



# July 2026 The Butterflier



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## Pastor Bill's Page



When I was a kid, I thought that Fourth of July was all about picnics, parades and fireworks. My dad was always off on July 4<sup>th</sup> and he would herd us into the car at about 9 am that morning to drive to whichever town was hosting that year's 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. We looked forward to the fire trucks (too loud!), local bands, clowns throwing candy and the firing of the local VFW hall's 4" cannon (way too loud!). In the afternoon, there was a picnic at our house. Hamburgers and hotdogs were the menu of the day. As evening approached it was a short walk to the Little League field where the community fireworks show was launched. (That, too was a bit loud! Seeing a pattern?) The day was capped off back at our home with sparklers and snakes – still my favorite (quiet) fireworks.

But now, as our nation approaches the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, I can more fully appreciate the real meaning of the 4<sup>th</sup>. It's more than picnics and parades. It's about freedom. And this year, especially, we Americans have an opportunity to reflect on the blessings, challenges, and responsibilities that accompany freedom. For two and a half centuries, the United States has been an experiment in self-government, built upon the conviction that human beings possess God-given rights and dignity.

Among the most cherished of these freedoms is religious liberty. The founders recognized that faith cannot be compelled by government decree. True belief is a matter of the heart, and citizens must be free to worship, pray, gather, and live according to their convictions without fear of persecution. While the practice of religious freedom has not always been perfect throughout our history, it remains one of our nation's most important ideals.

As Christians, we give thanks for this freedom. We are blessed to gather openly for worship, teach our children the faith, support ministries, and proclaim the Gospel in our communities. These are privileges that many believers around the world do not enjoy. Religious liberty allows the Church to carry out its mission without coercion and provides space for people of all faiths to seek truth according to conscience.

At the same time, Christian freedom is deeper than any political freedom. Scripture reminds us that true liberty is found in Christ. As St. Paul writes, "For freedom Christ has set us free" (Galatians 5:1). The freedom won by Jesus is not merely freedom from earthly oppression, but freedom from sin, death, and the power of evil. It is a freedom that enables us to love God and serve our neighbors.

As we celebrate 250 years of American independence, let us do so with grateful hearts. Let us pray for our nation, for its leaders, and for all who work to preserve justice, peace, and liberty. And let us remember that while we cherish the freedoms guaranteed by our Constitution, our ultimate citizenship is in the Kingdom of God.

May this anniversary inspire both thanksgiving for our nation's blessings and renewed commitment to using our freedom in service to God and to one another.

God Bless us all!

*Pastor Bill*



## Church Council



As a Church Council, we have been contemplating how best to identify the strengths of our congregation, recognize the needs and plan for the future. Surveys have been considered: What questions need to be asked? Who would participate? How would the responses be looked at? What would we do with the results? Is it a waste of time?

As an optimist, I researched some sample church surveys. Well that was an eye-opener! Hundreds of questions with hundreds of “suggestions” on how to ask, who to ask, when to ask, etc.! Left me feeling overwhelmed and back to square one!

However, let’s start somewhere. If you’re reading this, you are probably one of the ones who might have some thoughts, positive or negative. Let’s keep it simple for now and contemplate these questions:

1. How connected do you feel to our church community?
2. Which ministries or programs have helped you grow most in your faith?
3. Do you feel informed about church events, opportunities, and decisions?
4. What is the biggest challenge preventing you from participating more fully?

What is one improvement you would most like to see in our church?

Please share your thoughts in person, through email, etc. I promise to take them seriously!

Kathy Barrett: [kwbarrett@verizon.net](mailto:kwbarrett@verizon.net)

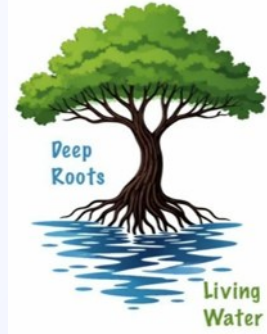
Council President



# VBS 2026 News



# VBS



# 2026

**This year, we had 39 kids and 26 helpers participating in a week full of faith, fun, and fellowship. Our theme this year was Deep Roots, Living Water. Each day, we met for chapel, learning, and rotations like art and science, that connected us to the Bible passage and World Story of the day. We also made soap sacks for Streetside Showers, made cards for hospitalized children, made quilt squares, and visited Hope Restored. We also got to play games, meet firefighters, eat yummy snacks, and tested out the new Nine Square court. We had a fantastic week, and we are grateful to our volunteers and our congregation for all of your help in creating this experience for our kids!**





# Stephen Ministry



## Well Done, Good and Faithful Servant



I really did not want to become a Stephen Minister. I guess I was afraid and not really sure of myself. But one evening I got a call from a Stephen Leader asking me would I consider becoming one and that was the beginning!

I went thru 6 months of reading, studying and writing. I finally made it, I became a Stephen Minister.

I figured it would be some months before I got a Care Receiver. Well I was Wrong!

I received another call from another Stephen Leader wanting me to take a young girl under my wing so to speak. I was worried for lots of reasons. She was much younger than I was and I was afraid we would have nothing in common, nothing to talk about.

My first visit I prayed to God that I would have something in common with this young woman. God does answer prayers. We have been together almost two years.

If you get a call from Stephen Ministry, give it serious thought.

Submitted by a member of RLC—each month these articles are written by various Stephen Ministers



### July 2026 Flower Chart



- July 5:** Pastor Bill Irons—Celebration of Cathie’s Birthday
- July 12:** Beth Smith—Celebration of Max Hampton’s birthday
- July 19:** Sandy Schroeder—In memory of Adam Schroeder
- July 26:** OPEN



## Book Discussion



### Women's Book Discussion

Saturday, September 5

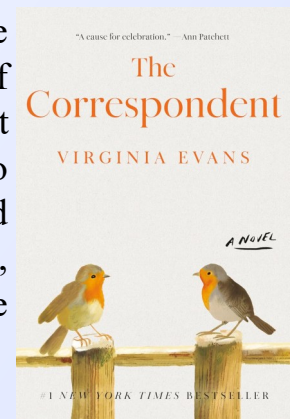
9:00 am—9:30 am

The Correspondent by Virginia Evans

Our next women's book discussion will be held on Saturday, September 5th featuring *The Correspondent* by Virginia Evans. As always all women are invited! Reading encouraged, but not required. We begin at 9:00 am with social time and treats, then get down to our discussion by 9:30 am.

Here's a summary to get you intrigued!

Sybil Van Antwerp has throughout her life used letters to make sense of the world and her place in it. Most mornings, around half past ten, Sybil sits down to write letters—to her brother, to her best friend, to the president of the university who will not allow her to audit a class she desperately wants to take, to Joan Didion and Larry McMurtry to tell them what she thinks of their latest books, and to one person to whom she writes often yet never sends the letter.



Sybil expects her world to go on as it always has—a mother, grandmother, wife, divorcee, distinguished lawyer, she has lived a very full life. But when letters from someone in her past force her to examine one of the most painful periods of her life, she realizes that the letter she has been writing over the years needs to be read and that she cannot move forward until she finds it in her heart to offer forgiveness.

Sybil Van Antwerp's life of letters might be "a very small thing," but she also might be one of the most memorable characters you will ever read.



## ***Ice Cream Social & Bunco Night***



### ICE CREAM SOCIAL AND BUNCO NIGHT

All women are invited!  
Wednesday, August 26th  
7:00—9:00 pm in the Celebration Center  
Bring your favorite topping; ice cream will be  
provided.

We will teach you to play Bunco if you need help.  
**PRIZES and fun for all.**

Please come for a fun evening!  
Sign up in Narthex.  
Help us elect officers and board members of  
Women of RLC.

**Free-will offering for School Supply Project is  
welcome and will be appreciated.**



## School Supply Project



### What is our Mission?

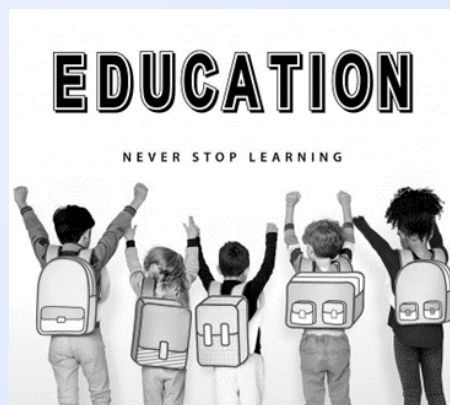
This summer will be our 39<sup>th</sup> year ordering, packing, and supplying filled backpacks to the lower income members of our community. Most are used for students beginning a new year in PISD, but some have been given to unhoused and low income adults. Last year we packed around 900 backpacks. This is a Ministry that continues to evolve each year, and we are so thankful for your support as we continue to support those in need!



### How can you help?

- ⇒ **Donate money to purchase the backpacks and supplies.** It takes about \$15.00 for each filled backpack. Our church members are the main supporters of this project, and we appreciate every donation!
- ⇒ Checks made out to RLC (with a School Supply Project notation at the bottom) or cash in a labeled envelope can be placed in the offering plate or sent to the church office.
- ⇒ Payment can be made on the church website with a designation for the School Supply Project.
- ⇒ Cash can also be placed in the canister provided in the Narthex each Sunday.
- ⇒ **Help with the preparation of readying the backpacks for delivery.** Please sign up in the Narthex on the sheet provided.
- ⇒ Come and help us unload supplies from the church garage and from Walmart. We will also set up the room for packing. **Date TBD**
- ⇒ Come and help us fill the backpacks on **July 27-July 30 from 9:30 am-11:30 am.** Adults and children over 7 years old are welcome to attend.
- ⇒ Come and help us pass out the backpacks on **August 1st from 8:00 am-11:00 am.** We have a drive thru pickup, and we need helpers to make the process run smoothly.
- ⇒

**This is truly a God's Work, Our Hands project that our church has been proud to support each year. Please prayerfully consider how you can be involved this year. The children of Plano are depending on us!**





## ***Second Sunday Social***



### **Second Sunday Potlucks are back!!!**

Mark your calendars for **July 12th and August 9th**. Lunch will begin promptly after the Sunday service (around 11:20 am - 11:30 am).

Your only admission fee is a delectable salad, main dish, side dish or dessert to share. All food will be served Buffet style and no one will go home hungry!

This is a great time for fellowship with friends old and new! No extra activities are planned, but games, puzzles, and Legos will be provided for the younger members to enjoy after their meals are finished.

**Set-up and clean-up will be provided by your Church Council.**

**Hope to see you there!**



**Ruth Shainline  
90th Birthday  
July 3rd**



# Aluminum Recycling



It isn't heavy metal, it's light metal. In fact, June was very light. Just 85 lbs. @ only \$.80 a pound so \$68. Evidence attached.



If you get sunshine, you better expect some shadows. OK, let's keep going...

Mark (Metalman) Waterman

## Metalting for Money, 6-Month Report

Month	Pounds of Cans	Can Earnings	Scrap Metal Earnings
Jan 2026	70	\$47	\$26
Feb 2026	146	\$126	\$32
Mar 2026	77	\$73.15	\$18.85
Apr 2026	102	\$90.78	--
May 2026	136	\$114	--
June 2026	85	\$68	--
<b>Total to date</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>\$518.93</b>	<b>\$76.85</b>



## Celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup>, Can it on the 5<sup>th</sup>

As you exercise your rights to Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness at summer celebrations, we declare our dependence on the aluminum can. On **July 5**, our individual stashes of cans in our garages will be united by the west doors, deriving their just powers from the scrap metal recycler. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that repairs to our building are inevitable. The income from our collective contributions is used to support the AOF fund for surprise property maintenance projects.



# Announcements



## RLC Guys' Night Out

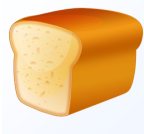
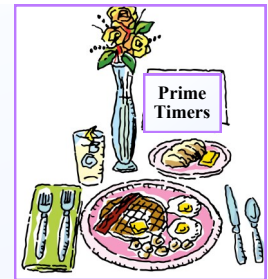
Our July meetup for Guys Night Out will be held at Dos Arroyos 6:00 pm, Thursday, July 30, 2026. Dos Arroyos is located at 2701 Custer Parkway in Richardson.

Contact Craig Feronti (972)988-3222 for further information.

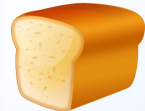
## PrimeTimers in July

We will meet on Wednesday, July 8th at 11:30 am at Norma's Cafe.

Look for a sign up sheet in the Narthex. Everyone is welcome for great fellowship.



## 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. (Try the bread you choose yourself to see if it tears easily into smaller pieces and doesn't shed crumbs.) 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 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](mailto:pmifisher@gmail.com), sign up for one Sunday a month or only periodically.

- |           |                            |
|-----------|----------------------------|
| July 5th  | Bill & Gayle Lind          |
| July 12th | Linda Morreale             |
| July 19th | Craig & Phyllis Hildebrand |
| July 26th | Rita Fischer               |



## Cover Girls



THE COVER GIRLS ARE BUSY, BUSY!

THE MACHINES ARE WAITING FOR SEWERS!

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING US TO HAVE SOME FUN!

The RLC Cover Girls Sewing Group has transitioned from Lutheran World Relief quilts to Kid/Baby/Samaritan Inn quilts for the summer months. This mission project enables us to donate to non-profit groups within our Community such as Plano Children's Hospital, the Wylie/Plano Children's Medical Clinic and the Samaritan Inn/McKinney. This is a FUN project that ends up in the arms



of kids & adults!! What could be more FUN than to see the smiles and "Thank You's" on the faces of the non-profits as the quilts are delivered. What better mission could we be doing with that donated fabric!!

We have approximately 150-160 LWR quilts in storage waiting to be delivered in November to trucks waiting at Messiah Lutheran in Plano. Special THANKS to those who have joined the Cover Girls who have so diligently tied all these quilts. You are part of the "Village" it takes to get the job done! The quilts will be displayed in the sanctuary as banners and across the pews on God's Work, Our Hands Sunday in September.

If you are interested in joining or hearing more about the Cover Girls, please stop by Room 16 in the Annex (Outside Building) on Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm OR – if you would like to sew projects at home, stop by to pick up quilt kits or pick kits up at the Cover Girls Drop-Off (top of the stairs) and drop them back when tops are sewn.

Items we can use to finish the quilts: gently used sheets or fabric that you will not be using and crochet thread, which we use to tie the quilts. You may put the donations in our "Drop-Off Bin" at the top of the stairs in the Narthex. Much Appreciated!!

Don't forget – we have kid/baby quilts for sale all year long – they make wonderful gifts that keep on giving "Love and Comfort" to a child. Just let me know if you would like to SHOP!



If you have any questions, please contact: Marilyn Neer at [neermarilyn@yahoo.com](mailto:neermarilyn@yahoo.com) or text 214-557-2886



# GWOH 2026



## “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday

For 13 years, “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday has been a day when RLC and the ELCA spreads God’s love through the community. GWOH 2026 is happening on **September 13** and we want you to help shape our day of service. What service projects do you like? Which nonprofits should we support? Do you or your ministry have a project that you would like to lead? Please share your opinions with the members of Impact: Cathie Irons, Nancy Parker, Sharon Bosse, Ellen Frost, or Becky Schuerman Choi.



Scheduled so far for GWOH: litter cleanup, blood drive, potluck, and fidget mats.

**Fidget mats** provide calming effects for people with dementia or Alzheimer’s disease using textures, attachments, and other items that provide sensory stimulation to reduce boredom and soothe anxiety. We encourage you to peruse the internet for examples of these mats, check out the samples in the narthex (thanks to Brenda McGee!), and then search your home for suitable items to donate. We will have a collection in the narthex over the summer.

Suggested donations include:

- Interesting buttons
- Velcro strips
- Scrunchies
- Tassels and fringe
- Short zipper (7 in.)
- Keychains
- Tiny felt hats
- Ribbons of different textures
- Pockets
- Fuzzy dust rag
- Items that can be contained in a clear organza gift bag: bells, butterflies, smiley faces, heart-shaped mirrors, tiny plastic toys, fake jewels, dice, sea shells, coins, keys



Objects will be sewn on colorful, inexpensive placemats that are not too thick for sewing.



## Share the Care



Share the Care would like to start up its SOS meal program to help members. This entails help from many of our members. Previously we had four teams with six members each. This allowed for three meals a week for two weeks. This worked very well until we lost two team captains, one to death and the other to a move. Recently we have had meal requests and hate not to be able to meet this need. Members who have been hospitalized or have debilitating diseases truly need our help. As a caring congregation, we want to meet this need. Ideally, you would only have to do this maybe once a year.

If you can volunteer for this ministry, please text or call Barbara Klier at 214.476.8911.

Thank you

## 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.



call Barbara Klier at

214.476.8911.



## ***New Members***



**WELCOME**  
**TO OUR**  
**NEW MEMBERS!**

Alex & Kim Benson  
4140 Kirkwall St  
Plano, TX 75093  
[abenson0041@gmail.com](mailto:abenson0041@gmail.com)

Cheryl Hoffmann  
30W003 Redwood Ct  
Warrenville, IL 60555  
[wonder.hoffmann@gmail.com](mailto:wonder.hoffmann@gmail.com)

Butch & Brenda McGee  
703 Seaport Dr  
Allen, TX 75013  
[brendamcgeeosb@aol.com](mailto:brendamcgeeosb@aol.com)

Eilene Gebrian  
2605 Sierra Ln  
Plano, TX 75075  
[eilenegebrian@gmail.com](mailto:eilenegebrian@gmail.com)



## ***Thrivent Financial Member Updates***



### **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 **2 projects per year each funded by a \$250 pre-paid VISA card. Associate members can have up to 1 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 – Marilyn Neer

Vacation Bible School –

Vacation Bible School – Middle School and High School Camp – Lorraine Laut

School Supply Project – Richard Laut

Cover Girls Kid's Quilts – Sylvia Meyer

Fall God's Work – Our Hands –

Fall Festival –

Lovepac – Plano -

Cover Girl's Christmas Sale – Sylvia Meyer

Angel Tree –

Contact Lorraine Laut at 214-205-0886 or at [lblaut@outlook.com](mailto: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.



# July 2026 Calendar



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1  <b>10:00-3:30 pm:</b> Cover Girls	2  <b>7:00 pm:</b> Exec. Meeting	3	4    <b>Aluminum Can Recycling</b>
5 <b>10:00 am:</b> Classic Worship Service In Church <b>10:00 am:</b> Classic Worship Service via YouTube <b>Aluminum Can Recycling</b>	6	7	8  <b>10:00-3:30 pm:</b> Cover Girls  <b>11:30 pm:</b> PrimeTimers	9  <b>7:00 pm:</b> Council Meeting	10	11
12 <b>10:00 am:</b> Classic Worship Service In Church <b>10:00 am:</b> Classic Worship Service via YouTube  <b>Second Sunday Social—following Worship Service</b>	13	14	15  <b>10:00-3:30 pm:</b> Cover Girls	16	17	18  <b>9:00 am:</b> 3rd Saturday Maintenance
19 <b>10:00 am:</b> Classic Worship Service In Church <b>10:00 am:</b> Classic Worship Service via YouTube	20	21  <b>7:00 pm:</b> Worship Planning Meeting	22  <b>10:00-3:30 pm:</b> Cover Girls	23	24	25
26 <b>10:00 am:</b> Classic Worship Service In Church  <b>10:00 am:</b> Classic Worship Service via YouTube	27 School Supply Project 	28 School Supply Project 	29 School Supply Project   <b>10:00-3:30 pm:</b> Cover Girls	30 School Supply Project   <b>6:00 pm:</b> RLC Guys' Night Out	31	



**Resurrection Lutheran Church**  
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**Email: [pastorbill@rlcplano.org](mailto:pastorbill@rlcplano.org)**

**Office Phone: 972.867.0460**  
**Office Fax: 972.758.7921**  
**Office Email: [office@rlcplano.org](mailto:office@rlcplano.org)**  
**Office Website: [www.rlcplano.org](http://www.rlcplano.org)**

**Sunday Worship Hours:**  
**10:00 am In Church Worship Service**  
**10:00 am Online Worship Service**

**Office Hours:**  
**Monday through Friday**  
**8:30 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.**

**Butterflifer Editor: Rita Fischer**  
**Email Articles to: [nygiantfan2@verizon.net](mailto: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**

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