Resurrection Lutheran Church

October 2026

Resurrection Report

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

To my siblings in Christ,

What does it mean to be church? I asked this question in my first newsletter article at my first call. It is a question we should actively revisit regularly because the form of the church is constantly re-forming in its relationship with God and its engagement with the wider world. Resurrection has bravely pursued this work of discernment many times and the Holy Spirit is clearly calling us into another stage of contemplation, choices, and faithful following.

As I respond to this question in my own ministry, I have been developing new circles of community and pursuing new tools. I continue to be a part of the Church and Polarization (CAP) project through Indiana University. This has been a great resource for me over the last three years. Curious? Browse their articles and videos for yourself: https://raac.indianapolis.iu.edu/programs/congregations-and-polarization/

As a Synod Authorized Minister (SAM) mentor with Tom Monroe, I have taken advantage of training through the IK Synod. In addition to the conferences I attend with Tom a few times a year, I am also getting certified as a coach through the national church. My hope is that this will better equip me to accompany individuals and small groups in the lifelong journey of discerning and pursuing God's call on our lives. If this perks some curiosity, please check out their website:
https://raac.indianapolis.iu.edu/programs/congregations-and-polarization/

The Holy Spirit has always stirred at Resurrection. I invite you to consider what has changed and what has remained the same between where and who we were in 2020 and today. Out of so much uncertainty, Resurrection has bravely continued to take leaps of faith and been re-formed. I'm excited to see the Spirit calling us into this new time of intentional discernment and pursuit of God's call; to faithfully decide together what it means for Resurrection to be the church as we take steps into the coming future.



Rev. William H. Smith

The council, staff, and teams have been exploring possible opportunities. As they present them to Resurrection for Spirit-led consideration, I want each of you to hold this question in your heart and mind, and make it a part of your personal discernment and our conversations together: "How might this help Resurrection be the church now and in the future?"

Year-round Stewardship: Steward is one of the images we use to understand our identity and purpose as Christians. Your council is working with other ministry team leaders to intentionally and consistently engage each of us and our community in living out the full truth of what it means to be God's steward: "All that we are and all that we have is a trust from God". Using a two-year cycle, six separate teams will guide us through the six things God has trusted into our care: Our Spirituality, Self-Care, Time, Relationships, Passions, Talents and Skills, and Money and Other Resources.

Venue Rental: For some time, the national church has been encouraging congregations to explore alternative sources of financial support. Churches already do many different things such as housing coffee shops, owning storefronts, and running thrift stores. Seeing the popular use of the park and frequent requests to rent the pavilion, the council

continued from page 1

has authorized a team to investigate what it would look like for Resurrection to leverage its space as a venue for outside parties and events. Partnering with a local event planner, the short-term opportunity to supply the mortgage payments and long-term ability to provide for the ongoing upkeep of the buildings and grounds, could free us to better focus our resources toward ministry for us and our neighbors. I am excited to hear what the team finds when they report back to the council and congregation. Keep an eye out for articles and information sessions to learn more, have your questions answered, and to offer your essential input.

The Refuge: As I shared at the begining of my article, I am engaged with IU's CAP program. Out of that work, I have built a relationship with Pastor Scott Jester, whose group has created a ministry with Fort Wayne's immigrant population called the Refuge. Their goal is to accompany this diverse community by addressing their most pressing obstacles of long-term housing and the current legal terrain. Dave Avery has already been an enormous help directing them in providing the best legal resources for their clients. I want Resurrection to have the chance to put a human face and stories with this polarizing topic of immigration. We will be hosting them during fellowship time on December 13. There will be authentic Haitian cuisine, an opportunity to hear the story of one of our immigrant neighbors, and to ask questions of them and an active immigration lawyer.

Children, Youth, Young Adult, and Family Ministry (CYYAFM) Director: We have seen a noticeable influx of guests on Sunday mornings and a constant flow throughout the week of guests using the playground and wider park. We need to be intentional in ministry creation and proactive in why and how we grow as a congregation. Creating a full-time position would address this. By coordinating volunteer ministries for these demographics, this position would provide the quality and consistency needed to engage our guests and connect them to the larger life of Resurrection including our vital seasoned adult ministry.

The council, personnel team, and staff are working to clarify a potential plan to use a two-year Lutheran Foundation personnel grant to employ Sue Smith to do this work. She is qualified and willing to look at this possibility with Resurrection as a focus for her pursuit of becoming an ordained deacon in the ELCA. Further information will be shared as it is available and there will be gatherings for Resurrection to learn about and discuss the details of this opportunity.

In these and so many established ministries it is clear that the Holy Spirit continues to move and call Resurrection into its work and life together. I look forward to accompanying this church as it chooses its next steps into the future, and curious to see what shape our re-forming will take.

The Lord be with you.
Pastor Smith

Park Needs

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

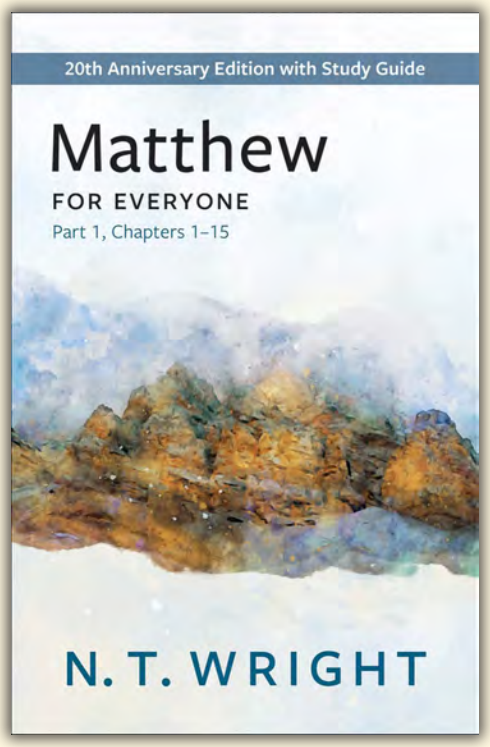
To reserve the pavilion, contact our church office administrator, Kim Lahey at (260) 637-5900 or office@rlcfw.org. There is no charge for members to reserve the pavilion. Currently, we are not reserving the pavilion for non-members, but it is under consideration for the future.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Women's Bible Study will be meeting the following Mondays from 10:30 to 11:30: October 19, November 2, 16 and December 7.

We are covering the first 15 Chapters of the Book of Matthew through N.T. Wright's Book, *Matthew For Everyone*. Please feel free to join us even if you were unable to make the first meeting. We would love to share this time and study with you.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Judy Berggren (260) 704-3619 or Margo Grove (260) 417-6876.



Threads of Grace
SEWING IN FAITH & FELLOWSHIP

Threads of Grace held its first work day on September 29th, with seven members attending. We began with devotions, prepared fabric for next month's sewing, and worked on quilts that Calvary Lutheran Church in Cromwell had started. We also shared lunch and got to know one another better.

Our next work day will be October 20th from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Irons and cutting materials will be provided. If you plan to help sew quilt blocks together, please bring your sewing machine. Bring a sack lunch or snack to enjoy while we spend time together.







YOUTH HAPPENINGS

Planning Meeting

The youth group met for their 1st official meeting for the year. During this meeting the youth did same brain storming and dreaming. We talked about where/ who to serve, what fun activities they want to do, the ELCA Youth Gathering in June 2027, where to go for the 2028 Summer trip, as well concerns or stress-ors in their lives. Then together they wrote a Statement of Purpose for this year. It is….

As siblings in Christ, we will be respectful, encouraging, caring and accepting of each other. We will have fun and serve while being and example of God's acceptance and grace to all.

I love how they included Resurrections current Mission Statement! We have a great group of youth.



It's Fall Garage Sale and Bake Sale time!

It's time to bring us your Junk for Jesus for the youth Garage Sale! We are using the 1st classroom on the right and the Youth Room to put items in. Please drop off your items by Wednesday October 14h. Also, we are in need of volunteers to help set up, organize and prize, be there the days of the sale to help, donate baked goods and people to help pack up and deliver leftover items to other non-profit organizations. We also are looking for anyone with a truck that could help us Saturday October 17th from 12-2. The garage sale takes many volunteers and a lot of work. This is our biggest fundraiser each year and allows us to do what we do.

Along with the garage sale we also have a bake sale. If you would like to donate any baked goods, please drop off at the church and put in the kitchen, marked Bake Sale by Thursday evening October 15th.

To sign up to help with the garage sale or baked goods please sign up using the link below, or contact Sue Smith.

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F0D48A5AE2BA6FB6-66161971-garage#/

Huntertown Park Halloween Treat Trail

On Saturday October 24th we will once again be handing out candy in at the Huntertown Park Halloween event. We will meet at 5:15pm in the parking lot of Precision Laser Services, 14730 Lima Rd, Fort Wayne, IN 46818. Youth can be picked up from the parking lot at 8:15pm. We encourage the youth to dress up as they will get an opportunity to go around and get candy too. Also, those interested in the Haunted Trail will get a chance to do that as well. Concessions are available so they may want to bring some cash too.

ELCA National Youth Gathering

Every 3 years the ELCA has a National Youth Gathering somewhere in the US. In June of 2027 that place is Minneapolis! For 2½ years the youth who went to New Orleans have been looking forward to and planning for Minneapolis. During this event, the youth hear speakers talk on relevant topics, bands perform for us, service projects, there are fun activities like rock climbing, bull riding, walking a labyrinth and so much more. These trips not only make lasting memories that the youth will carry with them throughout their lives, but it is one of the places where their faith grows in leaps and bounds and often produce future pastors, deacons or youth directors. This is a life changing opportunity for your child in their walk of faith. We NEVER want anyone to not go due to cost! We have options to help with cost if needed. We will be registering for the Youth Gathering soon, so please talk with your youth and if you have any questions, please visit the website for the gathering at www.elca.org/gathering or contact Sue or Pastor.

Youth Retreat – November 13th-15th

November 13th -15th we will be taking the youth on a retreat. During our retreats we spend time learning about our faith, praying, doing devotions, having fun and bonding. Trips and retreats are the best way to get to know both the adults and peers. For our last retreat we had a couple of new youth members and they were nervous to come, but their parents wanted them to. So, they compromised and came up on Saturday evening. Before bed on Saturday, they said that they wished they had come for the whole things, because they had a great time and really got to know people. During our planning time the youth discussed places to go for our retreat so I will have more information coming soon regarding where we are headed.

College Students

Do you have a child or grandchild who is in college? Please send us their name and address so that we can send them care packages and cards. Also, if you have a current student, please make sure we have an updated and correct address.





Book Cub will be meeting Thursday, October 3rd at 6:30pm in the gathering space at the church.

We be choosing books to read for the coming year.
Please bring at least 2 choices of books that you would like to read.
We always welcome new members!
If you need more information, please contact Betty McCrory at 260-402-4447.

Youth Calendar 2026

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	5:15 – 8:15pm
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

October Anniversaries

4	Carolyn & Dan Exner, 46 years
13	Ashely & David Brzezinski, 19 years
14	Connie & John Mittler, 48 years
18	Abbie & Josh fern, 18 years
27	Sherry & Dave Avery, 47 years Julia & Wade Marsh, 8 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!

October Birthdays

1	Terry Eby James Friedley Susan Soden
3	Andrea Munsch
4	Hudson DeKoninck Walter Fisher
6	Lydia Munsch John Phillips
9	Finnley Gerber Sue Smith
10	Danny King
14	Eldon Anderson Ron Chesser
19	Connie Mittler
21	Disk Van Horn
26	Gene Sonnenberg
27	Declan Popovich
30	Lorah Weesner
31	Adam Ibe

PRAY FOR



Dot
Ed Carnahan
Danny Carnhan
Dema Saxton
Annie Wrobel
Bob Wrobel
Jeff Wrobel
Scott Williams
Rose Moya
The Mundroff Family
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
Calvary Lutheran Church Cromwell
Steven Desmond
Michelle
The Kanzig & Robertson Families
Family of JaNahn Schlatter Sinn
The Van Westen Family
Families & Friends of Margaret Haft
The Family of Ron Proctor
Family & friends of Tina Bennet

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

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