Resurrection Lutheran Church

July 2026

Resurrection Report

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

To my siblings in Christ,

The Holy Spirit was the topic of study for this year's confirmation camp. Resurrection was blessed to partner with four other churches for our daily two hours of class time. Teaching in this setting can be tedious and learning can be boring. But, in these settings, I am privileged to see young people doing the work of exploring their faith, and I am repeatedly impressed by their deep thoughts and creative reflections.

One day, as we studied the Spirit's involvement in the gift of love, we read the famous passage from First Corinthians 13. But we also reflected on the next section where Paul teaches about the impermanence of everything but love and our limited perspective on it all. "When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways." (1 Cor. 13:10) For Paul, what is childlike must give way to a bigger and more mature self.

I always understood this to be a positive statement about growth, but one of the confirmands had a new take on the passage that I had never considered. What if Paul, while naming the unavoidable nature of growing up as good, is also pointing back to things that need to be preserved? What is childlike can be silly and cruel, but it also holds things that are very good. Such things include the true love of a child, the unburdened faith of a child, and their ease of making friends and welcoming the outsider. I'm still reflecting on this observation.

We also explored the Spirit's role in gathering, sending, and forgiving. The Spirit is responsible for giving us abilities and power. The exercise for the class was to list as may superheroes as they could in a set period of time. Then we asked them if they knew how each of the superheroes got their superpowers, which included everything from Gama rays to radioactive spiders to being from another world. Returning to the Holy Spirit, we used the superheroes' sources of power as an analogy for her work, and the gifts and fruits of the Spirit are the super powers given to each person for the good of all.



Rev. William H. Smith

"Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, 5 and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." (1 Corinthians 12:4-7)

We spent time reflecting on the gifts we have each been given and how those gifts need the support of other people and their gifts. It is a web, or better put, a body that is greater than the total of its parts. Then we took time to consider how we are being called to use our gifts for the common good.

I invite you to spend some time with this exercise. I wonder how the Spirit has been at work in your life both within you and through the people who have been a part of your life? I wonder what gifts the Spirit has nurtured in you and what your relationship is with them? I wonder too, how you have used them for the common good in the past and where you are being called to use them to serve the common good of today and tomorrow?

The Lord be with you.
Pastor Smith

Farm Club *from* Hawkins Family Farm



Zach and Jeff Hawkins

Is Farm Club right for you?

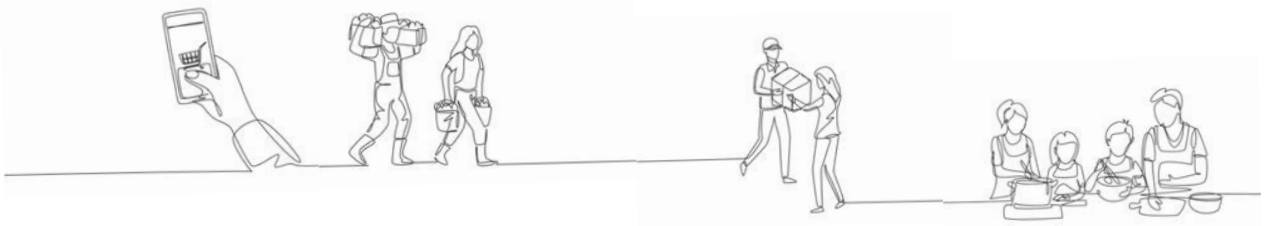
-Do you enjoy fresh food?
-Are you concerned about the quality of your food?
-Do you value health and well-being?
-Do you want to know where your food comes from?
-Would you like to support local small businesses?

If you answer "yes" to these questions, we think you'd enjoy Farm Club!

What is Farm Club?

Our membership-based local food club is a one-stop-shop for high quality food from our farm and over 20 other trusted local producers, including produce, meat, eggs, dairy, and more! Members pay an annual fee to support the work that happens behind the scenes—growing, sourcing, coordinating, and handling food with care—so that when they shop, they're choosing from a curated selection they can trust. Here's how it works:

LEARN MORE AND SIGN UP AT
www.hawkinsfamilyfarm.com



You shop.

Browse the online farm stand and fill your cart with local food. Members have the opportunity to shop weekly from June through November and monthly from December through May. Shop when you want a box; skip when you don't.

We gather.

After the store closes, we send orders to our partner producers and then head out to the field for our own harvest so everything is as fresh as can be.

We deliver.

If you've opted to pick up your order, simply swing by your pre-selected location during the pickup window. If you've chosen home delivery, just wait for a friendly knock on your door!

You enjoy!

Now it's time to get cooking! Whether you're blending up a quick smoothie or executing a five-course feast, you know you're working with ingredients you can trust.

Hawkins Family Farm Club

Some of you may remember Pastor Hawkins from his work with Resurrection, where he helped guide the congregation through reflection, dreaming, and visioning during Pastor VanGundy's retirement transition. Others may remember visiting the farm on a summer Friday night for locally sourced pizza.

Pastor Hawkins and his son, Zach, have operated a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) program for several years, offering customers a direct farm-to-table grocery resource. As the program has grown, they now bring preordered goods to pickup sites closer to their customers through local partners who provide space.

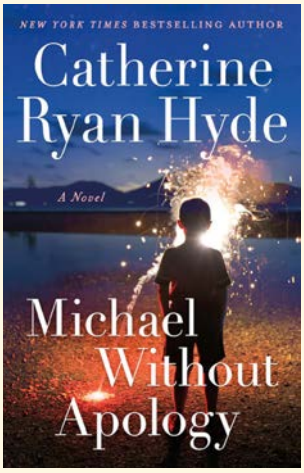
After Hawkins Family Farm Club lost its weekly Huntertown pickup site, Pastor Hawkins asked whether Resurrection could serve as a new location. The request was taken to council and approved. Pickups happen on Thursday evenings.

We do not typically advertise for outside groups and are careful about who can sell what, especially on Sunday mornings. I supported hosting the pickup site because I know and trust Pastor Hawkins, and the pickups occur during a quiet time at the church. When the request was shared, some of the council members expressed interest in participating in the grocery service.

Pastor Hawkins did not request advertising. This is being shared in case others, like the council members, may be interested in using this kind of service. Please see the flier for more information. You can contact Hawkins Farm directly with any questions.

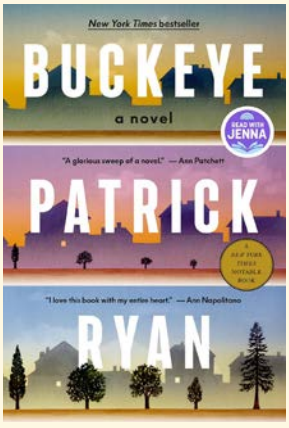


Get ready for a sweet treat and a good book. Book Club will meet at DeBrands at 6:30pm on Thursday, July 2nd to talk about the book *Michael Without Apology* written by Catherine Ryan Hyde. Please RSVP to Carolyn Aker at 260-704-3266 if you would like to join us.



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

On August 6th, we will meet at the church pavilion. Please remember to bring your own chair and stop at Dairy Queen to treat yourself. The book for August is titled *Buckeye* by Patrick Ryan.



Set in the fictional town of Bonhomie, Ohio, Buckeye tells the story of two couples who share a devastating secret and explores how it reverberates through their sons' lives. Through the lives of the Salt and Jenkins families, the novel explores themes including The Impact of War on Individual and Cultural Identity, Individualism Versus Conformity in Small Communities, and The Impact of Secrets on Marriage and Family.

YOUTH HAPPENINGS

A Week of Service
July 20-24, 8:30am–4:30pm

This summer the youth are having “A Week of Service”, as our volunteering/trip/fun, July 20-24 8:30- 4:30 (Wednesday later) and Sunday July 26 for church, for the Youth Service, and then some more fun time after church. As I am trying to finalize our dates with the organization/team/individual and planning for food, it is VERY helpful if I know how many youth and who is going to be able to participate. Friends are always welcome!

We understand summers are busy and you have sporting, school or family events too. We have found more youth are able to participate when we offer an in-town opportunity that you can come to for 1 day or every day of the week. Have an appt in the afternoon, no problem, you can leave early. If anyone has any food allergies etc., please let me know. Youth should feel free to let me know what kind of food they want to eat. Things already on our list.. Monday we will be working in the Church park. We will be sanding and painting/sanding benches and the wood shed, Wednesday we will be working at Perry and Sue Shilts place. There we will do some work and cook out and swim, we will also be working in a member’s flower beds and moving furniture for another member. If you have any questions, please reach out to Sue Smith.



Join us as we live out Resurrection’s mission statement, “Being an example of God’s acceptance and grace to all”, by walking in the Pride March downtown on Saturday July 25th. We will meet at the Northeast side of the MLK Bridge at 1:30 pm. Some stickers and tattoos will be provided to share with others, bring some too if you’d like. You may come and go as you please. Check out our ad, picture above, that will be in the Newspaper Pride insert. Contact Sue for more information.

Confirmation and Senior High Servant Camp at Lutherwald







Well, I only made it to Tuesday at camp. I went home with strep. Pastor stayed and I am sure the youth liked him just as much!! Everyone seemed to have a great time, make new friends, develop new friends and memories all while learning about God's love and what it all means. Parents, they should be scholarly Bible readers by now.



Volunteering/Attending Vacation Bible School

I spotted some youth helping out at Vacation Bible School recently. It is always nice to have great help! Thank you to those that volunteered! It was great catching up to see how their summers are going.















Resurrection Lutheran Church
COMMUNITY PARK

Outdoor Day
Saturday, August 15, 2026

This summer event is for our local community. Volunteers are needed for the day of the event and to provide Thrivent grants. This event is entirely funded by Thrivent grants. For only $19.95 you can get $250 worth of grant money for the event. A great deal! Applying for a grant is a simple process. Please sign up at the Welcome Center to help and/or provide a Thrivent Grant. If you want to contribute a Thrivent Grant, contact Mary Ibe at (260) 402-8583 or ibe.science@gmail.com and she will walk you through the process in-person or by phone. More details are on the sign-up sheets at the welcome center.





Have an idea for an event in the park?

The park team would love to provide input to you as you plan an event in the park. Event ideas could include things such as an ice cream social, movie night, food truck visits, musicians—anything you can imagine! The Park Team is developing the process for event planning in the park and is eager to work with the congregation on methods for utilizing the park in the best ways possible. Park team members are: Mary Ibe, Sue Shilts, Perry Shilts, Bob Hudson, Sheila Hudson, Lee Humbert, John Phillips.
Or, contact Mary Ibe at (260) 402-8583 or ibe.science@gmail.com

Park Needs

The park requires constant maintenance. Currently a load of dirt is needed to fill a low spot by the sledding hill. Also, sand and labor are needed to raise the sunken pavers that go from the labyrinth through the willow arch walkway. If you can provide help with either of these tasks, either the supplies and/or labor, please contact John Phillips at (260) 410-0502 or johnphillips64@gmail.com



Pavilion Reservation

Members of RLC are welcome to reserve the new pavilion in Resurrection Lutheran Church Community Park for your outdoor celebration!
There is no charge for members. To reserve the pavilion, contact our church office administrator, Kim Lahey at (260) 637-5900 or office@rlcfw.org. Currently, we are not reserving the pavilion for non-members, but it is under consideration for the future.

July Anniversaries

11	Cinamon & Patrick Donley, 17 years
14	Samantha & Justin Gerber, 8 years
15	Joni & Richard Kline, 37 years
17	Kim & Scott Heisler, 22 years
19	Janet & Kris Eby, 23 years
21	Caitlin & Joe McCudden, 8 years
25	Molly & Curtis Wietfeldt, 28 years
29	Virginia & Andrew Kanzig, 3 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!

July Birthdays

1	Linda Conkle
2	Stephanie DeKoninck
6	Lizeth Hernandez
8	Owen Palu Evan Weesner
9	Amanda Groscop Anabel Serre
10	Ryan Henry John Sherrill
13	David Barnett MaryAnn Chelius
14	Emelyn Palu
15	Karen Fisher
16	Kaleb Hoot Thomas Monroe
17	Julie Sonnenberg
18	Kendra Bosecker
24	Betty McCrory
27	Gloria LeBeau

PRAY FOR



Dot
Ed Carnahan
Danny Carnhan
Dema Saxton
Annie Wrobel
Bob Wrobel
Jeff Wrobel
Sue Batsky
Mary Paonessa
Ken Baranowski
Scott Williams
Rose Moya
The Mundroff Family
Tina Bennet family & friends
Susie Carnahan
Naomi
Mark Riggenback
Karen Phillips
Ginny
Tim & Jo Hall
Gustave
Marc Young
Monica Young
Mark & Margo Grove
Steven Desmond
The Smith Families
Craig
Chuck
Ben
Andra Blume
Mark Loessel
Calvary Lutheran Church Cromwell

Military Service:
Bailey Beyer
Jaidyn Beyer
Collin Monteith
Dakota Francis
Jon Popovich
Matthew Gephart
Joshua Kenegy

Homebound:
Cheryl Goble
Pat Norris
Pat & Joy Poinsett
Wendy Jackson
MaryAnn Chelius
Richard Kiser
Cynthia Sherrill
George & Lela Dunn

Resurrection Lutheran Church

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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