Resurrection Lutheran Church

May 2026

Resurrection Report

Our mission: Being an example of God's acceptance and grace to all

To my siblings in Christ,

The season of Easter runs from Easter Sunday up to Pentecost 50 days later. This timing coincides with the Jewish festival of Pentecost, which marks the people's arrival at Mount Siani 50 days after Passover and their liberation from Egypt (Exodus 19). For Christians, Pentecost marks the pouring out of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples in Jerusalem (Acts 2).

Using the count in Acts 1, Ascension Day is celebrated 40 days after Easter Sunday. Usually, falling on a Thursday, most churches, including Resurrection, mark Ascension Day on the following Sunday. On this day we remember and celebrate Jesus' ascension as recorded in the book of Luke and Acts.

As I was studying the flow of the upcoming texts, it occurred to me for the first time that Luke and Acts are the only two books that record the ascension of Jesus. Both are attributed to the same author with the Gospel of Luke recording the story of Jesus and "The Acts of the Apostles" recording the story of the early church.

We certainly pay attention to the places where the Gospels echo the others' accounts, but we also note the places where the Gospels differ in what they choose to include or leave out. These differences say a lot, not only about what each author is presenting as an essential aspect of Jesus, but also about what each sees as essential to nurturing the faith of his audience.

Matthew ends with the disciples meeting Jesus on a mountain in Galilee where he gives them what is called The Great Commission and promises to be with them always (Matthew 26). The shorter version of Mark's ending gives the women fleeing from the tomb "for terror and amazement had seized them" saying nothing to anyone (Mark 16). John ends with Jesus beside the Sea of Galilee commanding Peter to follow him and speculation about whether the beloved disciple, John, would die before his return John 21).



Rev. William H. Smith

It is in Luke 24 and Acts 1 that we witness Jesus' ascension, which is intimately connected to the giving of the Holy Spirit. Just before his ascension in Luke, Jesus commands the disciples to stay in Jerusalem until they have been clothed with power from on high (Luke 24:49). Then traveling just outside of Jerusalem, Jesus ascends while blessing the disciples. In Acts, Jesus tells them that they will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon them and that they will be his witnesses (Acts 1:8). When he is done saying this, Jesus is "lifted up" and taken out of sight by a cloud.

In both accounts, the giving of the Holy Spirit is called the promise of God, it requires the disciples to stay put and wait in Jerusalem, and it is directly tied to Jesus' leaving them. For Luke, the giving of the Holy Spirit, and therefore Jesus' ascension,

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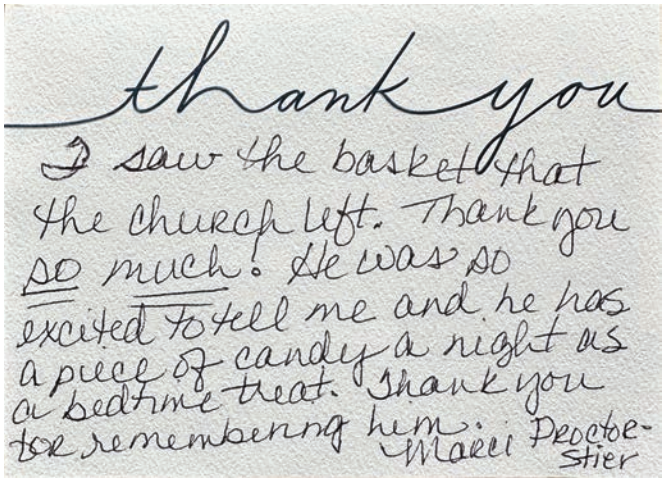
are absolutely essential to nurturing the faith of his audience.

It emphasizes a promise keeping God that acts in the world today, not just when Jesus first walked the earth. It makes clear the central role the Holy Spirit plays in the life of the individual and the community of faith in our current reality. It too explains Jesus' present physical absence as necessary to the Holy Spirit's success. Finally, it sets the expectation that the Holy Spirit is to be experienced. It will wash over us as the waters of Baptism, rest upon us like clothing and fill us as a divine source of power, understanding, and witness in the world.

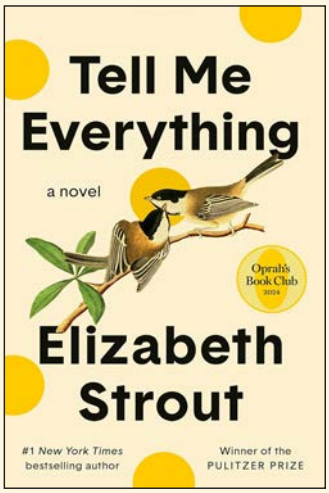
I invite and encourage you to read further and consider what the authors are emphasizing and what the Holy Spirit is calling your attention to in the text and your own life: Luke 24 (especially verse 44-53), and Acts 1 (especially verse 1-11). You may also want to look at the last chapters of Matthew, Mark, and John to see what other aspects of Jesus and our faith they are lifting up as essential. I welcome those questions and insights you choose to share as you explore the Bible yourself.

The Lord be with you.
Pastor Smith

Easter Basket Thank You from the family of Ron Proctor



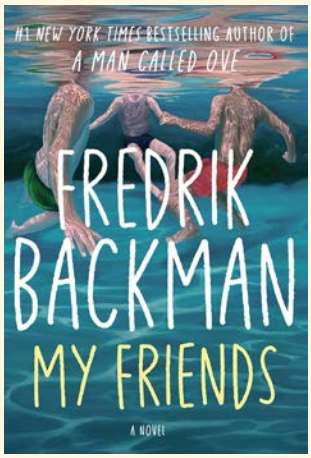




Book Club will be meeting on Thursday, May 7th at 6:30 pm at church to review and discuss the book, *Tell Me Everything* by Elizabeth Strout. Please RSVP to Andra Blume at 219-863-6348 if you would like to join us.

Don't forget to bring your donations for Baby's Closet.

The book for the June 4th meeting is *My Friends* by Fredrik Backman.



#1 New York Times bestselling author Fredrik Backman returns with an unforgettably funny, deeply moving tale of four teenagers whose friendship creates a bond so powerful that it changes a complete stranger's life twenty-five years later.

Come join us in June 4th at Country Heritage to celebrate this book and our 17 years of being a Book Club!

Just Neighbors

INTERFAITH HOMELESS NETWORK

Our next rotation to provide meals for Just Neighbors is Sunday, May 17th through Friday, May 22nd.

PLEASE SCAN THE QR CODE TO SIGN UP.

Thank you for being a blessing!

Just Neighbors serves families in Fort Wayne by providing shelter, meals, and compassionate comprehensive professional support. Resurrection assists this program by providing dinners for the families.

Food must be taken to the administration building (2925 E. State Blvd) rather than the adjoining house. Please be sure all foods are in disposable containers.

You may drop off the food anytime on your chosen day before 5 PM.

The exact number of guests will be provided as the dates draw closer. Current guest numbers are updated daily on the Just Neighbors website.
Go to: **ihnfamily.org**

You are welcome to take a whole meal by yourself or partner with someone and coordinate your meal together. You may also reach out to local restaurants to see if they would offer special pricing for meals for this worthy cause. If you use a restaurant, you would still be responsible for ensuring delivery of the meal to JNIHN.











ELIZABETH MUNDROFF LUTHERWALD CAMP WORKDAY

The 14th annual Elizabeth Mundroff Lutherwald camp work day was a great success! We had over 35 volunteers from ages 2 to 91!. They helped with cleaning, raking, mowing, planting, tilling, painting, disassembling, wood moving, trimming, and much more. After lunch, we were entertained by an RC airplane taking off and landing on the lake (Thank you Brauns). Many connections were made and so much was accomplished. Thank you to all those that volunteered either physically or prayerfully. It was a good day.

YOUTH HAPPENINGS

♥ Grand baby wins over newsletter articles ♥



Lucas Morelli Smith
Born to Noah and Savannah Smith
4/29/26 at 34 weeks
3lbs 11oz

Baby, mom and dad are doing well.
Lucas is in the NICU. We will see for how long.





Youth Calendar 2026

May 3	Park Dedication and Celebration	11 AM
May 17	Confirmation	11-1 PM
June 14-19	Confirmation Camp for entering 6-9 grade School Servant Camp entering 10-12	
July 20 to July 24	Youth Week of Service (local Service “trip”) More info coming soon	
June 26 to July 2 or 3, 2027	ELCA Youth Gathering	

Confirmation Camp

Lutherwald June 14-19th

Our current 5th graders through our current 9th graders are encouraged to attend confirmation camp at Lutherwald the week of June 14th. This is especially important for our confirmands, but those already confirmed are welcome to attend.

Confirmation camp allows us larger blocks of time over several days to go more in depth on specific topics around our Lutheran understanding of the Christian faith and how it applies to our everyday lives. Both Sue and Pastor will be at camp that week to lead studies and interact with campers.

To register your confirmand go to: **https://lomikadmin.com/cr/register.php?cn=LW**

For more information reach out to Pastor.

Other Summer Camp Opportunities with LOMIK

Looking for a Christ-centered camp experience for your children? Our camp ministry has three different locations and offers these programs:

- **Pilgrims:** Entering Grades 1-3 (4 days)
- **Super Pilgrims:** Entering Grades 1-3 (6 days)
- **Pioneers:** Entering Grades 4-6 (6 days)
- **Trailblazers**: Entering Grades 7-9 (6 days)
- **Reading Camp**: Entering Grades 3-6 (6 days)
- **Fine Arts (FAME):** Ages 8-16 (6 days)
- **Hiking & Caving Adventure:** Entering Grades 7-11 (6 days)
- **Senior High Camp:** Entering Grades 10-12 (6 days)

For more information go to: **https://lomik.org/summer_programs.php**

Cost should never determine whether a young person attends camp. Scholarships are available. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor directly.

Associated CHURCHES of Fort Wayne & Allen County

Resurrection would like to participate with ASSOCIATED CHURCHES in this city-wide food drive on Saturday, May 9th. To participate leave a non-perishable food donation in a plastic bag (any plastic bag will work) near your mailbox on Saturday, May 9th and your letter carrier will do the rest. Food donations will be received at the Associated Churches' Food Bank and redistributed back to our 21 local food pantries. **Purchase your food now !!!**
If you are interested in volunteering, please contact: Kelley Bawmann



Saturday
May 9th, 2026

STEPHEN MINISTRY

Over the past several months, a dedicated group of individuals has completed an intentional and comprehensive journey of training to become Stephen Ministers—caregivers equipped to offer compassionate, Christ-centered support to those facing life's challenges.

They are: Dave Avery, Sherry Avery, Janet Eby, Andy Kanzig, andDawn Neumann

They are now grounded in the understanding that while they serve faithfully, God is the true source of healing. Through this training, they have developed the essential skills of listening deeply, responding with empathy, and walking alongside others with grace and humility.

They have learned to integrate faith into care — drawing on prayer, Scripture, and trust in God — while also building practical skills such as maintaining healthy boundaries, navigating crisis situations, and recognizing when additional professional support is needed.

Most importantly, they are prepared not to fix, but to faithfully care—to be a steady, compassionate presence in times of need.

On Sunday, April 26, 2023, we recognized and celebrated their readiness to serve. As commissioned Stephen Ministers, we send them forward with confidence, trusting that through their ministry, God will bring comfort, hope, and healing to many.

If you know someone who is going through a difficult time, contact our Stephen Leader Rob Mundroff or Pastor Will Smith about Stephen Ministry. Our Stephen Ministers are ready to provide focused, confidential, one-to-one Christian care—to help that person experience the healing power of Christ's love.

Finally, Please lift up our Stephen Ministers in your prayers as they nurture their gifts and expand their knowledge to bring care to hurting people in Christ's name on behalf of our congregation.

Robert Mundroff - RLC Stephen Leader

thrivent®



Thrivent Action Team Grants

Thrivent has Action Team Grants are available to help support RLC ministry team projects.

Here are some of the events we have used the Action Team grants for: Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Glow, Winter Retreat, College Finals Cards, Spaghetti Dinner, Outdoor Day, Kid's Club, Homebound Easter Baskets/Cups of Cheer, Godly Play Vacation Bible School, Women's Retreat and Rally Day.

Go to this link to find more information about Action Team grants:
https://www.thrivent.com/about-us/membership/thrivent-action-teams

To apply for a Thrivent Action Team, you must be a Thrivent client with membership. Not sure if that's you? Visit the Membership page for details.
Apply online: Thrivent Action Teams

We have created a spreadsheet to help keep track of the available members with access to the Action Team grants. If you would like to help support Resurrection's ministries by adding your name to the spreadsheet, here is the spreadsheet link on Google Drive:

RLC Thrivent Spreadsheet Link

If you need help updating the spreadsheet or applying for an Action Team grant, please contact:

Kay Humbert, kayhumbert@gmail.com or
Lee Humbert, lrhumbert@gmail.com

The application process is very easy and they are quick to respond and send out the supplies. We thank you for your support in RLC ministries!
Lee & Kay Humbert

May Anniversaries

8	Lela & George Dunn, 66 years Peggy & Dick Van Horn, 50 years
17	Nancy & Roger Lake, 46 years
19	Sue & Perry Shilts, 37 years
20	Cynthia & John Sherrill, 43 years
29	Grace & Jonathan Van Gessel, 5 years
30	Stephanie & Wes DeKoninck, 17 years



Is your birthday or wedding anniversary this month but not listed? Please let us know! Send an email to office@rlcfw.org or call 260-637-5900 so we can get it listed!

May Birthdays

1	Jackson Spencer
4	Kenneth Spencer
5	Mark Grove Roger Lake
7	Cheryl Gobel Ben Kizer
10	John Mittler Lucia Hughes
11	Lauren Henry
12	John Joustra
14	Gavin Cook
17	Dawn Neumann
20	Dave Avery Esther Meyers
21	Emma Harter
24	Kelsey Hoot Oaklynn Maxwell
29	Tom Fuhrmann
30	Michael Keith Elizabeth Schlichter

PRAY FOR



Dot
Ed Carnahan
Danny Carnhan
Susie Carnhan
Dema Saxton
Craig
Mary Paonessa
Ken Baranowski
Scott Williams
Denise DuBois
Jeff Wolf
Ruby C
Gustave
Annie Wood
Sandra Bruce
Marc Young
Stephen Ministry Trainees
Family of Cindy King
Kevin Rigby
Steve Desmond
Ron Knepper
Jenny Hobby
Mark Riggenbach
Jo Hall
Diann Williams
Sophia Wallace & family
Natalie
Lucia Hughes
Andra Blume

Military Service:
Bailey Beyer
Jaidyn Beyer
Collin Monteith
Dakota Francis
Jon Popovich
Matthew Gephart
Joshua Kenagy
Alex Horvath

Homebound:
Cindy Dankert
Cheryl Goble
Pat Norris
Pat Poinsett
Wendy Jackson

Resurrection Lutheran Church

14318 Lima Road
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46818
260.637.5900
www.rlcfw.org

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

STAFF	OFFICE HOURS
Rev. William H. Smith prsmith@rlcfw.org	Monday | Wednesday: 10:30am – 5pm Tuesday: Sermon prep day: Out of office Thursday: 10:30am – 3pm Nursing home worship: 4pm – 5pm Sunday: All day at RLC
Office office@rlcfw.org	Monday – Thursday: 9am – 2pm
Sue Smith youth@rlcfw.org	Monday: 10am – 2pm Wednesday: By appointment Sunday: All day at RLC
Robin Wessley accts@rlcfw.org	Tuesday

Church Council Members and Ministry Team Leaders

Pastor:
Rev. William H. Smith

Council President:
Lorenzo Manquero

Vice President:
Sue Shilts

Council Secretary:
Kelley Bawmann

Financial Secretary:
Esther Meyers

Treasurer:
Darlene Lebrecht

At Large 1:
Kim Heisler

At Large 2:
Zach Braun

Evangelism:
OPEN

Stewardship:
Team in place

Social Ministry:
OPEN

Fellowship:
Diann Williams & Julie Sonnenberg

Property:
Team in place

Worship & Music:
Team in place

Youth:
Sue Smith

Education:
Team in place

Church Office Hours:

Monday – Thursday
9am – 2pm

After church hours?

Leave a message or call Pastor Smith at 260.409.6971

Sunday Worship

9:30am
In Person Worship
with Communion
every Sunday

10:45am Faith Formation
September – May

Sunday services are now available for viewiing anytime on our YouTube Channel:
https://www.youtube.com/@resurrectionlutheranchurch2301/streams

9:30am live-streamed on our Facebook page:
https://facebook.comrlcfw

Articles for the next month's newsletter are due by the 26th of each month, if you have something you would like to add, please email it to office@rlcfw.org