Resurrection Lutheran Church

September 2026

Resurrection Report

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

What is the Bible?

When I hear people saying things like, "I believe in the Bible" or "We preach the Bible" or "We are a Bible believing church", I am reminded that Christians can be vastly different in how they understand, trust, and believe the words of the Bible.

The word, bible, is the Greek word for, book. Our Holy Book, and its contents were compiled over centuries. The Bible itself is a library of books. The library we read as protestants today is largely attributed to Martin Luther and his publishing of the first Bible in German in 1534. It separated out a portion our Catholic siblings' Bibles retain called the Apocrypha. Our 39 books of what we call the Old Testament align with the Hebrew Bible of our Jewish siblings, though they collect the text into 24 books. The New Testament houses 27 books and letters; a collection list that dates to as early as the fourth century.

The Bible, in addition to being a library of separate books, is also a collection of many forms of writing. Some record pieces that originally predate written language. There are creation myths, stories of cultural and national identity, royal court records, poetry, prayers, songs, legal codes, societal regulations, and priestly instructions for performing rituals. There is wisdom literature as well as fables for teaching morals. There are collections of prophecy, apocalyptic writings, records of visions, copies of letters mailed to individuals and groups, and first-hand and second-hand accounts of historical events.

How and why do we read the Bible?

As Lutherans we believe that the Bible is a book of faith. It is a tool whose authority and worth is found in its ability to work faith in us. Faith requires that a person be exposed to the Gospel (or Good News), and that the Holy Spirit use that exposure to work faith in them. The Bible is a primary way by which we are exposed to the Good News that Jesus is Lord. This is why we read the Bible, and the role of the Holy Spirit is why reading it with others is important.



Rev. William H. Smith

Luther taught that scripture is used to understand and interpret scripture, and that the centrality of any passage compared to another is based on its ability to communicate Jesus as the Messiah. The image that he used was that the Bible is a manger that holds Jesus. The point of the Bible as the written word of God is its ability to open and transport us into the presence of the Living Word of God, Jesus. Our reading of the Bible, as with everything else, is Christ centered. This is why we spend more time reading the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) than some other denominations who may spend more time reading and preaching the Old Testament.

We believe that the form of the Bible we have is the one God intends for us to have, but we also understand that human beings participated in what was written down and that such things as their historical and cultural contexts limited their understanding and impacted their writing. This is why we don't describe the Bible as inerrant or infallible. As a book of faith, the Bible does provide historical accounts, but it is not a history book. The Bible describes the inner workings of nature and the cosmos, but it is not a science book. Likewise, the Bible does provide lists of social and natural laws, but it is not a law book. It is a book of faith whose

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authority and power is found in its use by the Holy Spirit to work faith in humans.

Our distinction between truth and fact wouldn't make sense to the human authors. For them, the value of an event was in its use as a lens for seeing the truth of God, creation with the people in it, and the dynamic of their relationships. In our own time, we can respect the truth of the Bible independent of the accuracy of any facts. Notice that the fact that a kind of orchid has the smallest seed on earth, not the mustard plant, doesn't change the value of Jesus' parable in Matthew and Mark.

Remembering that cultures evolve, as do societies' moral and ethical understanding, is also essential to engaging scripture. An example of this is the acceptance of slavery in the times of the Old and New Testaments. Many of Jesus' parables use slaves (not servants) as characters; Paul instructs slaves to remain in their station; and God's Laws from Mount Siani enshrine slavery as a natural institution. Culture has evolved beyond this so that ethically and morally we simply know better today. Understanding scripture in its context allows us to receive the underlying messages as they point to the Good News of Jesus, without being crippled by the cultural blind spots of the human authors' context.

The only historical fact of the Bible that must be accurate, as Paul points out in his letter to the church in Corinth, is that Jesus was raised from the dead. Without this historical fact, he says, we are still in our sin and most to be pitied. For us, as Lutherans, especially ELCA Lutherans, everything depends entirely on God's grace. Even the historical fact of the resurrection is an expression of this grace.

Set free from the demands and burdens of the Law, we are playing a more advanced level of living faith.

The words of scripture are not tools we use to gain or retain salvation. They are words we turn to in order to be brought close to the Living Word who is already salvation. The words of scripture no longer hold laws that demand our compliance, but which work to wake us to our need for the Living Word, and to break us open to the fullness of God's gifts already poured out. When they convict us, the goal is no longer condemnation. They are now tools of God's love, which, refusing to allow us to linger in tombs, is drawing us to deeper trust, greater faith, and more genuine life because of it.

I believe that the how and why of reading the Bible as a book of faith used by the Holy Spirit are captured by this prayer from Ephesians. As I type, I speak it over you. "I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, [17] and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. [18] I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, [19] and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. [20] Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, [21] to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen." (*Ephesians 3:16-21*)

The Lord be with you.
Pastor Smith

IT'S MUSIC TIME!



Rehearsals for
choir and chimes will begin on
Wednesday, September 9th.
We would love to have some
new members join!
Chimes at 5:30 PM
Choir 6:30 PM

Threads of Grace

SEWING IN FAITH & FELLOWSHIP

Update

Threads of Grace is preparing to begin a new quilting ministry that will bring volunteers together to make quilts for Lutheran World Relief.

To help us plan, please complete a volunteer questionnaire. Forms are available at the Welcome Center and may be returned to the Altar Guild mailbox in the office hallway.

First Gathering

Our first gathering will be held on September 29 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Please bring a sack lunch or snack and a drink. If you sew, you are welcome to bring your own supplies; otherwise, supplies will be available for your use.

We will begin by preparing fabric through ironing and cutting, then start sewing while enjoying time for fellowship.

If you would like to learn more about Lutheran World Relief Quilts, visit lwr.org/quilts.

Donations Needed

We are asking for gently used working supplies for Threads of Grace. Donations may be placed in Room 3. Garage sales and estate sales of quilters are wonderful places to find needed items.

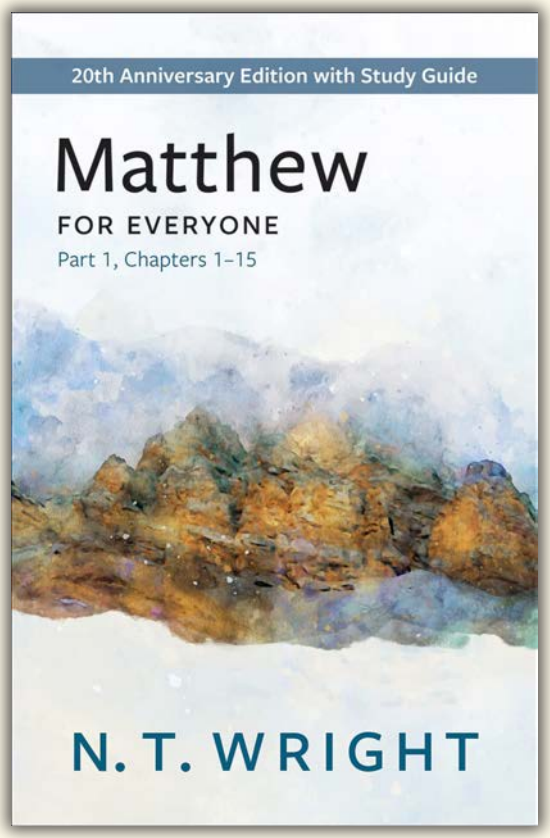
Donation List

- Equipment: sewing machines, irons, ironing boards, and ironing board covers.
- Cutting tools: fabric scissors, rotary cutters, cutting mats, and quilter's rectangular rulers.
- Sewing supplies: sewing thread, pins, quilter's safety pins, sharp darning needles, and pliers.
- Used, clean large sheets.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Our women's bible study will resume on Monday, September 28 at 10:30am at the church.

Women of all ages are invited to join us every other week as we explore the gospel of Matthew utilizing N.T. Wright's book, *Matthew for Everyone (Part 1)*.



We ask that you purchase this book and have pages 1-16 read prior to the first meeting.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Judy Berggren (260) 704-3619 or Margo Grove (260) 417-6876. We look forward to sharing this time with you.

Outdoor Day 2026 Update

Outdoor Day 2026 was a great success! This event provides a way for our neighbors to view Resurrection Lutheran Church and our park as a welcoming presence to all. It also promotes enjoyment of outdoor activities. **This year's event doubled last year's attendance with 103 guests and 20 volunteers participating**. In addition, there were 7 Thrivent Grants obtained, the funds which made this event possible. **Thank you to all who supported this worthwhile community experience!**











Pavilion Reservation

To reserve the pavilion, contact our church office administrator, Kim Lahey at (260) 637-5900 or office@rlcfw.org. There is no charge for members to reserve the pavilion. Currently, we are not reserving the pavilion for non-members, but it is under consideration for the future.

YOUTH HAPPENINGS

Youth Group Planning meeting

On September 13 the youth will meet after worship until 1 pm. This will be our planning session for this year, where the youth will choose what fun activities/outings, and service work/projects they want to do. This is also when we will write the Youth Mission of Purpose Statement. Pastor guides the youth through this process. Lunch will be provided.

Back to School Bingo

The youth had a Back to School Bingo event. They requested that we have a Bingo in the summer/fall because ours are always in the winter and spring. So, I stocked up on prizes and we played Bingo. It is always a great time!





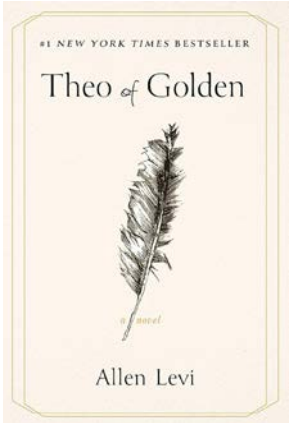






Book Cub will be meeting on Thursday, September 3rd at 6:30pm in the Pavilion (weather permitting).

Our book for this month is *Theo of Golden* by Allen Levi.



Theo of Golden follows Theo, an 86-year-old man who moves to the small Southern town of Golden, Georgia, and quietly changes lives through acts of generosity, particularly by purchasing and returning portraits to their subjects.

Please RSVP to Betty McCrory at 260-402-4447 if you would like to join us. We welcome new members.

Our book for October is undecided at this time. We will let you know soon through announcements.

Youth Calendar 2026

September 13	1st youth meeting/planning & lunch	11am – 1pm
October 4	Lunch and games	11am – 1pm
October 11	Garage Sale Set Up after fellowship	11:30am – 2pm
	Families encouraged to stay and help lunch provided	
October 12-15	Set up/sort/price for Garage Sale	TBD
October 16	Garage Sale	8am – 4pm
October 17	Garage Sale	8am – 12pm
	Pack up/Clean Up/Deliver leftovers	12 – 2:30pm
October 18	No meeting	
October 24	Huntertown Halloween Treat Trail	TBD
October 25	Resurrection Lutheran Church Trunk or Treat	4 – 6pm
November 1	Youth Gathering Meeting (2027 Minneapolis)	11am – 1pm
November 8	Service Project	11am – 1pm
November 13-15	Youth Retreat	Leave 5pm Friday Return 12pm Sunday
November 22	No meeting	
November 29	No Meeting	
December 6	Salvation Army/Angel Tree	12:30 – 3pm
December 13	Youth cooking/serving fellowship	9am – 12pm
	Youth Gathering Meeting	12 – 2pm
December 20	Youth Outing TBD	12 – 2pm
December 29	No meeting	

*Important future dates

November 10: I would like to have those going to Minneapolis for the ELCA National Youth Gathering signed up by November 10. We can add later, but the cost goes up.

June 26 or 27-July 2 or 3 ELCA National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis

September Anniversaries

1	Joy & Pat Poinsett, 58 years
8	Cheryl & Bob Walker, 51 years
12	Marsha & Dave Martin, 56 years
16	Kelsey & Kaleb Hoot, 9 years
25	Christie & Brent Serre, 39 years
26	Cheri & Steve Seigel, 51 years
28	Amanda & Justin Groscop, 14 years Katie & Lorenzo Manquero, 13 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!

September Birthdays

5	Pat Norris
8	Jon Munsch
9	Wendy Jackson Mary Patty Lilia Popovich
10	George Dunn Don Jackson Tim Smith
11	Annie Wrobel
12	Carol Hampton John Lebrecht Peggy Van Horn
13	Noah Smith
15	Wes DeKoninck
16	Liam King
17	Connor Gemlick Andrew Kanzig
18	Karen Phillips
20	John Schlichter
22	Addison Serre
25	Ritch Kline
26	Davin Petersen Sue Shilts
27	Tom Jones
28	September Hughes
30	Kris Eby Brandyn Grosjean/Phillips

PRAY FOR



Dot
Ed Carnahan
Danny Carnhan
Dema Saxton

Annie Wrobel
Bob Wrobel
Jeff Wrobel
Ken Baranowski
Scott Williams
Rose Moya
The Smith Families
Mark Loessel
Andra Blume
Ben
Gustave
Kenneth Spencer
Jackson Spencer
Adam Ibe
Diann Williams
Susie Carnahan
Naomi

Mark Riggenbach
Ginny
Tim & Jo Hall
Marc Young
Monica Young
Craig
Chuck
Mark & Margo Grove
Steven Desmond
Michelle
Calvary Lutheran Church Cromwell
The Mundroff Family
Family of JaNahn Schlatter Sinn
The Van Westen Family
Families & Friends of Margaret Haft
The Family of Ron Proctor
Tina Bennet family & friends

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

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

Resurrection Lutheran Church

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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