



Surrounded by Easter

PASTOR JEFF BROWNING

This Issue

Surrounded by Easter

Pastor Browning lists many ways Easter defines every facet of our existence.....1

Notes & News

President Laura Bauer muses on the closing of so many churches2

Would You Believe?

Diana Auer offers direction for where to look when you feel lost or in doubt2

Media Spotlight

Kimberly Murphy previews upcoming fantasy comedy film3

Paws of War: The Sequel

Carolyn Orlik invites all to the Spring Plant Sale and help war veterans.....3

Soles4Souls Project

Ellen Farber thanks all who contributed to this year's shoe drive.....4

Building Blocks

Celebrating Easter.....4

Ministry for our Haitian Brothers and Sisters in Brooklyn

Sharon Meyer shares report from St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Canaersie.....5

Youth & Family Ministry

Calling All Youth!.....6

LCMS-AD: Part 3

Ellen Farber reports on the recent Festival of Workshops.....7

Daily Bread

Vicar Peter shows the easy, simple truth in this profound Bible passage.....8

As I write this month's *Lamplighter* article, I find myself in the middle of Holy Week. The preparations for the Easter celebration are in high gear. I look out my office window, and I see the tomb display, ready to be guarded by a pair of volunteers, dressed as Roman soldiers.

I hear the steady noise of our copy machine, as literally thousands of pages of worship folders and inserts are printed for the various services to be held this week. The sound of printing is intermittently overwhelmed by the far more beautiful sounds of our church organ and piano as Mr. Dettling and Mr. Meyn prepare to lead the music for all of our services, to their typical high standards. I notice several unopened boxes in the church lobby, which I am told contain 6,000 eggs for the egg hunt.

We have what is easily the most aromatic gym in the world as a large section of the space is housing the lilies and flowers that will soon be transferred into the church for the big day. It's undeniable. Easter has surrounded us.

But by the time you all read this, Easter Sunday will have come and gone. We will have to wait more than a year before we celebrate another Easter Sunday.* In the coming days and weeks, the decorations will come down. Leftover service folders will go to the recycle bin. The beautiful lilies will start to wilt before ultimately being removed from the church. Sundays

at the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection will be much less crowded and, in all honesty, will seem somewhat more mundane. It's undeniable. A lot of us are really going to miss Easter.

But we remember that Easter is more than a day, a week, or a season. Jesus' tomb remains empty today, tomorrow, and forever. Jesus is risen and he is living, making the resurrection an ongoing, perpetual reality. As we read in Romans 6:9,

We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him.

Come to any service, any weekend of the year, and we will be proclaiming Easter, receiving and sharing the Good News of Jesus' resurrection. We will hear again that Jesus died on the cross to pay the price for this world's sin and He rose from the dead, conquering death forever. We celebrate God's unconditional forgiveness and everlasting life, secured for us by our risen Savior. We will receive His divine gifts in the bread and wine of Communion, the true body and blood of Jesus himself. We will eat and drink Christ, knowing that our present and our future is defined by His resurrection.

We will watch as God creates new children through the waters of baptism, uniting them to His death and resurrection. We will remember that we too have been baptized. We too have been forever marked with His salvation.

Please turn to page 2



Message from the President

LAURA BAUER

I recently enjoyed a five- day trip to London with my daughter Leslie. We had a great time seeing sights, shopping, walking, and eating. We tried two restaurants Stanley Tucci visited in his series, Searching for Italy. One, Mercato Mayfair, is a food hall featuring Italian food in the deconsecrated St. Mark's church. It was crowded with people of all ages jostling for seating and food. While I scouted a place to sit, Leslie waited for freshly made pasta.

After successfully landing two seats at a packed table, I looked around. The pews had been replaced by dining tables. A German craft brewery occupied part of the altar area. Plants were sold in the former narthex. The beautiful stained glass windows remained, as well as ornate woodwork.

I wondered whether the church had ever been as full as it was that night. Were people ever as eager to hear the word of God as they now were to have individually made pizzas and German beer? What happened to the congregation—did they endure a long period of decline? Was it wrong to re-purpose a church this way, even though it was no longer a place of worship?

I know many churches have declined and shut their doors, including some dear to us. I know other churches have been repurposed in incongruent ways, like the Limelight nightclub in Manhattan. I don't have answers to my musings, but I felt a little sad eating my pasta with a bamboo fork in a place where people once worshipped.

I am grateful that Resurrection continues to work hard to be a place of worship where people are welcomed, where we serve others, and yes, where we sometimes eat! The best meal that we share every week is Holy Communion – a meal that reminds us of Christ's sacrifice and our common bond. Thanks be to God!

Would You Believe?

On the evening of the Resurrection, the disciples were hiding. They had seen Jesus arrested and crucified, and they were scared that they were next. While they were gathered together, Jesus appeared before them. They were all amazed to see Him! Jesus said, "Peace be with you" and showed them His hands and His side, and breathed the Holy Spirit upon them- a truly unbelievable moment. But someone was missing ... Thomas.

We're not sure where Thomas was, or why he was missing, but he wasn't with the disciples that night. Yet, once Thomas came back, the disciples told Thomas this amazing news, that Jesus is alive! But Thomas didn't believe them, he doubted what they were saying. Thomas basically said, "I'll believe it when I see it."


Thomas, in my opinion, had a very human reaction to truly unbelievable news, yet now Thomas is defined throughout the rest of history, for doubting, for needing to be reassured. Personally, I think it's important to note that the "evidence" that Thomas was looking for was *exactly* what the other disciples received: Jesus showed them His hands and His side. Thomas only asked to see the same "proof" that the other disciples saw. Yet either way, the story continues. Jesus comes back.

Jesus came back and showed Thomas exactly what Thomas needed to see. Jesus could have left Thomas to doubt, but He

came back. And when Jesus came back, He didn't come back and scold Thomas. He didn't come back and say "oh ye of little faith" like when the disciples were out on the boat in the storm. The very first words He spoke to Thomas were, "Peace be with you..." Jesus came back and brought peace to Thomas' doubting heart.

And that is exactly what Jesus does for us. Jesus doesn't leave us to drown in doubt and sin. Jesus doesn't turn away from us when we struggle with our faith. Jesus doesn't scold us when we stray from Him. Jesus shows up, each and every time, with His peace, His love and His forgiveness. Jesus shows up and offers up His life and salvation.

Sometimes our doubts may feel insurmountable, or like they may define us, but Jesus corrects us, and shows us that nothing is too big, too terrible, or too unforgiveable for His love. Jesus showed us all the evidence that we need when He willingly laid down His life for us on the cross.

So let go of your mistakes. Let go of any shame or guilt or heartache that you carry around. Let go of the labels that you think define you, because Jesus has replaced them all with one of His own: forgiven. 



Diana Auer
is Director of Youth & Family Ministry. She loves to sing, bake and spend time with her husband, Matt and their miniature schnauzer, Ollie.

Surrounded by Easter

Continued from page 1

As we read in Galatians 3:27,

... all of you who were baptized into Christ Jesus, have clothed yourselves in Christ.

In other words, we are literally wearing Christ every single day. His Easter victory defines every facet of our existence, into eternity.

There's only one conclusion. It truly is undeniable. Easter surrounds us at all times, in all places, no matter what. Whether it's this month, this summer or next winter the truth is the same: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia! Happy Easter!

***Next Easter is April 20, 2025.** 

Paws of War: The Sequel



IF
Sunday Night Productions
May 24, 2024

What IF everything you believed as a kid was real? That’s the question that starts the trailer for the new family movie, *IF*, which premieres in movie theaters next month.

IF is about Bea, a young girl who goes through a difficult experience, but afterward finds that she has the power to see everyone’s imaginary friends. Most of these IFs (Imaginary Friends) have been left behind as the kids who they belonged to have now grown up.

Bea’s adult neighbor, the Man Upstairs, also finds that he has the power to see the IFs too. After making this discovery, the pair take off on a magical adventure to start to re-connect the forgotten IFs with their real-life friends.

Ryan Reynolds stars as the Man Upstairs, and up and coming actress Cailey Fleming is Bea.

The movie was written and directed by John Krasinski, and includes the voices of Steve Carell, Emily Blunt, Matt Damon, Maya Rudolph, John Stewart, and Sebastian Maniscalco.

Coming to movie theaters May 17, *IF* looks like it will be a big hit as the school year starts to wind down. Grab the popcorn and bring your own Imaginary Friend to see *IF*; at least their ticket will be free!

Review by Kimberly Murphy

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ss2KvK-w6w8>



Paws of War veterans and volunteers, with some of the Paws of War therapy dogs, will be on hand at Resurrection’s May 4 Plant Sale.

April is a time of renewal, transformation, and beauty, signifying the end of winter and the beginning of warmer, brighter days. For the Women’s Ministry’s Plant Sale Committee, it also means last-minute preparations for the Spring Plant Sale on Saturday, May 4.

Pre-order forms have been available since Easter weekend. These forms are your best opportunity for the largest selection of plants. You will see new colors of begonias and sun patiens, and a new item called a butterfly animated wind spinner for additional garden interest.

All proceeds will once again be donated to Paws of War. Thanks to the generosity of people who made purchases and donations, \$6,000 was raised from last year’s plant sale and donated to Paws of War. Based in Nescon-

set, this national organization rescues, trains, and places shelter dogs to provide service and companionship to veterans.

Come to the public Plant Sale on May 4 to meet and support some of their veteran volunteers accompanied by their service or therapy dogs. If unable to attend, we urge you to return your order form before the April 7 deadline.

“Keep planting seeds. You never know what may take root.”
Ecclesiastes 11:6

As always, volunteers are needed to help with the plants’ delivery on Friday, May 3, and on the day of the sale. Please contact the church office or sign the volunteer list located in the church narthex if you’re willing to support this worthy cause with your time. 🏠



Carolyn Orlik
 Enjoys sharing her love of music (worship team), photography and writing (publicity), and gardening (Women’s Ministries Plant Sale)

Celebrating Easter

JULIET ACQUAVITO , Lead Teacher, 3-Year-Olds

We are so happy to be celebrating Easter in the Green Group! The children have learned that it is the day Jesus rose from the dead. We emphasize how it showed God’s love for us and we can celebrate new life.



The three-year-olds re-enact a Palm Parade.

Our favorite project to do is decorating a cross. The children spend a lot of time working their fine motor skills crumpling tiny squares of colorful tissue paper. Once that task is finished, it is time to start gluing the papers on the cross. It takes three full days to complete, but the children work hard and are very proud of their final result.



One of the favorite Easter projects: Cross Art

We also make an Easter Bunny out of their handprint, as well as create Easter eggs with cardstock, shaving cream, and paint. The children sing “Jesus loves me” every day, and we include Easter books as part of our reading time.

Our final day before Easter break, we have a party and an egg hunt in our playground.

This is a joyous time of year to celebrate with our eager-to-learn and loving three-year-olds.

Soles4Soles Project Collects 50 Bags of Shoes

THANK YOU!

Resurrection and friends have done it again! We collected approximately 50 bags of shoes—that translates to over 800 pairs of footwear (some singles, too).

Thank you, on behalf of the Northport Rotary and the Anita and Bill Thomas Soles4Souls Rotary Shoe Drive for all your donations.

A huge thanks goes out to the volunteers who helped sort, bag and deliver everything to the East Northport storage unit .

You, our members, our pre-school, your friends, and neighbors are making a huge difference for many people!



Happy shoe mover: Marian Farber



Ellen Farber
Serves as a Deacon at Resurrection.

Ministry for our Haitian Brothers and Sisters in Brooklyn

SHARON MEYER

Resurrection has long supported St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Brooklyn. One of their ministries serves a French-speaking population pastored by Pastor Cenat.

On the day of Pentecost last year, May 28 A.D. 2023, members and friends of the French-speaking Congregation of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canarsie gathered for a joyful 10th anniversary celebration. Ten years earlier, this little congregation began with just three members: Pastor Jean Gardy Cenat, his wife, Martine, and Brother Jean Thomas.

The building was packed for the 10-year anniversary, as we celebrated the wonderful growth which has occurred by God's grace. Throughout the years, we have enjoyed many good times, and we have also gone through some hardships, difficulties, and trials. However, we rejoice that, through it all, the Lord has sustained us by the means of grace. He always keeps us in faith by His Word, encouraging and comforting our hearts to stand firm in the midst of those hardships while holding onto His promises.

Along the way, we have been thankful for the growth of our community spiritually and numerically, as we have witnessed two families joining our congre-



Members of the French-speaking Congregation of St. Matthew Evangelical Lutheran Church.

gation of dozens of families. The Lord has entrusted us to lead His people and by His guidance we have been empowered to extend the Gospel of Hope in the Canarsie area and beyond.

We have also assisted members in different ways, as they seek to integrate themselves into life in our city. This help was often made possible through the support that the community has received from Sister congregations in our Circuit and our District.

The recent political and social crises in Haiti follow the physical destruction caused by the catastrophic earthquake of 2010. We were eyewitnesses to that event and assisted personally in relief efforts in Haiti following the earthquake.

Many people have migrated to the United States of America, and there is a

great need to help them physically and spiritually when they settle in Brooklyn. It is a heartbreaking situation to witness, and many of the immigrants have endured unimaginable suffering. However, we remain convinced that the Lord in His sovereignty has a plan and that He is in control.

Thus far, we have planned to continue the ministry of preaching, teaching and evangelizing for any Haitians with whom we come into contact in Brooklyn, Queens, or Long Island. As we are able, we will also assist them in the process of integrating into the business and educational systems here. Outreach activities and programs with children and family members have been implemented in the community with the goal of extending the Gospel of Hope for the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 🏠

Calling All Youth!

Beginning earlier this year, we started offering a wonderful, new opportunity for our middle and high school students. We are thrilled to welcome our youth to serve as lay readers, ushers, greeters, Communion assistants and acolytes, once a month, at our 9:45am service!

This is a great way for our youth to get more involved in our worship services and to serve alongside their fellow classmates. It is our hope that this opportunity allows our youth to become more integrally involved in the services at Resurrection and develop a fuller, more intimate understanding of worship life at their church.

As was mentioned a few weeks ago during Pastor's sermon, during worship, Jesus is the one serving us. We receive His forgiveness, His grace, His body and blood and the promise of everlasting life. As such, we respond, in gratitude, with prayers and praises to His name.

The introduction to our hymnal speaks to the privilege and honor it is to be part of a worship service. It states:

“Our Lord speaks, and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise.... The rhythm of our worship is from Him to us, and then from us back to Him. He gifts His gifts, and together we receive and extol them.”



Thanks be to God for our youth worship volunteers!


We are grateful to be able to extend this opportunity to our youth and introduce them to this privilege at an earlier age than had previously been offered.

The youth certainly responded positively to this new way of being involved in the service. Some of the words and phrases that our youth volunteers used to describe the experience were: “really cool,” “fun,” “special,” “a different perspective,” and “a cool way to be involved.” The congregation and staff certainly echo these sentiments!

It was so encouraging to see the next generation taking ownership of their church and stepping into roles that they had only previously seen filled by a more senior group of parishioners. We hope that this inclusion also communicates our dedication to our youth and shows how proud

and invested we are in these young people.

In addition to youth worship assistants, after a meaningful and moving musical performance the week before, the junior choir was asked to revive the piece and sing at the March youth service. The junior choir was grateful to be able to join their classmates at this worship service and were happy to be able to bring their gifts and talents to enhance the already important and festive service!

We look forward to our next youth service on Sunday, April 7, at 9:45am! If your middle or high school child is interested in participating in upcoming youth services, please email our Director of Christian Education, Michelle Kollmeier at Michelle.Kollmeier@resgc.org. 

EDITORIAL & CREATIVE

Ginny Raffa, Jenny Fort

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Pastor Jeff Browning, Laura Bauer
Ellen Farber, Kimberly Murphy
Carolyn Orlik, Diana Auer
Sharon Meyer, Juliet Acquavito
Vicar Peter Burch, Ginny Raffa

PHOTOGRAPHY

Juliet Acquavito, Diana Auer
Ellen Farber, Ginny Raffa, et. al.

MAILING VOLUNTEERS

Linda Wardley, Elizabeth Bezrutczyk
Rolf Lohse, Eileen Peers
Helen Smith

OFFICIAL ACTS

Weddings

Nicolette Lisa Vanella &
Michael Vladimir Cuomo 3/16/24



Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
420 Stewart Avenue
Garden City, NY 11530
516.746.4426
www.resgc.org | office@resgc.org
Preschool 516.741.6447

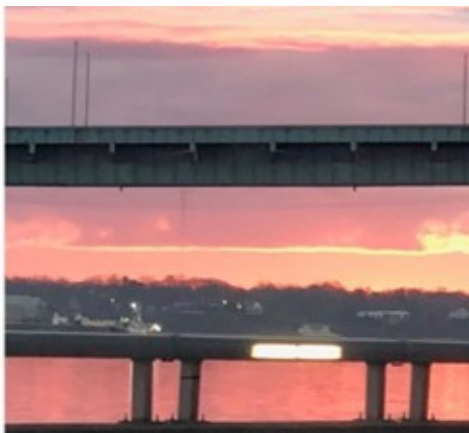
The views and opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily held by the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection. If you have questions or comments about any content, please contact Pastor Browning.



LCMS-AD, Part 3: Festival of Workshops

ELLEN FARBER

On March 16, 2024, the Atlantic District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod held its Festival of Workshops (FoW).




A brilliant sunrise signaled the start of a wonderful day.

As I drove onto the campus of SUNY Maritime College in The Bronx, a brilliant sunrise signified the start of a wonderful day. Although I started the day with the other volunteers to set up at 7 a.m., registration for the 280 attendees began at 8:30 a.m. Opening and closing devotions, message, and blessing were led by our Bishop/President, Reverend Dr. Dien Ashley Taylor.

Three workshop sessions are scheduled throughout the day with a lunch and exhibit break in between. With 34 different workshops to choose from, topics included theological, liturgical, community caring, stewardship, personal finances, hospitality, and “I was Elected Church Treasurer—Now What?”

Linda Wardley, RN (our Parish Nurse) and I joined forces to lead “Loss of a Loved One, Shared.” We shared about our bereavement group, here at Resurrection; how we began, and what it is that we do to continue this program for the last eight years.

There were approximately 20 people in our session. It turned out to be quite an emotional and rewarding session, as we shared the grief process with those who want to start a group and those who have had recent and extensive losses themselves.

The Festival of Workshops is held two years in a row, followed by a District Convention year. The next FoW will be in the spring of 2026. I encourage everyone to explore all that the Atlantic District has to offer. 

And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Acts 2:21

OPENING:

When I was a kid, there were these candy claw machines that said on them, “Every Play Wins.” I always loved those machines because I was not good at regular claw games. With those machines, it didn’t matter how bad I was, my 25 cents got me something.

In this verse, we hear God’s good news. Everyone who calls upon Christ’s name will be saved.

Much like those candy machines, there is no special skill needed, nor do you need to act perfectly; calling out to God is enough. God loves us all and wants us with him even if we don’t think we are worthy.

THINK:

God’s salvation is very simple, as stated in this verse. In what ways do we seem to overcomplicate it? And how can we work to return our mind-set to the simple salvation presented in the Bible?

PRAY:

Dear Lord Jesus, thank you for your wonderful forgiveness, a loving gift which I do not deserve. Please help me to call out to you for help in all that I do, Amen.

DO:

As you meditate on this verse ask yourself, how often do I call upon God in my day-to-day life? And could I be calling upon him more?

VICAR PETER BURCH

WORSHIP WITH US

COMING NEXT ISSUE

Sundays, Traditional Worship

In-Person — 8:30, 9:45 & 11am
Online — 9:45am

Saturdays, Contemporary Service

In-Person — 5:30pm

The next *Lamplighter* newsletter will be your June 2024 publication, with timely features on Resurrection’s ministries, as well as news of events and opportunities to encourage you on your faith journey.