

February 2026

The Butterflier



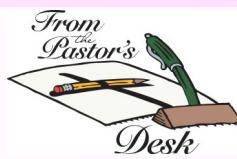
Ash Wednesday

February 18, 2026

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Pastor Bill's Page



Sometime during the first week of February, Miss. Vetter, the elementary school art teacher, would visit our class with a stack of small white bags, red construction paper, glue and crayons. Our task was to decorate a bag that would be used to collect the myriad of Valentines that we would soon collect from our classmates. We took great care in folding the red paper and cutting a particular spiral that resulted in the perfect heart when the piece was unfolded. That year, third grade, I cut out several hearts, a large one for a body, a smaller one for a head, and four others for hands and feet. I pasted them in place and connected them with stick-figure lines to create Mr. Valentine! I carefully put my name, "Bill I." across the top of the bag and I was ready to collect my treasures.

On February 12th or 13th, I had finally bugged my mother enough that she bought a box of small valentines (with envelopes!) at the 5&10 downtown. That night I sat at the kitchen table to carefully choose the right sentiment for each classmate. Now, Miss. Heckman, our classroom teacher, had been very clear that each of us needed to give valentines to all of our classmates. We couldn't just pick and choose among the ones we liked or the ones who were most popular. So I began the arduous task of choosing just the right valentine for each and every person.

A cartoon frog that said "Hop to it and be my valentine" or a boy driving a car with the caption "You drive me crazy! Happy Valentines Day" would do nicely for the kids like Virginia Mason and Terry Grimes whom I didn't know very well. My best friend, Freddy Mancini, who was also on my Little League team got a baseball themed card. It had two kids in baseball uniforms and said, "Let's have a ball, Valentine!" And then there was Sherry White. I had walked her home from school every day since 2nd grade. Hers needed to be special. I picked the teddy bear standing over the caption "Bears Repeating." He held a big red heart that said "I Love You." I added another heart at the of my signature: *Bill ©!*

On the 14th, we all took in our valentines and distributed them into those decorated white bags that now lined the book case under the windows. Each of us got exactly 29 valentines: one from each of our classmates and one from Miss. Heckman.

Looking back, there was a lot of wisdom in Miss Heckman's decree that no one be left out of the valentine's distribution. She knew we weren't angels. She knew that J.T. DeDemenicus would always be disruptive in class and that Sue Lothrop was quite shy and didn't have a lot of friends. She knew that human nature would have us gravitate toward the more outgoing and popular kids in the class like Tommy Youtes. If human nature had its way, the J.T.'s and Sue's of the class would get very few valentines while Tommy's bag would be overflowing. But Miss. Heckman wanted us to learn that we were all valuable, that we were all lovable, that we were all loved. Popularity contests aside, we could all treat each other with love and respect at least one day per year. And from her own valentine, we could learn that each of us was loved.

Oh, if we could just hang on to those lessons we learned in 3rd grade. It seems that many today are forgetting that every person is valuable, that every person is loveable and that every person deserves respect. At least that's how Christ would have us see the world. Like the namesake of St. Valentine's Day who was martyred on February 14th for ministering to persecuted Christians in 273AD, Christ went to the cross for each and every child of God. He didn't pick and choose who would receive his love and grace, but he gave his heart to each and every one of us, making sure we know that we are loved.

Remember Christ's love for us this year and send a valentine to someone you haven't thought about in years. It will make their day...and yours!

Pastor Bill

Worship & Music

We are well into the new church year, year A of our 3-year cycle, during which many of the gospel readings are based in Matthew's gospel.

It has been a pleasure to hear from our gifted musicians:



Katie on cello



Ellen at piano



Eli on saxophone



Xavier on tuba



Jacob on cello



Tafford and Rick on guitars



Jim playing on 3 keyboards in various styles



Handbell ringers



Choir & Band Singers

Please take the time to thank them and encourage more participation. Maybe you could play or sing??? There are many opportunities in worship.

We are in the season after Epiphany now which will end on Transfiguration Sunday. Then Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, on which day this year Martin Luther is commemorated, too. Then, each Wednesday in Lent we share evening worship at 7:00 pm in the Chapel with a short reflective study and finish with Holden Evening Prayer. Please consider making that your reflective time commitment during Lent. We all need quiet times in our lives in which to draw near to God.

Our worship resource, Sundays & Seasons, offers the following questions to ponder: "Throughout the season, we are called to put our priorities in order. Throughout scripture we receive the invitation to examine ourselves. Are we storing up treasure in heaven? Are we bringing our questions to Jesus with hearts open to being transformed? Are we being as rigorously honest in all our doings as the woman at the well? Have we truly embraced the good news as both Martha, sister of Lazarus, and Mary, Mother of God did? Are we celebrating Jesus with the pilgrims in Jerusalem, crying "Hosanna! God save us!"

Calendar:

Sunday, February 8th: **Scout Sunday** on which we recognize the many Scouts and leaders we support. It is also **Souper Bowl Sunday** on which we bring food and/or money to donate to Minnie's Food Pantry.

Sunday, February 15th: **Transfiguration Sunday**

Wednesday, February 18th: **Ash Wednesday** with services at Noon in Chapel and at 7:00 pm in Sanctuary

Sunday, February 22nd: **First Sunday in Lent**

See you in worship! Lynn

Church Council



As we begin a new year, it's good to reflect on the past and look to the future. Resurrection Lutheran Church has a long and admirable 50 + year history as a congregation. This includes 40 years of Stephen Ministry, 36 years of School Supply Project work, 32 years of Cover Girls working for Lutheran World Relief, and countless other ways in which we have served our congregation, our community and our world. It's commendable! Yet, what about the future?

As our new Council met, we looked at the constitution for direction. It states: "The duties of the Congregational Council shall include: to lead this congregation in stating its Purpose to do strategic planning, to set goals and priorities, and to evaluate its activities in light of its Purposes, Plan, and Goals" and "to seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service and support".

This led to some serious discussion. Are we involving ALL MEMBERS? Do we have a plan for the future of our aging congregation to be able to sustain and/or develop new activities that will support our mission? Is it enough to be satisfied with what we have already done or do we need to search for new and different ways to reach our goals? Can we have another 50 years of good works? These are the questions we will be trying to answer over the course of this year. We want to hear from you...all of you! Ideas, thoughts, visions! You'll be hearing from us and we hope to be hearing from you!

We've done a great job of maintaining the beautiful physical structure of the church! Let's concentrate on the members, the mission and the body!

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Barrett

Council President

Stephen Ministry



“You know when Jesus says ‘No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God’? I feel like I am one of those people that look back.” Mindsets like this are probably more common than we think, whether they are said out loud or not. As January passes, some New Year’s resolutions begin to drop off as people lose heart and dedication wanes. In general, ongoing efforts of improvement can be hard to sustain. Despite the difficulty, God calls us to action to renew our lives for His glory. As we wrestle with this call, it may be best to focus on God’s grace. Faith is a gift sustained by God, not something we must manufacture on our own.

As Stephen Ministers, or anyone trying to be helpful, it may be tempting to quote seemingly demanding scriptures such as Luke 9:62 referenced above or others like Hebrews 10:35-36, 39 and Philippians 3:13-14 that describe an “ideal Christian”. These scriptures could be used to call someone out, as if telling them they are “lazy” or that they need to “get it together” will give people the “kick in the pants” they need. Let’s remember, though, that the struggle is real. Keeping the faith can feel difficult—especially when the past seems safer or more familiar.

Perhaps another way to look at Scripture is that it is not intended to call us to heroic self-effort, but to steadfast trust in God’s promises. What if faith is not about perfection, but about continuing to lean into God’s mercy? Yes, following Him may mean releasing old securities, identities, or expectations, yet this letting go is always met by God’s grace. We move forward not to earn God’s love, but because we already live within it.

Therefore, through listening, prayer, and gentle presence, let us help others name their fears while also pointing to God’s faithfulness. May we trust together that Christ walks ahead of us, steady and sure. Holding fast to faith means trusting that God is still at work, leading us forward with compassion, promise, and hope.

Women's Retreat

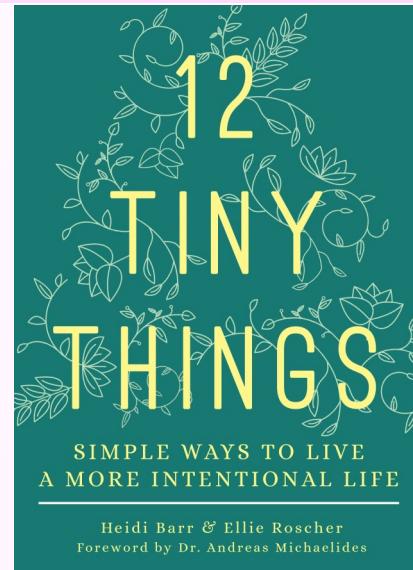
Event:
RLC Women's Retreat

Theme:
12 Tiny Things

Date:
March 7, 2026

Time:
9:00 am-4:30 pm, optional dinner Saturday

Location:
Resurrection Lutheran Church



Description:

Inspired by *12 Tiny Things* by Ellie Roscher and Heidi Barr, this women's retreat invites you to slow down and tend the small, meaningful practices that shape a rooted life. We'll explore gentle ways to nourish spirituality, creativity, community, and more—one tiny step at a time. Come as you are, tend the roots beneath your feet, and grow together toward the light.

Registration includes the book (don't buy on your own!), t-shirt, breakfast, and lunch.

The cost is \$60.

We will also host an optional dinner on Saturday, March 7th
following the retreat, at your expense.

Registration Deadline:

Sunday, February 22nd

Registration Link: <https://www.rlcplano.org/events/womens-retreat-registration>

Cover Girls

The RLC Cover Girls Sewing Group is off and running on another of our favorite ministry mission projects – LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF QUILTS!! We donated 204 LWR quilts in 2025!

Lutheran World Relief celebrating 81 years of serving others worldwide! Since 2011 Lutheran World Relief's work includes – International Development in 18 Countries and still provides emergency relief to numerous other Countries as disasters occur; a definite sign that "God's Work, Our Hands" is alive and we have the opportunity to be a part in it! LWR works with people based on NEED; regardless of race, religion or nationality – focusing on service to our neighbors when disasters hit.



We have gathered our supplies in preparation for our task at hand. All the supplies we need to make a LWR quilt are in Room 16 (outside building)

NOW ALL WE NEED IS YOU!

We meet on Wednesdays in Room 16 from 10:00 am to 3:30 pm. You have the opportunity to be a part of this great ministry project. Join other women in sewing, ironing and tying on Wednesdays or stop by Room 16 to pick up a kit of squares to sew together or quilts to tie. You may also pick up quilts at the Cover Girls Drop Off (by the top of the steps in the Narthex).

There is always a cup of coffee or tea and a treat!

LET'S HEAR IT FOR LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF!

Questions: Contact Marilyn Neer at neermarilyn@yahoo.com or text 214-557-2886



Happiness keeps You Sweet,
Trials keep You Strong,
Sorrows keep You Human,
Life keeps You Humble,
Success keeps You Glowing,
But Only God keeps You Going!



Christian Education

Lent Begins on Ash Wednesday, February 18th. During Lent Brian Boyd and the Narrative Lectionary Friends are going to lead discussions based upon Martin Luther's Views on Lent.

These classes will be held in Room 1 after worship on Sunday, February 22nd, March 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) observes Lent similarly to Martin Luther's original intent: a penitential season of self-examination, prayer, and focusing on Christ's Passion, but emphasizes Christian freedom, so practices like fasting aren't mandatory but seen as spiritual exercises to strengthen faith and remember sacrifice, often involving special services and hunger relief efforts like ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving. Luther saw Lent as an opportunity for spiritual growth and preparation for Easter, a focus the ELCA continues, though with varying congregation practices.

Martin Luther's View on Lent:

- **Spiritual Opportunity:** A time for focused prayer, confession, self-examination, and growth in faith.
- **Focus on Christ:** Deep contemplation of Jesus' suffering, death, and resurrection.
- **Christian Freedom:** He stressed it wasn't a legalistic requirement for salvation, but a valuable practice.
- **Practices:** Included intensified prayer (especially the Lord's Prayer, Commandments, Creed), study, and spiritual discipline, often leading to personalized prayer books.
- **Difference (Emphasis):** Luther's personal discipline was intense; the ELCA provides structure but strongly upholds freedom in practice, connecting spiritual discipline to broader service (like hunger relief).

Resurrection Women's Retreat welcomes all women!!

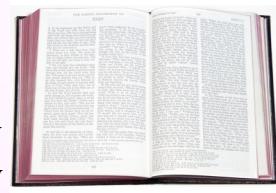
In a culture that says bigger is better, it is subversive work to take tiny, lasting steps toward learning and growth.

See article on page 6

Christian Education



Mid-day Thursday Bible Study



The question was asked by a member of RLC recently what exactly is the Ladies' Brown Bag 'n' Bible Study and who attends. The name has been changed and the group meets on Thursdays from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm in the RLC Library. You may want to bring your lunch or a snack to nibble on, or you may just want the opportunity to get to know the women and men who attend. Either way, feel free to join us.

Then at 12:00 pm, Pastor Bill arrives and we start to discuss the topic. The discussion lasts for one hour and at the present time we are studying the topic of:

Isaiah—Trusting God in Troubled Times.



FIRST TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY



All Women of RLC are welcome to join with us in this small group Bible study that meets once a month in the Library.

We will be meeting on Tuesday February 2, at 6:30 pm. The two topics will be a continuation of our study of prayer from the Gather magazine and we will also be looking at 40 ways we can be "feasting" with our God, our loved ones and the broader community, during this Lenten season, from pp.46-48 in Gather.

For more information, call Ruth @214-533-7554.

Narrative Lectionary Discussion

Sundays after worship, in the library

The Narrative Lectionary, developed at Luther Seminar in St. Paul, is a chronological approach to studying scripture beginning with Genesis and progressing sequentially through the old and new testaments. The class meets in the Library each Sunday about 11:15 am. The format is an interactive, participatory discussion led by a facilitator using the reading, commentary and additional insights from scholarly sources such as the texts used in the Synod's Parish Lay Ministry Academy (PLMA). Everyone is invited and encouraged to participate in the discussion or simply listen, if they choose. Preparation is not required. (Although it will enhance your experience.) So, get a cup of coffee and a pastry and join us at 11:15 am. We look forward to seeing you.

Souper Bowl of Caring



**We will once again be collecting your food donations
to serve our neighbors in need.**

From now until February 8th, you can bring your food donations into church.

**We will also be collecting monetary donations after worship on
February 8th.**

**All proceeds for this event will be donated to Minnie's Food Pantry,
serving our community since April 2008.**



Questions? Please contact Ann Loeffler: ann@rlcplano.org

**Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ to our neighbors in
need!**

RYOT—RALLY NEWS



February 8th: Souper Bowl of Caring



Join us to collect money and food donations and win the opportunity to dress like soup! We will collect food before worship and monetary donations afterwards.

February 27th-March 1st: NTNL Youth Weekend.

You should already be signed up for this event, but if you are experiencing a sudden case of FOMO, get in touch with Ann ASAP! ann@rlcplano.org

If you *have* signed up, information is coming shortly about when we are leaving, what to bring, etc.!

More details coming soon about future events!

Watch your email and texts!



Ann

February Book Discussion

Women's Book Discussion

Saturday, February 28th — 9:00 am



Fourteen women enjoyed the Meadows Museum tour on January 10th relating to our last book, Attribution.

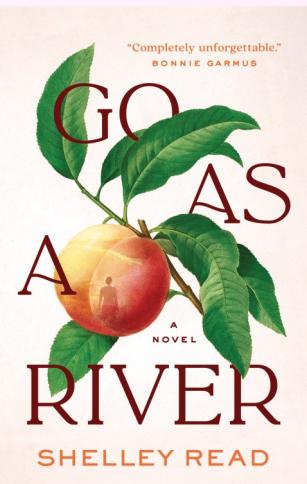
Our next Women's Book discussion will be held on Saturday, February 28th at 9:00. The selection is *Go As A River* by Shelley Reed. Here's a summary.

Seventeen-year-old Victoria Nash runs the household on her family's peach farm in the small ranch town of Iola, Colorado--the sole surviving female in a family of troubled men. Wilson Moon is a young drifter with a mysterious past, displaced from his tribal land and determined to live as he chooses.

Victoria encounters Wil by chance on a street corner, a meeting that profoundly alters both of their young lives, igniting as much passion as danger. When tragedy strikes, Victoria leaves the only life she has ever known, fleeing into the surrounding mountains, where she struggles to survive in the wilderness with no clear notion of what her future will bring. As the seasons change, she also charts the changes in herself, finding in the beautiful but harsh landscape the meaning and strength to move forward and rebuild all that she has lost, even as the Gunnison River threatens to submerge her homeland--its ranches, farms, and the beloved peach orchard that has been in her family for generations.

Inspired by true events surrounding the destruction of the town of Iola in the 1960s, *Go as a River* is a story of deeply held love in the face of hardship and loss, but also of finding courage, resilience, friendship, and, finally, home--where least expected. This stunning debut explores what it means to lead your life as if it were a river--gathering and flowing, finding a way forward even when a river is dammed.

All women are welcome!



Announcements

PrimeTimers will meet on Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 11:30 am at the always ever popular Norma's Cafe, 15th Street in Plano.

All are welcome for food and fellowship!



RLC Guys' Night Out—February 2026

Guy's Night Out (GNO) will be held on Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 6:00 pm.

We will meet up at Rodeo Goat on Plano Parkway.

GNO is open to all men and is a social gathering held monthly.

We are informal and welcome all makes and models!

Contact Craig Feronti (972)989-3222 for further information.



Valentine Fun for Kids & Parents
Saturday, February 14th, 5:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Cost: \$5.00 per child
Sign-up sheet in Narthex



While parents are celebrating Valentine's Day by going out or enjoying a quiet dinner at home, their children (ages 5-13) are invited to join their friends for pizza+, games, and art in the Celebration Center. (Adult supervision provided by Women of RLC Board.)

We need at least six children registered by the **February. 8th deadline**. (If we don't have enough kids, we will sadly cancel the event.)

The RLC aluminum recycling was taken to the metal yard early January. We collected 124 lbs. of cans at \$.68 cents a pound and 6 lbs. of aluminum sheet at \$.62 cents a pound. The total was \$88, which of course goes into the AOF fund to help pay for the heating and air conditioning in our facilities. So that pretty much wraps it up for 2025, but it's not too early to start collecting for 2026.

You know the motto at Aluminati HQ, "Get your cans to church!"



Metaling in Commercial Success

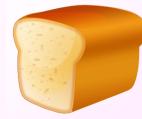


After the 2000 Super Bowl, everyone was asking, "Wassup?" So wassup for Super Bowl LX?? Aluminum! Before you start watching the game with your buds, drop off your bags of aluminum cans by the west doors **February 7-8**. The money we raise from aluminum and scrap metal recycling is added to the AOF fund for unexpected expenses.

Communion Bread



Bread Wanted



Are you willing to provide bread for Communion each Sunday. Oh, but you don't bake. No problem, your local bakery does and you can order one loaf of unsliced bread, soft crust and soft inside so it can be torn for serving, but not be crumbly. You can bring it to the Church preferably on Saturday or contact Pat Fisher to make other arrangements. Only one loaf of bread is needed for the 10:00 am Worship Service each week. If you are willing to provide a loaf of bread, please let Pat Fisher know. You can email her at: pmifisher@gmail.com, sign up for one Sunday a month or only periodically.

February 1st	Bill & Gayle Lind
February 8th	Phyllis & Craig Hildebrand
February 15th	Becky & Steven McNeill
February 18th	Bruce & Pat Fisher (Ash Wednesday)
February 22nd	Rita Fischer

KATIE'S FUND DRIVE

Bold Women's Sunday

Return your Katie's box on Bold Women's Sunday, March 2nd. Just deposit your loose change/bills into the box and you will be supporting ministry development. Katie's Fund is an endowment fund that was started by Women of ELCA in 1997 to honor the legacy of Katharina von Bora Luther.



RLC ♥ Coffee Hour

On most Sundays, you can expect to find coffee and treats in the kitchen hallway. Stop by to grab a bite and brew for Sunday School or just hang out to chit-chat and snack.

Show your love for RLC, our members and friends by volunteering to host. Brew Crew members make the coffee, ensure goodies are on hand, and clean up afterwards. Individuals, families, friends, and ministry groups can [sign up online](#) or on the sheet on the kitchen counter. Training and reimbursement available.



Birthday Greetings



Happy Birthday to:

Eleanore Laut

*who will be 102 years old on
February 5th*



Oscar Poppe

*who will be 90 years old on
February 13th*

February 2026 Flower Chart

- February 1: **OPEN**
- February 8: Adrienne Poppe—Celebration of Oscar's 90th Birthday
- February 15: Jill Hattaway—In memory of Betty Stranberg. Jill Hattaway's Grandmother
- February 22: (1) Beth Smith—In Memory of Holger & Lee Andersen
(2) Robert Duncan—In Memory of Joann Duncan

Volunteers Needed

One vital part of Share the Care is the Transportation Team. These volunteers pick up members who need occasional rides to Church or to medical appointments. Often substitutes are needed to fill in for regular drivers who bring elderly members to Church but have to miss a Sunday or two. Currently there are only five volunteers for this important ministry. If this is something you could do on an occasional basis, call Barbara Klier at 214.476.8911.



Thrivent Financial

ACTION TEAM PROJECTS FOR 2026

Are you a benefit member of Thrivent? If so, we could use your help in applying to Thrivent for seed money for a number of service projects and fundraisers at Resurrection Lutheran. It is a quick and easy way to bring in additional funding to Resurrection's annual budget. There are currently about 75 Thrivent benefit members at Resurrection. Each benefit member can have up to **two projects per year each funded by a \$250 pre-paid VISA card**. **Associate members can have up to one project per year**. That is **\$37,500** that does not have to be funded by Resurrection's annual budget!

We did about 13 Action Team grants in 2025 for a total of approximately **\$3,250!** Keep this Thrivent program in mind as you plan activities for 2026. Below are some possible 2026 projects:

- ◆ Chili Cook-off and Bingo – Marilyn Neer
- ◆ RYOT fundraiser for summer trip –
- ◆ Lutheran World Relief Quilt Project –
- ◆ Boxes for LWR Quilts –
- ◆ Vacation Bible School –
- ◆ Vacation Bible School – Middle School and High School Camp –
- ◆ Baby Shower – Impact Team –
- ◆ School Supply Project –
- ◆ Cover Girls Kid's Quilts –
- ◆ Fall God's Work – Our Hands –
- ◆ Fall Festival –
- ◆ Lovepac – Plano -
- ◆ Cover Girl's Christmas Sale –
- ◆ Angel Tree –

Contact Lorraine Laut at 214-205-0886 or at lblaut@outlook.com if you can help or if you have an idea for an Action Team. She will guide you through the application process.

2025 THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS EXPIRE MARCH 31, 2026

Hurry, Choice Dollars designated for eligible Thrivent members during 2025 expire on March 31, 2026 if you have not already directed them to a charitable organization of your choice. **Additional dollars are designated throughout the year based on when your insurance payments are made to Thrivent. So check back again if you have already designated Choice Dollars in 2025.**

Examples of charitable organizations already in the Thrivent Choice Dollars programs are:

Resurrection Lutheran Church

Texas Lutheran University

Charitable organization directions can be made on-line at the Thrivent website when you log-in (search for "Thrivent Choice" once you log on) or by calling 800-847-4836.

February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00 am: Classic Worship Service in Church 10:00 am: Classic Worship Service Via YouTube	2 	3 6:30 pm: First Tuesday Bible Study	4 10:00-3:30 Cover Girls	5 11:30 am-1:00 pm: Mid-day Bible Study 7:00 pm: Executive Council Meeting	6	7 Can Recycling
8 10:00 am: Classic Worship Service in Church 10:00 am: Classic Worship Service Via YouTube Souper Bowl Sunday	9	10	11 10:00-3:30 Cover Girls 11:30 am: PrimeTimers	12 11:30 am-1:00 pm: Mid-day Bible Study 7:00 pm: Council Meeting	13	14  5:00 pm - 9:00 pm: Valentine Fun for Kids & Parents 
15 10:00 am: Classic Worship Service in Church 10:00 am: Classic Worship Service Via YouTube Transfiguration Sunday	16	17 7:00 pm: Worship Planning Meeting	18 10:00-3:30 Cover Girls 12:00 Noon: Ash Wednesday Service 7:00 pm: Ash Wednesday Service	19 11:30 am-1:00 pm: Mid-day Bible Study	20	21 3rd Saturday Maintenance (formerly 1st Saturday)
22 10:00 am: Classic Worship Service in Church 10:00 am: Classic Worship Service Via YouTube	23	25	25 10:00-3:30 Cover Girls 7:00 pm: Holden Evening Prayer in Chapel	26 11:30 am-1:00 pm: Mid-day Bible Study 6:00 pm: Guys' Night Out	27	28 9:00 am: Book Discussion 



Resurrection Lutheran Church

Pastor: Rev. William Jon Irons

Email: pastorbill@rlcplano.org

Office Phone: 972.867.0460

Office Fax: 972.758.7921

Office Email: office@rlcplano.org

Office Website: www.rlcplano.org

Sunday Worship Hours:

10:00 a.m. In Church Worship Service

10:00 a.m. Online Worship Service

Office Hours:

Monday through Friday

8:30 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.

Butterflier Editor: Rita Fischer

Email Articles to:

nygiantfan2@verizon.net

2026 Congregational Council

Executive Committee:

Kathy Barrett, President

Karen Oehler, Vice President

Jan Frum, Treasurer

Beth Smith, Secretary

Ministry Area Liaisons:

Sharon Bosse, Liaison for Serve

Jay Walls, Liaison for Ancillary Ministries

Craig Hildebrand, Liaison for Worship

Mark Waterman, Liaison for Support Ministry

Marylou Boardman, Liaison for Witness

Katherine Bandy, Liaison for Learn

FROM
Resurrection Lutheran Church
1919 Independence Parkway
Plano TX 75075