



Resurrection Lutheran Church **50TH ANNIVERSARY MEMOIR**



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FORWARD

We Believe:

It is the purpose of Resurrection Lutheran Church to unite as many persons as will share its confession of faith in a fellowship of Worship, Learning, Witness and Service, that the word of God in Jesus Christ may become effective in their lives together and individually.

In order to develop the individual ministries, we must remain flexible and open to meet the changing needs of the Church, the Community and the World.

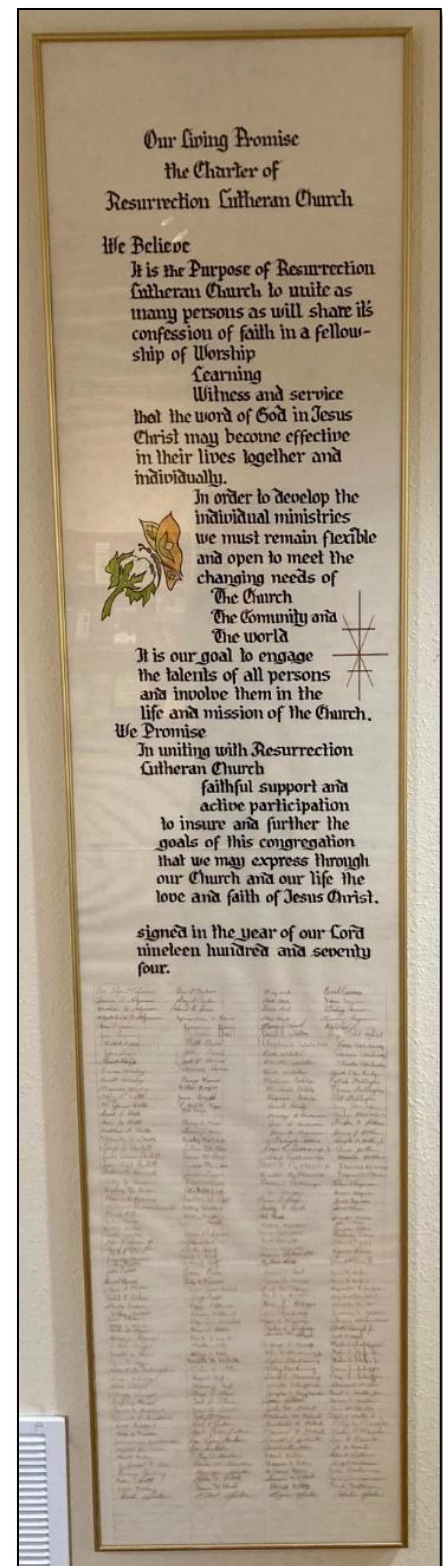
It is our goal to engage the talents of all persons and involve them in the life and mission of the Church.

We Promise:

In uniting with Resurrection Lutheran Church, faithful support and active participation to insure and further the goals of this congregation, that we may express through our Church and our life, the love and faith of Jesus Christ

Do you recognize those words? They are hanging in the narthex near the south entrance to the sanctuary. They are emblazoned on a large wall hanging that is titled "Our Living Promise: the Charter of Resurrection Lutheran Church." Underneath are the signatures of about 150 men and women, boys and girls, who subscribed themselves to these beliefs and promises and in doing so, brought Resurrection Lutheran Church into being.

That was 50 years ago this month and it is the reason we will gather on September 29 to celebrate our 50th Anniversary. It promises to be a grand celebration, replete with visiting past clergy, a concert featuring present and past musicians, a banquet, and culminating in a festival worship on Sunday morning. There will be visitors and former members who will be



joining us, giving us the chance to reconnect and savor old memories. It is guaranteed to be a wonderful event!

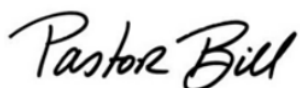
Such celebrations are not a new concept, of course. A few weeks ago, our first lesson told the story of such a celebration. In Joshua 24, Joshua is addressing the people of Israel. He reminds them of all that God had done for them: freeing them from Egypt, sustaining them in the wilderness and bringing them to the Promised Land. He then asks them whom they will serve, the God of their ancestors or the gods of the Amorites in whose land they are now living. Before they can answer, he says, "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

Joshua was just following the instructions of Moses in Deuteronomy 34 who told the people to take the stone tablets he had received from God out of the ark at least once a year, read the commandments before the people, and have them renew their covenant with God. In Joshua's day, the people did just that answering Joshua with a resounding "we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God."

Our anniversary celebration is a lot like those recommitment celebrations. Sure, it is a time to remember and reconnect with old friends, but it is also an opportunity to remember and reconnect to our commitment to God, the church and our community which was a part of our original charter.

Only one "Charter Member" is still with us today. But we are all Charter Members of the next 50 years in the life of Resurrection Lutheran Church. This anniversary celebration must be as much about looking forward as it is about looking back. Read through the statement above again, and join me in recommitting ourselves to the beliefs and purposes that our founding members found so dear.

Happy Anniversary, dear Church!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Bill". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letters of "Pastor" and "Bill" being capitalized and prominent.

Pastor William Jon Irons
(September 2024 Butterfly)

EARLY RLC HISTORY

IN THE BEGINNING

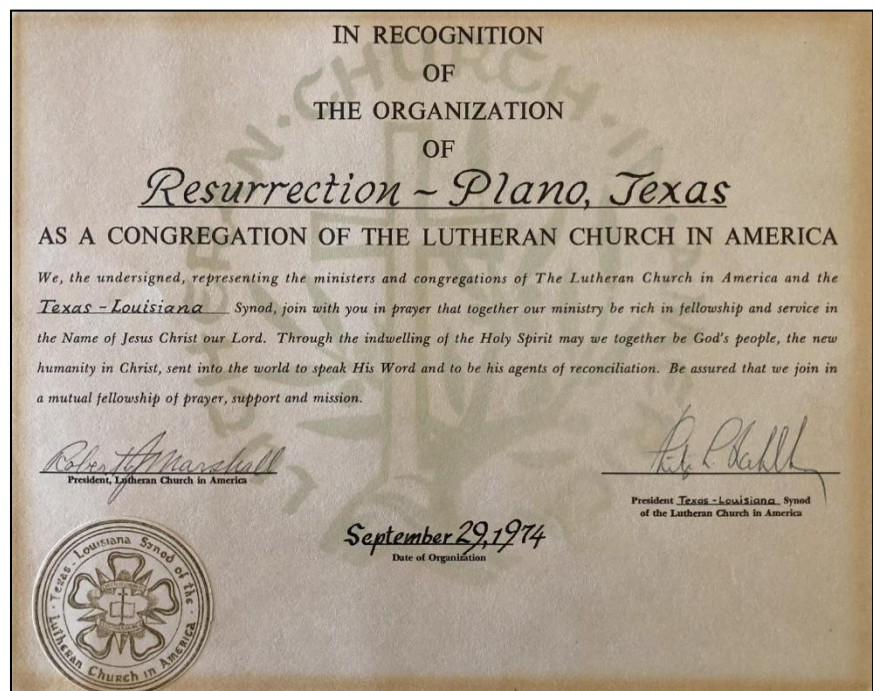
Brief History

On November 15, 1973, Pastor Tolzmann, his wife Jeanne, and their children Nathan and Matthew, left Marion, Ohio, to begin service in Plano. On November 27, 1973, a survey of Plano west of the Highway 75 was begun. Some 3,000 calls later, a meeting for all interested people was held on March 24, 1974, at First Presbyterian Church in Plano. The first worship service was held at Christie Elementary School on Palm Sunday, April 7, 1974, with 168 worshipers present.

Sunday, June 2, 1974, was the first opportunity for prospective worshipers to become a charter member of Resurrection Lutheran Church. One hundred and twenty-one signatures were collected that day. Four additional charter Sundays were held over the course of the next three months, with the last one being September 22, 1974.

At an early morning breakfast on September 29, 1974, the Church Council met with Dr. Wahlberg to consider the calling of a pastor. The Council voted to extend a call to Pastor Tolzmann. Following the meeting, the service of organization was held. Resurrection Lutheran Church formally became part of the Lutheran Church in America (LCA) on that day with 243 baptized members received into membership.

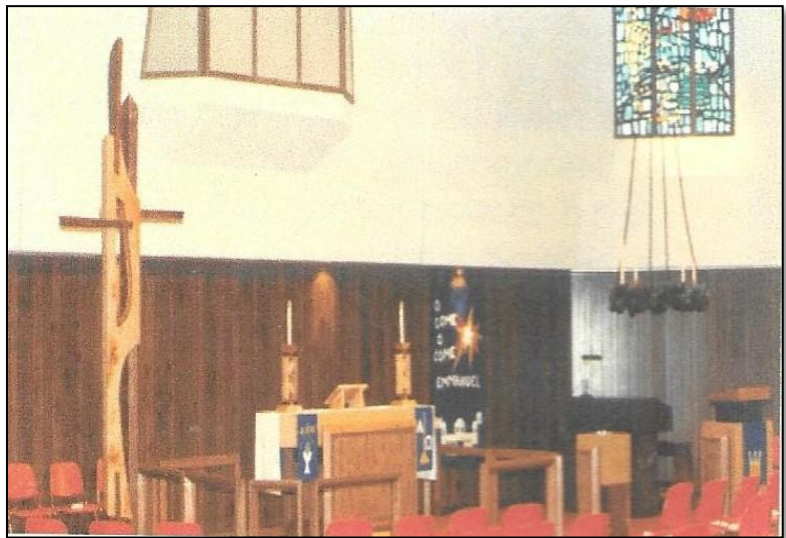
On October 6, 1974, the congregation moved from Christie Elementary School to Weatherford Elementary School. Following the worship, the congregation voted to Contract for Deed on the parsonage at 1905 Treehouse Lane and a call to Pastor Tolzmann was extended by a unanimous vote.



Officially, Pastor Tolzmann's resignation from the calls of the Division for Mission in North America and the Synod became effective December 31, 1974, and he became pastor of Resurrection Lutheran Church on January 1, 1975.

At a special meeting on December 7, 1975, the congregation approved a church building proposal for \$350,000 with groundbreaking ceremonies occurring on September 26, 1976. Construction contracts were signed for the actual building costs of \$275,000 for a 7,734-square-foot building including a sanctuary, classrooms, nursery, kitchen, and administrative office space. The first service of worship in the new sanctuary (current Celebration Center) was held on August 7, 1974, with 364 worshipers attending.

As the congregation continued to grow, education space became a problem. On July 17, 1983, the congregation approved site plans and a preliminary budget for construction of an education wing. Groundbreaking ceremonies for that wing occurred on January 15, 1984. On November 4, 1984, the new education wing was dedicated and the Plano Cooperative Preschool moved into the new education wing.



Over the course of the next three or four years, education overcrowding continued to grow and in September 1988 the congregation began a fundraising program to build an additional educational building on the north side of the existing building to include an additional nine classrooms. A little less than two years later, on February 25, 1990, the education building was dedicated.



It was also in February 1990, that the congregation voted to build a new sanctuary and approved a capital fund drive for the fall of 1990. On December 23, 1990, the congregation voted unanimously to construct a new 18,000 square-foot addition primarily for worship space consisting of a new sanctuary, administrative office space, a chapel, restrooms and a choir room.

The groundbreaking took place on March 8, 1992, and the cornerstone was laid in a ceremony on February 21, 1993. The building committee signed the back of the cornerstone before it was put in place.



The first worship service in the new sanctuary was held two and a half years later on July 11, 1993, attended by 626 congregants. On August 22, 1993, the new sanctuary was officially dedicated.

In 2002, Resurrection's original worship space, the Centrum, had been transformed into the Celebration Center, home of the Contemporary service and host to many educational and fellowship functions. Noted in the October 2002 Butterflier, "But the last major project in the renovation is something for which we need your help. THE ORANGE CHAIRS MUST GO!" The \$30 purchase of an iconic chair was used to acquire the much more subdued chairs we now use.



An infamous orange chair served a noble purpose as a temporary mailbox stand in spring 2024.

Name of our Church and Logo

As a newly appointed mission developer living in Marion, Ohio, the Rev. Arlyn L Tolzmann contemplated what to name a yet unknown congregation in Plano, Texas. He envisioned the cotton fields that were once part of this community and foresaw the new congregation which would rise from them. Thus, "resurrection" seemed appropriately symbolic. He then commissioned a lay chairwoman in his Ohio congregation to draw logo to symbolize the new church.



The butterfly, symbolizing resurrection and renewed life, atop of a cotton boll, symbolic of the roots and growth of this church's ministry in Plano, was selected as a logo. It was also significant that a field of cotton once flourished where the church building now stands. The cotton plant represents the new congregation, arising out of this historic ground to follow Christ. The butterfly is symbolic of the resurrection of Jesus. The symbol was presented as part of the first printed material introducing the church.

Our Mission & Guiding Purpose

A new Mission Statement was adopted at the December 6, 1998, Congregational Meeting:

Resurrection Lutheran Church of Plano, Texas, is a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Our sole purpose is to make Christ known. To fulfill this mission, our congregation will:

Worship – be an exciting and welcoming community of faith with dynamic Lutheran worship.

Learn – provide a safe and enriching environment so that a transforming Gospel might be lived out in daily ministries.

Serve – join with other Christians and citizens of good will to offer ourselves as a center for compassionate caring to bring healing and health, peace and justice to our community and the world.

To support and sustain these mission strategies, we intend to equip members of all ages in deeper spirituality and discipleship.

In September 2009, a Guiding Principles Committee was formed to develop a common vision and mission for our congregation to focus our direction in the future. In February 2010, Pastor Nancy Fisher became the coach of the team to start the planning process. A communication forum and town hall luncheon, a 10-week congregational reading of the Book of Acts, and team retreat at Briarwood to lay the foundation of the Guiding Purpose and Mission statements took place that year. The Guiding Purpose Statement along with the Guiding Principles were used to develop the RLC Strategic Plan that was presented to Council in February 2012. The Guiding Purpose and Principles still in place today were developed as an affirmation and extension of the original principles set forth in our Charter in 1974.

Guiding Purpose Statement:

Celebrating the Risen Christ through Acts of Love, Care, and Justice.

Guiding Principles:

- Worship – Praise our Lord together through Prayer, Word and Sacraments
- Learn – Nurture each other in our Faith Journey
- Serve – Actively Care for our Neighbors
- Witness – Welcome Everyone as a Part of God's Family
- Support – Share the Gifts God Gives us

LEADERSHIP

PASTORS

Arlyn L. Tolzmann

Accepted the call, October 6, 1973, from Texas-Louisiana Synod to develop a new congregation in Plano, Texas. Served from November 15, 1973, to October 31, 1994.

George W. Eiwen

The first intern at Resurrection Lutheran. He began service on September 1, 1976. He came from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

Gordon Myers

The second intern from Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago began on September 1, 1977.

Mark Vance

The third intern began service September 1, 1978, also from the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago.

Stephen W. Wentrcek

The first associate pastor was called April 22, 1979, from Luther-Northwestern Theology Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. He served from August 26, 1979, to April 15, 1983. Rev. Wentrcek left Resurrection to become an Air Force chaplain.

Yutaka Kishino

Called as associate pastor July 10, 1983, he served from September 25, 1983, to May 5, 1987. Rev. Kishino left Resurrection to become a pastor/developer in Grand Prairie, Texas.

Scott Zimmerer

Called as an associate pastor October 25, 1987, from New Oxford, Pennsylvania. He served from January 16, 1988, to November 15, 1995. Pastor Zimmerer was called to be senior pastor at Christ Lutheran Church in Louisville, Pennsylvania.

Dr. James Qualben

Appointed interim pastor, December 1994 to August 1995.

Darrel Gilbertson

Called October 3, 1995, to be senior pastor from Corpus Christi, Texas. Installation service on October 15, 1995. Served October 15, 1995 until retirement on June 25, 2000.

Walter Klockers

Called on June 1, 1998 from Elma, Washington. Accepted the call to associate pastor July 1, 1998, and was installed on July 26, 1998. He served until July 15, 2001, to serve as the pastor at Central Lutheran in Dallas.

Charles Zang

Appointed interim pastor (2000–2001).

Caryl Miller

Appointed interim associate pastor (2001–2002).

Vince Nelson

Appointed interim pastor (2001, 2004).

Gary Charles Hess

Called in August 2001 as senior pastor from St. Mark's in Cedar Rapids, IA. Installation service on October 28, 2001. Resigned January 23, 2004.

Ray Flachmeier

Joined Pastor Hess as a part-time Associate Pastor for Caring Ministries in 2002. Served as interim pastor 2004 to June 3, 2007.

Todd Bruning

Called April 22, 2007, as senior pastor from Peace Lutheran in Charlotte, Michigan. Installation service on June 17, 2007. He served until 2014, and left to begin a Sabbatical Study focused on Special Needs Ministries allowing his wife, Pastor Jaime, to be called as the Chaplain at Highland Springs Retirement Community in Dallas.

David Seddelmeyer

Appointed interim pastor (2014–2015).



Vince Nelson attended the 35th anniversary celebration, September 26, 2009.



2007 Fall Festival

William Jon Irons

Rev. William Jon Irons accepted the call as senior pastor from Triumphant Lutheran in Garden Ridge, TX. His ministry began on August 17, 2015, first Sunday presiding at worship was on August 23, and installation took place on September 20.

BIOGRAPHIES

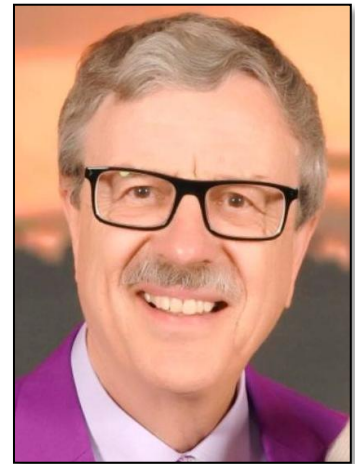
Arlyn Tolzmann

Information on Pastor Arlyn Tolzmann, who in six words describes his approach to Scripture and daily life: "God meets us where we are." "Life is a gift, live it. Love is a gift, give it." is on his ministry card.

None of the below would be possible without the love and support of our Lord, along with Jeanne, Nathan, Matthew, and the faithful in my congregations.

Calls:

- St. Paul, Marion, OH, July 1969 – October 1973. Nathan and Matthew were born in Marion and from 1971 – 1973, Tolzmann served also as Campus Pastor at The Ohio State University at Marion.
- Mission Developer, Resurrection, Plano, November 1973 – September 1974; Pastor: October 1974 – October 1994.
- Pastor of Holy Cross, Wheat Ridge, CO, November 1994 – May 31, 2009. A Colorado Senate Chaplain, 1999 – 2009.
- Interim Senior Pastor of Bethany, Crystal Lake, IL, November 2010 – October 2011.
- Interim Senior Pastor of St John's, Somonauk, IL, November 2012 – June 2014.



Presently I supply preach (every sermon ends with a poem and a sixth book is in process), serve as Secretary of the Elgin Symphony Board and volunteer as a chaplain at Advocate Sherman Hospital in Elgin, where most of the over 6,000 hours have been spent in the Emergency Department.

In 1986, I began my long involvement in the area of domestic violence awareness, serving on the Board of the Collin County Women's Shelter, Plano. Then in Colorado, on the Board of The Family Tree, Inc. (child abuse, domestic violence, and homelessness). One year I represented Colorado at the National Conference on Domestic Violence in Reno. I served on the legislative committee of the Colorado Coalition Against Domestic Violence and led a spiritual support group for women at the Women in Crisis Center while Jeanne did storytelling for the children.

I am grateful to Jeanne and her excellent memory for what follows.

Early years – We worshipped in schools, first at Christie Elementary and then at Weatherford Elementary. Everything had to be portable because we set up and broke down the worship area every Sunday. The number of babies, children and youth was huge! Sunday School classes were held at tables around the area where worship took place. Choir met at Joe and Betty Nelson's home. One of the first Christmases, the choir and Sunday Church School (SCS) children were scheduled to do a Christmas program. We arrived at Weatherford early to rehearse, only to discover that we couldn't get in. The custodian had to let us in because we didn't have keys. One of the early members, Toni Post, stated emphatically, "We must be doing something right because the devil sure doesn't want it to happen!"

Worshipping in a school cafetorium wasn't ideal but it was what we had and we managed well. Moving was cause for celebration as we paraded from Weatherford to the site of our new building. The Centrum was just right for all that was done there. Remember the orange chairs? At the time, we thought they were great. (Not so much later on. One bride chose to be married at a different church because the orange chairs didn't go with her color scheme.)

Memories of SCS and VBS bring thoughts of so many happy faces and lots of feet running all over the place! We had VBS outside at a park at least one summer and another summer we hosted children associated with the Plano Cooperative Preschool (to prepare non-English speaking children for kindergarten). Some of the moms from the preschool helped out and even provided us with *bunuelos*, made fresh while teachers and children observed. The preschool, originally located on the East side of Plano, relocated to RLC when a new building was added.

Children and confirmation students attended retreats and went to Lutheran camps.

RLC sponsored Boy Scout Troop #1000 and later also sponsored a Cub Scout pack. Leadership for both groups came from RLC members. Girl Scouts, sponsored by RLC, met at the church for many years. So many groups and organizations used the building and facilities! All were welcomed!

Adult fellowship was a big thing at RLC. We had so many wonderful events, including pool parties, cruise parties, and small groups meeting on a regular basis. Family events were also very important. Twice a year, spring and fall, families would go camping together from Friday afternoon through outdoor worship on Sunday morning. Camping in tents, campers and shelters allowed many to participate. Those outings were amazing!

In the fall, there was a chili cookoff on Saturday evening. Only the men were allowed to cook the chili (although the women may have helped out a bit). The women provided the side dishes and amazing desserts. Several men, including Joe Nelson, had "secret ingredients" that were never to be shared. At dinner time everyone would sample all the chili and then vote. Winning the title was a big deal, and I seem to remember a huge sombrero that went with the title! There was a huge campfire after the meal. Children of all ages enjoyed the campfire and the s'mores, along

with the fun stories and songs. Laughter and songs could be heard long into the night. Worship on Sunday morning was casual and filled with joy, as families sat in lawn chairs and on blankets. Songs were accompanied by members playing guitars.

December was always crammed with activities at church and in homes. The annual choir glogg parties were not to be missed and never to be forgotten. Children in costumes sang songs and told the Christmas story every year. Of all the Christmas Eve services over all the years, the most memorable were the midnight barn services where we sat on hay bales, sang hymns accompanied by guitars, and received communion standing around a manger made into an altar. The choir sang at nearly every service. When it was time for the anthem choir members would get up from where they sat with their families and take their places ready to sing.

One year, when there were four Easter services, some of the choir members were having coffee during one of the services, waiting to go into the centrum to sing. The choir director was so engrossed in the service that she failed to alert us so we could go sing. That was the year that some of the choir sang the "Hallelujah Chorus" from the hall!

Our sons were one and four when we arrived in Plano, TX. We moved into the parsonage on Tree House Lane. Our home was used for many things until the first building was built. Planning meetings were held in our living room, confirmation class kids sat on the floor in our dining room (until we actually got furniture), committees met in our home and the church office was in our fourth bedroom until the council came and moved it to an office building across town. Not too many years after we moved to Plano, it was decided that we could purchase our home so it was no longer the parsonage but many meetings and gatherings still took place there. Our sons went to Plano schools through high school graduation. They were confirmed at RLC and both received their Eagle Boy Scout ranks in the Centrum there. They made great friends in Plano and have their own stories to tell.

Lifelong friendships were made during our years at RLC. The memories are enough to fill a book! Leaving was hard and saying goodbye was terrible but the memories and friendships remain and are treasured to this day.

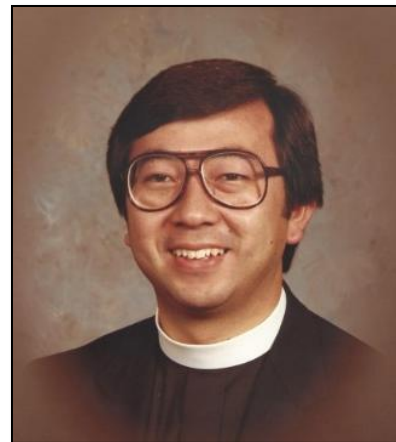
When we moved to Plano in 1973 and when we left in 1994, it really never occurred to us that we would return for the 50th anniversary of this congregation. When we arrived, there were five acres of land on this corner, no congregation and only one family actually committed to the idea of a church here. What a blessing to be a part of the beginning of this congregation! It's a blessing to be able to celebrate now!



Yutaka Kishino

Yutaka Kishino was born in Tokyo, Japan, on January 3, 1952, to Hiroshi and Ikuko Kishino. In 1971, Yutaka attended high school in Redding, CA, through a year-long international exchange program. He then returned to Tokyo to earn his bachelor's degree from St. Paul's Episcopal University.

Following graduation, Yutaka once again traveled to the United States to pursue theological studies and was awarded his MDiv degree from the Lutheran School of Theology in Gettysburg, PA. He was ordained on July 8, 1979.



On June 10, 1979, just prior to his ordination, Yutaka married Nancy (Daubert), who would become his wife of 42 years and mother of his two children, Katie and Andrew.

Yutaka lived a wonderful life in service to the Lord through his devotion to his family and to numerous Lutheran congregations in the Northeast, Southwest, West Coast and in Hawaii.

On July 10, 1983, Yutaka was called to be an associate pastor at Resurrection, serving in that capacity until May 5, 1987, before becoming a Pastor Developer.

In 1988, as a Pastor Developer, Yutaka started Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Grand Prairie, TX. From 1989 to 2006, Pastor Kishino served as a Mission Director in Southern California overseeing the new ministry developments in the Pacifica and Southwest California Synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA). In this role, he has the distinction of being the first Asian Lutheran to be deployed as a mission developer by the Division for Mission in North America (DMNA).

As a Mission Developer, he was called to the Pan Asian Ministry for Orange County, CA, housed at Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in Huntington Beach, CA, from 2010 to 2013.

He then served as Interim Pastor for various Lutheran congregations in transition, including Good Shepherd Church in Claremont, CA; St. Andrew Church in Whittier, CA; and Lord of Life Church in Moreno Valley, CA.

Yutaka retired from active ministry on December 1, 2015. In describing Yutaka, a Bishop in the ELCA recently said, "Yutaka was a man of deep faith who had a passion for preaching the gospel. He saw the work he did in mission as an expression of gratitude to God for God's presence in his life, in the church and in the world. He sacrificially, devotedly and faithfully fulfilled his calling."

Yutaka was a dedicated husband and loving father. He was a cherished son-in-law, brother-in-law, and uncle. If there was work to be done, an errand to be run, or a problem to be solved, Yutaka was there. Yutaka's many extended family members report fond memories of his

exuberance in playing with them at backyard family gatherings and on annual vacations to Rehoboth Beach. A person could not be around Yutaka without being affected by his calm and gentle style, his warm demeanor, and his kindness.

On January 28, 2022, The Reverend Yutaka Kishino, died peacefully at the age of 70. He was survived by his wife, Nancy Daubert Kishino; two children: Katie Hart, wife of Alexander Johnson, of Riverside, CA, and Andrew, husband of Crista, of San Francisco, CA, and four grandchildren: Barringer, Theodore, Oliver, and Emilia.

Scott Zimmerer

My family and I moved from Central Pennsylvania to Plano the week after Christmas 1987, in the middle of a huge nationwide snow and ice storm. It took us four full days of driving to get there. When we pulled into RLC's parking lot, it was still frozen solid and one of our kids commented, "Cool, Dad. You didn't tell us they had an ice rink at the church!" We bought and moved into our home on Overdowns Drive "sight unseen"! And these were the days before Realtor.com. Several members took a couple rolls of pictures and mailed them to us. Sylvia Glendenning often remarked how uncomfortable she was selling a house to us that we had not seen!



I served at RLC as an Associate with Pastor Arlyn Tolzmann until November 1995. Some of my very memorable times include:

- Building the 4,700 square foot Education building with mostly all volunteers! As Dave Lippert, our General Contractor, would kiddingly say, "I'm basically working here with unskilled labor!" But he taught us what we needed to know to get the job done.
- We celebrated the near completion of the Education building with a "Brick and BBQ" picnic. I smoked up BBQ for the meal and Dave Lippert had everyone sign the back of a brick and then helped them lay it in the interior wall.
- The building of the Sanctuary, chapel, atrium, music room and office suites was about a two-year process. I remember the general contractor walked away so we formed "The Resurrection Construction Company." Dixon Bunger ran point on this project until completion.
- I remember our many Spring and Fall Campouts, often at Lewisville Lake or Lake Texoma. The Fall Campout always had a chili cook-off. The winner received bragging rights and a huge straw Mexican sombrero for the year. After many years the sombrero began to dry

out and fall apart. The last several years the “sombrero trophy” became a Mason jar full of the crumbled pieces!

- I remember leading three youth mission trips to Rock Point, Arizona, to the Navajo Lutheran School and Health Center. Several youth would go out to remote villages to lead VBS for the children. The others would stay at the compound and do various renovations and repairs to their buildings. The trip always ended with a memorable horse ride up Canyon de Chelly. The one year the trip was after Kevin Costner’s “Dances with Wolves” movie, so we gave each of the youth and adults Indian names.
- I helped Carol Leber with the monthly confirmation seminars and confirmation camps at Briarwood.
- While at RLC I took a leadership role with Chris Risberg with the Stephen Ministry program.
- I worked with Marie Berg to help setup a volunteer Dispute Mediation ministry.
- I worked with Donna Swords to provide a monthly breakfast to the Dallas AIDS Shelter.
- Many, many youth trips and events, including the ELCA Youth Gathering in San Antonio.
- I remember hosting Thanksgiving dinners at Spring Hill Retreat Center. Someone would smoke up some turkeys and the ladies would make stuffing and mashed potatoes and everyone would bring their favorite family dish to share.

Perhaps my fondest “memory” of the RLC family of faith was how loving, caring, and supportive everyone was in so many different ways. So many of us had moved from various parts of the country and did not have family in the Plano area... so folks of RLC literally became our brothers and sisters as Christ commanded. Our family was invited into many homes for various holidays and celebrations.

My family and I look very fondly upon our Resurrection years.



Darrel Gilbertson

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

I pastored RLC briefly in the last decade of the 20th century and my fondest memory is of your children. I was dazzled by them!

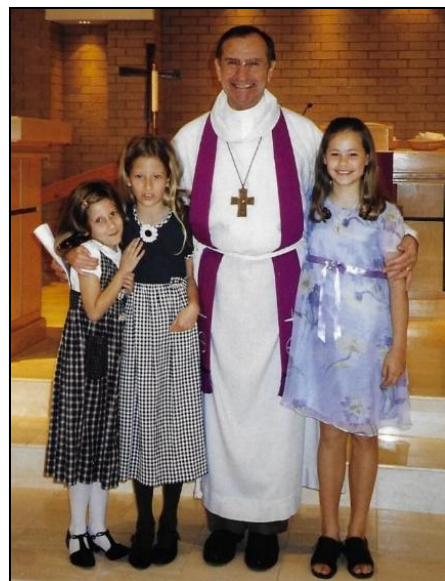
One day sitting in my office before worship, an eight- to ten-year old wandered into my office and plunked himself down in one of the 'big' chairs. I looked up and thinking he might flatter me with his answer, I inquired, "So what do you want to be when you grow up?" "A paleontologist," he answered.

They were bright and earnest. It took my breath away to hear their happy voices in worship! I loved your children; I even came to like some of the adults...

I am celebrating the 60th anniversary of my ordination this year.

Be blessed.

—Darrel Gilbertson



Walter Klockers

To My Sisters and Brothers in Christ at Resurrection Lutheran Church,

Our family will be making a transition soon. On January 31, 2025, I will be retiring from parish ministry. We are building a home in Sequim, Washington, which is on the Olympic Peninsula in the northwestern part of the state.

Sequim is in the rain shadow of the Olympic Mountains. It receives 16 inches of precipitation a year and is located between Jeanne and my hometowns (Port Angeles and Port Townsend). We are in love with the location. Besides the mountains, there is the beach and one of Jeanne's "favorite places on earth" – the Purple Haze Lavender Farm." They are both walking distance from the house. We are so excited!

Looking back – our journey has been one of both surprise and serendipity.

I was ordained in 1988 and served as Pastor of Faith Lutheran Church in the small town of Elma, Washington, for ten years.

When we were looking for a new call, a friend of ours, Jennifer Jacobson, told us that her church was looking for an Associate Pastor. She and her family were members of RLC. I told her, "Sure, go ahead and put my name into the hat, but we are not going to Texas." Well, one thing led to another. In short-order, there was a telephone interview, a face-to-face interview and a meet and greet with our family.

In the end, we had to laugh. We were firm in our belief that God was calling us to Plano. That was quite a surprise. We had never envisioned leaving our home state.

I served at RLC for three and a half years as Associate Pastor. It was quite a change for all of us. We went from a small town to Plano, from a "mom and pop" sized church to one that was programmatic and corporate. There was a culture shock, but we all grew as a result. What made the difference in the experience were the people of RLC. Your love will never be forgotten.

From RLC, we were called to Central Lutheran Church in Dallas for six and a half years; Zion Lutheran Church in McGregor, Texas, for six and a half years; as Interim



Pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church in Bartlett, Texas, for a year; and finally, Immanuel Lutheran Church in Moses Lake, Washington, for the past ten years.

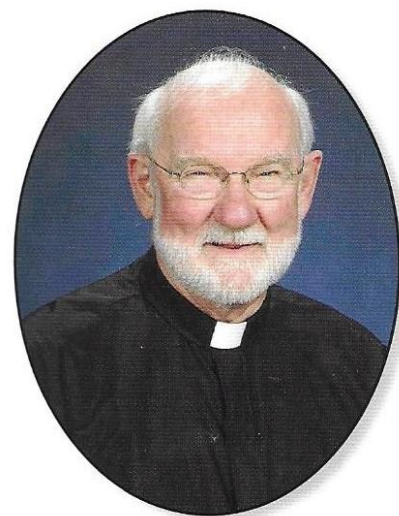
Jeanne still loves to sing and knit and is really looking forward to not setting a morning alarm after retirement. Ben (our Special Needs son) is now 30 years of age. He still lives with us and up until recently, worked part-time at Safeway (which is like Tom Thumb). Our daughter, Naomi, is now 35 and a nanny and painter in the Seattle area. I have been enjoying macro photography, had my own gallery show of 113 pieces last year and hopefully will soon be showing in galleries on the Peninsula.

Thank you for inviting us to RLC's anniversary! We are so blessed to be a part of your history!

Pastor Walter, Jeanne, Naomi, and Benjamin.

Ray Flachmeier

Raymond H. Flachmeier was born November 19, 1933, in Austin, Texas, to Raymond H. Flachmeier Sr. and Vallie Hughes Flachmeier. Ray graduated from Austin High School in the class of 1951. He attained the Eagle Scout rank in the Boy Scouts of America and played cornet in the bands in high school and college. He attended Texas Lutheran College in Sequin and earned a BA degree from the University of Texas-Austin. In 1958, he received a Master of Divinity degree from Trinity Lutheran Seminary, Columbus, Ohio, and was ordained at St. John Lutheran Church in Austin. He continued his education and later earned a Master of Liberal Arts degree from Southern Methodist University.



After his ordination in 1958, Ray began his 40 years of congregational service at Trinity Lutheran Church in Orange, TX, where he was pastor for six years. He then moved to North Texas in 1964 to become the founding pastor of Ascension Lutheran Church in Garland where he served for 34 years.

Ray retired from Ascension in 1998. In retirement, he served as interim pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Fort Worth. In 2003, he was called to be an associate pastor at Resurrection Lutheran Church and later filled the role of interim pastor until a permanent pastor was called in 2007. At the end of his career, he was a supply minister to Lutheran churches.

Ray was a panelist on the nationally syndicated TV program American Religious Town Hall. He had a favorite bumper sticker tacked on his bulletin board at Ascension Lutheran that read: "Think globally, act locally."

Ray worked diligently within the Lutheran churches he led, as well as with an array of organizations. In 1986, he was elected president of the Greater Dallas Community of Churches, where he oversaw the group's ministry at Parkland Hospital and the chaplain programs at the Dallas County Jail and the Dallas Community College System. In the late 1990s, he was named interim executive director to the Community of Churches and was later appointed executive director, the post he held when he resigned in 2000.

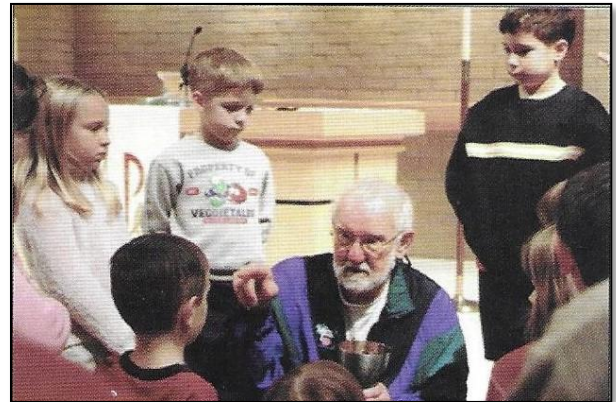
Ray selected a mosque to partner with under the Operations Crossroads program at Ascension Lutheran. Members of the two beliefs worshiped at each other's buildings to forge a better understanding.

"It's like, 'It's OK, we are all one,'" said Joyce Bicker Flachmeier, his wife of 26 years. "[Just] because you believe differently, or you call God something else; we're all people and we're all brothers and sisters together."

Ray was fun to be with," she added. "He didn't take himself too seriously. He'd laugh at himself and he loved to have a good time."

Throughout his career, Ray was deeply involved in community organizations, working for justice and human rights.

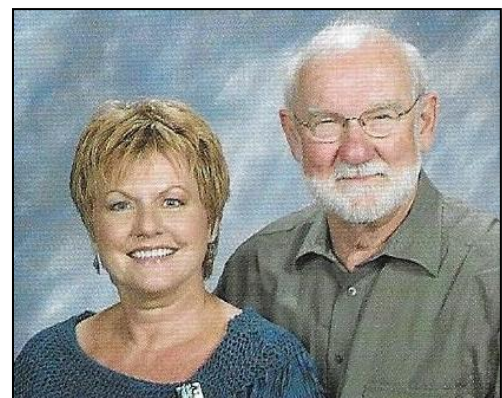
"Ray sought justice on many fronts, knowing that everyone deserved to be heard," Joyce said.



He worked with a variety of organizations to bring communities together to help the underserved, whether they lived in a flood-prone neighborhood in Dallas or were refugees from El Salvador. He was on the board for Planned Parenthood of North Texas and various other groups focusing on justice and human rights. He had served as president of the Southern District of the American Lutheran Church and as board chairman of the Division for World Missions. He had helped causes in Latin America, Southern Africa, Germany, Belgium, Israel, Jordan, and Egypt.

On January 12, 2013, Ray died of prostate cancer at his home in Austin, where he had lived since June 2011. Ray was 79 years old.

In addition to his wife, Joyce, Ray was survived by four daughters, Lin Cerles, Lee Davis, Laurie Corbelli, and Leslie Love; three stepsons, Ben Rhodes, Tony Rhodes, and Eric Johnson; a stepdaughter, Kristina Bishop; and 14 grandchildren.



William Jon Irons

Pastor Bill was born and raised Lutheran in a small town in Western Pennsylvania. After pursuing a career in physics that found him at Texas Christian University and the University of Southern California, he attended Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary where he graduated in 1988.

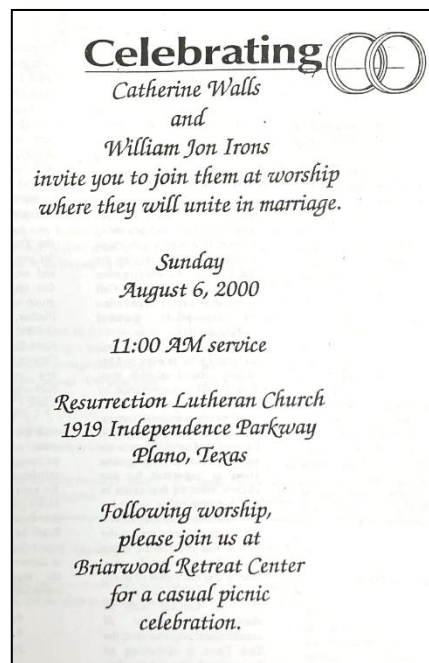
Pastor Bill went on to serve as Associate Pastor of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Fort Worth, Texas. Later, he was called to serve in outdoor ministry, running church camps and retreat centers across the southwest. Pastor Bill was on the staff of Lutheran Outdoor and Retreat Ministries of the Southwest as a program director and camp director through LORMS' dissolution in 1998. He then served as Executive Director of Briarwood Lutheran Ministries in Argyle, Texas; Bishop Stoney Camp and Conference Center in Santa Fe, New Mexico; and All Saints Camp and Conference Center in Pottsboro, Texas.

He returned to parish ministry in 2008, serving Triumphant Lutheran Church in Garden Ridge, TX, for almost 8 years. In July of 2015, Pastor Bill left Triumphant Lutheran to take the call of Senior Pastor at Resurrection Lutheran.

Pastor Bill met his wife, Cathie, while a camp director at Briarwood. She served as a youth director here at Resurrection Lutheran and brought her youth group to camp. The rest, as they say, is history! Pastor Bill and Cathie were married in our own church on August 6, 2000, right after the Hymn of the Day at the 11am service. After she left Resurrection in 2001, Cathie served at Living Word Lutheran Church in Grapevine, TX as their Youth Director. She is retired from Child Protective Services of Texas.

Pastor Bill and Cathie have six grown children and eight grandkids.

Pastor Bill's other passions include music (vocal and keyboard), all things electronic, and trains (model and life-size!).



Wedding announcement in the July 2000 Butterfly. In the 2000 Annual Report, Martin Morley described it as the "social event of the year for North Texas."

RLC STAFF AND LEADERSHIP

Musicians

Kate Adelman, Director (1994–1997)

Marylou Boardman, Accompanist (2008–2023)

Cindy Clark, Organist (1993); interim organist (2008)

Alan Dyer, Director / accompanist (2002–2008)

Diana Frank, Director of Jr. Choirs (1993)

Ellen Frost, accompanist (2023–present)

Julian Gonzales, Worship and Music Evening Service Leader (1999–2002)

Jim Loeffler, Director (2014–present)

Martin Morley, Director (1997–2004)

Betty Nelson, Choir Director (1974–1996)

Carol Olson, Organist / accompanist (1984–1990)

Dr. Kelley Poché Rodriguez, Accompanist, Interim Director (2008)

Dr. Shelbie Simmons, Director (2008–2014)

James Simpfinderfer, Pianist / organist (1974–1980)

Betty Trester, Pianist (1973)

Lynn Waterman, Director of Jr. Choirs (1993)

Kathy Winston, Organist / accompanist (1996–1999)

Bob Wurzel, Pianist / organist (1973–1986)



Betty Nelson, Martin Morley, and Shelbie Simmons at RLC's 35th anniversary in 2009.

Education Directors

Betsy Boyd (2018–present)

Pastor Jamie Segaran Bruning (2009–2012)

Barbara Gilbertson (1997–2000)

Carol Leber (2002–2004, but many years as a volunteer)

Mark Lucke (1994–1996)

Michelle Campbell Morton (2012–2014)

Youth Leaders

Sharon Bosse (2003–2016)

Cathie (Walls) Irons (1994–2001)

Ann E. Loeffler (2018–present)

Judy Noffke (1993)

Erin Roper Galloway (2016–2017)

Ann Shilling (1985–88)

Terri Stagner (late 70s)

Roger Steckly (1989)

Office Workers / Support Staff

Lee Andersen, Secretary (1979–1996)

Mary Ann Bannister, Receptionist (1999)

Susan Barringer, Administrative Assistant (1999)

Marie Berg, Dispute Mediated Settlements Staff person (1988–1991)

Rod Berg, Christian Life Ministries (1982–1991)

Pat Comer, Secretary (1993)

Max Cooksey, Pastoral Administrative Assistant (2008–2015)

Diane Farrens, Administrative Assistant (1997–1998)

Cindy Erickson, Ark Preschool Director (1997), The Learning Center Interim Director (1998)

Rita Fischer, Butterfliier editor (2008–present)

Jan Frum, Altar Guild & Flowers (1997–present)

Suzanne Gaw, Director of The Learning Center (1999–2002)

Polly Hawkins, Secretary (1974)

Colleen Jamieson, Director of Administration (1995–2000)

Sherry Kosbab, Worship Bulletin (1999–2002)

Elaine Laderer, Secretary (1975)

Cindy MacArthur, Secretary (1997)

Shannon McGee, Director of The Ark Preschool (2018–2019)

Connie Meints, Communications Coordinator (1997–1999)

Kathy Menze, Administrator (1993)

Dan Molinari, Facility Supervisor, (1999–2008)
Darci Nicholson, Administrative Assistant (2014–2015)
Linda Ostman, Data Entry Coordinator (2009)
Jean Oswald, Membership Services / Director of Congregational Life (1996–2005)
Susan Patino, Director of The Ark Preschool (2013–2018)
Misti Retan, Office Administrator and Nursery (2016–present)
Chris Risberg, Director of Congregational Life (1987–1989)
Cathie Rollings, The Learning Center Director (1998–1999)
Mary Ann Ruppel, Administrative Assistant (2000–2005)
Kathy Simpfinderfer, Coordinator of Volunteer Ministries (1995–1998)
Sheri Storer, Director of the Ark Preschool (2004–2013)
Carola Tossetti, The Learning Center Director (1997–1998)
Holly Trester, various administrative roles (1999–2003)
Lynn Waterman, Assistant Minister Coordinator (2004–present)
Ylva Wolfgang, Administrative Assistant (2005–2014)

Congregation Council

The Congregation Council included the Executive Committee – President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary – and six at-large members.

Council was restructured in 2016, organized around our five constitutionally mandated ministries – Worship, Learn, Serve, Witness, Support – and the Ark Preschool. The formerly “At-large” council members would now serve as liaisons and champions to their appointed ministry areas and report to the council. One motivation for this restructuring was because the congregation was not large enough to have paid staff organize and lead the ministries so volunteers passionate about these areas would take over this role. This was similar to the council model used prior to 1994.

At the 2018 Annual Meeting, a bylaw change was approved to rename the Ark Preschool Liaison to a more general Liaison for Ancillary Ministries to encompass Ark, the School Supply Project, scouts, and other groups that utilize our space so that these semi-automatous ministries were represented on the council.

2024 Congregation Council

Bruce Fisher, Council President

Kathy Barrett, Council Vice President

Beth Smith, Council Secretary

Jan Frum, Council Treasurer

Amy Gebrian, Liaison for Worship

Marylou Boardman, Liaison for Witness

Katherine Bandy, Liaison for Learn

Becky Schuerman Choi, Liaison for Serve

Sallie Diamond, Liaison for Ancillary Ministries

Adam Schroeder, Liaison for Support and Facility Supervision (*Mark Waterman assumed the position on November 14, 2024.*)

OFFICERS			
President	Vice President	Secretary	Treasurer
Bruce Fisher Council Agenda Annual Congregational Meeting	Kathy Barrett Stewardship	Beth Smith Council Minutes	Jan Frum Oversee Deposits & Expenses Reports Payroll Member Contribution Reports

LIAISONS					
Worship	Learn	Serve	Witness	Ancillary Ministries	Support
Amy Gebrian Worship & Music Team Choir/Directors Christmas Program Corporate Worship Funerals/Memorials Music Weddings Worship Development Worship Assistance Acolytes Altar Guild Assisting Ministers Flowers Liturgical Arts Musicians Ushers	Katherine Bandy Youth Education Children's Worship Confirmation Program Sunday School Vacation Bible School Adult Education Adult Sunday School Bible Studies Youth/Young Adult Kids Club Nursery RALLY RYOT	Becky Schuerman Choi Fellowship Guys' Night Out Oktoberfest PrimeTimers R&R Sunday Morning Fellowship Community Outreach Angel Tree Blood Drive ELCA Food Drive God's work. Our hands. NT-NL Synod Women of RLC Book Discussion Cover Girls Puzzle Ministry Share the Care Emergency Financial Needs Memorial Receptions Prayer Chain Share OurSelves (SOS) Stephen Ministry Transportation Team	Marylou Boardman Welcoming Greeters Welcome Team Involving Care Team New Member Packets Pastor's Info Class Sponsors Communicating Advertising <i>Butterfly</i> Event Signs Good News Greensheet Internal Communications News Releases / Publicity Social Media Sunday Bulletin Website	Sallie Diamond Scouting Programs School Supply Project SAA	Adam Schroeder Facilities Facility Managers First Saturday Maintenance Landscaping Major Repairs Property Management Administration Calendar Coordination Counters Directory Facility Use IT Support Office Volunteers Parish Records Secretarial Support
Council General Tasks Vision, planning, and programming Oversee ministries Ensure efficient completion of tasks relating to Mission & Purpose					

WORSHIP

WORSHIP

Services

During these past 25 years, worship times and styles have changed and evolved to reflect our congregation's needs and interests in worship. In 1999, RLC held two services on Sunday mornings but added an evening service to accommodate interest in a more modern approach to worship.

The Partners in Praise contemporary worship service began in September 1999 lead by Julian Gonzalez. It started as a 5pm service on Sunday evenings in the Chapel, then moved to 11am in Sunday mornings, and eventually landed in the 9am time slot on Sundays in the Celebration Center. After Julian resigned in 2002, the PiPS (Partners in Praise singers) and instrumentalists assumed the music leadership responsibilities. Pianists over the years included Bethany Porter, Lois Jablinski, Cindy Clark, and Marylou Boardman. As attendance grew, it also became more technologically advanced. In 2002, RLC purchased a projector and used PowerPoint to display songs and other components of worship during the service, a practice that is expected during today's services.

For two years, RLC held traditional worship services at 8am and 11am, the contemporary worship at 9am, and two Sunday School sessions, one at 9:10am and the other at 10am. When the contemporary service at 9am ended in July 2004, the Sunday morning schedule reverted to traditional services at 8:30am & 11am, Sunday School at 9:45am. Worship during the summer months took place at 9:45am.

The worship services were modified in 2016 to accommodate our changing congregation. The 8:30am "Classic" service (traditional) was more formal with celebrants wearing traditional robes and singing familiar hymns with the organ. The 10am "New Spirit" service was a more relaxed feel and was so named to avoid the sometimes-negative connotation associated with Contemporary or Praise Services. The music was supported by an ensemble of

In 2011, the green Lutheran Book of Worship hymnal was replaced with the current red Evangelical Lutheran Worship hymnal. Members were invited to donate a hymnal for \$25 in honor or in memory of someone special. The dedication of the 220 new hymnals took place on May 1, 2011. Look for dedication plates the next time you open a hymnal.



Sharing the peace with a fist bump on Reformation Sunday 2021.

singers with piano and guitars. Since COVID, RLC chose to hold one worship service at 10am (also livestreamed on YouTube) but alternate between the two styles. Both services follow Lutheran practices and use the same liturgy.

Several Sundays throughout the year have special worship traditions:

- All troops are invited to worship with us on **Scout Sunday** (February) and some scouts volunteer as worship assistants.
- The Women of RLC are the worship helpers on **Bold Women's Sunday** (March) and collect the Katie Boxes for the Women of the ELCA Katie's Fund.
- All music ensembles perform on **Pentecost Sunday** to a sea of members dressed in red.
- **Blessing of the Backpacks** takes place on the Sunday before the school year begins.
- **"God's work. Our hands." Sunday** (September) is a celebration of service and the opportunity for us to bless the Cover Girls' quilts before boxing them up for delivery to Lutheran World Relief.
- Our most Lutheran holiday, **Reformation Sunday** (October), is another music-filled service that includes Confirmation and congregants wearing red.
- We remember and celebrate the lives of those near to us who have died this past year during **All Saints Sunday** (November) when we light memorial candles and toll the bell as names are read.
- In recent years, **Christ the King Sunday** – the last Sunday of the church year – has followed the "Journey Through Church Year" format.



The Bade family wore the uniform for "God's work. Our hands." Sunday 2021.

In November 2008, we opened our church to Rev. Timothy Fong and Lutheran Church of the Way, a Chinese mission congregation of the Northern Texas – Northern Louisiana Synod that was about to lose its home at Ascension Lutheran Church. The congregation relocated to a different facility in spring 2010.



Rev. Fong participated in a 2009 Palm Sunday service.

Christmas Season

Christmas festivities at Resurrection are lively and joyously celebrated in various ways.

The annual **RLC Christmas Concerts** were a Martin Morley tradition. Held in mid-December, this grand production was the music department's Christmas gift to the community.

In 2010, Shelbie Simmons started a new tradition, the **German Christmas Service** (*Deutscher Weihnachtsgottesdienst*), that took place in the evening of the first Sunday in December. The entire service was spoken and sung in German with bulletin translations in English. Special music was provided by RLC's Chancel Choir, Sounds of Joy handbells, and guest musicians. Beth Smith's German students from Plano Senior High School read scripture lessons and some favorite Christmas poems. The free-will offering supported the RLC music department (pipe organ in 2013). Following the service, the Women of RLC coordinated a German Christmas Market complete with delicious baked goods and handmade crafts with proceeds donated to charities supported by the Women of RLC. Special Stille Nacht t-shirts were even sold in 2013.

Traditionally, the children and youth of church have presented an **Advent / Christmas program** in place of the Sunday sermon in mid-December. These are now an intergenerational opportunity open to anyone who would like to participate.

Christmas eve services over the past 25 years have been offered at a range of times with two or three services depending upon interest and demographics.

Late afternoon / early services have generally been designed for families with young children and are now held in the chapel.

Later services offer the joy and warmth of the celebration with performances from all musical ensembles, communion, and candlelight.



Artist Charles King, assisted by Jim Loeffler, helped our kids compose an original version of the Christmas story through the song "Go Tell It On The Mountain" in 2019.



7pm candlelight Christmas Eve service in 2023.



The Living Last Supper, Maundy Thursday 2003

Lent & Easter

Contemplative Wednesday evening **Lenten services** are a natural part of our worship practice at RLC. These small, intimate services in the chapel use the Holden Evening Prayer and include a theme for the readings.

Palm / Passion Sunday worship services begin in the narthex, followed by a processional into the sanctuary waving palms. For many years, we would bless Cover Girls' quilts that morning.

The current **Maundy Thursday** service includes foot washing and stripping the altar bare to mirror lament and mourning of Good Friday.

The solemn **Good Friday** worship is a continuation from the night before. We reverence the cross as we leave in silence.

The final service of the Triduum, the **Easter Vigil**, tells the story of God's hand at work throughout human history, culminating with the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ to redeem the whole world. RLC began the Vigil of Easter in March 2016.



Palm Sunday 2009



Cathie Irons' usual Easter children's sermon includes a butterfly release, 2023.

Although not part of our present tradition, RLC has held Easter sunrise and Taizé sunrise services in the chapel. Easter morning at RLC now delivers a jubilant Easter service at 10am, breakfast before and after, and a huge egg hunt.

The **flowering cross** on Easter has been a Christian tradition since the 6th century that symbolizes the resurrection of Jesus Christ and a new life that comes from his death. It has been a tradition at Resurrection Lutheran Church for many years, and the cross currently used was made by Ken Heer in 2000. On Easter Sunday, worshipers bring fresh flowers to put on the bare cross. Flowers are also provided for those who did not bring any. In 2024, we began putting the cross on the chancel during worship rather than keeping it in the Narthex. The cross is completely covered in beautiful flowers with a brilliant array of color, light, and fragrance. It transforms a barren cross, a reminder of Jesus' death, into an Easter symbol of Jesus' resurrection.

As a missional service project, The Feisty Faithfuls ChristCare group started an Easter morning **egg hunt** for children ages 2 through 5th grade in 2001. Unlike today's version of egg hunts, this first hunt instructed the kids to visit each of the 12 stations to learn about the symbolism of the item placed inside the egg. Later, RALLY continued this egg hunt, and in 2007, the old-fashioned hunt for plastic eggs made a comeback.

The **Easter breakfast** is another long-running tradition at RLC. Breakfast is hosted by RYOT with food donations from the congregation. Proceeds from the free-will donations are used for expenses associated with mission trips or the ELCA Youth Gathering.



Easter 2024



2009 egg hunt.



Easter breakfast buffet isn't complete without egg bakes, 2008.

Thanksgiving & Pie Fest

In November 2006, the Fellowship Committee started our kick-off to the holiday season – Pie Fest – that occurs on the Wednesday night before Thanksgiving. The event is now hosted by the Women of RLC. Members and guests bring pies to share and gather in the Celebration Center, decorated by Gayle Lind. Pastor Bill offers a brief service, and Jim Loeffler leads the group in singing a few hymns. After the service, lines are formed and slices of pie are chosen. Claire Blancher reports that key lime, chocolate meringue, pumpkin and apple pies are very good but rhubarb seems to be the favorite.



Nancy Parker serving at Pie Fest 2023

WORSHIP HELPERS

Acolytes

As part of the Confirmation program, students served as acolytes during worship. Lynn Waterman was responsible for training and scheduling these 7th and 8th graders for both Sunday services. As worship transformed after COVID and the number of students in the Confirmation program declined, the acolyte program was put on hiatus.



Greta Choi and Genes Ontieri; November 2017

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild performs a very important function. It is responsible for everything on and around the altar, including all of the paraments, flowers, candles, and the wine and bread needed for communion.

Before the pandemic, there were 30 people on teams of two who helped set up communion before the first service and reset before the second service. The “late” team would clean up after the second service. The pandemic changed everything as we no longer have two services, no longer use a common cup, and we no longer have teams to help prepare and clean up. Jan Frum and Lynn Waterman are the key members of the current Altar Guild with occasional assistance from others.

The paraments must be changed for every liturgical season. They are stored in the sacristy (behind the altar) and laundered and ironed when necessary. Additionally, special banners are put on display for Reformation, Pentecost, and Ordinary Time.

Communion wine is purchased but the bread is donated every week and is coordinated by Pat Fisher. Most people who provide bread do so once a month.

The Altar Guild is also responsible for weekly maintenance of the eternal flames in the sanctuary and the chapel, adding oil to the altar and Paschal candles, and placing water to the Baptismal Font.

We have a standing order for altar flowers with Plano Florist. Members may sign up on the SignUpGenius form to sponsor the flowers for their chosen Sunday for special remembrances. Easter flowers and poinsettias for Christmas – also subsidized by members – require extra care to make sure they look nice for extended periods. Holy Week is particularly challenging as the flowers are delivered for Palm Sunday, need to be removed for the stripping of the altar on Maundy Thursday, and replaced for Easter Sunday. Altar Guild also sets up the flowering cross in the narthex after the Easter Vigil.

If there are baptisms, Altar Guild prepares the font and baptismal certificates.

One more day under the charge of the Altar Guild is the preparation for All Saints Day. Members are invited to email Jan the names and photos of family and dear friends who have died in the past year. Jan prepares the PowerPoint with this information and sets up candles for members of the congregation to light in memory of loved ones.

Assisting Ministers

Resurrection Lutheran has always understood that everyone participates as the congregation worships God together. As the congregation grew so did opportunities for attendees to add their gifts to enhance worship and to honor God with their service.

From our first worship, lay people have read the Bible readings, led prayers, and served communion. Kate Adelman, AIM in 1995 created a monthly schedule for lay people to proclaim the Word, for confirmands to light the altar and paschal candles, for cantors to sing parts of the liturgy, for leaders of the Prayers of the People, for servers to offer the wine and bread in weekly and festival worship. Martin Morley continued the practice and Lynn Waterman now sets the schedule.

The pandemic changed many things, but, thanks to Pastor Bill Irons whose technical skills brought us streaming worship, individuals were able to send videos of the Bible readings to continue lay participation, even though we did not gather in person. Pastor Bill also arranged for drive-in communion in the parking lot so servers with masks and gloves could again distribute bread and wine that all could receive this grace upon grace.

As we gathered in person again, we continued to schedule people to read, pray and serve each week in worship. There are currently 28 people on the schedule and always seek more participation from those who are interested in offering their gifts and talents to God.

Livestreamers

A new kind of worship assistant was born during COVID, the livestream volunteer. Shortly after our church shut down due to COVID, Ann Loeffler established the church's YouTube account and started livestreaming the worship services conducted by Pastor Bill, Cathie Irons, and Jim Loeffler. Pastor Bill handled the technical side of this new form of outreach while Ann and Misti Retan clicked through the PowerPoint slides created to immerse viewers into the service. Slides before the service contain announcements, whereas the slides used during the service contain all the information necessary for one to follow the service without a bulletin. Ann is primarily responsible for preparing the weekly slide deck.

As it became obvious that Misti and Ann needed more help in the booth, Ann developed a training manual and recruited volunteers who were relatively tech savvy. The core volunteers have been Kim Hampton, Meghan Rieke, and Andy Petras; Jackson Price joined the group in 2024. The main job of the volunteers is to make sure the congregation and online viewers see and hear what they need to: ensuring the livestream is indeed livestreaming on YouTube, clicking through the service slides for the sanctuary screens, using the numerous cameras so online viewers get the best view, and showing occasional videos.

The original goal was to make worship accessible to everyone during the pandemic, and it has become something much bigger than that. Our members can be a part of worship (and memorial services) either live or from posted recordings during vacations or other times when they cannot be in worship in person, and we have people following our YouTube channel from all over the world. As a result, we even gained several new members during the pandemic. These volunteers have a really important role in outreach and service to our RLC community and way beyond that, and we are pleased that we can provide a quality product that shares our worship experience in a meaningful way to those who cannot be physically present.



Ann Loeffler in the livestream booth; January 2022.

Ushers

The primary ministry of ushers is to greet worshipers and welcome them to worship. Other responsibilities include distributing bulletins, assisting worshippers with special needs such as hearing devices and wheelchairs, collecting offering, the presentation of the bread and wine before communion, and inviting the congregants to the communion table. At the end of each service, they are responsible for collecting the attendance sheets from the friendship pads which are used to record individual worshiper's attendance in the church database.

Over the course of the past 50 years, numerous individuals have volunteered to be lead ushers, whose primary responsibility is to recruit volunteers to serve as ushers. Those lead ushers have contacted numerous congregants each year to usher at our worship services as well as other events.



Carl Fischer & Lynn Bosse

The lead ushers at RLC were Carl Fischer, responsible for the early worship service, and Lynn Bosse, who started serving as the 11am lead usher in 2000. When we reconvened for in-person worship after COVID-19, Carl and Lynn would alternate months to recruit for the one service. When health restrictions prevented Lynn from recruiting ushers, Carl took on the responsibility until his health led to his 2023 retirement after over 40 years as lead usher. When this transpired, Craig Hildebrand assumed the responsibility as lead usher.

MUSIC

RLC has had an amazing series of music directors who have been incredible musicians, well versed in choral direction, but also very talented on the piano and the organ. Each one has brought a different viewpoint and created many opportunities for those participating.

Children & Youth Choirs

Kate Adelman and Lynn Waterman started **Alleluia Kids** around 1995 and continued until 2003 to emphasize not just choir but also worship and arts. Lois Jablinski accompanied and helped teach. Though they began with two age groups, primary and elementary, they were combined in later years as there were fewer children.

The 3-year curriculum included singing, learning about worship, and arts activities. They explored the seasons of the church year; hymns and songs of the church; the history and meaning of the liturgy; the areas of worship such as the sanctuary, chapel, vestry, and sacristy (which was always fun and mysterious to the children because it seemed like a secret place); and the vocabulary or language of worship. The choir sang in worship and produced a musical most years.

Children's Choirs have been formed periodically depending upon interest. Alan Dyer started a choir for 1st–5th graders in 2006. Children's Choir was incorporated into Sunday School when Jim Loeffler joined the staff. On the third Sunday of the month, Jim would prepare the children for occasional performances during the 11am service.

Youth Choirs have been organized when RLC had talented middle and high school youth willing to devote time to this passion. At one point in the early 2000s the choir was named The Grace Notes, a young women's ensemble. The Youth Choir was especially active in 2006, the year they

*One word, one wish, one star so bright.
One precious gift, indeed, one light.
And from that glow came one small birth
with love and hope for all the earth.*

–Lyrics from One Light

sang the world premiere of *One Wish*, by composer Debra Scroggins and poet Ardyce Wiemers at the Christmas Concert.

Adult Choirs

The **Chancel Choir** (originally the Senior Choir until late 2006) is the most established group and in the last 25 years, it has been led by Betty Nelson, Martin Morley, Shelbie Simmons, Alan Dyer, and currently Jim Loeffler. The choir usually sings during offering at the Classic worship service, approximately twice a month, and on Festival Sundays.

For several years, members were invited to join the **Holiday Singers** during the Easter and Christmas seasons. These short-term commitments to Senior Choir gave the choir a boost for important performances while providing another option for members to share their love of music.

The Choir has performed with other church choirs, presenting famous works. Shelbie initiated German Advent services for several years and took the “**Bach Choir**” on tour – the

The Bach Choir performed in the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church, July 2, 2012.



Chancel Choir performing "Suffering Servant" choral work presented in memory of Lee Goddard on Palm Sunday 2009.



Chancel Choir in December 2021; front: Marylou Boardman, Nancy Long, Marilyn Neer, Beth Smith, Carol Patterson, Ruth Parker, Jim Loeffler; back: Richard Laut, Larry Severance, Matt McKelvie, Ron Meyer, Lynn Waterman, Mark Waterman, Andy Petrus.



Buxtehude Tour – to Germany. The Choir sang in Lübeck, at the Castle Church in Wittenberg, and in the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church in Berlin.

Bands

In fall 2008, Shelbie Simmons, with assistance from Jennifer Jacobson, started the **New Spirit Ensemble** to lead the 11am worship service twice each month during the school year. Pastor Todd and Pastor Jamie also led the group at one time. The ensemble welcomed participants in high school and older. Additionally, they



New Spirit in Oklahoma City, June 2012.

were invited to share their musical talents at other parishes. In June 2011, Charles Goebel arranged for New Spirit to sing during worship at his home parish, St. Martin's Lutheran in Austin, to honor the memory of his parents. In 2012, the group led worship at Pastor Klocker's church – Zion Lutheran – in McGregor, TX, and St. Paul's Lutheran in Oklahoma City.

Jim has continued this “Band” choir to sing on contemporary Sundays every other week. While the Chancel Choir practices on Wednesday nights and sings more traditional anthems, the New Spirit sings contemporary Christian music, accompanied by guitars and sometimes drums. It is a



The Band in 2021: Tafford Blessing, Cheryl Janish, Jim Loeffler, Vicki Johnson, Sharon Adams, Beth Smith, Kim Hampton, Cathie Irons.

perfect outlet for singers who want to participate but can't make evening practices. Their practice is the hour before the service.

Handbell Choirs

RLC has been fortunate to have had a bell program since the late 1990s. Our program started with three octaves of Schulmerich bells. When Martin Morley arrived at RLC, he helped us purchase Malmark handbells, while the older bells found a good home across the street at Disciples Christian Church.

Belles & Bros formed in 2001 with the merging of Confirmation Carillons (grades 6-8) and the RYOT Ringers (grades 9-12). B&B disbanded in 2006. The **Prime Chimers** (grades 3-5) was a short-lived chime choir that debuted in 2000.

The **Sounds of Joy Handbell Choir** currently has five octaves of bells and chimes. A full group of "ringers" would be twelve people. The 2024 choir has only eleven dedicated ringers, so Jim plays as he directs. If you can read some music and you can count and keep a beat, you are welcome to come and join the fun.

The group currently practices once a week, but they have participated in several festivals involving guest conductors and 15-20 other bell choirs. All groups are given the music to learn before the festival and then they practice as a large group on the day.



Jan Frum, Marylou Boardman, Lois Jablinski, Joyce Flachmeier, Arlene Lister; 2008



Sounds of Joy performed for residents of Franklin Park Senior Living in May 2013.

Additional Ensembles

RLC Orchestra of high school students plus some adults formed in February 2002 and played on Easter Sunday and at the Christmas concert. This group existed intermittently for several years. Ann Grosshans directed RLC Strings in 2010.



In May 2003, Alan Dyer started a 20th century American choral ensemble Called **Texas Voices**. Although not really part of our church, this choir of 16-24 members practiced and performed at RLC for 20 years. With the acoustics in our sanctuary, the Texas Voices presented several concerts a year to the delight of not only the congregation but the Plano community. Their final performance – the 20th anniversary concert – was held on May 28, 2023.

BUILDING THE ORGAN

When the sanctuary was built, an open chamber over the sacristy was specifically planned for a future pipe organ. Shelbie Simmons had learned in late 2011 that a Reuter Opus 1369 organ with 32 ranks was for sale. Preston Hollow Presbyterian in Dallas was getting a new organ and the church was willing to sell their older organ built in 1963 to RLC for just \$15,000. RLC made payment on the instrument in August 2013, and the organ was dismantled and sent to Lawrence, Kansas, in March 2014 to refurbish what was salvageable and build new pipes for approximately \$350,000. A long-time member generously donated land in Kaufman County to underwrite expenses, but a fundraising effort was also launched to support the project. The largest fundraiser involved members buying a pipe as two-thirds of the pipes from six inches to 16 feet in length needed to be rebuilt. Shelbie Simmons planned the “Year of the Pipe Organ” Concert Series that were mostly free-will donation events for quality entertainment:

- **Symphony in Black and White** featured Martin Morley, Alan Dyer, and Shelbie Simmons.
- **Gala Organ Concert** held at St. Andrew United Methodist Church featured five organists including Shelbie Simmons. Donors of \$100 or more received concert tickets and in invitation to a grand reception at the new home of Jim and Holly Trester.
- **Reformation Festival Concert** featured the choirs of RLC and Christ the Servant Lutheran.
- **German Christmas Service**
- **RLC Divas Concert** featured Emily Grosshans, Laura Erickson, Sandra Conrad, Jennifer Jacobson, and Katherine Tribble.
- **Fauré Requiem** concert with the Chancel Choir and Texas Voices
- **Silent Film: Buster Keaton Double Feature** with organ accompaniment by Benjamin Kolodziej.

Ron Meyer served as the project manager, working with Sterling Construction, to prepare the space for the organ following approval to borrow extra funds for remodeling that also included reinforcing and wiring for future installation of the video screens. When it was ready, the whole congregation was invited to carry the 1924 pipes into the church. The organ was delivered in September 2015; the dedication and first use of the organ in worship was on Reformation Sunday, October 25, 2015; and the inaugural organ concert took place on November 22. It was dedicated as the Faithful Servant Leadership Organ to three members of the congregation: Carl Fischer, Jan Frum, and Lynn Waterman. It was first played on Reformation Sunday of that year. Among the interesting features on the organ is the ability for the music to be pre-recorded on days when the choir sings, allowing Jim to play and conduct at the same time.



One organ evidently wasn't enough! The Ohio Cleveland Institute of Music decided to sell one of its smaller organs, and Jim decided to fulfill his dream of owning an organ. In 2017, the Holtkamp organ was operational after three months of assembly to install its 500 pipes. Although the organ is owned by Jim, it can be used by RLC for as long as it remains in the chapel. In order to introduce the two organs to the congregation and friends, Jim presented a concert with music composed for an organ duet. He played the organ in the chapel while the organ in the sanctuary played music that was pre-recorded.



LEARN

ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Sunday School

During the Sunday school hour, Resurrection has offered a variety of topical courses for adults pertinent to the Christian faith and life. Previous adult studies, using both lecture and video formats, have focused on the Bible, doctrine, the catechism, Contemporary Christians and the Impact They Made on Society, book clubs, and faith in daily life.



John Stewart taught one of several adult classes offered in 2001.

In 1989, Carol Leber started a Sunday morning adult lectionary forum based on the three-year “Common Lectionary” schedule of the scripture readings we use each Sunday. This study was designed to stimulate personal spiritual direction and applies spiritual principles to everyday life.

This class is currently led by Bruce Fisher with assistance from Brian Boyd. In fall 2023, the class moved away from the Common Lectionary to the more recent Narrative Lectionary developed at Luther Seminary. The Narrative Lectionary is a four-year cycle of readings. On the Sundays from September through May each year, the texts follow the sweep of the biblical story, from Creation through the early Christian church.

Bible Studies

Wednesday Evening Adult Study included an adult study that coincided with the confirmation schedule. The group, which was open to members and nonmembers, studied the Crossways Divine Drama Bible Study (2000–2001).

The **Sunday Night Adult Bible Study** was started by Cathy and Ron Goddard in November 1986. The group met in people’s homes once or twice a month from September to May. During its peak, there were 26 to 30 participants in the group. Participants led the group and all Bible study topics were chosen by the participants. The group studied contemporary topics as well as numerous different books of the Bible. The Bible study provided good fellowship and different points of view on Christian issues in a very relaxed atmosphere. The group disbanded in 2013.

The **Ladies' Thursday Bible Study** meets on Thursdays, 11:30am-1pm, in the RLC library. They catch up on each other's lives and then delve into the Bible at noon with Pastor Bill.

The **Men's Thursday Morning Bible Study** was started by Mark Modesti in February 1995 and Mark Cleland became the facilitator in 2006. The studies were informal and gratifying as participants enjoyed a light continental breakfast and a cup of coffee in the early hours of the morning. The group read chapters in the Bible to the point of creating a discussion and/or gaining some clarification or additional insight with the hope that the knowledge gained during the discussion could be applied to the participants' daily lives. The group disbanded during COVID.

Ruth Parker started the **First Tuesday Bible Study** approximately 20 years ago as a ministry of the Women of RLC. For many years, the group utilized the Bible study published in *Gather*, the magazine of the Women of the ELCA, but they have recently explored other topics recommended by participants. In 2024 they started a six-month exploration of Martin Luther and the other major reformers who stood up to the long-held beliefs of the Church. This small group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm in the library and is still facilitated by Ruth.

Library

The Adult Library is found next to the kitchen. It offers books from Old and New Testament studies and reference, as well as inspirational reads. It is also the site for Bible studies, a book discussion group, classes, and meetings.

YOUTH EDUCATION

The liturgy for the Affirmation of Baptism states that we are to "...live among God's faithful people; hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper; proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed; serve all people following the example of Jesus; and strive for justice and peace in all the earth." Our faith formation journey that begins with baptism grows through Sunday school classes, small groups, special studies as disciples and mission outings. It is the process in which we engage in partnership with God to make disciples; and at its core nurturing, forming and transforming lives according to the image of Christ.

Nursery

Sunday School for our youngest friends from ages 1-3 is held in the Nursery with our teacher, Misti Retan. Misti also provides childcare for all ages during the worship service. Following the Children's Sermon, kids often dash from Pastor Bill's feet to the welcoming care of Miss Misti until parents retrieve them in time for Communion.

Sunday School

Sunday School is an ever-evolving program in response to fluctuating numbers of young people and availability of dedicated volunteers. It is a vital ministry at RLC not only for Christian education but to also nurture community for all ages and abilities.

Rotational Sunday School was used for several years starting in 2004 in the newly renovated Annex. In the Workshop Rotation Model (WoRM) Sunday School, learners explored a single Bible story over several weeks in a different “workshop” each Sunday involving drama, music, arts & crafts, theater, science, cooking, story-telling, and a computer lab.

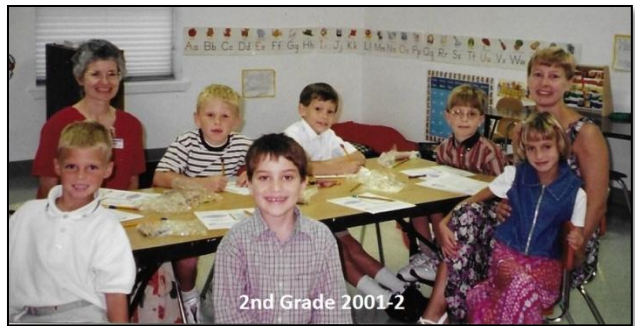
Today’s Sunday morning education follows a more traditional structure with two classrooms, lower- and upper-elementary grade levels.

Third Grade Bibles

Traditionally, RLC 3rd graders would receive Bibles on Reformation Sunday and attend a workshop on how to use their new Bible. Bibles are now gifted to these students on the first day of Sunday School in August.

Summer Fun

Any church kid will tell you that they look forward to **Vacation Bible School** (VBS) every summer. VBS helps build relationships within our church family but can also serve as an influential introduction to RLC for the friends and neighbors invited to spend the week in our community. VBS is known as an affordable form of child care offered in a safe space that provides basic Christian education with some rambunctious activities that normally wouldn’t happen on a Sunday morning. Over the past 25 years, summer camps have been a beloved summer tradition that has morphed throughout the years.



Margaret Bade and Pam Feronti taught 2nd grade during 2001- 2002; clockwise from top left: Margaret, Daniel DiJoseph, John May, Doug Braches, Pam, Becca Feronti, Nick Braches, and John Maternowski.



2023-24 Sunday School; back: Issy Duval, Avery Marmolejo; front: Mason Ellison, Daniel Schroeder, Michael Schroeder, Natalie Tallos, Jonah Duval, Scout Hattaway, Anna Uhrig, Anika Uhrig.

But 25 years ago, we did not have VBS. "Summer Day Camp" started in 1999 when staff from Briarwood would lead camp at RLC for students in kindergarten through 5th grade. Two years later, VBS began for preschoolers with volunteer assistance while the older kids were at Summer Day Camp. Before long, VBS was offered for all children between the ages of three and 5th grade.

For one week in June 2014 and 2015, VBS was used as a form of community outreach to our neighbors. Two-hour morning VBS sessions were held in Evans Park complete with all the usual VBS activities – Bible stories, crafts, science projects, snacks, and playtime.

In June 2016, RLC moved to evening VBS. Camp began with dinner at 5:15pm followed by VBS from 6pm to 8pm. During this time, Carol Leber also offered a themed adult VBS series.

In the midst of COVID in 2020, Betsy developed VBS at home with videos posted on our YouTube channel and a box of goodies sent to homes with all the supplies to supplement the videos and activities to mimic VBS fun at home. Evening VBS 2021 was held in-person but changed to "Parking Lot Pop-ups" as COVID was still lingering in the community. Rev. Robert Hackendorf was the Pop-up Theologian for adult VBS.

Lutherhill Camping Ministries was hired to lead VBS in 2022 and 2023. Unfortunately, due to an outbreak of COVID among the Lutherhill staff in 2023, Betsy had to perform a last-minute pivot to plan B and coordinate VBS with RLC volunteers.

All-day VBS took place in June 2024 under the leadership of Daniel Howell of Bee-conomy who was developing and testing a curriculum about "Bee-ing Community" through collaboration, compassion, communication, cooperation, and community. A fun-filled VBS was also added for our RALLY teens.



"God's Big Backyard" VBS, July 2008.



Avery Marmolejo interacted with videos during virtual VBS 2020.



"Come as You Are!" Day Camp with counselors from Lutherhill, June 2022.

Shelbie Simmons developed **summer music camps** that were held late in the summer from 2009-2014. The two-week camps for elementary students (ages 6-12) incorporated music, art, and drama to produce a final performance showcasing all that they learned. These well-attended camps were sponsored by the RLC music department and Ark Preschool under the direction of Shelbie.



The Tale of the Three Trees, 2013.

Confirmation

In 2000, Cathie Irons coordinated our 6th-8th grade Confirmation program. At the time, there were 60 youth and 15 Guides active in the ministry. One aspect of the program involved matching Confirmation youth with adult mentors during the season of Lent to form friendships and partners in their spiritual journeys.

In 2004, Carol Leber developed new instructional materials for Confirmation classes on Sunday mornings, Wednesday evening gatherings, and added RALLY. Craig Hildebrand taught Sunday morning classes for several years with assistance from Pastor Todd, Sharon Bosse, and Beth Smith in later years.



Confirmation class of 2001.

In September 2016, RLC moved to the current two-year format that includes one year of Biblical Studies when confirmands explore the whole of God's faithful walk with God's people during 7th grade, whereas their 8th grade year focuses on the Small Catechism, the sacraments, and Lutheran praxis. Lessons are presented with PowerPoint and discussion, with a Jeopardy style quiz at the end. Students are also expected to complete 20 sermon notes throughout the school



2019 ConFest at Christ Lutheran, Dallas; back: Pastor Bill, Bishop Erik K. J. Gronberg, Beth Smith, Sallie Diamond, Cathie Irons; front: Nick Tallos, Matthew Caldarola, Greta Choi, August Marlowe, Eva Hampton, Genes Ontieri.

year. Currently, Pastor Irons leads these classes with assistance from Beth Smith (and Molla Knudson, Sallie Diamond, and Blake Decker in the past) who serves as a mentor.

Throughout the years, students also conduct service projects, attend retreats, travel to Confirmation camp at Ebert Ranch near Harper, TX, and fellowship opportunities in RALLY. Before they are confirmed, each student will present a Credo Project. Credo is Latin for "I believe." Through art, music, a poster, or a PowerPoint, each student presents what they believe after experiencing the Confirmation Journey. The "Rite of Affirmation of Baptism" takes place on Reformation Sunday of their 9th grade year. Reformation Sunday was chosen to help separate it from graduation in the spring and reinforce the thought that God is making all things new!



Confirmation class of 2023: Matthew Ellison and Holden Marlowe.

Kids Library

The Children's Library is next to the nursery. It offers developmentally appropriate books, CDs and puppets for the younger members of our church.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

Clubs for Elementary Youth

Kids (or sometimes Kidz) Club started in 1998 to provide children in Kindergarten through 5th grade and their families monthly fellowship activities often sponsored by parents. Although socializing and family fun was always an objective, they also arranged servant events to foster outreach at an early age.

CORE (Children of Resurrection Energized) kicked off on April 8, 2011, as a monthly get-together for families with children through 5th grade. This ministry was formulated by Dana Hernandez and Sheri Storer, with input from Pastors Todd and Jamie Bruning, to organize events not just for RLC's youngest members and their families but to also include Ark families. Rachel Carlson eventually took over this ministry, later with the assistance of Jennie Hansen when CORE split into two age groups.

CORE met once each month for a meal, Bible study, and activities, either service projects or fun. The kids always had a great time, but CORE was also valuable for the parents to build community, too. CORE morphed into Kidz Club in 2015 to focus on quarterly lunches and service projects.

Today's Kids Club activities are still planned for this age group but often extends an invitation to the entire congregation to join them for Thanksgiving break movies, the Easter egg hunt, and Trunk or Treat.



Lenten family retreat at the Collin County YMCA Camp in Anna, TX; February 2023.

RALLY (Resurrection Actively Learning Lutheran Youth)

For the 2004–2005 school year, Carol Leber wrote instructional materials and restructured the Confirmation program to focus more on community and fellowship, so a youth group was needed to foster fellowship. The Confirmation students chose the name RALLY for their new group with the motto, “RALLY before you RYOT.” RALLY became the service and social component of the Confirmation program and would meet on Wednesday evenings for team building activities and food. Today, RALLY is open to students in 6th–8th grades for fun activities on select Sundays.



Sharon Bosse and RALLY, October 2006.

RYOT (Resurrection Youth of Today)

RYOT is our post-Confirmation program for youth in 9th through 12th grades. It involves Sunday morning education, service, fun, and forming relationships with other adults in the congregation.



Broomball, 2009

Coffee Talk takes place during the Sunday School time on Sundays. Sometimes these have been guided discussions with adults from the congregation (NOT mom and dad), or just an opportunity for Ann and the students to check in with each other.

Softball games, WhirlyBall (RIP), street hockey, broomball, lock-ins, messy game night, days on the lake, gaga ball, holiday parties, Six Flags ...just some of the fun and games associated with RYOT. Youth leaders will also talk about some other things that occurred during activities – building sheds, roofing buildings, planting tobacco, building access ramps and chicken coops, tricks on the adults, and something about Wrigley’s gum wrapper foil. Oh, and there is a reason these ladies developed a dislike of pizza.

Although the purpose of RYOT fundraising activities is to help pay for transformative experiences like mission trips, youth gatherings, and ski trips, they have also become anticipated traditions for the church. Some of these events over the years include the Fat Tuesday pancake dinner, Easter breakfast, Super Bowl sub sales, sale of tamales, flamingo flocking, and the pumpkin patch.

Selflessly serving others is important to instill in high school students, but even easier when done with friends. Some of these caring acts included work days at Briarwood during spring and fall breaks, volunteering at the Mount Olive food pantry, running booths at Emanuel Lutheran Church’s school carnival, Souper Bowl of Caring, distributing snack packs at the day labor center, and playing Bingo and serving meals at the Plano Community Home.



Senior High Gathering in Dallas, January 2006.



RYOT Christmas party, 2008.



WhirlyBall, July 2019.

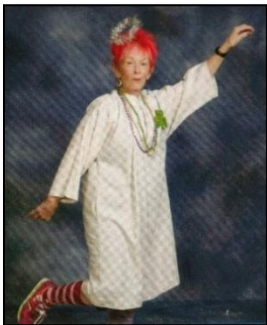
Sharon Bosse continued Cathie's Lutheran Lunch Day when Plano Senior High youth and their friends were invited to RLC for pizza, drinks, socializing, and pool on Wednesdays during lunch. Depending upon the composition of the RYOT group, Sharon would also arrange Lutheran Lunches for students at Plano West and Plano East Senior High Schools.

Graduating seniors have been recognized with a luncheon in their honor and Ann started the "flanket" ceremony during worship in 2021. A Flanket is a faith blanket given to our graduates to take with them on the next step of their life journey that reminds them that both we and God love them. Parents may choose to work with the Cover Girls to create a special quilt for this occasion.



2017 graduates: Paul-Michael Sciascia, Kevin Gatherer, Summer Tribble, Seth McNeill, Evan Fahrney, Anna Wakefield.

While Sharon Bosse was the youth director, she got promotional assistance from Weird Angel. Weird Angel made her first appearance during a worship service, popping out of a box that was wheeled to the front of church and asking about where she was. Once she became familiar with



RLC, Weird Angel would occasionally return to worship to promote large youth group activities. Weird Angel's style – both in fashion and bantering with planted members – made her an awkward but beloved character for years.

Mission Trips

Sharon Bosse and Ann Loeffler have coordinated high school mission trips to foster bonds within RYOT, provide meaningful service to others, and create lasting memories for the youth and chaperones.

2004 – 14 youth and two adults traveled to Booneville, Arkansas, to work on home improvement projects and with the Boys and Girls Club/Kids Club.



2005 mission trip team

2005 – 10 youth and three adults traveled to Denver, Colorado, to volunteer with the Denver Rescue Mission preparing food, sorting and packing school supplies, and assisting at the family shelter.

2007 – 10 youth and two adults traveled to the Gulf Coast of Mississippi in coordination with YouthWorks to work in locations affected by Hurricane Katrina

2008 – stayed at Camp Frederick in Rogers, Ohio, while working in local food pantries and churches, as well as outreach to the homeless population in Columbus.

2010 – 18 youth and four adults traveled to Bayou La Batre, Alabama, to work on home improvement projects in communities still recovering from Hurricane Katrina.

2011 – 22 youth and four adults traveled to Copperhill, Tennessee, to assist a homeowner with roof repair and cleanup.

2013 – 16 youth and four adults went to the Eureka Springs, Arkansas, area organized by TeamEffort to work on home improvement projects.

2014 – 18 youth and four adults traveled to Pensacola, Florida, organized by TeamEffort to repair a home damaged in a hurricane and flood.

2016 – 18 youth and four adults went to McAllen, Texas where they worked with Proyecto Azteca building porches and wheelchair ramps, served meals at a local church, and distributed clothes and food at a Welcome Center.

2017 – 16 youth and four adults traveled to Gatlinburg, TN, to work with TeamEffort Youth Missions to make home repairs.



2008 mission trip



2016 mission trip



2017 mission trip team

2019 – 14 youth and five adults traveled to Marvell, Arkansas, to work with youth in the community and the Humane Society of The Delta, the only no-kill animal shelter in the state of Arkansas. The trip was coordinated by YouthWorks.

2023 – 4 youth and two adults traveled to Pharr, TX, to learn about immigration issues at the Texas border. It was coordinated by YouthWorks in partnership with Border Perspective to allow the team to work alongside immigrant leaders serving families in South Texas.



2019 mission trip team

National Youth Gatherings

Every three years, the ELCA National Youth Gatherings bring Lutheran high school youth from around the country together for worship, Bible study, service projects, and socializing. RYOT youth have attended many of these inspirational events over the years.

A Dr. Pepper soda machine was acquired in summer 2011 with proceeds benefitting our youth programs. Ark Preschool teachers were reliable customers. The machine dispensed its last soda can in 2024.

2000 – Cathie Irons brought youth to the "Dancing at the Cross Roads" Gathering in St. Louis.

2003 – 25 youth and adults attended the "Ubuntu" (Do Life) Gathering in Atlanta.

2006 – 16 youth and three adults attended the "Cruzando" (Crossing) Gathering in San Antonio.

2009 – 17 youth and adults attended the "Jesus, Justice, and Jazz" National Youth Gathering in New Orleans, the largest convention held in New Orleans following Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

2012 – 22 youth and four adults attended the "Citizen with the Saints" Gathering in New Orleans.

2015 – 10 youth and four adults attended the "Rise Up Together" Gathering in Detroit, stopping in Chicago along the way to work with the Salvation Army and a local food pantry.

2018 – 13 youth and three adults (including the Loefflers) went to Houston for the "This Changes Everything" ELCA National Youth Gathering. Not long after this trip, Ann accepted the position as our Director of Youth Ministries.



Commissioning before the 2018 Youth Gathering.

Briarwood

After purchasing the property from the Presbyterians in 1995, Briarwood near Argyle became the North Texas site for Lutheran youth summer camps, an adult retreat center, and the beneficiary of several Eagle Scout projects. Over the years, Resurrection members attended Lenten and Advent retreats, Spring and Fall Breaks of Service, summer camps, council retreats, and RYOT work days at the site.



Pastor Bill was recruited as the first Site Director, assumed the role of Executive Director in 1998 when Briarwood Lutheran Ministries was formed for camping ministries, and resigned in 2003. His time at Briarwood paid off as he met Cathie there when she brought the Resurrection youth to Briarwood.

After years of financial struggles, declining attendance after COVID, and severe damage from a major storm in February 2021, Briarwood ceased operations on March 1, 2023. Briarwood was purchased by Denton County in April 2023 to keep the property as public open space and utilize the Leadership Center.

Pumpkin Patch

Starting in 1996, a long-time fundraiser for RYOT had been the Pumpkin Patch located along our frontage on Independence. The Patch would be open during the last two weeks of October and in conjunction with the Fall Festival. It was not only popular with RLC and Ark families, but classes from Weatherford Elementary would even visit during the day. The final Pumpkin Patch was held in 2013.



Unloading 20,000 pounds of pumpkins in 2006.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Tree House

Betsy Boyd proposed the construction of a Tree House in the corner of the narthex as a welcoming play space for kids and families.

Betsy and Pastor Bill created the design and the Irons family provided the sweat equity to construct it using money from the memorial fund. The space was blessed on March 24, 2019, and made its big debut on Easter Sunday.

Jacque's Corner

Jacque and Marilyn Neer joined Resurrection in 1981 and quickly became fixtures within the RLC community. Professionally, Jacque specialized in yard irrigation, landscaping, and fencing so he naturally became the church sprinkler guy.

Some people who knew Jacque for a long time might have known him to have a bit of a gruff exterior, but he was a softie inside, and had an especially big heart for kids. For over 40 years, he was the candy man who gave Smarties to kids (and an occasional big kid) on Sunday mornings and at Trunk or Treats. Even those of us who first attended RLC as visitors allowed our kids to take candy from a stranger.

Jacque passed away on August 29, 2023, at the age of 88. Yes, bowls of Smarties were available for all who attended his Celebration of Life. Following his death, Marilyn sold his beloved 2004 Dodge Ram 1500 truck and donated the proceeds to Resurrection, hoping it could be used to benefit the children at church. Betsy did have some items on her bucket list that she wanted to implement, and in particular, reimagining the Tree House area in a corner of the narthex.

Clint Hattaway, with assistance from Pastor Bill, agreed to construct a wooden truck. Betsy found a construction plan for a van so Clint and Pastor Bill made some design adjustments to transform it into a little pick-up truck. Clint spent his summer weekends working in an oven of a garage to lovingly craft the vehicle. A team of guys moved the body of the truck on "God's work. Our hands." Sunday (September 8) to the space that had been used for the Welcome Center. It arrived with Jacque's front and rear truck plates, and Pastor Bill attached the wheels a few weeks later.



Betsy envisioned a happy barnyard theme, so she recruited her sister to design a wallpaper mural for the corner. Marilyn grew up on a farm in South Dakota.

A special education teacher named Vicki taught Marilyn and Betsy how to encourage neuro-diverse play. She donated assisted play toys to the Corner and showed them how to use them. She will return for more training on how to make a ministry inviting for all kids to play.

The missing pieces to the corner and Jacque's legacy were Smarties. A letter was sent to the Smarties Candy Company in New Jersey asking if they had a dispenser for Smarties as no one was able to find one. The company replied very quickly with the unfortunate news that they did

not have a dispenser but asked if they could send a donation. It wasn't long before Marilyn found at 42-pound box of Smarties at her front doorstep, equaling an estimated 2,500 rolls of Smarties. What a generous gift from this family-run business that celebrated its 75th birthday this year! Another fun fact – National Smarties Day is October 2. Smarties will be a sweet addition to the Corner.

On Sunday, November 10, 2024, Mr. Jacque's Corner was dedicated during the children's sermon with an ice cream social after worship. Ice cream and Smarties – the perfect tribute to a diabetic who was also known to have seconds and thirds of treats at coffee hour when Marilyn wasn't watching. Jacque was a proud Marine, so it is also a fortunate coincidence that November 10 was the 249th birthday of the Marine Corps.

The kids reading in the truck bed or pretending to drive the pickup may not have known Jacque Neer but they'll find much joy and sugar in this corner of the narthex, which is exactly what Jacque would have wanted.



SERVE

FELLOWSHIP

Church Picnics

Annual church picnics were a fall tradition at RLC for many years. In the early 2000s, the congregation was invited to an old-fashioned church picnic at Arbor Hills Nature Preserve complete with food, games for all ages, and taking advantage of the trail system for outdoor fun. The picnics moved to RLC starting in 2007 and were held the first weekend after Labor Day. For the first “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday (also held on the first Sunday after Labor Day) in 2013, a celebration of that service day combined with a church picnic moved to Hoblitzelle Park. In the years since, the “picnic” was replaced by GWOH and requisite meal planned for that day.

Dinner for Eight / Six

An adult fellowship of four couples (changed in 2004 to three couples/six people) would take turns hosting a meal throughout the year and enjoying the opportunity to form relationships within the church community. New groups would form either once or twice a year to foster family.

Fall Festival

Resurrection has celebrated Fall in many different ways throughout the years. With the Ark Preschool, families attended a kids’ carnival with activities including a petting zoo, face painting, a bounce house, and carnival games. The RYOT youth operated a pumpkin patch in front of the church. The women also held a craft fair in the Celebration Center. And everyone was encouraged to participate in Trunk-or-Treat by filling their



Fall picnic, September 2007.



Dinner for Eight at the Janish's: Craig & Phyllis Hildebrand, Tony & Cheryl Janish, Norma Kemmet



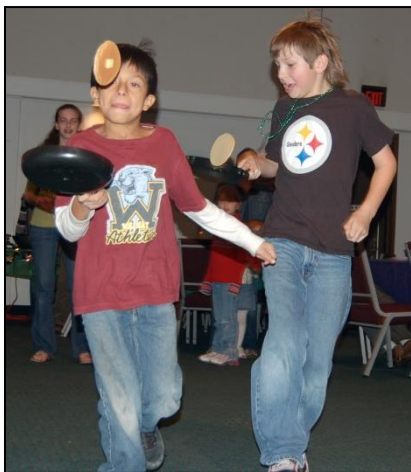
2008 Fall Festival

trunks with treats to hand out to the children who were often in costume. Oktoberfest began in 2005 with German food and songs. With the closing of the Ark preschool and COVID, the Fall Festival has now become a time for Oktoberfest and Trunk-or-Treat. The fall activities may have diminished but the shared enjoyment remains.

Fat Tuesday

Shrove Tuesday or Fat Tuesday (from the French term *Mardi Gras*) or Pancake Day is the last day before the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday. There are many popular practices, such as indulging in food that one might give up as their Lenten sacrifice for the upcoming 40 days of Lent.

The Fat Tuesday pancake supper started on Shrove Tuesday in February 1998. The men of RLC would prepare a variety of pancakes in addition to a great deal of exuberance and camaraderie served with each meal. At the end of the evening, a king and queen were crowned, pancake flipping relays held, and candy was distributed to all participants. By 2003, Fat Tuesday became a RYOT fundraiser to support mission trips and attendance at National Youth Gatherings. The final Fat Tuesday occurred in 2018.



2009 pancake flipping relay between Paul-Michael Sciascia and Evan Fahrney.



Elyse Janish and Michael Harrison manned the entry table to the 2006 Fat Tuesday Pancake dinner.



Jordan Connell oversaw King Paul-Michael Sciascia and a Queen passing out candy to the little ones in 2009.

Guys' Night Out

Guys' Night Out (GNO) was started in the summer of 2009 by Craig Ollek, when, in his opinion, there were very few social activities in the church for men other than the First Saturday Morning Maintenance Team.

Craig chose to center the evening's activities around a nice meal, served in a pleasant bar atmosphere, where men can just talk, socialize and enjoy the company of other men within the congregation. Choosing to meet once a month, the men get together at a different bar the last Thursday evening of every month.

For the first meeting of GNO, Craig chose to meet at Chili's in Plano. Since then, the group has experienced fine dining and evening meals at numerous select bars and breweries around the Plano / Richardson / Allen area such as The Brass Tap, Casa Mama Los Rios, Bavarian Grill, Austin Avenue Sports Grill, and Dos Arroyos Comida Casera.

Over the past few years, Craig Feronti, along with some input from Mark Waterman, continued the coordination so the event lives on each month.



Guys' Night Out, May 2018.

International Trips

The traveling Lutherans have spent a lot of time searching for their Germanic roots and learning about the man: Martin Luther.

2006: Three City Tour

The first international trip included about 14 people who spent a few days in Munich, Salzburg, and Vienna. There was one outing arranged ahead of time for the entire group, but participants also took part in tours and had free time to explore the sights and restaurants. The group activity in Munich involved an evening at the famed Hofbräuhaus, which normally would be packed and full of music and dance. However, our group was there when Germany was playing in the World Cup, and the waiter kept running out to see the score of the game.



Dinner at the Schönbrunn Castle

The second stop was Salzburg, Austria, where the group event was a night at the Marionette Theater to see Die Zauberflöte (The Magic Flute) followed by Sachertorte at the Sacher Hotel.

The last stop was the magnificent city of Vienna, Austria. The city was beautiful, but it was very hot! The culminating activity was dinner and a concert at the Schönbrunn castle.

2010: Luther Tour

The emphasis for the 22 Lutheran pilgrims on this trip was to learn about where Martin Luther was born, lived, and did his work. Most of the cities visited were in former East Germany: Berlin, Wittenberg (95 Theses), Dresden, Leipzig, Eisleben (Luther's birthplace), Erfurt (Luther's monastery), the Wartburg (where Luther hid for a year while translating the Bible into a language the people could understand), Eisenach (Bach's birthplace), Rudesheim, and Worms (the Diet of Worms).



Berlin Cathedral

2023 Christmas Market River Cruise

Thirteen hardy Lutherans left the day before Thanksgiving and flew to Munich. From Munich, they were bussed to Passau to begin their journey down the Danube. The cruise should have started in Regensburg, but the river levels were not conducive to travel. The group did get to take a bus to Regensburg to see sights and visit a Christmas Market. The huge Weihnachtsmarkt in Vienna (and the smaller ones throughout the city) were fun and festive. Several



Last night on the 2023 river cruise

of the group took advantage of eating Wiener Schnitzel where it originated. Also in Vienna, participants had a very interesting tour of the art museum. After Vienna, the group floated into

the snowy world of Budapest. Of course, the ship was not directly on the dock, so everyone had to climb up on the sundeck, go to the sundeck of the neighboring ship, and go down those steps to get to the shore. Even though all were cold and wet, the Christmas Market there was fun! The bus for the airport left 4am, but it was worth it!

Lenten Soup Suppers

Until March 11, 2020, when COVID halted the tradition, RLC hosted Lenten Soup Suppers before the Wednesday evening Lenten services. Various ministries volunteered to provide soup and sandwiches, such as Cover Girls, Stephen Ministry, Congregation Council, choir, the preschool, and the School Supply Project. These were well attended, and the host ministry benefitted from the free-will offering or contributed the donations towards specific causes in the church.



Lois & Bert Jablinski grabbed supper from Kim Hampton before Wednesday music rehearsals and the Lenten service on March 11, 2020.

Oktoberfest

The annual Oktoberfest celebration started in 2005 for German food, German sing-a-longs, and polka dancing. The party was initially held in members' backyards but moved to RLC's patio by 2011. With larger space at church, Beth Smith recruited some of her German Club dancers from Plano Senior High School to perform. Guys' Night Out started hosting Oktoberfest in 2012 and donated beer and wine for the festivities.

The 2010 Oktoberfest was planned for the Flachmeier's backyard. Due to heavy rains, the event was moved to RLC, where church policy prevented all the beer and wine that was purchased to be served. In the following year, the Council approved beer and wine to be consumed *outdoors* at the 2011 event, indoors only if rains forced the festivities indoors. At the September 2012 Council meeting, a new building use policy was approved to permit beer and wine annually at Oktoberfest.



Pastor's Open House

Beginning with the Irons' first Christmas season in Plano, Pastor Bill and Cathie have hosted an informal open house at their home, usually on the Saturday before Christmas. Festive foods and drink while enjoying the holiday season with church friends has become a beloved tradition.

PrimeTimers

PrimeTimers is a group of "more mature" members who now meet for lunch at Norma's Café on the second Wednesday of every month from January through October. The loosely organized group has volunteer hosts who decide on a theme for each lunch. Judy Severance and Sue Riemenschneider mentioned that reflections, poems, or questions can be used to start the conversations.

In November, PrimeTimers share a Thanksgiving dinner at Resurrection. Turkey and all the trimmings are served. Bill Fisher said that the members' responsibility is to "show up and eat!" They do not meet in December.

To quote Judy Severance, "The best reason to be a part of this group is because, in most cases, we have experienced many of the same situations in our lives. We are fun people who know that we can call on each other if we need help or support."

Progressive Dinners

Progressive Dinners had been a long-running tradition, originally started by Cathy Goddard, then coordinated by Maryann Ruppel and Arlene Lister, with later help from Craig and Phyllis Hildebrand and Charlotte Anderson.

Couples or paired singles would be assigned three homes to visit for three courses – hors d'oeuvres, soup/salad, entrée – and all participants would meet for dessert at one home. The dinners usually had a theme and up to 80 members would participate in this moving feast.



Kay & Phil Anderson and Roger Stenerson couldn't pass up the Irons' open house in 2019.



Judy Case and Raul & Jeanne Angulo at the Chocolate Angel Cafe and Tea Room, 2019.



PrimeTimers at Norma's Café in 2023.

R&R

In 2012, Charles and Bev Mauney and Craig and Pam Feronti decided that there should be a social group for adults too old for RAVE but too young for PrimeTimers. The group would meet on several Saturday evenings during the year, largely depending upon the number hosts willing to invite a large group over. It had a good run for years before taking a hiatus and ultimately resurrected in 2017.



Top: R&R at the Frum's, February 2020. Bottom left: Oscar & Adrienne Poppe at the Halloween R&R at the Janish's, October 2022. Bottom right: Chillin' at the Waterman's, May 2024.

While the first suggested name was the Rabble Rousers, it was quickly changed to R&R. What does R&R mean? Well, it could be Rock & Roll or Rough & Ready or Rest & Relaxation. Whatever R&R stands for, it is a time for adults to get together in a social, informal setting. Attendees are asked to bring finger foods or an appetizer to share as well as their favorite beverages to make it an easy party for the hosts. They share stories, laugh, eat, drink, catch up with old friends, and make new ones.



RAVE (Resurrection Apostles Validating Existence)

Between the Lines was a group of college age / young adults (18-25) who gathered on Sundays. They changed their name to RAVE (Resurrection Apostles Verifying Existence) and started monthly get-togethers. Eventually the monthly get-togethers proved to be challenging, so the group began meeting during school breaks to reconnect and for occasional servant events. Although the life of this group we short-lived, they moved on to be ROWDY...

ROWDY

ROWDY began monthly get-togethers in February 2012 for post-college RLC young adults who would meet for social gatherings such as Ranger games, WhirlyBall, Top Golf, Bible studies at Austin Avenue, and happy hour. The original coordinators were Shawna Allen and Becky McNeill until leadership passed along to Victoria VonSachen and Jacob Gnew in 2014. ROWDY was the first RLC group to fully embrace social media as they relied heavily on the "ROWDY by RLC" Facebook page for communications.

Second Sunday Socials

Second Sunday Socials began in 2022 to encourage people to meet and mingle after church while experiencing the joys of a good ol' church potluck. Potlucks take place on the second Sunday of the month, June through September. The June date is usually a kick-off to VBS and the September date falls on "God's work. Our hands." Sunday, so those Sundays have extra activities taking place in addition to a feast. In July and August, the potlucks are usually followed with some sort of activity such as talent shows, hymn sings, puzzles, Confirmation trivia, Plastic Free July bingo, or a mini ministry fair.



Sports

Carl Fischer coordinated a basketball team that played on Sunday afternoons and David Summer coordinated two men's softball teams. In the late 1990s/early 2000s, RYOT formed a softball team that played against other congregations on Sunday nights.

Sunday Morning Fellowship

During Sunday School season, coffee and treats are available in the kitchen following the worship service. While some people grab sustenance before going to classes or meetings, we highly encourage others to hang out and mingle with other members, either in the kitchen hallway or at one of the two "living rooms."

Coffee hour hosts – sometimes referred to as the Brew Crew – are responsible for providing treats, making coffee, setting up, and cleaning up. Although reimbursement is available, many hosts donate treats as part of their offering to the ministries of Resurrection.



For special occasions like new member celebrations and Confirmation Sunday, the fellowship hour will move to the narthex where cake is the featured treat of the morning.

Women's Dinner & Movie Night

Sharlene Snyder became the coordinator of this social group – sometimes called Gals Night Out – after Arlene Lister. They usually met on the last Thursday of the month. Sharlene maintained an

email list of interested women and would survey them to determine participants that month and the desired restaurant to kick off the night. Participation varied but they always had a lot of fun together. In February 2020, they dined at Yu's Diner and then watched *Call of the Wild* starring Harrison Ford. Weeks after, COVID-19 arrived and the group has not assembled since.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Angel Tree

The Angel Tree ministry has been a beloved RLC tradition during these past 25 years. Throughout this time, it has been lovingly coordinated by Rachel Carlson, Carol Goddard, Jill (Marlowe) Hattaway, Kecia Gray, Elena Schadle, and now Cathie Irons. Names and item descriptions were once written on paper angels and hung from a Christmas tree in the narthex but now the list is available on a SignUpGenius form.

Originally, coordinators would ask the congregation's help in obtaining Christmastime contributions of money, food, clothing, and toys, and recruit volunteers to wrap, pack, and deliver the items that benefitted 20-30 families through the Assistance Center of Collin County. We would occasionally "adopt" children from Lutheran Social Services. Recent recipients have included families identified by Child Protective Services, residents in Jim Riley Outreach transitional housing, and students at Weatherford Elementary that are chosen with the help of the school counselor.



2024 Angel Tree gifts to students at Weatherford Elementary.



Luke Duval hopped on the Carter BloodCare bus during "God's work. Our hands." Sunday 2023.

Blood Drives

RLC has hosted several blood drives throughout the years, coordinated by Peggy Dodson, Kay Anderson, and more recently, Cathie Irons. There were several years when regular blood drives were not occurring. During the 2020 "God's work. Our hands." Sunday when we could not gather as usual due to COVID, members were encouraged to donate at a Carter BloodCare center as a "project" for GWOH. Since then, four to five blood drives are held in our parking lot throughout the year ... and always on GWOH Sunday.

Food Drives

RLC has historically been very supportive of food pantries and other programs that assist community members facing food insecurity. The congregation has focused on two food pantries, Minnie's Food Pantry in Plano and Mount Olive Frances Byrd Horn of Plenty Food Pantry operated by Mount Olive Lutheran Church, serving the population in the Fair Park neighborhood of Dallas.

One of RYOT's annual projects is the Souper Bowl of Caring on Super Bowl Sunday. This project raises monetary and food donations for a food pantry, such as Minnie's. During the summers a few years back, Sharon Bosse took RYOT members who had collected food to Mt. Olive and then stayed the day to help with distribution.

Over the past few years, RLC has sponsored special food collections as part of "God's work. Our hands." Sunday (GWOH) in September and during the holidays. RLC accepts donations throughout the year that are delivered to a pantry partner when a sufficient volume of food is collected and volunteers are available to deliver the food.



2017 Souper Bowl of Caring: Audrey McNeill, Kaylynn Rogers, Jordan Kaehlert, and Anna Wakefield.

"God's work. Our hands." Sunday

The church-wide day of service, "God's work. Our hands." Sunday (GWOH), began in 2013 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the ELCA. RLC has actively participated each year on the second Sunday of September (plus springtime GWOH in 2014 and 2015) under the coordination of Sharon Bosse, and more recently Becky Schuerman Choi, with assistance from many project leads. In the beginning, GWOH Sunday would start with worship at 8:30am followed by service projects, and finish with a meal made by volunteers. In recent years, our morning starts later with worship at 10am, then a church potluck, followed by service projects and fellowship.



The elementary youth assembled trail mix treat bags, delivered them to the fire station, then treated to a tour; 2016.

Traditional service projects include tying quilts for the Cover Girls, making pet beds, litter cleanups, food collections, and blood drives. We have assembled many kits over the years for Lutheran World Relief, Mount Olive, Streetside Showers, and City of Plano Homeless Services. Cookie care packages and handwritten notes have been delivered to our homebound members by RLC's Care Team. Occasionally we have special projects at church so designating time for deep cleaning, crafting for the Cover Girls Christmas sale, and organizing for used book sales benefits us directly. Other organizations we have supported through special collections or projects include Mosaic, Lovepacs, North Texas Food Bank's peanut butter challenge, Minnie's Food Pantry, Collin County Detention Facility, Hope's Door, Assistance League of Greater Collin County, Reclaim Our Vote, Plano ISD food pantry, Coalition of Churches Prison Ministry, and more.



Ron Meyer and Peggy Dodson made plarn at GWOH 2022.

Mosaic

Mosaic is a faith-based nonprofit founded in 1913 in Axtell, NE. Mosaic provides a life of possibilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities. For a number of years, the Women of RLC partnered with Mosaic by hosting birthday parties for approximately 35 individuals who lived in Mosaic residential homes. They loved playing bingo and having pizza and cake for lunch. The simplest of prizes put a great smile on their faces. Resurrection, under the leadership of the Women of RLC, took on the sponsorship of one of the six Mosaic group homes, Auburn House, in 2013. Ministries provided meals, worked in the yard, played games, and organized special events for the residents. The Women of RLC also volunteered time and resources to other Mosaic homes by organizing donation drives, sewing drapes, and cleaning.



Kris Wine helped serve lunch to the residents of Mosaic's Auburn House, July 2019.

By February 2020, Mosaic ceased operations in Texas and transitioned all their services in Texas to Caregiver, Inc.

Talent Shows

Directed by RLC's music director Shelbie Simmons and later Marylou Boardman, these annual productions that began in 2009 featured talents of RLC members, including many of our youth. Proceeds from these shows benefited the School Supply Project. The productions often included food, such as Tacos 'N Talent in 2017, and mystery boxes containing gift cards, decorative items, jewelry, toys, etc. were available for a \$30 donation.

Talents included vocal and piano soloists, other instrumentalists, comedy skits, and Sharon Adams and her group of cloggers. Bill and Rosanne Fisher, Bert Jablinski, and Mark Waterman often served as emcees.

Perhaps the funniest skit was the RLC Senior Men's Synchronized Swim Team that performed in the 2011 talent show which can be found on YouTube. This "swim team" consisted of Craig Knudson, Mark O'Brien, Mark Waterman, Bill Fisher, Bert Jablinski, and Harry Meagher who created elegant choreography to "Memory."



Girls in white dresses with blue satin sashes was one of many favorite things in the 2009 talent show.



Men's synchronized swim team, 2011.

WOMEN OF RLC

This group is the embodiment of ALL women of Resurrection Lutheran Church, regardless of age. They are committed to providing activities and programs that will include women as well as family events. They host annual chili/bingo nights, bunco nights, Bible studies, fiestas, monthly programs, and book discussions. Creating a supportive, inclusive, and faith-based "family" is their goal. Their mission expands to the community and world as they regularly donate to community organizations such as The Children's Advocacy Center, Samaritan Inn, City House, and Lutheran World Relief.

"As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world."

-WELCA Purpose Statement

Women of the ELCA (WELCA) is the women's ministry organization of the ELCA, and the Women of RLC is a congregational unit of WELCA. The Women of RLC is governed by a board that is elected every year but all female members of RLC are considered members of the Women of RLC.

Cover Girls

Thirty years ago, the beginning stages of the Cover Girls took place. Jeanne Tolzmann and Marilyn Neer cleaned out a storage room at RLC where they found several bolts of fabric just waiting for someone to put to good use. Marilyn decided it was time to start up a new RLC sewing group.

Since then, their primary mission has been sewing and donating quilts to Lutheran World Relief (LWR) for distribution throughout the world. As of fall 2024, our Cover Girls have lovingly created and donated over 3,700 quilts to LWR! A core group of women make the quilts, but several volunteers – including some Cover Guys – will tie quilts to finish the creation. These dedicated volunteers believe that a quilt given away shows love, comfort, warmth, and humility; it is how they practice “God’s work. Our hands.” every day.

Over the years, they have not only donated thousands of quilts to LWR but used their talents to create quilts for other causes. During the summers, the Cover Girls make baby and children’s quilts that are donated to Wylie Children’s Medical Clinic, The Samaritan Inn, and Children’s Medical Center of Plano. Every child baptized at Resurrection receives a quilt, high school graduates may receive a quilt during the “Flanket” ceremony, and prayer quilts are provided with love when requested. (Our prayer quilt ministry was started in 2006 by Ardyce Wiemers and Judy Hoffman.) Quilts have frequently been donated in December to the Plano Police Association’s Christmas Cops program and Hope’s Door and as items for raffles (Briarwood gala, Plano Civic Chorus). Quilts are also used as prizes



Margaret and Kirsten Bade wore their Sunday best to the Women of RLC Fancy Tea Party, February 2023.



Marilyn Neer and Virginia Hammond laying out a quilt in the Annex.



Ruth Parker delivered piles of quilts to The Samaritan Inn in McKinney.

in the highly anticipated quilt bingo in January and select quilts are always for sale in the kitchen hallway.

Aside from quilts, the Cover Girls have also adopted other projects over the years including sewing curtains and valances for Mosaic homes, tiny layettes for Healing Matters, flannel Cuddle Dolls for NICU infants at Plano Presbyterian Hospital, and banners used in the sanctuary.



2009 Cover Girls. Back row: Holly Trester, Ruth Parker, Marilyn Neer, Sylvia Meyer, Pat Fisher, Carol Olson, Sharon Wall, Heather (Storer) Stevens, Jan Bunch, Sheri Storer. Front row: Doris Ford, Marie Fabricius, Dorothy Marquardt.

As if quilting weren't enough, the Cover Girls host a large Christmas sale every year. The sale, now held in several rooms in the annex, is open to the public for 4-5 weekends before Christmas. Although beautiful quilts are the main attraction, a variety of other handmade gifts are available for sale, most of which are made at home by Cover Girls. This sale is vital to the Cover Girls as \$2,500 is kept by the group for their expenses during the year. All net proceeds are donated to a variety of organizations, as determined by the Board of the Women of RLC. Over \$5,500 is distributed annually in January or February to organizations such as the Assistance Center of



The Christmas Sale moved to the Annex in 2020.

Collin County, Children's Advocacy Center of Collin County, City House, Clifton Lutheran Sunset Home, Collin County Interfaith, Hannah's House, Hope's Door, Hope's Cottage, Little Angel Project, Lutheran World Relief, Minnie's Food Pantry, Mosaic, Mount Olive Food Pantry, the Nelson Center, Project Linus, Romanian and Russian orphanages, and the Samaritan Inn.

Chili Cook-off & Quilt Bingo

One of the most anticipated events of the year began as a spin-off from the annual RLC campouts when a chili cook-off was held on the Saturday evening of the campout. Fourteen years ago, Marilyn Neer and Shauna Ollek concocted the idea to 'resurrect' the annual chili cook-off and combine it with a bingo night. The Women of RLC host the annual Chili Cook-off and Quilt Bingo night that normally takes place on the last Saturday in January.

In 2010 and 2011, chili was provided at the concession stand, but the competitive cook-offs took off in 2012. There are currently two categories of chili competition. Ten participants prepare their secret homemade chili recipe that is evaluated by a panel of judges based on a rating system. One chili is given the honor of Best Overall while another is deemed Most Unique. Ten additional chilis compete for the People's Choice award which is determined by the number of dried pinto beans voters place in the cups by their favorite chili. Aside from the fame and fortune given to these three winners, they also receive a high-quality apron made by the Cover Girls. Winners from the first chili cook-off in 2012 were Bert Jablinski for Best Judged chili, and Emma Duncan and Judy Severance won People's Choice.

Following the feast of chili with all the mandatory sides – hot dogs, Fritos, cornbread – a rowdy night of bingo games begins. Most winners receive quilts made by the Cover Girls while others go home with gift certificates, wine, or other prizes.

Although too much chili, fun bingo games, and friendly rivalry are expected from these events, the purpose is fundraising. The proceeds from the free-will donations for food, the bake sale, and sales of bingo cards are split between RLC's Share the Care ministry and the Youth Scholarship Fund. Over the past few years, the Cover Girls have netted between \$2,600-\$2,800.



Above: 2023; Below left: Diana Frank models her apron for winning the People's Choice Award in 2024; Below right: selection of judged chilis in 2024.



Puzzle Library

In the fall of 2022, the Women of RLC asked for and received permission from Council to start a Puzzle Library in the Education wing. Mark and Lynn Waterman cleaned, painted, and moved shelving. Nancy Parker asked for puzzle donations from the congregation. In seemingly no time at all, the shelves were filled with a selection of puzzles for all ages.

People slowly began to check out puzzles and more were added. There is a sign out sheet but the library functions mostly on the honor system. Some puzzles go out for a week or two, some are gone for months, but there always seems to be a new puzzle for every one that is checked out.

Beginning in December 2023, a shelf of themed puzzles was added near the church office and the children's puzzles were moved outside the nursery. The "themes" change periodically and have included Christmas, winter, larger pieces and spring with more to come. Circulation increased immediately as the puzzles were more visible.

In April 2024, the Puzzle Library expanded to include games for all ages. As with the puzzles, all the games come from donations from the congregation.

Women's Book Discussion

The women's book group meets every other month (February, April, June, August, October, December). There are typically 9-12 attendees. Books are chosen with an emphasis on strong female characters with input from all. They often choose authors who are presenting at the Dallas Museum of Arts' Arts & Letters Live program and attend these talks as a group.



Discussing The Women: A Novel in April 2024 were Leigh Webster, Sue Willette, Ellen Frost, Pam Feronti, Karen Oehler, Rita Fischer, Rita's friend, Judy Hoffmeister, Ginny Mallardi, and Kathy Barrett.

SHARE THE CARE

Emergency Financial Needs

General guidelines for a Share the Care monetary request include once a year help, a cap of \$500, and bill payment to be mailed directly to the company owed, along with a copy of the bill. And, very important, all requests are kept confidential. Upcoming Christmas needs will soon be a priority.

The Women of RLC, who donate part of the net proceeds from their annual Chili Cook-off and Quilt Bingo fundraiser, and members, who put donations in the Share the Care envelopes throughout the year, provide the money that enables Share the Care to give this kind of help. Share the Care has been blessed with many donations, making this fund solvent and able to meet further needs. In December holiday help will again be given to families in need of such support.

Memorial Receptions

One of the most compassionate committees at RLC is the Memorial Reception Team. When a church member passes away, this group will offer to host a reception following the funeral or memorial service if it is requested by the family. The committee coordinators will plan the menu based upon the pastor's conversations with the family. The coordinators will then reach out to their team members to determine volunteer availability and food donations. A second tier of regular contributors are contacted if more assistance or food is necessary. Set-up, clean-up, decorating, and food are all handled by the Team as a free service for the bereaved family. Leftover food and the roses used as table decorations are offered to the family.

Anne Dreyer took over from Ruth Parker before COVID as head of the team with Judy Hoffmeister as her assistant. Additional key team members are Barb Dromgoole, Leigh Webster, Katherine Bandy, Adrienne Poppe, Sharon Adams, Anita Allen, Gail Afseth, Van and Nancy Parker, Sue Willette, and Kathy Barrett. These volunteers have been a godsend to many families and, sadly, will assist many more as our congregation ages.

Prayer Chain

RLC has had a prayer chain since our mission church started in 1974. Several members have continued this ministry since it was started by charter member Betty Owen. The current prayer chain leader is Donna Mayfield, who volunteered after Darlene Hughes moved to Montana. Donna maintains a list of members who wish to receive the prayer requests based upon emails, phone calls, and in-person requests. When a request is received, Donna sends an email to those on the Prayer Chain email list, along with a beautifully written prayer, lifting up the person in need to a wider group to intercede with prayers for that person. Her information is also listed in the weekly Greensheet.

Share Ourselves (SOS)

This long-term meal ministry is now a part of Share the Care. SOS had four teams, with six volunteers on each team. Three meals were provided for each of two weeks. The teams worked well until the team captains were no longer able to manage the teams for a variety of reasons. They then tried Meal Train, but it seems that members are reluctant to sign up online. Currently, they are in the process of reorganizing the SOS teams. Although meals are not needed too often, when they are, it can be a great help.

Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry was founded in 1975 in St. Louis by Dr. Kenneth Haugk, pastor and clinical psychologist, and his wife, Joan, a nurse and clinical social worker. Today more than 13,000 congregations and other organizations have enrolled in Stephen Ministry. They represent more than 190 Christian denominations and come from all 50 states, 10 Canadian provinces, and 30 other countries.

In 1986, Resurrection Lutheran Church sent the first members to be trained as Stephen Leaders, and it is now the oldest Stephen Ministry in Texas. Since then, 23 RLC members have been trained as Stephen Leaders and 161 have been commissioned as Stephen Ministers

following their training. Many of these have since moved and carried on as Stephen Ministers in other congregations. Current Stephen Leaders are Kathy Barrett, Cheryl Janish, Judy Severance, and Kim Trigg.



Back row: Andy Petras, Kim Trigg, Kathleen Whitlau, Gayle Lind, Tony Janish, Kathy Barrett, Wendy Domingo. **Middle row:** Nancy Long, Adrienne Poppe, Sandy Schroeder, Judy Severance, Cheryl Janish. **Front row:** Beth Smith, JoAn Bachand, Marylou Boardman, Barbara Klier; 2024

Stephen Ministry is Christ-centered caregiving by trained lay persons. These persons make a two-year commitment of service, and the first six months include the 50 hours of formal training. They receive regular supervisory support by trained leaders and commit to attendance during scheduled continuing education classes and programs, as well as supervision. They are committed to helping their fellow RLC members or community members through crises by being a listening support. Stephen Ministers will continue to serve God and RLC as they are needed.

In 1998, RLC began the **ChristCare** Series, a program of Stephen Ministries to invite members to join small groups for community building and care, biblical equipping, prayer and worship, and missional service. Group leaders received 40 hours of training followed by supervision before leading small groups of 3-12 people. Small groups started meeting in fall 2000 under the leadership of Ardyce Wiemers (Amazing Grays), Mike Heffner (Ironmen), Carol Eggers (Saving Graces), and Craig Hildebrand (Feisty Faithfuls).

Transportation Team

A few members volunteer to bring other members who need rides to church or to doctor appointments or other places where members who no longer drive need to be. This team is a part of Share the Care, and more volunteers are needed.

WITNESS

WELCOMING

Greeters

Greeters serve an important function as not only the friendly faces we see when we first walk into the building on Sunday mornings but also the first impression of RLC to our visitors. When we held two Sunday services, Sharlene Snyder was a permanent fixture at the doors for the 8:30am service. She really liked shaking everyone's hand but might have loved the hugs more. Marylou Boardman currently schedules the 11 family units that expressed interest in being greeters on the Time and Talent Questionnaire.

Welcome Team

The primary mission of this team is to identify visitors, either by recognizing new faces or from completed visitor cards that are found in the welcome pads in the pews. The new visitor gets a RLC logo mug filled with candy. "You are mugged" was an outreach that, to name a few, Bert and Lois Jablinski did for years, delivering mugs to a visitor's home within 48 hours of their visit to Resurrection. We now have prepared mugs at church and mug them on the spot. Team members follow up with visitors to see if the folks are interested in joining RLC. If so, then the Welcome Team coordinates orientation classes and a luncheon with the pastor and Congregation Council, plus the very important cake served in their honor on the day they join our church. The Welcome Team is currently organized by Cathie Irons.

CARE TEAM

The Care Team was started when Pastor Ray Flachmeier was an RLC pastor. Team members do what they can to care for RLC members and visitors. The Witness liaison to Church Council is present at meetings to listen and take concerns back to the Council about members who need care and those who have not been at church for some time. The members of the Care Team make calls and send emails and cards to help discover their current situation. Team members help Council and Pastor maintain the membership rolls, noting current Active, Inactive, Homebound, At School, or Military status. Special birthdays of members celebrating their 85th, 90th, and beyond birthdays are recognized with cards and announcements in the Butterflyer.

Team members also contact all homebound members with calls, cards, visits, meals, etc. They send cards to those who are ill and sympathy cards to those who have lost loved ones. These cards and visits mean a great deal to these members and keep them from feeling forgotten.

Notes are taken at meetings, with copies sent to team members and at the next meeting each member reports back on what care has been given in the previous month.

The Care Team is a very dedicated group of several RLC members who care very much for all congregation members.



Care Team members in 2024: Larry Severance, Kathy Barrett, Judy Severance, Diana Frank, Ruth Parker, Becky Pruessner, Linda Morreale, Gloria Ray

COMMUNICATIONS

Communication: The practice of transmitting information (Oxford Dictionary)

Resurrection Lutheran Church is committed to communicating information to our members and friends, especially to those who are no longer able to attend Services in person.

Each week the **Good News** is emailed to members to inform them of what is happening at church during the week.

The **Greensheet** provides much of the same information found in the Good News and is included with bulletins, both printed copies and on the Worship Documents webpage. These are prepared by Misti Retan, office administrator.

The **Sunday Bulletin** is available online and in print. To reduce the costs of printing bulletins, paper copies are reserved for those that require them while everyone else is encouraged to read them online or utilize the screens in the sanctuary to follow the service. The bulletin is prepared by Jim Loeffler, Director of Worship and Music.

The monthly **Butterflier** newsletter is available online and paper copies are available in the narthex. Holly Trester prepared the Butterflier for seven years, and Rita Fischer has been producing the Butterflier since the June 2008 issue.

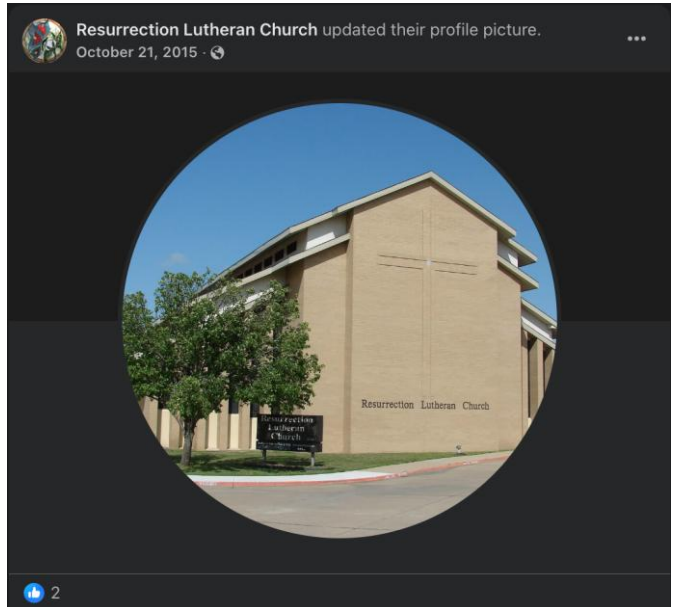


Every church needs a **website**, not just to keep members informed but especially important for church seekers. Before visitors step into a church building, they have done their online homework to get a feel for a congregation. Our online presence began in February 1998 with our first website at flash.net/~rlcplano. Our URL changed to rlc-elca.org and then moved to today's rlcplano.org. Past webmasters were Jack Luetge and Adam Schroeder, with several volunteers lending a hand. Pastor Bill created our current website in April 2020 and serves as webmaster. The School Supply Project (theschoolsupplyproject.org) and Women of RLC (womenofrlc.weebly.com) maintain their own, separate websites.

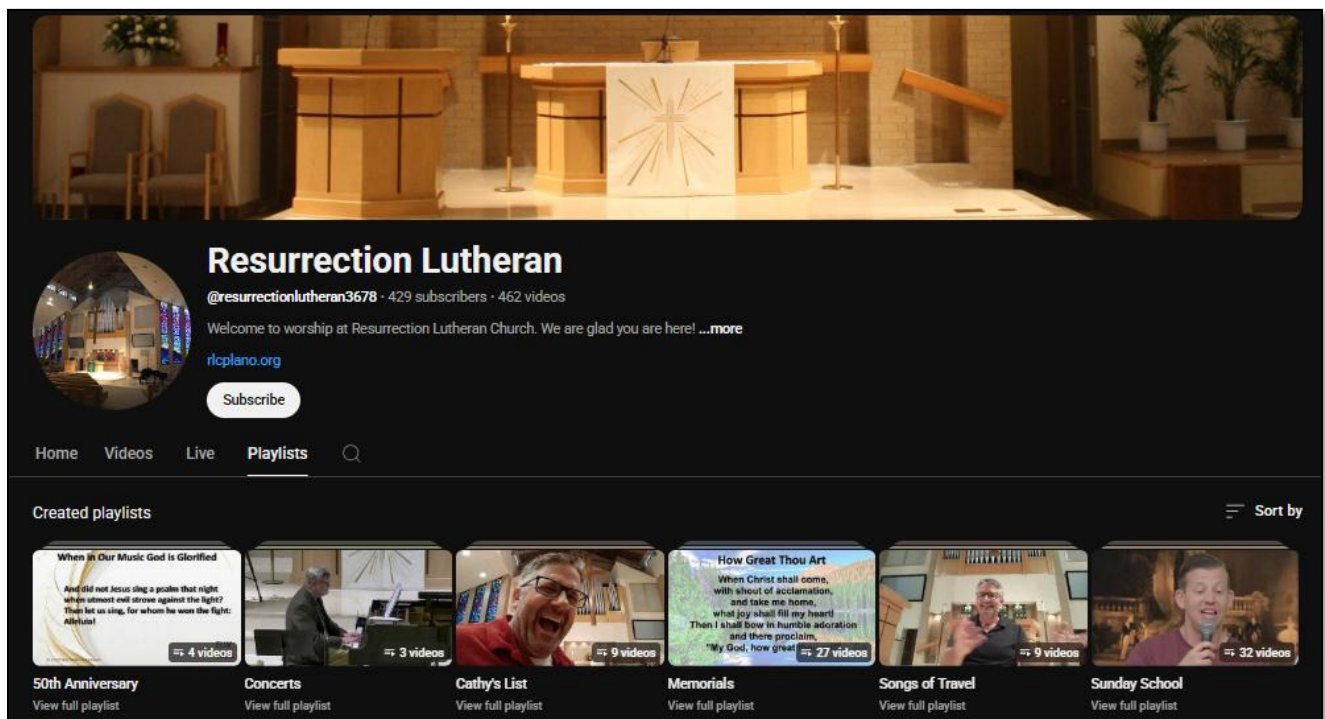
The first post on the RLC **Facebook** page (facebook.com/ResurrectionPlano) occurred on October 21, 2015. The Youth and Family Ministry started their page (facebook.com/ResurrectionLutheranPlanoFamily) on June 22, 2017 to highlight their special events and programs. Social media has been an important - and free - form of communication and outreach.



First Facebook posts for both church accounts.



Operating under the “easier to ask for forgiveness than get permission” theory, Ann Loeffler established our **YouTube** account (youtube.com/@resurrectionlutheran3678) during the first week of COVID when she started livestreaming Sunday services. Since March 2020, YouTube has evolved into an indispensable tool for our ministry, not only to broadcast our Sunday worship services but also educational videos, special events, and memorial services.



ANCILLARY MINISTRIES

THE ARK PRESCHOOL

The Ark Preschool was created in 1997 after combining The Learning Center and a Mother's Day Out program. As the preschool grew, classes from infant to five-year-olds were developed along with two-, three-, and five-day programs. In the spring of 2007 and 2008, galas were held with catered dinners and auctions. These galas earned a significant amount of money for the infant/toddler playground (area on west side of building that is currently a picnic area) and classroom equipment. In June 2011, The Ark Preschool received Full Accreditation from Evangelical Lutheran Education Association (ELEA) which made the school a fully accredited early childhood center.

But as the number of students decreased, The Ark Preschool posted on the Butterflier, "We wish to thank you for opening your doors to 22 years of serving God, the Church Body and the Community of the Preschool ministry."

The Ark Preschool closed in June 2019. Pat Fisher and Katy Grosshans were the last Resurrection members employed by The Ark. Later, Pat Fisher remarked, "The Ark was a loving learning environment for the little ones. It was a pleasure to be part of such a ministry."



Sheri Storer (left), Ark staff, and students were important to our annual Fall Festivals.

HANNAH'S HOUSE

Hannah's House provided a safe location for children to have contact with parents and other relatives they might not otherwise be able to maintain a relationship with due to custody litigation or other difficult family transitions. Hannah's House utilized rooms in the preschool wing several nights a week and weekends from early 2014 until May 1, 2020, when the leader of the organization, Bettye Stone, died unexpectedly.

SCOUTING

Scouting has always been an important part of Resurrection. Cub Scouts and Boy Scout Troop 1000 were a part of Resurrection before the building of the church occurred and continue to be chartered by the church. All scouting units have contributed service time and projects to Resurrection as a thank-you for use of the facilities and they appreciate that fact that they are allowed to meet here. Scouts are invited to attend and even participate in the worship service on Scout Sunday in February. Resurrection has also hosted several events for Chisholm Trail District; the Pinewood Derby, fund raising training, adult leader training, and the Faith and Law event.

RLC has been the beneficiary of numerous Eagle projects over the years. The picnic benches on the west side of the building, the wooden benches facing the parking lot, benches and planter boxes in the patio, the wooden planter around the Resurrection sign along Independence, and the gaga ball pit are examples of fixtures that have enhanced our space thanks to the scouting programs. They are currently discussing potential projects that will improve an interior meeting space.



Troop 1000 cleared the former playground and built picnic tables for William Caskey and Jackson Rabe's Eagle Scout projects in 2000.

Girl Scouts

- Over the years, numerous Girl Scout troops have considered RLC their home. Currently Daisy/Brownie Troop 5868 & Junior Troop 4774 meet on Sunday afternoons in the annex rooms 23-24.

Scouting America (Boy Scouts)

- Troop 1000 is chartered by RLC and started in the garage of an RLC member in 1970. Troop 1000 hosted many garage sales at RLC over the years. This unit of boys ages 11-18 meets on Monday nights in the Celebration Center.
- Troop 3000 was chartered by RLC in 2019 and meets on Monday nights in the chapel. It is a unit of girls ages 11-18.



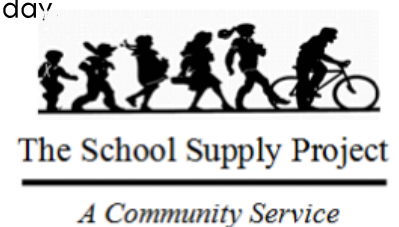
- Pack 1225 is chartered by RLC and meets on the first Wednesday night. They have den meetings for the various age groups at different locations. Their meetings include both girls and boys ages 5-10.
- Crew 1000 is chartered by RLC meets on the first and third Tuesdays. This co-ed unit of youth ages 14-21 decide what their activities will be.
- Pack 25 is chartered by Plano Early Lions Club but meets on the third Tuesday in the Celebration Center and den meetings in Sunday School rooms.
- Crew 1024 meets the second and fourth Friday of the month. Their focus is on technology and cyber security. They are chartered by North Texas Information Systems Security Association



Scout Sunday – February 4, 2024

SCHOOL SUPPLY PROJECT

Started in February 1986, the School Supply Project continues to this day. This project supplies backpacks with the needed items (pencils, erasers, markers, crayon, folders, notebooks, notebook paper, spiral notebooks, glue, scissors, etc.) that students need to start the school year. They supplied 35 backpacks in the first spring. Since then, they have supplied up to 2,000 backpacks a year depending on their financial ability.



The Putt for Pencils golf tournament that began in 1996 provided a boost of funds that allowed the School Supply Project to reach more grade levels as the beginning years only supplied backpacks to students in kindergarten and 1st grade. The final tournament was held in 2006, but a concert held in 2008 followed by many years of talent shows were major fundraisers to supplement donations received from numerous sources.

SSP works with referrals from schools and the Assistance Center of Collin County to distribute the backpacks. All of this is done by volunteers – including many members from the Young Men’s Service League – so there are no operating costs. Supplies are housed here at the church and people meet here to organize, pack, tag, and distribute the backpacks. This project will continue as long as there is a need and we appreciate the support given by the church.

One interesting advertising tactic was floated. The School Supply Project and RLC entered a float in the 2004 Plano Chamber of Commerce’s Independence Day Parade and distributed 1,500 brochures to publicize this important ministry. We even won the People’s Choice Award that year! (Ark Preschool won the honor in 2005.)



July 2019

"Congratulations to the School Supply Project Team who received the 2000 Volunteer of the Year Award in the Education Group category. This award was presented Thursday, April 13 during the 20th annual luncheon sponsored by the Volunteer Center of Collin County."

-May 2000 Butterfly

SERENITY AND ACCEPTANCE (SAA)

This Sex Addicts Anonymous group has been meeting several evenings a week in the annex since 2010.

SUPPORT

FACILITIES

First Saturday Maintenance

This volunteer church maintenance team had its first meeting the first Saturday of March 1998 to assist the Facility Manager, Dan Molinari, with minor maintenance items. The group was initially led by Jack Glendinning but coordinated by Carl Fischer for many years and eventually became the responsibility of the "Support" liaison on the Congregation Council.

This team works diligently to keep our church premises pristine. They do all things including replacing light bulbs, repairing plumbing, roof repair, replacing ceiling tile, electrical work, and more. Their hard work allows us to enjoy our church grounds in all their splendor, providing a serene environment for reflection and worship.

Landscaping

In 2023, a team began working with Dean Burton from Blue Fox Outdoor Living to develop a plan to revitalize our campus grounds with low-maintenance, drought-tolerant, pollinator-friendly landscaping. These planning services were paid with donations by members interested in transforming our tired landscaping with a more visually appealing look that encourages conservation and habitat for pollinators. In February 2024, a fundraising effort kicked off to raise the \$13,500 needed to transform three areas on the south side of the church building that are most visible to people who will be using and visiting our building. By July 2024, the funds were secured and these initial areas had been replaced with native plants. Once these plants have been established, the committee hopes that there will be enough interest – and donations – to transform even more of our grounds.

In 2018, the group "TeamTrimmer" was established to handle tree and shrub trimming chores at RLC. Tasks include trimming, sawing, and hauling brush to the Plano Transfer Station where it gets chipped into



How many Lutherans does it take to change a light bulb? Just John Hoffman and Carl Fischer in September 2020.



Native frogfruit replaced grass in some areas of the campus.

mulch, which is used by Plano residents. Work day attendance is voluntary and no records are kept, so consequently no gold stars have ever been awarded. Happily, workers keep coming. Have saw, will cut ... have truck, will haul.

Resurrecting Resurrection

With a post-COVID reopening date of May 23, 2021, Council decided that the time had come to spruce up our space. In April 2021, the “Resurrecting Resurrection” fundraising campaign was launched to raise \$75,000 for renovations around the building. It was decided that the first and most essential improvement before the reopening date was to remove the tattered carpeting in the narthex in exchange for durable stained concrete.

The congregation rose to the challenge and Resurrecting Resurrection was a successful campaign. Although we fell just a few thousand dollars short of our goal, we accomplished a long list of updates:

- Old carpeting and tile from the front doors through the kitchen hallway were replaced with stained concrete. The kitchen flooring was also changed to stained concrete.
- Termite damage was repaired, and new paint and carpet spruced up the Celebration Center.
- All tile floors in the Sunday School wing, library, choir room, and RYOT room were stripped, waxed, and sealed.
- Bathrooms in the Sunday School wing were repainted and cleaned.
- Stucco repairs were made on the outside of the building and the Ark mural on the outside wall was painted over.
- The nursery received a fresh coat of paint and new flooring.
- A new seating area was arranged outside the nursery, now referred to as the “Upper Living Room.”
- The main women’s restroom was reconfigured to add an additional handicap stall.
- Sturdier, armed chairs were purchased for the kitchen hallway.
- Rekeyed the building.



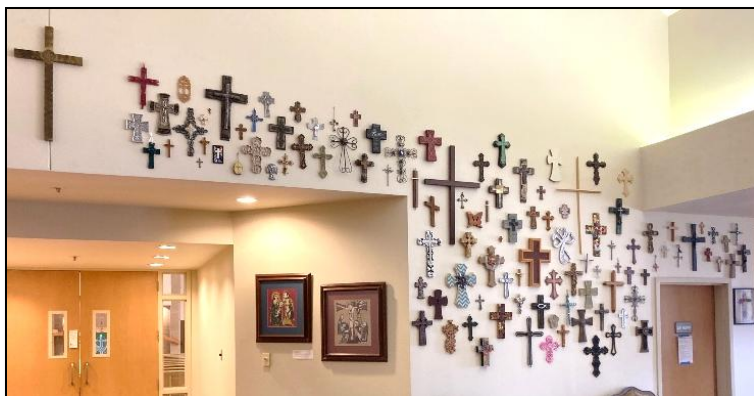
The upper living room is a popular Sunday morning hang out for the big kids.

“One evening, Bert Jablinski, Dan Lind, Marilyn Neer and Carol Goddard were in the girls’ bathroom with the door closed. When asked what they were doing, they replied (in unison) ‘STRIPPING.’ (Hopefully they were talking about the wallpaper.)”

- printed in the “Annex Renovation Anecdotes” in the September 2004 Butterfly

Cross Wall

Starting during the season of Lent in 2017, members were encouraged to donate a cross that held some sort of meaning to them. When enough had been collected throughout the year, the wall surrounding the center doors to the sanctuary was transformed into the Cross Wall and a visual reminder of what God has done for us and our community of believers. Folks have continued to bring special crosses from their travels or their families and we are pleased to add them to the cross wall.



Columbarium

A Columbarium Committee was formed in 2019 to determine if there was enough interest within the congregation to proceed with researching such a fixture. An informational meeting was held in May but there did not seem to be enough interest to continue.

Renewed interest in a columbarium started in mid-2023, with Nancy Parker researching designs and gauging interest from members. At an informational meeting, approximately a dozen people attended who were genuinely interested in this final resting place at RLC so Nancy and Pastor Bill embarked on more in-depth research into niche ideas, locations, and supporting documents related to commitments, costs, and policies.

Eventually a cost-effective unit in a favorable location was decided by early summer 2024. An outdoor location was preferred so visitors could come at their leisure, and a nook right outside the "Living Room" was deemed to be the best location. A cost-effective columbarium design was chosen from a company called Columbarium Niches in Wisconsin that got its start by manufacturing postal boxes. The 30-niche unit was purchased for \$8,450 and seven niches had already been reserved.



Columbarium installation crew: Rick Diamond, Van Parker, Kerry Bade, Bob Barrett, Kathy Barrett, John Hoffman, Jan Frum, Cathie Irons, Linda Morreale, and Pastor Bill.

The unit was delivered in late August and installed on Labor Day, September 2, 2024, by some of the future inhabitants.

FINANCES

Each year, starting in October, the treasurer (currently Jan Frum) discusses budget needs with the church staff and the council. Heads of ministries also have input. A budget for the next year is prepared, and the congregation is invited to a budget review in early December. The budget is then approved by a congregational vote at the annual meeting.

The treasurer works with a team of volunteers, each having a task such as paying bills, handling the payroll, recording contributions, and sending out quarterly statements to RLC members. There are also teams of counters who each month count the offerings and deposit the money at the bank.

Counters

Every Sunday morning after church, volunteers serve on a rotating monthly team to count the offerings collected during the past week. Offerings from the sanctuary and coffee hour donations are collected after the services are over. The offerings are then separated, balanced, and recorded before preparing the weekly deposit and then dropping the money into the nightly deposit at the bank after leaving the church.

Electronic giving started in fall 2007 through Thrivent's Simply Giving program which was administered by Vanco Payment Systems. Members were requesting more payment options similar to those offered by other churches, so online contributions and payments through Vanco was implemented in September 2015. Not only is this convenient for members, but makes the counters' jobs much easier. In 2024, RLC started accepting Zelle payments for a limited number of events.

Stewardship

Over the years, RLC has had several stewardship campaigns.

An ambitious stewardship campaign kicked off in August 2007. There were a number of capital improvement needs – like replacing several HVAC units, a common theme in RLC's history! – that the congregation wanted to address before the 35th anniversary in 2009. Additionally, there was a desire to establish a reserve fund for future non-budgeted capital emergencies. Two generous



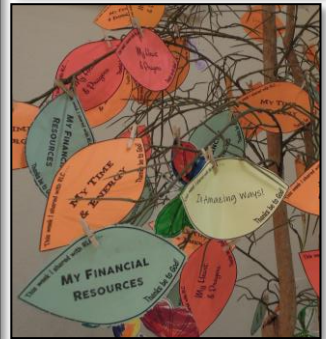
families agreed to match contributions up to \$100,000 to motivate the congregation to raise \$300,000 by December 31, 2007. This fundraiser and subsequent reserve fund was called **Affirming our Foundation** (AOF). For monumental contributions of \$500 or more, members could get an engraved brick in the patio. The AOF is still a vital fund with donations from individuals and monthly aluminum can contributions.

The **Faith in Action Team** (FIA) started in 2011 when the RLC stewardship team attended Synod Stewardship Academy over several months.

FIA transitioned into the **Growing in Faith Together** (GIFT) team in 2012. This team held congregational workshops on what stewardship was and began the year-long stewardship emphasis, rather than one at commitment Sunday. This team also had a summer Prayer Celebration for the whole congregation using a specific prayer resource.

In 2018, **THAT** (Tweaking Habits of Abounding Thanksgiving) reminded members that stewardship is a personal matter and that it is up to everyone to fulfill their personal commitments. As a result, we started the practice of shredding pledges. In 2019, THAT Giving Tree acknowledged that stewardship was more than just financial contributions. A variety of paper leaves were available in the narthex with different statements printed on them: This week I shared with RLC my financial resources, This week I shared with RLC my time and energy, This week I shared with RLC my heart and prayers, and This week I shared with the world in amazing ways. Members were invited to take one of the leaves that corresponded to the gifts given that week and place it in the offering plate that was then brought to the altar as a gift to God. The leaves were then hung on an artificial Ficus tree placed in the front of the sanctuary. During Lent the other Ficus tree sprouted new cherry blossoms each week as more of our volunteers were recognized for their gifts.

"Time and Talent" sheets continue to be collected annually and are sent to council ministry area liaisons to contact ministry heads with information about members who have volunteered for their ministries.



THAT Giving Tree (with shredded pledges) and volunteer cherry blossoms.

MAJOR EVENTS

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF RLC

A celebration of thirty years of RLC took place on Sunday, September 26, 2004. The day started with festive services at 8:30am and 11am with music, unveiling of a new “Celebrate” banner mostly created by Carol Goddard, and preaching by Pastor Tolzmann. Between services, the Sunday School kids enjoyed special treats while the adults had their own time of refreshments and reminiscing. That afternoon, all were invited to Bob Woodruff Park for a grand picnic and games for all ages.



35TH ANNIVERSARY OF RLC

A weekend of celebration was enjoyed for the 35th anniversary of RLC. On Saturday, September 26, 2009, a Dickey’s barbeque dinner was held at Plano Senior High, followed by a piano concert by Martin Morley in the sanctuary. On the following day, Pastor Tolzmann preached at both worship services with a reception between services to enjoy the company of old friends. Pastor Timothy and Henrietta Fong and the congregation of Lutheran Church of the Way provided the luncheon. The grand finale event was the Hymn Festival Service that evening that was based on the Creed that featured RLC’s music groups under the direction of Michael Hawn, Professor of Church Music and Director of the Master of Sacred Music Program at the Perkins School of Theology at SMU, with SMU professor, Dr. Christopher Anderson, on organ and piano.



Rev. Charles Zang (former interim pastor) with Pastors Todd and Jaime Bruning, Arlyn Tolzmann, and Ray Flachmeier.

A jubilant night of reminiscing kicked off the 35th anniversary weekend at Plano Senior High.



40TH ANNIVERSARY OF RLC

The kick-off to our 40th year started with “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday on September 7, 2014 to emphasize our service in the community. Later in the month, the anniversary weekend featured a meal catered by Dickey’s held at Weatherford Elementary School – right where we started in 1974. Afterwards all were invited to RLC for the “30 Fingers, 10 Toes...40 Years” concert featuring Alan Dyer, Martin Morley, and our brand-new Director of Music and Worship, Jim Loeffler. The free-will offering supported the soon-to-be-installed pipe organ. The Sunday worship service on September 28 featured Pastor Tolzmann preaching. Following the service, a birthday party with cake, ice cream, and carnival games provided current and former members of all ages the occasion to celebrate RLC and the friendships formed for 40 years.

500TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REFORMATION

Resurrection’s celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation lasted for the entirety of 2017 and beyond. Beth Smith largely took on the task of writing weekly bulletin notes, “Reformation Reflections” articles in the Butterflier, and dreamed up and planned our Reformation Walk event.

Lunch n’ Luther Reformation Walk was held on September 24, 2017, to celebrate our Lutheran heritage. Following a simple lunch, people were invited to walk 6-8 stations to explore the culture of the time of the Reformation and take photos. They also showed Rick Steves’ travel documentary, “Luther and the Reformation” in the Celebration Center.

“Flat Stanley” was a project based on a children’s book series about a boy who was squished by a bulletin board and was mailed around the world to experience adventures and learn about other people. Schoolchildren around the world were invited to color their Flat Stanley and send him to friends or relatives in faraway places where the host family would journal Stanley’s stay and send pictures of Stanley engaging in activities.

During summer 2018, RLC applied this idea to Flat Martin Luther. Members were encouraged to decorate their Luther cutout, take him on their summer adventures, and share their images of Luther traveling the world with the church office. These images of Flat Martin Luther’s exciting life were added to a page on the RLC website and displayed in the PowerPoint shown before worship.



Martin and Katarine Luther (Beth & Terry Smith) were guests at the Reformation celebrations.



Erin go Bragh! Martin celebrated in Ireland.

COVID-19 AND ITS TRANSFORMATION OF CHURCH

The Congregation Council held its monthly meeting on March 12, 2020. A global pandemic, COVID-19, was spreading quickly and churches everywhere were trying to determine the best course of action for their congregations. Pastor Bill provided Council with a document from the Bishop and information from County Judge Chris Hill about precautions to use when meeting in person. Council discussed these recommendations and developed a plan to safely meet in person on Sunday, March 15, focusing on social distancing in the Sanctuary and removing any contact with others. By the following day, the CDC called for no gatherings over 10 people. We pivoted to our first virtual worship service on March 22, 2020, with no indication how long we would be apart or how much the life of the church would be forever altered as a result.

During summer 2020, Council developed levels of reopening protocols that largely restricted direct contact, eliminating items and practices that could spread disease, face mask use, and other recommendations provided by the CDC. Each phase could be implemented after certain thresholds were met related to hospitalization rates, number of new cases per week, and county-wide positivity rates. Phase 1, which would allow in-person worship, could be implemented only after the Metroplex had experienced a 14-day decline in hospitalizations. We were able to resume in-person worship on May 23, 2021.

Thanks to her experience with different platforms for remote learning for her students, Ann Loeffler started our YouTube channel. Thanks to our techie pastor, worship was livestreaming on YouTube with visual and sound quality gradually improving as staff became more comfortable with the new way to do church. Pastor and Cathie Irons and Jim and Ann Loeffler were the only people in the sanctuary on Sundays and responsible for providing online worship every week. Surprisingly, we even gained new members who found us online and liked what we had to offer. Worship, memorial services, and special occasions are still livestreamed and available for viewing 24/7 on our YouTube channel.

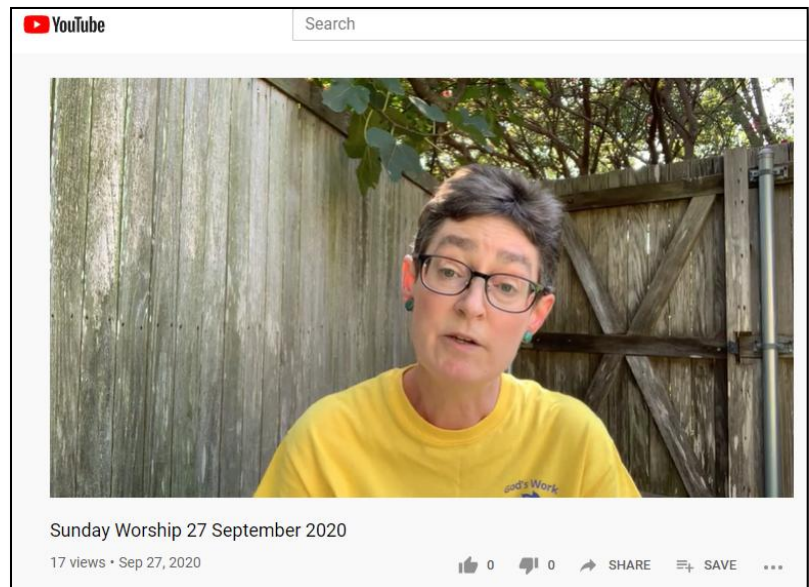


Prior to COVID, we held two worship services, the “classic” traditional service at 8:30am and the “New Spirit” contemporary service at 11am. When we transitioned to on-line worship, the service was livestreamed only at 10am. Once we could meet in person, we continued the single 10am service to accommodate those who wanted to worship remotely. Over two years since re-opening, we still hold just one 10am service on Sundays, alternating between the traditional and contemporary formats.

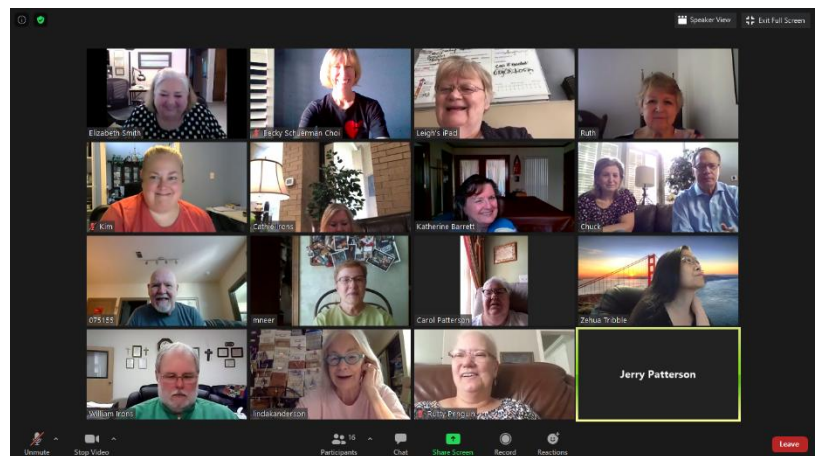
Within weeks, worship assistants were able to participate in services. They would film themselves during the week so the video could be shown during the readings and Prayers of the People. This practice is still used on occasion, particularly to enable Richard Jablinski to participate while residing in Ecuador.

A “Worship Documents” webpage was added to the website with the week’s lessons, Assisting Minister’s prayers, bulletin, and Greensheet. The switch was made from paper to PDF and this practice continues today for environmental and financial savings. When we gathered again for in-person worship, a limited number of printed bulletins were available as a precaution against spreading disease. With worship documents available online and use of the two large screens in the front of the sanctuary for displaying the portions of the service requiring congregational participation, the need for bulletins was greatly diminished. Presently, bulletins are available to congregants with low vision and visitors.

When in-person gatherings were virtually prohibited, Zoom became the online meeting place for business, school, social activities, and certainly church. To provide connection with one another, members could meet up after worship to catch up with each other as a replacement for Sunday morning fellowship. Sunday School, RYOT, bible studies, staff meetings, Council meetings, even Guys’ Night Out all met via Zoom. Online meetings were so popular with Council that they did not resume in-person meetings until 2024. RLC still maintains a Zoom account so groups have the option to meet remotely or out-of-town members can still join meetings.



Molla Knudson reading the lessons from her back yard.



Sunday morning fellowship via Zoom after worship

Acolytes were not allowed in the Sanctuary nor needed during our period of online worship. We have not utilized acolytes post-COVID primarily because of the limited number of youth in the Confirmation program.

Passing the offering plate wasn't possible during virtual services and when in-person services resumed, the practice was discouraged to diminish the spread of the virus. As a result, online giving was highly encouraged. Offering plates are still passed down the rows during worship but the number of offering envelopes is minimal. Now, electronic payment is common not only for offering but as an option to pay for all services and goods offered at church. In 2024, we began collecting via Zelle which has been popular with younger generations.

During the pandemic, our church staff was able to work from home, church phone calls were forwarded to personal numbers, and RLC was able to fully function. Currently staff have hybrid work schedules with limited time in the office.

Musical ensembles couldn't meet for rehearsals so Jim was responsible for all music during worship but also had some extra time on his hands. Ann's classroom experience, again, came in handy as she taught Jim about video production and how to upload them for the world to see. So, to keep him busy and yuck it up for the camera, Jim recorded a series of videos containing mini piano and organ concerts as well as educational material about composers, hymns, and even a behind the scenes look at our organ pipes. Ensembles reconvened for rehearsals starting in September 2021.



After three months of virtual services and with no end to the pandemic in sight, we utilized the parking lot for drive-in communion beginning on June 28, 2020, so we could again share in the Lord's Supper. Cars were lined up in their "pews" facing west. Radios were tuned to FM 102.5 to hear Pastor Bill – who was perched atop a step stool in front of the congregation – offer a brief Service of the Word including prayer, scripture, and Eucharistic liturgy. Then the "ushers" (traffic control) would guide cars into a line that would take them to Pastor Bill and Assisting Ministers stationed near the doors of church who would give communion while everyone remained in their vehicles. This service was offered on the last Sunday of each month until the final service on April 30, 2023.



Pastor Bill and Amy Gebrian serve communion to Bob & Joann Duncan; September 27, 2020

In-person communion also changed post-COVID. Prior to the pandemic, communion would take place in groups around the altar. To minimize proximity to others, post-pandemic communion required communicants to maintain social distance while approaching the Pastor distributing bread in the center aisle, then moving to the side aisles to receive a cup of wine/juice from an Assisting Minister. We continue this practice today and many are relieved that common cup has now been eliminated.

Care Team reached out to all members through phone calls and/or email to check in and see if there were any needs. This small group of volunteers were vital for preserving our community during a time of disconnect.

Betsy Boyd and Ann Loeffler were constantly trying out new ways to engage our families and youth. Students were attending school online, so it was natural for them to do all aspects of church virtually. Initially, Sunday School lessons were emailed to families and online storytimes were held in the summer. Eventually, Betsy set up filming studios in classrooms so teachers could record their Sunday School lessons that would go live on Sunday mornings.



Sunday School 11 15 2020

Marylou Boardman and friends taught Sunday School lessons in weekly videos.

VBS 2020 was a true challenge that proved successful. Activity boxes were sent to homes with all the supplies needed to participate in the fun of VBS. A video would premier at 6pm each day, June 8-10, that included stories, crafts, science, games, songs, and special guests. Our creative VBS team provided entertainment to 30 children via YouTube. VBS 2021 was again held in person but with more emphasis on outdoor activities.

Ann conducted Facebook Live chats for RYOT's Coffee Talk and RALLY Sunday School and organized Zoom group activities including Scattergories, bingo, art projects, baking, and home scavenger hunts.



Brantley & Mya Rhead watched VBS videos from home.

Due to the circumstances, the annual Christmas Program in 2020 was more inclusive. Individuals and families were asked to film portions of the story or special music – either at home or in a virtually empty sanctuary – that was produced into a video shown in place of the sermon on December 20. It was an intergenerational effort and we discovered some hidden talents!

COVID-19 completely upended what had been “normal” in the church, but forced us to reevaluate our practices and make subsequent modifications that make more sense in the world we now live

in. Participation and volunteerism have been challenges not unique to Resurrection but to all organizations in the post-pandemic era. But the core of RLC has not changed and we continue to be a welcoming community ready to serve God and one another.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF RLC



Logo designed by Sarah Frum, daughter-in-law of Jan & Dale Frum.

In June 2023, a committee came together to begin preparations for our 50th anniversary celebration on September 28-29, 2024. The team worked diligently to contact former staff and members, fundraise, develop communications for all channels, develop menus, plan decorations, and deal with hundreds of other details necessary for a meaningful and fun 50th.

The 50th anniversary planning committee members were Sallie Diamond, Rita Fischer (Secretary), Bill Fisher, Jan Frum (Chair), Craig Hildebrand, Barbara Klier, Gayle Lind, Adrienne Poppe, Adam Schroeder, Becky Schuerman Choi, Beth Smith, and Sue Willette.

The Celebration

Due to scheduling conflicts, former music director, Dr. Shelbie Simmons, was not available during the anniversary weekend. We were thrilled when she agreed to kick off our celebration early by participating in worship on September 8. Members had the opportunity to catch up with her at the post-worship potluck and “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday service projects.

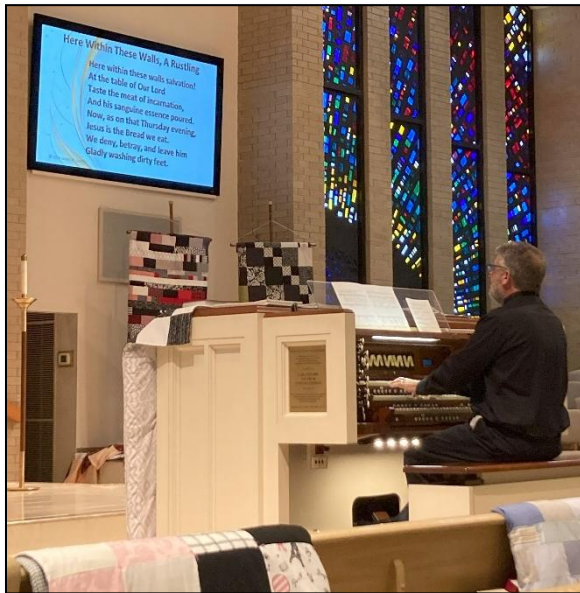
Our first big event of our anniversary weekend was a very special concert at 4pm on Saturday, September 28, arranged by Jim Loeffler with assistance and performances from past music directors, Martin Morley and Alan Dyer. Commissions of new music thanks to donations from music-loving members were performed for the first time:

- “For Joy my Heart is Ringing” by Jason Krug for Sounds of Joy handbells
- “Come, O Blessed of My Father” by Debra Scroggins for Chancel Choir
- “Partia on Engelberg” by Wayne L. Wold for organ



Shelbie Simmons shared her talents during the prelude, postlude, and offering on September 8, 2024.

Jim also wrote "What Does the Lord Require" for the New Spirit Band and the hymn, Here Within these Walls, a Rustling." The evening also included performances by RLC members, Katherine Tribble who sang "Mein Gläubiges Herze" and Ellen Frost who played a piano duet with Jim.



Jim Loeffler and Martin Morley joined other musicians and ensembles for a Celebration Concert on September 28.

Guests who purchased advanced tickets were then treated to a banquet in the Celebration Center catered by Little Rome and enjoyed a time to catch up with old friends. We had an abundance of food remaining so we gifted our tasty leftovers to City House, Jim Riley Outreach, and Fire Stations 2 and 12.



Our grand celebration occurred on Sunday, September 29, starting with worship at 10am that featured our commissioned music; participation by Pastors Walter Klockers, Scott Zimmerer, Darrel Gilbertson, Bill Irons; and the sermon by Arlyn Tolzmann. Pastor Todd Bruning and family also joined us for the weekend. Our charter members in attendance were recognized and “Happy Birthday” was sung to charter member, Carol Olson, just as it was done 50 years ago.

Following worship, all gathered in the Celebration Center for an Open House and reminiscing with friends, both old and new.



Pastors in attendance on September 29, 2024: Walter Klockers, Darrel Gilbertson, Scott Zimmerer, Bill Irons, Todd Bruning, Arlyn Tolzmann



Charter members who joined us at worship on September 29:

Back row: Catherine Olson, Matthew Tolzmann, Nathan Tolzmann; **Front row:** George Pawkett, Carol Olson, Ellen Pawkett, Julie Pawkett Acosta, Jeanne Tolzmann, Rev. Arlyn Tolzmann, June Potts, Larry Potts.

Sylvia Glendinning was in attendance Saturday evening.

Fundraising

Flights and hotels for VIPs, decorations, food and drink, rental fees, and a variety of miscellaneous expenses are required to host a grand celebration. With that in mind, fundraising started early and continued through the celebration weekend.

- A used book sale during a weekend in September 2023 raised over \$1,300. Sorting the books was a “God’s work. Our hands.” project earlier that month.
- “Sweets for Your Sweetie” homemade cookie sale on the Sunday before Valentine’s Day sold out and earned \$800.
- Years ago, the preschool sold vouchers for Cristina Garden Centers so we stole the idea. The \$20 vouchers could be used to purchase flats of select flowers; \$10 for each redeemed voucher would be given to Cristina’s. As of publication, Cristina’s has not asked for reimbursement so we still have \$1,680 as a result of these sales.
- Custom pewter ornaments featuring our 50th anniversary logo were sold for \$10 each and will be available for purchase until all 200 are sold out. A generous RLC member donated the funds for their manufacture.
- Red t-shirts also featuring our 50th anniversary logo were sold during the month of August and were delivered in mid-September. A few extra t-shirts were available for purchase during the anniversary weekend.
- The “Aluminati” is a group of members who promote aluminum can recycling as a church fundraiser. Between the months of November 2023 and September 2024, RLC members donated 970 pounds of aluminum cans plus miscellaneous metals to earn \$783.27 for the anniversary fund.
- Individuals could also donate to the anniversary fund online.



Service

“Serve -- Actively Care for our Neighbors” is one of RLC’s guiding principles and an important characteristic of our congregation from the very beginning. To celebrate our 50 years, the committee coordinated (almost) monthly service projects to give back to our community and provided an opportunity for our members to learn more about the important work accomplished by some nonprofit organizations. Projects were organized on weekdays, weekends, mornings, evenings, at-home projects, and Sunday mornings to encourage participation from a variety of members. Participants have gained valuable insight into what really happens with donations, some have completed additional volunteer hours with these organizations, and others are coordinating service hours with non-RLC groups to help these organizations. RLC members working as a team for good has been a real blessing for us!

- January/February – To tie into RYOT’s annual “Souper Bowl of Caring, the congregation was encouraged to donate nonperishable food for Minnie’s Food Pantry during the month of January through Super Bowl Sunday. Coloring page-type placemats were available to take home or complete during coffee hour. Minnie’s packs their food boxes with placemats for families to enjoy. For a behind-the-scenes look, RLC members helped sort, pack, and distribute food at Minnie’s on a Thursday and Saturday morning in January.



Minnie’s Food Pantry founder, Dr. Cheryl Jackson, visited Judy Hoffmeister and Sue Willette as they sorted donations; January 25, 2024

- March – Our largest project occurred on an evening during Spring Break when 41 members met at Feed My Starving Children in Richardson to pack MannaPacks for shipment to Burkina Faso.



Feed My Starving Children; March 11, 2024

- April – In honor of Earth Month, both service and education were provided in April. To show our love for our neighborhood, a crew picked up litter before worship on the RLC grounds, surrounding roadways, Weatherford Elementary, Evans Park, and the vacant CVS property down the street. Later that week, interested members visited the Republic Services recycling center to learn and see recycling at work.
- May – A last-minute project involved helping the fledgling Weatherford Elementary PTA during Teacher Appreciation Week. Members had the opportunity to donate drinks, snacks, and gift cards to spoil teachers for the week, and several members spent a morning helping during lunch hour and recess to give teachers a little break.
- June – The June activity actually started in May when members were invited to donate items needed to make personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. During the first day of VBS in June, the campers helped assemble 160 kits that will be sent with our quilts in November. The noisy offering during worship on June 9 benefitted the shipping fund so LWR has the ability to get donations to people around the world who need them.

- July – The food drive during GWOH 2023 benefitted Lovepacs, so a team assembled at their Plano space on a Saturday morning help them out. The morning started with decorating the donation boxes so recipients are excited and proud of their gifts. (This exercise led to a GWOH 2024 project!) We then finished packing food boxes to be distributed at PISD’s Back to School Night on August 1.
- August – The last official 50th anniversary service project happened at Trusted World in Garland. Although we thought we would be sorting through mounds of donated textiles, our team wound up in an air-conditioned room decorating cards of encouragement that are included with all donations from Trusted World.



Trusted World founder, Michael Garrett, met with our volunteers.

From June through September, RLC would hold Second Sunday Social potlucks after worship. This year, potluckers were encouraged to “Cook the Books” – make dishes published in one of our three church cookbooks and recipes were posted on a wall.

Proclamation

RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH 50TH ANNIVERSARY

WHEREAS, Resurrection Lutheran Church of Plano held their first worship service at Christie Elementary School on Palm Sunday in 1974 with 168 present. Groundbreaking for the church building was September 26, 1976; and

WHEREAS, early members recall dirt roads and a cotton patch to tell of the location of the first church building, hence the butterfly or symbol of Christ's Resurrection and the cotton boll symbolized in the letterhead and newsletter banner. At one point in its history, Resurrection was the fastest growing mission in the Lutheran Church of America; and

WHEREAS, Resurrection would have several more groundbreaking ceremonies before finally moving into its current facility in July of 1993. The current sanctuary seats 550-625 and the chapel seats 75-90; and

WHEREAS, a variety of ministries have been established over the years including Stephen Ministry, Christ Care, Youth and Adult Choirs, Handbell Choirs, a variety of Bible Study Groups and Fellowship activities, Prayer Ministry, Prime Timers (for Senior Citizens), Singles Dinner Group, Boy Scouts, Women of the ELCA (WELCA), Blood Drives, Social Ministry activities (Oaks Indian Mission, Christmas Gift Project, Mission Partners, School Supply Project, etc.), Basketball and Softball and Youth Groups; and

WHEREAS, Resurrection continues its rich history of service to the community and has a goal of changing lives to reflect the life of Christ. Our Resurrection Lutheran Church Charter encourages us to participate in ministry in the following ways: LEARN, SERVE, WITNESS, and WORSHIP;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JOHN B. MUNS, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF PLANO, TEXAS, do proclaim **Sunday, September 29, 2024 as Resurrection Lutheran Church Day**, and I do thereby encourage all citizens to join me and the Plano City Council in offering congratulations on its 50th Anniversary.




Office of the Mayor





IN LOVING MEMORY



ADAM JOHN SCHROEDER

★ July 23, 1985

† October 27, 2024

"Adam was known for his kindness and generosity to help others. As a member of Resurrection Lutheran Church, he devoted his time to serving his community and supporting the church's mission. His selflessness and compassion were evident in all he did. He leaves behind a legacy of love, service, and faith."





Resurrection Lutheran Church

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RLCPlano.org