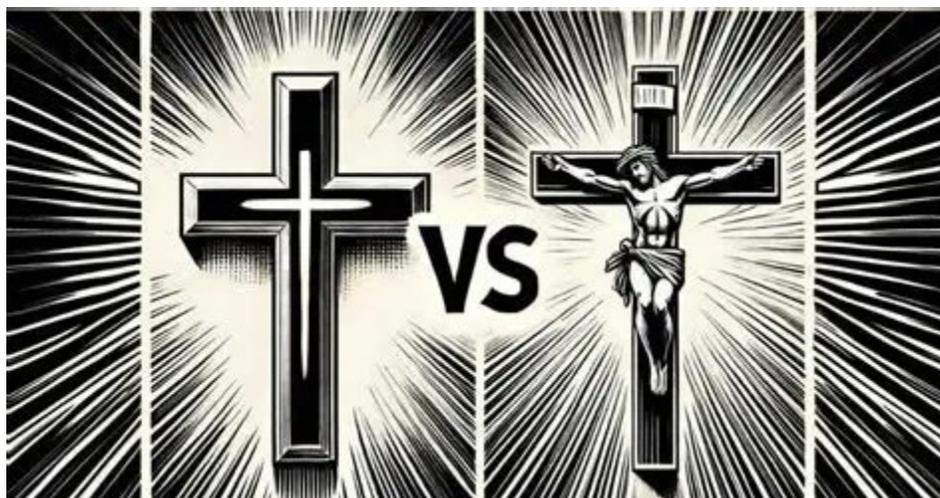


# *the* Resurrectionist

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

## The Cross vs. the Crucifix

A brief description on the fundamental differences of the two are explained for your consideration as we are in the midst of Lent preparing our hearts and minds for Easter.



### **Design and Symbolism:**

The cross and the crucifix are key symbols in Christianity, but they're different in design and what they stand for. A cross is basically two intersecting lines or bars crossing each other, usually at right angles. A longer vertical bar and a shorter horizontal bar. It can appear in various forms such as the Latin cross, Celtic cross, Greek cross, or Jerusalem cross, as is often used as a general symbol of Christian faith, hope, and salvation. It's pretty simple and plain, symbolizing Jesus Christ's crucifixion.

The crucifix, though, has more detail. It's a cross with the corpus, which means the body of Jesus. This shows Jesus at the moment of his crucifixion, complete with the crown of thorns and wounds, making it more graphic. The crucifix really highlights Jesus' physical suffering and the sacrifice he made for people's sins. It's a more graphic and detailed representation.

What sets a cross and a crucifix apart is whether Jesus' body is there or not. The plain cross is more about the Christian faith in general, while the crucifix zooms in on Jesus' suffering and his humanity. Both are important in Christianity, but they tell different parts of the Christian story.

## **Origin and History:**

The cross and the crucifix started out as Christian symbols early in the religion's history. The cross first showed up after Jesus Christ was crucified. It really started to catch on after the 4th century when Emperor Constantine made Christianity legal in the Roman Empire.

At first, Christians weren't too keen on using the cross because it reminded them of crucifixion, a common way of executing people back then. But as time went on, the cross began to stand for Jesus' victory over death, resurrection, and the promise of eternal life, making it a key symbol in Christian art.

The crucifix, which shows Jesus' body on the cross, came into the picture a bit later. People think it first popped up in the 5th century and got more popular in the 6th and 7th centuries, especially with Roman Catholics. The crucifix is a direct reminder of Jesus' pain and the sacrifice he made for humanity's sins. It serves as a poignant reminder of the suffering he endured and is commonly used in Catholic and Eastern Orthodox traditions for worship, personal devotion, and contemplation of the Passion.

Over the years, how people use and see the crucifix has changed, with different Christian groups and cultures adding their own touches. Today, both the cross and the crucifix are major symbols, each representing important parts of Christian belief and teachings.

## **Denominational Preferences:**

In the world of Christian denominations, the choice between a cross or a crucifix often tells a lot about their core beliefs and traditions. Roman Catholics and Eastern Orthodox Christians usually go for the crucifix.

They find the clear image of Christ on the cross to be a powerful reminder of his sacrifice and suffering for saving humanity. The crucifix is important in their rituals, and you'll see it displayed in their churches and homes.

On the other side, many Protestant groups lean towards a plain cross. This comes from their focus on Christ's resurrection more than his crucifixion. For them, the empty cross stands for Christ having risen, beating death and sin. That's why you'll find the plain cross more often in Protestant churches. It's a symbol of faith that highlights the victory and hope in the Christian story.

So, whether a denomination picks the cross or the crucifix, it really shines a light on how they view Christian teachings and the role of Christ in salvation.

## **Cultural and Artistic Representations:**

The cross and crucifix have really made their mark in art, architecture, and culture, influencing how people see and use them. In the art world, the cross pops up everywhere — in paintings, sculptures, and stained glass.

It's all about representing faith, sacrifice, and redemption. Its simple design lets artists fit it into all sorts of styles, from old medieval works to modern abstract pieces.

The crucifix, showing Christ, gives a more intense picture. It was a big deal in Renaissance art, showing Christ's emotions and suffering. This has really shaped how people understand sacrifice and compassion in Christianity.

In architecture, you can see both symbols being heavily used. Crosses are on top of church steeples and altars, while crucifixes are inside churches, on altarpieces, and on building fronts. They've become key parts of Christian culture, not just as religious symbols but also as artistic ways to express deep spiritual and human ideas across different times and places.

### Contemporary Usage:

The cross and crucifix are big not just in religious practices but also in jewelry and pop culture today. In churches, you'll often see crosses in the design and during services, where they stand for faith and hope. The crucifix, showing Christ, is important in Catholic rituals, helping people focus on prayer and think about Jesus' sacrifice.

As for jewelry, lots of people wear crosses and crucifixes as necklaces or charms. They're either showing their faith or just making a fashion statement. The cross is especially popular, even for those who aren't into it for religious reasons.

In movies, books, fashion, and even tattoos, the cross and crucifix show up a lot. They've moved beyond just being religious symbols to having all kinds of meanings, from spiritual to just looking cool. This shows how these symbols connect with people in so many different ways nowadays.

### Is One Better Than the Other?

Which is better, the cross or the crucifix? Well, it really comes down to what you believe, where you're from, and how you use these symbols.

In the end, neither is "better" than the other. They just show different sides of Christian beliefs and traditions. Choosing between a cross and a crucifix is a personal thing, usually based on your religious background and what you believe.

### Wrapping Up:

The cross and crucifix are highly significant in Christianity, each with its own meaning and role in the faith.

Whether you like the simple cross or the detailed crucifix, both highlight the rich variety and deep beliefs in Christian traditions.





Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It was a great evening our first **Midweek Lent!** 19 of us gathered for a meal and another handful came at 6:00 P.M. for worship. We had half a church for midweek worship! Grand! Was it the good food or the new worship and mealtime that increased our attendance? No matter, it was a joy! It is good for us to share a meal, fellowship and worship. It makes us stronger as individuals and as a community of faith. And, even better news, we have four more opportunities to gather on the Wednesdays of March.

On March 8 after worship **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Lunch Bunch** continues sampling world cuisine with a visit to Mr Pancho's Mexican Restaurant in East Alton. In April, we will likely go "American" with a trip to Bluff City Grill.

So here it is Lent, a season of fasting, and I am gushing about food. A more "Lent like" topic is suffering. **Suffering** is the focus of a two-session study the Lifelong Learners begins on March 8. "Why Suffering" is an ancient question: God is entirely powerful. God is good and does not desire suffering. Complex life inevitably involves frequent suffering. How can we reconcile these three truths with one another?

Christianity doesn't have a pat answer for this question. To some extent, accepting that we may never quite understand suffering is part of faith; we trust God anyway. St. Paul writes that "God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength" (1 Corinthians 1:25). Trying to comprehend God's entire plan would require what Ronald Rolheiser describes as "a slimming down of God to fit the size, expectations, and reasoning of the human mind and imagination." Nevertheless, exploring the question of suffering in the world can help us move toward greater understanding, both of the role of suffering in our lives and of our relationships with God.

While we may never entirely understand why we suffer, but that as Christians, we have the comfort of knowing that our God suffered, just as we do. We know, therefore, that God understands what we feel; that God cares about the pain and suffering of living creatures. We can trust that our suffering is part of a great drama; a story that centers on nothing less than the redemption of the universe, and we can take comfort in that knowledge. Join us at 9:00 A.M. Sunday for an enriching and thought-provoking discussion.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a calendar of events for the year. Creating this calendar was the work of the PI (Planning & Implementation) Team. Certainly, there will be changes and modifications, that are inevitable regardless of the most careful planning. But, overall, the calendar will give you a pretty good idea of what is happening when. I hope that it is useful to you.

This Lent, prepare your hearts for Easter. Pray. Fast. Do good for others. I saw on Facebook, of all places (!) a very wise suggestion from the current Pope, Leo, regarding fasting. I commend his wisdom to you for your Lent discipline: "I would like to invite you to a very practical and frequently unappreciated form of abstinence: that of refraining from words that offend and hurt our neighbor."

Peace, and a blessed Lent, to you and yours from me and my little grey cat, Lilly.

PrJan



## News & Updates



### 2nd Sunday Lunch Bunch

“Take two” . . . after canceling in January, we shoot for lunch at Mr. Pancho’s on March 8th following worship. Join us for the action.

Located in Eastgate Plaza at 119 East Gate Plaza, East Alton, IL

A sign-up for reservations & carpooling will be in the narthex.



### March Dates for Lent

For 2026, all midweek evening worship will start at 6:00 P.M.

- Midweek Worship– March 4, 11, 18 & 25  
*Worship at 6, light supper served at 5*
- Maundy Thursday– April 2
- Good Friday– April 3
- Easter – April 5, 10 AM



Our 2026 Lenten Offerings will be evenly divided among :

- Head Start and Family Services
- Oasis Women’s Center & Wounded Warriors



### Annual Calendar

The PI Team and Pastor have prepared an Annual Calendar for Resurrection for 2026.

The Calendar has been attached to this month’s newsletter. Now, you can glance ahead to see the dates of worship, meetings and more. This will also give you an idea of what’s open for a community event or committee meeting if needed. Naturally, with people’s work schedules, vacations, unexpected illness/absence, etc, some dates are subject to change if need be, but we hope this helps resolve scrambling to find a time/date at the last minute along the way.



- \* Our next meeting will be March 12th, *Dinner at 6 . . . Meeting at 7*
- \* Easter Breakfast Preparation April 5th, 8am. *Check with Dan where your help is needed.*

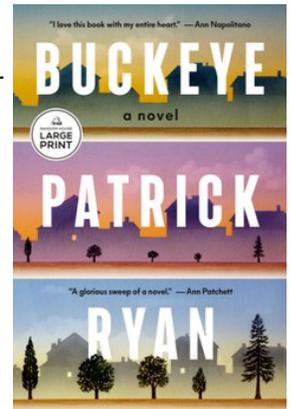


Thanks, Dan Garner  
618-792-1777

## Book Club

Janet Broche will be the discussion leader at our March 12th meeting. Her book choice is **Buckeye by Patrick Ryan**. The book is available through the library on a hold basis.

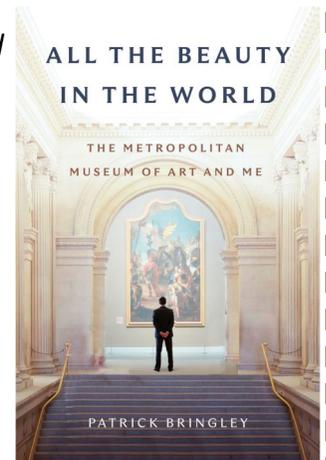
*Summary: In Bonhomie, Ohio, a stolen moment of passion, sparked in the exuberant aftermath of the Allied victory in Europe, binds Cal Jenkins, a man wounded not in war but by his inability to serve in it, to Margaret Salt, a woman trying to obscure her past. Cal's wife, Becky, has a spiritual gift: She is a seer who can conjure the dead, helping families connect with those they've lost. Margaret's husband, Felix, is serving on a Navy cargo ship, out of harm's way--until a telegram suggests that the unthinkable might have happened. Later, as the country reconstructs in the postwar boom, a secret grows in Bonhomie--but nothing stays buried forever in a small town.*



Elyse Tillman will be the discussion leader for our April 9th meeting. Her book choice is **All the Beauty in the World: the Metropolitan Museum of Art and Me by Patrick Brinkley**. You will not be reading a story, don't have to fret over an ending, just be looking at fantastic, beautiful objects, paintings, etc., that are in the Metropolitan Museum that many of us will never see in person. So, Elyse is taking us on a tour by book to view many pages of interesting objects and articles. Our local library does not have the book available but will obtain copies from other libraries. You know the routine, get your name on the hold list at the Alton Library.

*Summary: A fascinating, revelatory portrait of the Metropolitan Museum of Art and its treasures by a former New Yorker staffer who spent a decade as a museum guard.*

Ruth Wolter  
618-433-1469



## Informal Congregational Meeting



As requested by members of Resurrection, an informal meeting has been scheduled for **March 29th** after worship. This meeting is a time for you to come forward and share any concerns, ideas and/or changes you would like to be known to Council and Committee heads.

## Spoof Email Alert



Please be cautious of unsolicited spoof emails. Recently, there has been an uptick of spoof emails being sent throughout our congregation.

**A spoof email is a fraudulent message that appears to come from a legitimate source, often used in phishing attacks to deceive recipients into providing sensitive information or clicking malicious links.**

These emails have included replies to a schedule/agenda that doesn't exist, sending you pictures, requesting gift cards and even an attempt to lock your computer for a ransom.

Bottom line, if you aren't expecting pictures or you aren't working on scheduling an event with someone, **DELETE** these emails! If you get a ransom type of email demanding payment, immediately close your browser (Google, Edge, Safari, Firefox etc.) and/or shut off and restart your computer. Please don't respond or click on anything seen in these emails as you will most likely regret the outcome!

Also, Pastor is not requesting you to help her purchase gift cards. We have gift cards available for those in need that are purchased by the Church. You may contribute towards purchasing them at any time the right way via a check or cash.

### **How to recognize spoofed emails**



Check for inconsistencies in domain names and email addresses



Look for grammatical errors, unusual language, or requests for sensitive information



Avoid clicking on suspicious links or downloading unexpected attachments

## Highlight's from Church Council – January

### MONTHLY REPORTS

- \* **Treasurer's Report:** Total offering for the month was \$9,396.44. Total income for the month was \$9,574.78. Total expenses were \$8,531.49 for the month *without the \$3,100 set-aside funds*. **The cash flow for the month was \$1,043.29 as our transfers were not included.**
- \* **Pastor's Report:**
  - Pastor has initiated cleaning out unnecessary and/or duplicate records in the Church office and appropriately filing them. Per ELCA Constitution, this is the responsibility of the Pastor. The overall state of our files is a bit messy and this will be a weary undertaking for sure.
  - Discussed the need for a large recycle bin and/or a shredding service for at least a year. Kay will obtain quotes for this service.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Properties– Council voted and approved the following:
  - Sisk Lawn and Landscape will dig a ravine and bury the black drainage pipe behind the sanctuary for \$450 to address the rainwater entering the sanctuary.
  - Sisk Lawn and Landscape will clean up the overgrowth and brush on both sides of the creek and treat it with brush killer for \$550.
  - Sisk Lawn and Landscape will spray weed killer around the property, landscape and parking lot bimonthly during the growing season for \$100.
- Bids are being sought to address the growing ceiling cracks in the building and to paint the bathrooms.
- Long-term storage solutions are being discussed and addressed.
- Social Ministry– Sharon Groh is working with the new director of the Oasis Women's Center of Alton, exploring new ways Resurrection and Oasis can work together.

### NEW BUSSINESS

- Council has filled the vacant at-large position. We welcome Carol Garner to the table !
- Lent offerings will be evenly divided amongst Head Start and Family Services, Oasis Women's Center and Wounded Warriors.



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



- 18 Charles and Judy Kelley

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

## FINANCIAL STATUS – January 2026

|                                |                                  |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>MONEY MARKET BALANCE</b>    | <b>\$56,362.40</b>               |
| <b>GENERAL FUNDS CASH FLOW</b> | <b>\$1,043.29</b>                |
| <b>GENERAL FUND BALANCE</b>    | <b>\$2,865.18</b>                |
| <b>CD DEPOSITS</b>             | <b>\$42,400.00 (approximate)</b> |

|                                    | <u>1/1/2026 -</u><br><u>1/31/2026</u> | <u>YEAR TO</u><br><u>DATE</u> |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>GENERAL FUNDS DETAIL</b>        |                                       |                               |
| <b>Income</b>                      |                                       |                               |
| Offering                           | \$9,396.44                            | \$9,396.44                    |
| Lenten Offering                    |                                       |                               |
| Advent Offering                    |                                       |                               |
| Other Income                       | \$178.34                              | \$178.34                      |
| <b>Total General Fund Income</b>   | <b>\$9,574.78</b>                     | <b>\$9,574.78</b>             |
| <b>Expenses</b>                    |                                       |                               |
| Benevolence                        | \$300.00                              | \$300.00                      |
| Building and Grounds               | \$1,498.50                            | \$1,498.50                    |
| Christian Education                | \$0.00                                | \$0.00                        |
| Evangelism                         | \$0.00                                | \$0.00                        |
| Insurance                          | \$0.00                                | \$0.00                        |
| Office                             | \$323.72                              | \$323.72                      |
| Personnel Costs                    | \$1,301.84                            | \$1,301.84                    |
| Personnel Salaries                 | \$4,919.42                            | \$4,919.42                    |
| Social Ministry                    | \$0.00                                | \$0.00                        |
| Stewardship Supplies               | \$188.01                              | \$188.01                      |
| Worship                            | \$0.00                                | \$0.00                        |
| <b>Total General Fund Expenses</b> | <b>\$8,531.49</b>                     | <b>\$8,531.49</b>             |
| <b>General Funds Cash Flow</b>     | <b>\$1,043.29</b>                     | <b>\$1,043.29</b>             |

**Financial update:** \$2500 to Major Repairs and \$600 to Insurance set-aside in the Money Market. We were only in attendance for three Sundays in January that is reflected in the offering total.

Blessings,  
Kay Tucker



## *2026 General Calendar*

**BC = Book Club**

**C = Council**

**CM = Congregation Meeting**

**CS = Chili Supper**

**CSP = Chili Supper Prep**

**LB = 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Lunch Bunch**

**LL = Lifelong Learners**

**PI = PI Team**

**MB = Men's Bible Study**

**MC = Men's Club**

**MW = Midweek Worship**

**TT = Tech Team**

**WC = Worship Committee**

February 1 - LL, WC

February 8 - LL, LB

February 11 - TT

February 12 - MC/BC

February 15 - LL, C

February 18 - Ash Wednesday

February 22 - LL, Open

February 25 - MW

February 26 ~ MB

March 1 - LL, WC

March 4 - MW

March 8 - LL, LB

March 10 or 13 ~ TT

March 11 - MW

March 12 - MC/BC

March 15 - LL, C

March 18 - MW

March 22 - LL, CM

March 25 - MW

March 26 ~ MB

March 29 - LL, Passion/Palm Sunday

April 2 - Maundy Thursday

April 3 - Good Friday (Evening Worship & Way of the Cross)

April 5 - Easter/Breakfast

April 6 - 9 - Pr Jan to Cincinnati

April 9 - MC/BC

April 12 - LL, LB

April 19 - LL, C

April 26 - PI

April 30 ~ MB

May 3 - LL, WC

May 8 - MC/BC

May 10 - LL, Mother's Day

May 17 - LL, Rogate/Council

May 24 - LL, Open

May 29 ~ MB

May 31 - LL, PI

June 7 - LL, Open

June 11 - MC/BC

June 14 - LL, LB

June 21 - LL, Father's Day

June 25 ~ MB

June 28 - LL, Council

July 5 - LL, Open

July 9 - MC/BC  
July 12 - LL, Open  
July 19 - LL, Council  
July 26 - LL, PI  
July 30 - MB

August 2 - LL, Open  
August 9 - LL, LB  
August 13 - MC/BC  
August 16 - LL, Council  
August 23 - LL, Open  
August 27 - MB  
August 30 - LL, PI

September 6 - LL, Open  
September 10 - MC/BC  
September 13 - LL, LB  
September 16 - TT  
September 20 - LL, Council  
September 24 - MB  
September 27 - LL, CM

October 4 - LL, Blessing of Pets/Open  
October 7 - CSP  
October 8 - MC/BC/CS  
October 11 - LL, LB  
October 14 - CSP  
October 15 - CS  
October 18 - LL, C  
October 21 - CSP  
October 22 - CS  
October 25 - LL, PI  
October 29 - MB

November 1 - LL, Annual CM  
November 8 - LL, LB  
November 12 - MC/BC  
November 15 - Open  
November 22 - Hanging of the Greens  
November 26 - MB  
November 29 - LL, Council  
December 2 - MW  
December 6 - LL, WC  
December 9 - MW  
December 10 - MC/BC  
December 13 - LL, LB  
December 16 - MW  
December 20 - LL, C  
December 24 - Christmas Eve  
December 27 - Open  
January 3 - LL, Unhanging of the Greens

# March 2026



**Sun                  Mon                  Tue                  Wed                  Thu                  Fri                  Sat**

| 1  | 2                            | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
|--|------------------------------|--|--|--|--|----|
| Lifelong Learners 9am<br>Worship 10am<br>Worship Cmte. 11am                          |                              | Scouts 7pm   | Midweek Worship 6pm,<br>Supper 5pm       |  | RFM Open House<br>8:00 am and 12 Noon  |    |
| 8<br>Comm. Garden 9 am<br>Lifelong Learners 9am<br>Worship 10am<br>Lunch Bunch 11 am | 9                            | 10<br>Scouts 7pm                                   | 11<br>Midweek Worship 6pm,<br>Supper 5pm | 12<br>Men's Club at Church 6pm<br>Book Club at Church 6:30pm | 13   | 14 |
| 15<br>Lifelong Learners 9am<br>Worship 10am<br>Church Council 11am                   | 16<br>Young Hall in use 10am | 17<br>Scouts 7pm                                   | 18<br>Midweek Worship 6pm,<br>Supper 5pm | 19   | 20   | 21 |
| 22<br>Lifelong Learners 9am<br>Worship 10am<br>Congregational Mtg. 11am              | 23                           | 24<br>Scouts 7pm                                   | 25<br>Midweek Worship 6pm,<br>Supper 5pm | 26<br>Men's Bible Study, 5:30 pm                             | 27<br>Young Hall in use 2pm<br><b>Newsletter Deadline</b>  | 28 |
| 29<br>Lifelong Learners 9am<br>Palm Sunday Worship 10am                              | 30                           | 31<br>5th Tuesday Soup's On 10:30 am<br>Scouts 7pm |  |  | <b>Rev. Jan S. Worms</b><br><a href="mailto:gracious@midwest.net">gracious@midwest.net</a><br><b>Office Hours by appointment</b> |    |

**Rev. Jan S. Worms**

**CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL**

Neal Booth, President  
Bob Doerr, Vice-President  
Teresa Droste, Secretary  
Kay Tucker, Treasurer  
Carol Garner, 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*  
Russ Henkhaus, *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*

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[www.youtube.com/channel/UCvX9AiIIQb2ZD76edJPifQ?](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UCvX9AiIIQb2ZD76edJPifQ?)

Service Time: In-Person & Online 10AM

**Resurrection Lutheran Church**

1211 W. Homer Adams Pkwy.  
Godfrey, IL 62035

