



The Messenger

A Monthly Newsletter from Resurrection Lutheran Church

WELCOME, CELEBRATE, INCLUDE, AND ADVOCATE OUR WORK IS NOT YET FINISHED

As a seminarian almost twenty years ago, I wondered and dreamed for the church in which I was planning to be a pastor; that it would only grow and expand in its inclusion, affirmation, and celebration of my GLBTQIA+ classmates and others in the church. I saw too many dear friends and colleagues hurt by an organization, a system that would not let them be in relationship and serve as a leader in the church. I witnessed queer people hurt by communities that claimed to preach love and welcome. While some closest to me chose to go through the process closeted, others were open and either denied entrance into ministry or celebrated by the more liberal synods.

Ten years ago in August of 2009, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America voted at its Churchwide Assembly to accept GLBTQIA+ people in committed relationships as rostered leaders in the church. While this vote was a forward step, there have still been barriers and challenges in terms of policy and procedure as GLBTQIA+ leaders seek calls and navigate the candidacy process.

Resurrection has been a place of welcome and celebration since the 1970's. Thanks be to God for those who have gone before us in faithful welcome and love. During this month of June, we give thanks for our forebears and for the continued ministry of organizations that work on behalf and with and for queer folk in the church. May we continue to support and pray, advocate and welcome that all of God's children may know God's love. Here are some organizations that continue doing great work and ministry with the GLBTQIA+ community:

[RECONCILING WORKS](#)

Resurrection has been a Reconciled in Christ congregation through Reconciling Works (and its predecessor organization Lutherans Concerned) since it was possible to be such a designated congregation to welcome and affirm and celebrate our queer siblings. Working at the intersection of oppressions, Reconciling Works embodies, inspires, advocates and organizes for the acceptance and full participation of people of all sexual orientations, gender identities, and gender expressions within the Lutheran communion and its ecumenical and global partners.

[EXTRAORDINARY LUTHERAN MINISTRIES](#)

Extraordinary Lutheran Ministries affirms and supports GLBTQIA+ Lutheran rostered leaders and those pursuing a call to rostered leadership, while engaging allied congregations and ministries to proclaim God's love and seek justice for all. One of ELM's main programs is Proclaim, the professional community for Lutheran ministers and candidates, who publicly identify as GLBTQIA+ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, asexual, plus). ELM has office space in the RLC Parish House, and we have been blessed by ELM Proclaim members as parishoners, student leaders from the seminary, and supply preachers.

[CHICAGO COALITION OF WELCOMING CHURCHES](#)

A collaboration of more than 80 churches and other ministries in the Chicago metropolitan area which welcome and affirm people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. We have two goals: to spread the message of our members' LGBTQ-inclusion across the Chicago metropolitan area, mindful that a positive message about sexual and family diversity is a gift to all people and to connect the leaders, members, and guests of our partner churches for fellowship and education, enabling support and resource-sharing for the practices of faithful welcome.

See you in worship and Happy Pride!

Pastor Kelly

CONGRATULATIONS TO RECENT GRADUATES!

Danie Muriello's granddaughter, Tessa Muriello, graduated from the University of Illinois - Champagne Urbana on May 11.

Michael and Tina Harris' son, Maxwell Harris, will be graduating from the 8th grade of Our Lady of Carmel Academy and will be going to Walter Payton College Prep in the fall.

Sherman Hicks' daughter-in-law's son, Ace Zimny, graduated from the 8th grade of Arbor Park.

Sherman Hicks' grandson, Kirk Anthony Jones, Jr., graduated from Lyons Township High School.

Sherman Hicks' daughter, Andrea Lin Hicks-Jones, received her Masters in Social Work from Dominican University

Betsy Shuman-Moore's daughter, Nora Shuman-Moore, will be graduating in June from DePaul University with a Master's of Science in Public Service Management with a concentration in Higher Education Administration. She hopes to pursue work in a university or nonprofit organization. She was nominated to Pi Alpha Alpha, the national honor society for public affairs and public administration.



NEW TO RLC GATHERING

For people new to RLC (or to Chicago), people who have been worshipping with us for awhile and would like to learn more, and people interested in becoming members, this is an opportunity to get to know one another and to learn more about our mission and ministry.

Please join us on **Sunday, June 16th at 11 a.m.** in the Fellowship Hall. RSVP please to Pastor Kelly via yellow info card or kfaulstich@rlclakeview.com.

SUNDAY MORNING PARKING

We have renewed our contract with Hawthorne Scholastic Academy for Sunday parking. We pay the school \$125/week for the use of 10 parking spaces on Sundays from 7am-3pm.



EVENING PARKING

The city has stopped the program where non-profit organizations can obtain parking permits through the Alderman's Office and through the City Clerk which means that we are no longer be able to purchase permits. If you live in the 383 and would consider donating a sheet for evening meetings, we would be super appreciative!

THE GIFTS OF GOD FOR THE PEOPLE OF GOD

A Mission Moment by Frank Patrick

We often hear the words, “The gifts of God for the people of God,” just after the Lord’s Prayer as an invitation to the communion table. The phrase is a reminder that God gave us Jesus and saved us through Jesus.

The words can be so much more. They remind us that we give and receive gifts in the spirit of God’s everlasting love on a regular basis. During church stewardship times, we are asked to stretch ourselves to give our time, talent and money as a gift to others. I have been privileged to share my money with the church over the course of years so that the church can do good things and provide gifts to others. I’ve had the privilege of serving others in worship, on council, on the Mission Endowment Fund, with our seminary students, as a Sunday School teacher (ok, that was a number of years ago). I’ve always felt blessed to be able to give of myself.

As I’ve grown older, I’ve learned what a blessing it is to receive as well. Every Sunday, I am reminded of the gifts that I have received from our Resurrection community. The first gift I received here was Resurrection’s acceptance of LGBT people. Being LGBT was not a big deal here. It just was. I was just like everyone else. A gift, which in the 80’s and 90’s was a pretty big deal. A gift from God I was grateful to receive.

There’s the gift of people to count as friends that God has given me through Resurrection. It would be easy to talk about the folks you hang around with or see away from this building as they are all wonderful people. And, then there are surprising gifts that have touched me. I had known Opal and Gerry for years. Gerry and I had served on Council together. But our friendship existed only in this building. Opal and Gerry were known to frequent garage sales, and after Cady and Gregor were born, they went hunting for baby clothes and provided us with bags of clothing that they had picked up. It was out of the blue and such a thoughtful thing. Here they were thinking of us away from this place. It was a surprising and unexpected gift I received from God through them.

Nor can I forget the surprising gift of Donna Johnson, a contemporary of Opal and Gerry, and another long time Resurrection member when I arrived. Donna attended the 10:45 service. She sat on the center aisle, on the north side of the church, 4 rows from the back. You didn’t sit in Donna’s place. Cady and Gregor were 5 weeks old when I first brought them to worship -- Me and the kids lying in their car seat buckets, the diaper bag, sitting 2 rows behind Donna, so I could make a quick escape if one of them started to fuss. Donna took one look, decided that no way was this inexperienced gay guy going to be able to handle 2 infants on his own, got up, moved and sat with us so that all would be good. She sat with us for 8 years and was our Mrs. Donna until she died. An unexpected and surprising gift Cady, Gregor and I received from God through Donna.

Many of us, like me, were raised to be independent and self-sufficient. To not need others – and perhaps even that accepting help from others is a sign of weakness. Reinforced by the old adage, “’Tis better to give than to receive.” But, it’s so much better to be able to give and to receive God’s gifts. Receiving God’s unexpected gifts has opened my eyes to the ways I can give those surprising gifts to others. Often, they’re just small kindnesses that seem so natural. But it’s those small kindnesses that truly enrich our lives. We often don’t even know when we’re giving such a gift to someone else.

I am grateful for the gifts I receive from God through the people of Resurrection – large and especially the small. I pray that I give as many unexpected and surprising gifts as I receive.



Happy Birthday!

- 1 Lois Barliant
- 6 Lucille Amodeo
- 8 Olivia Kopa
- 9 Stephanie Youngman
- 12 Stephanie Johnston
- 15 Eva Izus-Matossian
- 16 Lily Roberts
- 18 Virginia Apel
- 20 Nicole Apel
- 22 Sherman Hicks
- 24 James Crandall
- 30 Ellen Bechthold

If we missed anyone or included someone accidentally, please let [the church office](#) know.



Lawrence HallSM
 Serving Children, Families and Communities Since 1865

BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN NEED

During the months of May, June, and July, the Stewardship invites you to donate items to high school students who receive their education at the *Lawrence Hall* therapeutic school.

This environment is designed to meet the unique and individual needs of youth whose history or life circumstances mandate that they attend a school other than their Chicago Public home school. It gives them a better chance to thrive and graduate.

The Stewardship Team recently met with Rich Gage, Lawrence Hall’s Senior Development Officer. Our question was, what are the most desired and useful supplies for the next school year? His response was the needed donations that consistently fall short are the following:

- Calculators (we recommend the TI-30XIIS)
- Flash Drives
- Index Cards
- Post It Note Pads (3X3)
- Mechanical Pencils

An optimistic, but realistic goal for each item on the list is 50. You may place your gift to the students in the offering plate or in the basket located in the room between the sanctuary and parish hall.

To find out more about Lawrence Hall, please visit their website at www.lawrencehall.org/

Financials

	April 30, 2019	Actual YTD	Budget YTD
Offering/Giving	26,709.71	85,629.27	79,736.51
Other Income	5,773.22	23,834.55	23,461.88
Total Income	32,482.93	109,463.82	103,198.39
Total Expenses	25,127.64	106,915.96	108,951.27
Net Income	7,355.29	2,547.86	(5,752.88)

prayer

These prayers are written or selected by members of our Stewardship Team for use in Sunday worship and for personal prayer in the month after they have been prayed in worship.

May 5

Generous Father, we thank you for providing our congregation the bounty to support the Crib project at The Night Ministry. With our time, talent, and grant funding this ministry continues to provide safe shelter and supportive health services to the homeless youth in our neighborhood. Guide their leadership to fulfill their mission of “compassionate housing, health care and human connection to youth ... while affirming their sense of humanity.”

May 12

O God, thank you for placing faithful role models in our midst to inspire us. In our church, we often find a few women (and men) repeatedly doing what needs to be done—who are “devoted to good works and acts of charity;” just as Dorcas did in the book of Acts. These faithful spend time and resources for the benefit of others, sometimes even at the expense of their own wellbeing. As we celebrate Mothers’ Day, remind us to be disciples who balance self-care and care for others. Help us to remember that Christ is the Good Shepherd who cares and provides for all of us.

May 19

God of knowledge, as our Sunday School year draws to an end, we thank you for the welcoming smiles, patience and dedication of our Sunday School teachers. We think of Rally Day and the Christmas pageant and thank you for laughter and crafts and a witness to Jesus birth ... as led by our Sunday School teachers. Thank you for blessing us with their talents.

May 26

Gracious God, As we celebrate the confirmation of Jessica and Michael, we give thanks for the life you have given them and that you have named them your beloved children. Bless them, their families, teachers, sponsors, and this community with the awareness that today is a culmination, but also a new beginning. Grant Michael and Jessica humility when things in life are going great, patience when nothing seems to go right, and grateful hearts in the between times. Inspire them to use the gifts and talents you have provided them to your glory and in service to others. Help Jessica and Michael to trust that through whatever is to come, they are loved and cherished.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR STEWARDSHIP TEAM

Biblical Stewardship Characteristics

This is the third in a series of articles from the Stewardship team reminding us of the characteristics of a biblical giver. We have looked at Intentional and Regular Giving in the first two articles and this month we focus on Generous Giving.

For some of us Generous Giving is a logical extension of the plans which are made for Intentional and Regular Giving. Generosity doesn’t usually come from ‘giving what is left over’ and is not usually erratic or haphazard but results from the Intentional and Regular commitment of sharing our treasure.

For others, Generous Giving is an active response to the blessings we have been given by God. It is an emotional response which often results in us feeling even more blessed to be able to contribute. Ever heard the expression ‘You can’t out give God’ ? This cycle of giving sometimes opens us to new opportunities to share.

We all need to consider that God has given us time, talents and treasure while we are here on earth. How does he intend for us to use these gifts to help our neighbors near and far? When I ponder why God has allowed me to be a steward of His creation, I wonder what actions He is nudging me toward?

God has given us ‘More than Enough’. May we all be thankful and generously share our time, talents and treasure.

**THANKSGIVINGS
WE GIVE THANKS FOR...**

- A great Hot Dog/Baseball Coffee Hour on May 5th (Thanks to Justin Svoboda for his idea and all his prep!),
- The Bicycle Blessing on May 19 during worship (Thanks for all who brought helmets (Dirlams, Laura Rombalski, Viktoria Erhardt and others) and AP Alaniz for bringing his bike,
- A lovely Confirmation celebration on May 26th for Michael Kassis and Jessica Meier (pictured below). Thanks to the Kassis and Meier families for hosting!
- Lily Furgeson for serving in the nursery during May, and
- Tanya Wiegel's many, many years of service in the nursery!



**THANK YOU TO OUR SUMMER COFFEE
HOUR HOSTS**

- | | |
|---------|-----------------|
| June 2 | The Hunts |
| June 9 | Laura Rombalski |
| Jun 23 | Opal Katsma |
| June 30 | Danie Muriello |

There are still some openings throughout this month (June 16th!) and throughout the summer. Please sign-up in the hallway behind the pulpit or email the office.

EVERY MEMBER VISIT

In preparation for our 50th anniversary as a congregation, Pastor Kelly would like to visit with you to reflect on where our congregation has been and is and where God might be calling us in/into the future.

You are welcome to come to the church office, or Pastor Kelly is willing to travel to you, your workplace, your home, or your favorite place to have coffee, beer, a meal, etc. Please [sign-up](#) here.



JUNE MINISTERS OF THE LITURGY

Date	Time	Assisting Ministers	Lectors	Acolyte	Table Setters	Ushers
June 2 7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER	9:30 AM	Frank Patrick	Eloise Thompson		Opal Katsma, Phil and Eloise Thompson and Megan Hunt	Linda and Bill Chin
June 9 DAY OF PENTECOST	9:30 AM	Phil Thompson	Clark Prickett	Grady Prickett	Opal Katsma, Phil and Eloise Thompson and Allison Beebe	Allison Beebe and Stephanie Youngman
June 16 HOLY TRINITY	9:30 AM	Frank Patrick	Tim Bosslet	Margaret Dirlam	Opal Katsma, Phil and Eloise Thompson and Lily Rin-Laures	Kyle Leland and Rob Youngman
June 23 2ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	9:30 AM	Monica Reichert	Rick Kline		Opal Katsma, Phil and Eloise Thompson and Houston Furgeson	Houston and Eli Furgeson
June 30 3RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST	9:30 AM	Danie Muriello	Heather Alaniz		Opal Katsma, Phil and Eloise Thompson and Megan Hunt	Cheryl Philip and Rob Youngman

We are grateful for your service in this vital area of Resurrection's parish life!
**Please arrange for a substitute if you are unavailable on the days you are scheduled to participate
and notify the Church Office of your substitution at 773/525-0605.**

CONTACTS

Table Setters: [Megan Hunt](#)
Assisting Ministers, Lectors & Acolytes: [Frank Patrick](#)
Ushers: [Houston Furgeson](#)

MEN'S GROUP

For more information and for the group's next meeting date, contact Rick Kline, rick1749@comcast.net.

YOUNG WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

All women in their 20's and 30's are invited to join the Young Women's Bible Study as they meet monthly for fellowship and faithful reflection and study. In June, we will meet on Wednesday, June 19th at 7 p.m. with the Backyard Bible Study at 3309 N. Seminary. For more information, contact Kyle Leland, leland.kyle@gmail.com.

June 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 7TH SUNDAY OF EASTER 9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour & Fellowship	3	4	5 Backyard Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	6 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 8:00 p.m. NA Meeting	7 8 Metro Chicago Synod Assembly Please pray for the Assembly as we elect a new bishop!	
9 DAY OF PENTECOST 9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour & Fellowship	10 7:00 p.m. Toastmasters	11 7:00 p.m. Council	12 Backyard Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	13 8:00 p.m. NA Meeting	14	15
16 THE HOLY TRINITY 9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour & Fellowship 11:00 a.m. New to RLC Gathering	17	18	19 Backyard Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	20 8:00 p.m. NA Meeting	21	22
23 2ND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour & Fellowship 11:00 a.m. Baptismal Preparation Session	24 7:00 p.m. Toastmasters	25	26 Backyard Bible Study 7:00 p.m.	27 1:00 p.m. Staff Meeting 8:00 p.m. NA Meeting	28	29
30 3RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST 9:30 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion 10:30 a.m. Coffee Hour & Fellowship 12:00 p.m. Pride Parade	 <p>SUMMER WORSHIP</p> <p>Sunday Worship in June, July, August @ 9:30 am</p> <p>Backyard Bible Study Wednesdays in June @ 7 pm</p>					