess!

Is it possible for us to clean up this messy struggle? Can we find any perspective? A starting point to finding some stability may be for us to begin thinking more biblically.

Philippians 3:19-20

¹⁹ Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,

Christians are citizens both of heaven and of various nations, but our primary allegiance belongs to heaven (Philippians 3:19c–20). Shouldn't Jesus replace the president as our ultimate No. 1? This is the foundational orientation that gives us stability in confusing and troubling times. Our focus needs not only to be on heaven, it actually needs to be away from this world (Hebrews 11:16).

Hebrews 11:16

¹⁶ Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

Just like you, I'm a straggler here. We have one foot on earth and the other in heaven, but the direction of our movement needs to be heavenward! It's policies, not personalities, which have the power to harm or help people. But since all platforms are a "mixed bag" of good and bad, let's remember to prioritize policies according to their relative importance biblically.

We know society is not ever-evolving toward the good, no matter how hard we want to believe otherwise. All one has to do is listen to the evening news in St. Louis for evidence. We humans, including politicians are not going to solve Earth's problems. We need a savior! Eventually Jesus will put things right, but it won't be through politics. Shouldn't his Word and the Bible have the controlling voice in personal goals, priorities, and attitudes? Perhaps that is something to think about the next time you want to voice politics in the church. Don't make it a personal attack, but rather a biblical moment.

Easter Blessings, Neal Booth



Taken form Dan Clement's sermon "The Christian and Politics Our Privilege and Responsibility."



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

April has two great big events for us to celebrate at Resurrection. The grandest event of all time is Easter! We journey with Jesus to the Holy Cross and Resurrection. Our Lord and Savior gave his life for each one of us and to redeem a broken, sinful people living in a broken, sinful world. Through his selfless self-offering on the Holy Cross we are "made right" with God. Our sins are forgiven. Eternal Life is promised to us. Through the waters of Holy Baptism, we participate in the benefits of Jesus' life-giving work to restore us to God.

Our journey begins on Palm/Passion Sunday, April 13, at 10:00 A.M. We will bless palm branches, wave our palm branches as we march around the church singing "All Glory, Laud, and Honor." This humble procession of ours is intended to remind us of Jesus' entry into the city of Jerusalem. A place and people that would honor Jesus by spreading palms before him and then turn on Jesus, betray him, and hand him over to be crucified. During worship, we will hear the whole incredible story of our salvation when we read the Passion according to St Luke.

Thursday, April 17, we gather for worship at 7:00 P.M. to worship and honor Jesus by hearing the story of his Last Supper with his followers, his betrayal and arrest in the Garden of Gethsemane, as Jesus continues on his path to the Holy Cross. For each of us. To forgive us. To win new life for us. At the close of Maundy Thursday worship, we strip the altar and sanctuary of all adornment. The plainness of our worship space reminds us of Jesus emptying himself for us by giving his life for us on the Holy Cross.

Good Friday offers us two opportunities to deeply reflect upon Jesus' sacrifice for each of us. At 3:00 P.M. we gather to walk the "Way of the Cross," hearing again of Jesus last hours and the events leading up to his crucifixion. At 7:00 P.M. we join together in worship. We will hear the story of Jesus' Passion as told to us by Saint John. At this special worship, we gather and leave, in silence. That's because our worship Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter are really on big worship service broken up into three parts that are celebrated on three different days. These worship times have a fancy name: Triduum, which means "three days."

Saturday is a day of preparation for the great and grand Feast of the Resurrection: Easter Day.

We begin at 9:00 A.M. by gathering for a delicious breakfast prepared for us by the Men's Group. Festive worship is at 10:00 A.M. We will sing all of your favorite hymns, rejoicing in the Great Good News that Jesus in Risen! For us and for our salvation. If that isn't reason to celebrate and give thanks, I'll be a monkey's aunt!

Big event #2: Our Community Health and Resources Fair on Friday, April 11 from 1:00-4:00 P.M. Sharon Groh has devoted many hours to preparing this Fair. She shares more about this in her article. We need and welcome volunteers! Volunteers to set up, tear down, clean up, and to work serving our visitors during the hours of the Fair. And please support our efforts by inviting friends and neighbors to attend. Help spread the word!

April 13, 2nd Sunday Lunch Bunch goes to Pere Marquette. After worship, we will carpool to get there. The food at Pere Marquette is excellent! Their fried chicken is popular and famous! If you are a fan of fried chicken, this gathering is for you! They have lots of other yummy dishes and sandwiches on order. If the weather cooperates, it should be a lovely day to visit Pere Marquette. If you like to hike, or would just enjoy a beautiful walk, there are many easy trails. You may want to spend the afternoon! (If so, carpooling may not be for you, as you may want extra time to enjoy the beauty of Pere Marquette.)

I will end the month by going on vacation to a perennially favorite place, Williamsburg, VA. I will be away for one Sunday. I will be in Williamsburg during Virginia's "Garden Week," an event I've enjoyed twice before. The gardens and spring blooms are gorgeous. I also have a very soft spot for the baby animals! I usually spend lots of time hunting down where the baby sheep are grazing, then even more time admiring their cuteness. I always hope to be lucky enough that one or two will come close enough to pet.

A blessed Easter. A blessed Spring to you and yours from me and my little gray cat Lilly.

Pastor Jan





News & Updates



Lenten Offerings

This year's Lenten Offerings will be going to Amare, a nonprofit Recovery Community Organization, dedicated to helping individuals and families affected by substance use disorders. Since inception, they have been committed to empowering those in recovery and fostering overall wellness and stability in our communities. At Amare, their mission is clear: to educate, empower, and provide compassionate recovery and support services for those suffering from drug and alcohol addiction and their families. Through various programs and initiatives, they work to bridge the gap between recovery and sustainable wellness, striving to create an inclusive and supportive community. This will be a one-time



joint effort with other congregations in both St. Clair and Madison Counties. https://amarenfp.org/

The Church Council has decided to follow the recommendations of the Congregation from the discernment meetings and initiate a call for a part-time pastor. Obviously this frees up money from our budget for other activities to exercise our OUTHREACH AND EVANGELISM. Following through on Pastor Jan's evangelism ideas, we're going to host a <u>Spring Fling on Saturday</u>, May 3, from 11-3 for the children in our community.

It will feature a free lunch of hot dogs, chips, Krispy treats, and water/Kool-Aid/lemonade. Activities will include an Easter egg hunt (we're only a couple of weeks late), bounce houses, relay races and cornhole toss games. Small prizes will be awarded.

We need your help before and during the event. We're looking for financial donations, food and candy donations, and a couple five-gallon coolers. We'll also need help to fill plastic eggs, hide them, set-up everything, help with the lunch, and supervise the activities at the events.

Sign-up sheets will be in the narthex after the Health Fair is completed. Since this is our first shot at this, we're also open to suggestions. Contact Kay Tucker at 618-972-5049 if you have any questions or ideas.





Social Ministry

Resurrection Lutheran Church volunteers are helping to bridge the gap between community needs and awareness of the resources that can support a healthy community. The goal of the **Community Health & Resource Fair** is to offer a diverse range of information sharing and face-to-face conversations with Riverbend area government, private sector and non-profit organization representatives. Attendees will be connected with free health and wellness services, housing information, disability/aging support, legal and financial resources, and so much more. We also invited organizations offering a variety of recreational and educational interests for improved personal health and wellbeing through community involvement and relationships to minimize social isolation.

Join us for an afternoon of connecting with our neighbors as we engage in practicing our evangelism in a changing world.

Thank you to the many volunteers who are helping in the planning and implementation of this community outreach event. Everyone is encouraged to share the flyer with your friends, family, and those with whom you do business in the community. People can't benefit from it if they don't know about it!



Health & Resource Fair FRIDAY, APRIL 11, 2025 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Connect with local and state organizations



This event is free. We will be accepting non-perishable food items from attendees to be donated to the Alton Crisis Food Center.

Event Location:

Resurrection Lutheran Church
1211 Homer Adams Parkway, Godfrey, IL 62035
For more information, please email Sharon at riceventz@gmail.com

At the time of printing, organizations confirmed to be taking part in this Event include (more have expressed interest but have not submitted the required Exhibitor Application):

Note: 33 Tables are available. Three organizations are sending materials only, so tables will be shared for maximum use of space. Exhibitor interest has exceeded available tables so as planning continues, this may be a joyful challenge to discuss in our final days of preparations.

- Al-Anon Family Groups
- Alton Memorial Rehab & Therapy
- Amare
- Asbury Village
- Audubon Center at Riverlands
- Boy Scout Troop #7
- Caritas Family Solutions
- Centerstone
- Chestnut Health Systems
- Community Hope Center
- Evercare Skilled Nursing
- Godfrey Women's Club
- High Point Residence
 Wood River
- High Point Residence
 Wood River
- IDHS/Division of Rehabilitation Services
- Illinois Respite Coalition

- IMPACT CIL
- Land of Lincoln Legal Aid
- Lewis and Clark Community College Nursing Program
- Madison County Child Advocacy Center
- Madison County Community Development / Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- Madison County Health Department
- Madison County Transit
- Mississippi Valley Garden Club
- OSF Moeller Cancer Center
- Resurrection Lutheran Church, A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
- Riverbend Family Ministries NFP
- Senior Services Plus
- The Hayner Public Library District

Please contact Sharon Groh to let her know how you will make yourself available.

Come and learn about the various resources available to you in the community.

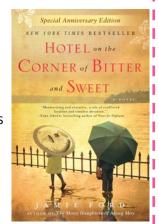
Consider exercising some OUTREACH AND EVANGELISM efforts!



Book Club

Elyse Tillman will be the discussion leader on April 10th. Her book choice is **Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet by Jamie Ford.** The book is available through the library.

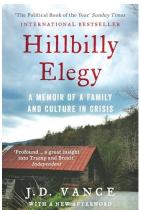
Summary: Set in the ethnic neighborhoods of Seattle during World War II and Japanese American internment camps of the era, this debut novel tells the heartwarming story of widower Henry Lee, his father, and his first love Keiko Okabe. When artifacts from Japanese families sent to internment camps during the war are uncovered during renovations at a Seattle hotel, a man embarks on a quest that leads to memories of growing up Chinese in a city rife with anti-Japanese sentiment.



Debra Spaul is the discussion leader for our discussion on May 8th. Her book choice is <u>Hillbilly Elegy</u> by J.D. Vance. The book is available through the library and the movie can also be viewed on Netflix.

Summary: A passionate and personal analysis of a culture in crisis - that of white working-class Ameri-

cans, a demographic of our country that has been slowly disintegrating over forty years. J. D. Vance tells the true story of what a social, regional, and class decline feels like when you were born with it hung around your neck. J. D. Vance's grandparents moved north from Kentucky's Appalachia region to Ohio in the hopes of escaping the dreadful poverty around them. They raised a middle-class family, and eventually their grandchild (the author) would graduate from Yale Law School, a conventional marker of their success in achieving generational upward mobility. Vance's grandparents, aunt, uncle, sister, and, most of all, his mother, struggled profoundly with the demands of their new middle-class life, and were never able to fully escape the legacy of abuse, alcoholism, poverty, and trauma. The story of how upward mobility really feels, and is a meditation on the loss of the American dream for a large segment of this country.



We welcome everyone who enjoys reading. Come, visit us, and join in an evening of good fellowship and laughs.

Ruth Wolter 618-433-1469

Men's Club

- Spring Concert April 5th, 4 pm
- Meeting April 10th dinner at 6, meeting at 7pm
- Work day April 12, 9am garage cleanout / garden



I Thanks, Dan Garner I 618-792-1777

Second Sunday Lunch Bunch

April 13th, we finally get to venture to Pere Marquette Lodge . . . 3rd time is a charm, we secured a reservation!

American dining classics and home-style cookin! There's a reason people call it Pere Marquette Famous Fried Chicken! Come try for yourself the most ordered menu item.

Haven't joined us yet, why not? Fellowship and conversations outside the brick walls of Homer Adams is always a refreshing change.

Please see the sign-up in the narthex for attending and offering to carpool.





Property Committee



Thanks to a great recommendation from Pastor Jan, the Property Committee will now be overseen by the Church Council as a whole. Sherry Wyatt has graciously stepped up to be our director/ facilitator/coordinator of any repairs or tasks that need to be addressed. She will not be taking on church properties herself. An "on-call team" has already been established to assist. Vicki Baggio, Tim Belfield, Jim Lieber, Rich Kelley, Tony Kluender and Ruth Wolter have all volunteered to help when Property Committee needed. Others such as myself will also be available dependent upon work schedules. From here on

out, any repair/project that falls beyond the comfort level of those on the list will be outsourced to a local handyman or contractor. With our aging congregation and limited skill sets, we have to be realistic on what we can and can no longer accomplish. We look forward to implementing Pastor's idea and think this will be a great solution to keeping Resurrection maintained throughout the year.

Thanks again to all those who stepped up without hesitation,

Neal Booth

Good Shepherd Sunday

Good Shepherd Sunday is a day every spring when congregations lift up LSSI programs with speakers, videos, and other provided resources. It offers the opportunity to open our hearts and arms to welcome all into Jesus' abundant life.

Serving Illinois since 1867, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI) is one of the largest non-profit, statewide social service providers. LSSI welcomes and serves people from diverse backgrounds. LSSI provides critical social and human services for Illinois residents, including foster care, mental health services, alcohol and drug treatment, affordable senior housing, home care services for older adults, residential programs for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, and programs that help people and families impacted by incarceration. LSSI strives to bring dignity, health, and well-being, and the promise of reaching one's full potential to the more than 56,000 children, adults, and seniors the organization serves annually.

Resurrection will be taking up a special collection on Sunday, May 4th with an additional \$500 donated on behalf of Resurrection



Visit https://www.lssi.org/ to learn more about Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

<u>Highlight's from Church Council – March</u>

REPORTS

- * Treasurer's Report: Total offering for the month was \$13,633.26. Total income for the month was \$13,948.30. We have a parishioner who pays annually which accounts for the increase. Total expenses were \$11,518.42 for the month. The cash flow balance for the month was \$2,429. If we didn't have the deposit of an annual parishioner, we would have been in the red.
- * President's Report: None.

* Pastor's Report:

- 2nd Sunday Lunch Bunch will be held at Pere Marquette on April 13. Reservations for 12 were obtained- 3rd time is a charm!!!
- Tony and Jody Kluender will be added to those providing Homebound Communion.
- There will be a Memorial Service May 24 at 10am for Katharine Wiskow, mother of Pastor John Jaffrey

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- * Worship— A suggestion was made for purchasing a banner that says "Allelujah." Members are looking at various banners available. Neal will modify an old wood cross found in the attic to be repurposed and carried by a banner barrier. This purchase will most likely be taken from Memorial Funds.
- * PI Team— Work on the sub brochures continues. The PI Team is actively planning and coordinating efforts for a successfully Community Health and Resource Fair. The purchase of a large bookshelf or two smaller, matching bookshelves is needed. It has been suggested that we move various resources, guides and materials outside of the Secretary and Pastor's office and make them available to the church.
- * Community Garden The request made in February to have the Community Garden retitled as a Committee has been rescinded. Those involved with the garden preferred to keep it a function of Social Ministry.

NEW BUSINESS

* Call Cmte.- Our Call Committee has dwindled down to three active members and one nonactive member. Per Synod guidelines, there are to be 6 members on that committee. Bob Doerr and Wendy Reinbold have volunteered. Three additional names were suggested to Rich Kelley to ask/invite to the committee. Council thanks everyone already on the Call Committee and those stepping up to assist for their help.

CONTINUTING BUSINESS

* Harvey Chiles declined the stipulations set forth by Council for his proposed music/drama camps.



2025 Synod Assembly

The 2025 Central/Southern Illinois Synod Assembly will be held at the St. John's Lutheran Church in Bloomington on June 5-7. The theme of this year's assembly is "Carry On In Christ's Mission." Click the link below to learn more about this year's assembly. If you have an interest in attending this event and representing Resurrection, please contact Pastor Jan or Neal. A small stipend is granted to any member that attends. The registration deadline is April 15th, otherwise there will a \$25 late fee for registrations submitted after the 15th.

https://www.csis-elca.org/event/2025-synod-assembly/

Gift Cards



On Monday, Feb. 24th, Pastor Jan handed out the last gift card. If you would like to support those less fortunate in our community, gift cards from Schnuck's, QT and Aldi can be purchased and dropped off at any time. Or, you can provide a donation towards the purchase of more cards. We have been purchasing them in \$20 increments. Thank you for your support in this ongoing effort.

Church Office – A Friendly Request

Many of us at Resurrection access the Church office throughout the week, whether it be to pick up checks, receipts, a piece of mail, make a copy, log into the computer etc. If you are taking something with you from the office or file cabinet, please leave a note with your name on it so that Janet knows that the item has been removed from the office and not accidentally lost or stolen. Thank you for your support.





- 4 Jonathan Vick Kevin Vick
- 5 Kay Tucker
- 10 Rod Margherio
- 11 Tony Kluender Audrey Rhea
- 24 Mike Tillman
- 26 Sandy Bagwill Bev Steinfeldt
- 30 Carter Broche-Brown



14 James and Vivian Hinemann

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

FINANCIAL STATUS - February 2024

GENERAL FUNDS DETAIL

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Income		
Offering	\$13,633.26	\$24,640.69
Lenten Offering	4 10,000. <u></u>	Ψ= :,σ :σ:σσ
Advent Offering		
G	#245.04	Ф700 00
Other Income	\$315.04	\$729.03
Total General Fund Income	\$13,948.30	\$25,369.72
Expenses		
Benevolence	\$300.00	\$600.00
Building and Grounds	\$4,326.99	\$7,916.40
Christian Education	\$0.00	\$0.00
Evangelism	\$0.00	\$0.00
Insurance	\$570.00	\$1,140.00
Office	\$355.62	\$750.80
Personnel Costs	\$1,243.10	\$2,903.80
Personnel Salaries	\$4,539.94	\$8,645.10
Social Ministry	\$0.00	\$0.00
Stewardship Supplies	\$0.00	\$0.00
Worship	\$182.77	\$576.92
Total General Fund Expenses	\$11,518.42	\$22,533.02
General Funds Cash Flow	\$2,429.88	\$2,836.70

The "bump" in offering is due to a parishioner that pays annually. The large deduction in the Money Market Fund is from the purchase of our new \$38,800 roof.



April 2025 the

Sun Mon Tu	e Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
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		1	2	3	4	5
Rev. Jan S. Worms gracious@midwest.net Office Hours by appointment 618-250-1608		Evangelism Workshop 11am Scouts 7pm	Evangelism Workshop 2pm Simple Supper 6pm Lenten Worship 7pm			Community Concert Light Hearted Lyrical 4pm
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Evangelism Workshop 8:45 Worship 10am Worship Cmte. 11am	Evangelism Workshop 6:30 pm	Evangelism Workshop 11am Scouts 7pm	Evangelism 2pm Health Fair Setup 3-5:50 pm Simple Supper 6pm Lenten Worship 7pm	Men's Club at Church 6:00 p Book Club at Church 6:30	Community Health Fair 1-4p Volunteers needed at 11 am and for the take-down at 4pm	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Worship 10am 2nd Sunday Lunch Bunch 11am at Pere Marquette		Scouts 7pm	Simple Supper 6pm Lenten Worship 7pm	Maundy Thursday Worship 7pm	Way of the Cross at 3pm Good Friday Worship 7 pm	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Ester Breakfast 9am Easter Worship 10am		Scouts 7pm		PI Team Meeting 6:30 pm	Newsletter Deadline	
27	28	29	30			2
Life Long Learners 9am Worship 10am Church Council 11am		Scouts 7pm				

Rev. Jan S. Worms, Interim

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Neal Booth, President
Bob Doerr, Vice-President
Teresa Droste, Secretary
Kay Tucker, Treasurer
Vicki Baggio, Mark Groh, Wendy Reinbold,
Margie Snep, & Sherry Wyatt, At Large Members

CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Janet Broche, Church Secretary 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 **VACANCY**, Organist/Music Ministry Church Council, Property Sharon Groh, Social Ministry Technology Team, Streaming Services Neal Booth, Web Designer Pastor Worms, Worship Rich Kelley, Faithful Innovations & Call Cmte.

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Web: http://www.resurrectiongodfrey.org

LIKE Us on Facebook, Twitter & YouTube:

https://www.facebook.com/ResurrectionChurchGodfreyhttps://twitter.com/Lutheranllwww.youtube.com/channel/UCvX9AiTllQb2ZD76edJPifQ?

Service Time: In-Person & Online 10AM

Resurrection Lutheran Church

1211 W. Homer Adams Pkwy. Godfrey, IL 62035

