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Irremovable Joy

As I am writing this monthly newsletter article, I find myself on the cusp of another Holy Week. The preparations for the annual observances are in high gear. The tomb display has been taken out of storage, soon to be guarded by a pair of volunteers, dressed as Roman soldiers. I hear the steady noise of our copy machine, as literally thousands and thousands of pages of fliers and worship folders are printed for the various services and events to be held this week. The sound of printing is intermittently overwhelmed by the far more beautiful sounds of our church organ as Ken Meyn prepares to lead the music for all of our services. I notice a large stack of unopened boxes in Michelle Kolmeier's office, which I am told contain 4000 eggs for the egg hunt. Emails and texts are flying back and forth regarding Easter decorations and flower deliveries. As always, Holy Week at Resurrection promises to be meaningful and moving.


Holy Week takes us through the sorrow of Christ's death and the joy of His resurrection. Jesus himself described the journey to His disciples hours before he would go to the cross, when he said, **"Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy."** The joy of resurrection is a joy unlike any other, a joy that can never be taken away from us.

The joy is so apparent and tangible on Easter Sunday, the most wonderful Sunday of the church year. We will gather in a church packed with people, with sights and sounds that reflect the preparations and efforts of so many people. Inevitably, the Sundays that follow Easter can feel like a bit of a let-

PASTOR JEFF BROWNING

down. The decorations will come down, leftover service folders will go to the recycle bin, the lilies will start to wilt before ultimately being removed from the church. Sundays at Resurrection will be much less crowded. It's undeniable. A lot of us miss that feeling of Easter Sunday.

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 rose from the dead, conquering death forever. We will receive the bread and wine of communion, the 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 been forever marked with his salvation. 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. There's only one conclusion. It's undeniable. Easter is all around. 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! 



Message from the President

LAURA BAUER

At the St. Patrick's Day dinner after Saturday services, not only did I have the chance to enjoy some delicious corned beef and cabbage and connect with people of Resurrection, I also found a childhood treat. Many tables had small green liquid containing vials with a stopper that was really a wand. Bubbles! I still love bubbles and when I buy some for children I often pick up some for myself.

After Lenten service I felt the vial in my pocket and decided to enjoy the sunshine and blow some bubbles. I stood at the top of the stairs where Pastor waits to greet people coming to worship. I pulled out the very tiny wand, not expecting much, but these were the best bubbles ever. With one dip, I was able to blow multiple times yielding a cascade of bubbles that rose high in the sky, some popping along the way, some landing in adjacent bushes.

This simple child's toy brought me much joy in the several minutes I sent the small iridescent spheres off into the breeze. Bubbles are not permanent, as we all know.

They come and go, often like the words we speak which can disappear after we speak them or they can linger in our hearts, or the hearts of those who hear them, like the memories of the bubbles. Words can be supportive or divisive and we should use them carefully, especially when almost every situation today seems to be polarizing. The Bible reminds us that words are a very valuable way to connect: "Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, Sweetness to the soul and health to the bones" (Proverbs 16:24). Jesus teaches us to love one another, and one way we can do that is with our pleasant and gracious words, sent to those who need to hear them.

Loss of a Loved One, Shared — Grief Support Group

Losing a loved one is one of life's most difficult experiences. After the funeral, flowers, cards, and calls stop coming and the people around you return to their normal lives. Your grief continues, and you often feel alone. We are here to help.

Resurrection's Care Ministry has a special support group to assist those who have lost a spouse, child, family member, or friend—"Loss of a Loved One, Shared."

The group meets one Saturday per month. The sessions are facilitated by Deacon Ellen Farber and Parish Nurse, Linda Wardley. We use materials prepared by a Christian organization called Griefshare.

At each session, time is spent in prayer, watching a video and being part of a discussion group. Members of the group can choose to participate in the discussion or just listen if they desire.

Each attendee receives a Survival Guide filled with daily encouragement that can be used at home to supplement our sessions.

Each session is "self-contained." You will find encouragement and help at every session. Sessions do not need to be attended in order.

Our members are caring, helpful people, and they support one another in many ways. They offer advice, pray, and even tell a joke or two to make things easier. We would love to welcome you to our group.

If you have any questions or would like to sign up, please contact Ellen (ellen@resgc.org) or Linda (linda@resgc.org).



Linda Wardley
is Resurrection's Parish Nurse
and Minister of Christian Care.

Volunteer at Resurrection

Share God's love, Get involved,
Bring Resurrection Hope to Life!

Get involved —April/March 2026.

Readers, Communion Assistants, and Ushers -

Readers, Communion Assistants, and Ushers are needed for our Holy Week & Easter Worship services. Contact Michelle.Kollmeier@resgc.org.

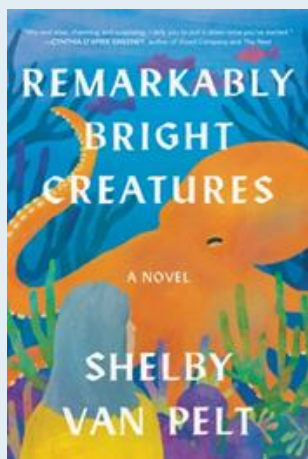
Roman Guards

Roman Guards are needed to guard the tomb on Good Friday and Easter Saturday. Michelle.Kollmeier@resgc.org.

Spring Plant Sale

Volunteers are needed to help with the Spring Plant Sale, Sat., May 2. Contact Deacon Ellen Farber, Ellen@resgc.org.

All Volunteers, contact Michelle.Kollmeier@resgc.org



Remarkably Bright Creatures
by Shelby Van Pelt
Ecco Press 2022

Last year, my book club read *Remarkably Bright Creatures*. It was one of those books that was highly anticipated by the group. Yet, I'll admit, I never got to read it.

Ever since that book club meeting, the girls have sent messages regularly about the book's protagonist, the octopus. They were so enamored by this character that they even agreed to give up eating octopus. I must say, all this commotion about the octopus has intrigued me, but I still haven't had the time to pick up the book. Luckily for me, Netflix is releasing the movie next month.

Remarkably Bright Creatures is the story of a lonely widow, Tova, who works in a local aquarium. In addition to the recent death of her husband, she is still struggling with grief from the long-ago mysterious death of her son. While working at the aquarium, she develops an unlikely friendship with Marcellus, an intelligent octopus. It is Marcellus who realizes he can help Tova understand the truth of what happened to her son.

Sounds very "fishy," right? But my friends loved it, and I'm genuinely curious. So, before the movie is released, I'm diving into this book.

Remarkably Bright Creatures was a debut novel written by Shelby Van Pelt that spent 64 weeks on the New York Times Best Sellers list. The movie has a star-studded cast featuring Sally Field, Lewis Pullman, and Alfred Molina as Marcellus. Whether you read the book or wait for the movie, it is sure to be a moving story you will enjoy.

Review by Kimberly Murphy

Men's Ministry Breakfast

JOHN KINGSTON



(left) Men's Breakfast begins with live music by "Melted Ed and Cousin Dan."
(right) Men get updates on various programs at Resurrection.

The Men's Ministry always looks forward to the annual visit in March by Pastor Browning.

Besides his attendance, we also are in a groove now with the sounds of Melted Ed and Cousin Dan, featuring Resurrection member Dan McCarthy. As they have for a few years now, this duo --who you can see at local restaurants like Prost--entertain us before the main event of Pastor Browning filling us in on how the church is doing.

Once again, Ed and Dan did not disappoint, serenading us not just with their own songs but with the sounds of great bands from the past like Rockpile and The Blasters.

This meeting with Pastor Browning gives the attendees to get an update on the church that most members don't ever get. Got a question about the

church? Just ask him. The March meeting is a great opportunity to get that done.

Among the topics he presented were discussions regarding the church adding to its real estate holdings, how universal pre-K is impacting the church school, changes in the church's staff and the news that a regular attendee of Men's Ministry, Jeff Carstens, is going to be the next treasurer.

The Men's Ministry usually meets the first Saturday of the month (though the April meeting is April 11, the second Saturday). It has two overriding goals: to discuss how Christianity plays a part in how we live our daily lives, and to build the ties of fellowship. Oh, yeah, and to eat breakfast.

Please join us. 

HE IS RISEN
CELEBRATE EASTER!
at Resurrection
Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday, April 4
10:00am
Easter Worship
Sunday, April 5
8:00, 9:30, & 11:15am
Saturday, April 4
5:30pm



RESURRECTION
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**EASTER
EGG-STRAVAGANZA**
Sat. April 4, 10am

Perfect for families with small children!
Begin in the sanctuary for Easter message, then outside Easter Egg Hunt.
Please bring a bag or basket.

Many Ways to Give, One Purpose: God's Glory

At Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, generosity is at the heart of who we are. As a community rooted in faith for nearly 80 years, our shared giving makes possible everything that happens here and beyond—from our preschool and youth programs to our food ministry and adult education. There are more ways than ever to participate in that mission.

The **Sunday Offering** remains a beautiful, time-honored act of worship. Whether you are giving by check or cash, your envelope in the plate is a tangible expression of gratitude to God.

Online Giving makes faithful generosity easy and consistent. Through our secure online portal at resgc.org, you can make a one-time gift or set up automatic recurring contributions—so your support continues even when life gets busy or travel takes you away. Did you know the “Items of Interest” insert in the weekly service bulletin includes a text number and QR code for convenient giving? You can also download the Vanco app and give on the go, one-time or recurring. If you give online, a laminated card is available in the pews; place it in the offering tray as the tray passes during the service.

Donor Advised Funds (DAFs) offer a flexible and tax-efficient way to give. If you have a DAF through Fidelity Charitable, Schwab Charitable, or another sponsoring organization, you can recommend a grant directly to Lutheran Church of the Resurrec-

tion—a simple and impactful option for strategic givers.

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) are an excellent option for members age 70½ or older. A QCD allows you to transfer funds directly from your IRA to the church, satisfying your required minimum distribution while excluding the amount from taxable income.

Gifts of Stock or Securities provide another tax-wise approach, potentially allowing you to avoid capital gains tax while making a meaningful contribution to our mission.

Planned Giving and Bequests let you leave a lasting legacy for future generations of Resurrection members—a gift that extends your faith far beyond your lifetime.

Gifts of Time and Talent matter deeply, too. Volunteering in our ministries, sharing your professional skills, or simply showing up to serve is stewardship in action.

Whatever your stage of life, there is a place for your generosity here. We encourage you to speak with your professional advisor to determine which giving method best fits your situation. Questions? Contact the church office at office@resgc.org or call (516) 746-4426.

Together, we give thanks—and we give back.

Respectfully,
Jeff Carstens
Stewardship Chair

BUILDING BLOCKS

Stories & News from Resurrection Preschool

Spring Adventures with Preschoolers

KATHY JENDRAS, Three's Teacher

Spring is the perfect season to get preschoolers outside especially after a long, cold winter. For little ones, spending time outdoors can help foster a love of nature. A simple walk can turn into an adventure or learning experience.



Students in the red group enjoy time outside with their friends.

Spring is all about new beginnings and a great time to introduce children to planting. For preschoolers, it's best to make the activity simple. Use small pots or a patch of soil. Let children dig, plant seeds and water their plants. Fast-growing flowers, herbs or vegetables give kids a sense of accomplishment as they watch their plants grow.

Another great activity in spring is to take nature walks. Your child can collect leaves, flowers or rocks. They can be saved for an arts and crafts project (painting rocks, leaf rubs). A scavenger hunt can also be a fun way for children to learn about nature and notice the world around them. Easter activities are always fun! Egg hunts are an exciting way to explore a park or even your backyard. Use brightly colored plastic eggs filled with small treats or stickers and hide them in easy-to-find spots.

Getting outside in spring is more than just fun, it's an opportunity for learning, creativity and building memories. Even simple activities like planting seeds or playing at the park help preschoolers connect with the world around them.

Ringin' Out the Good News

An English carol from the 1600s proclaims that “all the bells on earth shall ring” on Christmas Day. Happily, Resurrection has bells not only on Christmas, but on Reformation, Easter and other occasions.

Even more happily, the Resurrection Handbell Choir is 21 years old this year!

Resurrection’s Handbell Choir started with a set of bells Pastor Bill Harmon borrowed from another church in order to gauge the interest and viability of a handbell choir at Resurrection.

The church’s own set of bells were purchased the following year using funds donated by members of the congregation. Inside the handle of each handbell is an inscription honoring loved ones.

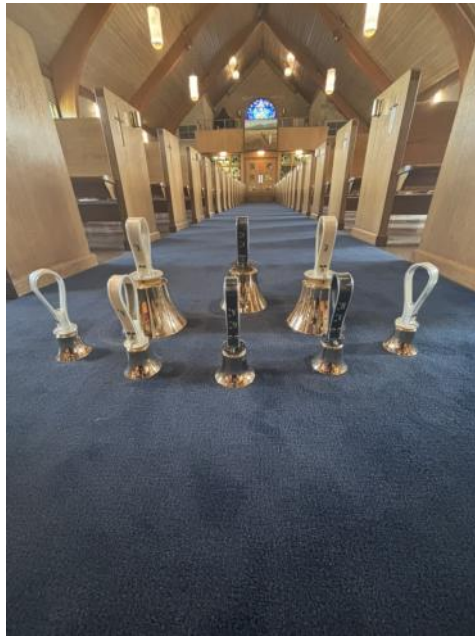
There are three octaves of handbells, 37 individual bells, manufactured by Malmark Bellcraftsmen of Plumsteadville, Pennsylvania. Eleven people are required to play this many bells.



At the end of each ringing season, members of the choir join together for a "Polish Pizza Party", a gathering which includes pizza and polishing and shining the bells.

The metal in the bells is bronze, consisting of 80% copper and 20% tin. Ringers wear gloves in order to protect the metal from the natural oils found on human skin.

Kenneth Meyn, Director of Music pro



Resurrection's Handbell Choir is celebrating its 21st anniversary this year. There are 38 bells in all: a three-octave set (37 bells) and one additional bell.

tem, has led the Handbell Choir since its beginning. “It is one of my favorite things.

Our ringers are wonderful, dedicated people who show up every Tuesday to rehearse. It has been a very happy and rewarding 21 years.”

“I try to keep things light and good-humored. I tell the ringers that, if you’re not having fun, it’s just too much work!”

Ringer Armia Bajit says, “I love the music that we play and knowing that each of us can create something together that adds to our worship and praises God.”

“Making music with friends creates bonding and strengthens friendships,” says ringer Carolyn Orlik. “Plus, we have fun, thanks to a director who makes it enjoyable and who tolerates our shenanigans.”

Linda Wardley adds, “I enjoy the chal-

lenge of developing a new talent.”

Eileen Peers shares that “The most I like about playing handbells is the joy of making music and the fellowship.”

There is music and there is fun, but there are challenges, too.

One of these challenges, says Armia, is “switching bells or turning the music.”

Linda agrees. “I find it most difficult to turn pages while playing.”

“Another difficult part,” says Carolyn, “is having to play three worship services on Easter Sunday. It’s a marathon requiring concentration and stamina.

What do the people in the congregation think?

Members have described how “the music was wonderful and how it added to the worship service,” said Armia.


Linda adds, “People have told me that our playing enhances the worship service.”

“The congregation always praises our performances” said Eileen, and that helps if things have not gone perfectly.

Carolyn remarks that “I think church members realize not every church has the luxury of a handbell choir, and they’re very appreciative of our efforts.”

“Others plainly say how much they love it,” shares Armia. “The best for me is when little children want to come up after service to try a bell.”

Armia adds, “I love that we can encourage future ringers.”⁶

Current handbell ringers are Armia Bajit, Anastasia Browning, Lorraine Kuzniar, Sarah McElroy, Carolyn Orlik, Eileen Peers, Lorrie Pisciotta, Karen Schoenfeld, Tara Talmadge, Carol Triebe and Linda Wardley. 

God's Love Alive in Us:

First Communion - A Family Journey at Resurrection

There's nothing like a snapshot that captures the very best moments of the big occasions in our lives. One of the photos featured in this article is of one of our First Communion students this spring, taken on the day of their baptism. I love this image because it captures such an amazing moment in this family's life. In many ways, it represents the experience of so many families here at Resurrection. Gathered around the font, their child receives the greatest gift that can be given, the gift of faith in Christ!

Over the years, I've been blessed to witness many baptisms at Resurrection. What always surprises me is how quickly the years pass. A baptism that feels like it happened just a year or two ago was actually nine or ten years ago. Suddenly, the baby who was once held at the font is standing in front of me, bright and excited, ready to begin First Communion class!



The Powers family at the baptism of their youngest daughter, Madelyn, currently a First Communion student.

Sometimes that passage of time even leads to a laugh. Children grow so quickly that every now and then I mistake one of our young people, even before First Communion begins in 4th grade, for a Confir-



First Communion Class of 2024 — now 6th Grade Confirmation Class!

mation student during worship and start to offer them Communion, only to catch myself and realize, "Oops... not quite yet!" We share a laugh together, but it's a wonderful reminder of how these children are growing.

This year, especially, when several of our First Communion families walked in on the night of their first class, I couldn't help but jump for joy with the word "finally!" bursting out of my mouth. After so often mistaking them for older students, I suppose their parents might be just as thrilled that Miss Michelle might finally get it right!

Each spring, our First Communion students gather on Wednesday evenings to learn about one of God's greatest gifts. Pastor Browning teaches with great enthusiasm what Communion is, why Jesus

gave it to us, and how it strengthens us in faith. The students come with curiosity, great questions, and genuine excitement. It's always a joy to watch them discover that in Communion, Jesus is truly present for us, with forgiveness, life, and salvation!

First Communion is such a special moment because it is another step in the journey that began at baptism. The promises spoken over them at the font continue to unfold as they grow. One day, the child who was held in loving arms at the baptismal font walks forward on their own to receive the Lord's Supper.



2026 First Communion Class

So many wonderful families have made this journey—from baptism to First Communion and eventually to Confirmation—right here at Resurrection—my own family included. It is a beautiful reminder that God's love is truly alive in us, guiding our children as they grow in faith together.



Michelle Kollmeier
Director of Christian Education

Women's Ministry to Hold 18th Spring Plant Sale

CAROLYN ORLIK

Who doesn't want to "get their gardening on" after all the cold and snow we've had?

Resist the temptation to run out to your local nursery or Home Depot, and wait until our spring plant sale when your purchases will not only embellish your property, but will also help improve the lives of veterans.

Borella Nursery will once again provide us with the finest annuals, hanging baskets,



Volunteers of all ages can help. Here, Matthew Kumpel waters plants.

perennials, ornamental grasses, herbs, vegetables, and tropical plants just in time for Mother's Day and your spring planting.

The recipient of 100% of raised


funds will be Paws of War, an organization dedicated to placing and training shelter and support dogs to serve and provide independence to our military veterans and first responders. This is our fourth year working with Paws of War, an organization that has expanded their mission to include helping veterans find housing, providing free veterinary care to their service dogs, helping in national disasters such as the California fires, and



A great group of eager volunteers help produce a generous donation to Paws of War

bringing home animals our servicemen and women have adopted while serving overseas.

You will be able to support this mission by placing an order using a pre-order form that will be available at church in late March and on the Resurrection website, or by making a donation. Pre-order forms are due by Sunday, April 12.

Throughout the Bible, gardening is a rich metaphor for growth, nurturing, and the cultivation of both earth and soul. In Matthew 13:3-8 Jesus's parable of the sower illustrates the different responses to God's word. It teaches us the importance of cultivating our hearts like good soil, ready to receive the seed of God's Word and produce a fruitful harvest. Our work continues. 


Out and About with the People of Resurrection

KEN MEYN

Alyssa Cherson will play the French Horn in performances of "Man of La Mancha" with the Rockaway Theater Company beginning April 2. Location is Fort Tilden, Breezy Point, NY. Information: rockawaytheatrecompany.org/2026-season

Young Adult Fellowship, a social group for people "just out of high school to 35-ish," will go bowling, Sun., April 19, 6pm at Garden City Lanes. Information, email

Abby at elizabeth.bez@resgc.org

Chang Guan plays cello with The SymphonyChorus, which performed at Resurrection on Feb. 7. Future concerts include appearances on May 3 at the Naumburg Bandshell in Central Park, and May 30-31 concerts at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Manhattan. Information: thesymphonychorus.com/concerts. 

EDITORIAL & CREATIVE

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(None this month)



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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.

Though you have not seen him, you love him.

1 Peter 1:8

OPENING

My immediate reaction to this month's verse was – we need the Holy Spirit's help to understand how this can happen.

THINK

As a child, I was taught that children were to be seen—not heard. We didn't question anyone in authority. In Sunday School, God's Word was never open for discussion. As we mature, our human intellect must be satisfied by endless research, testing, and discus-

sion. We question more and want to SEE proof. Many times, that never resolves the issue. Things may have been “proven” with facts and scientific methods, but do we always believe that proof? Whatever happened to blind faith?

DO

Now consider the Holy Spirit. Have you ever been moved by the Holy Spirit to do something? One time I decided to not attend church on Sunday; yet when Sunday came, something nagged at me—GET TO

CHURCH. Guess what? The sermon was just what I needed to hear and act upon. Did I see the Holy Spirit? No. Do I believe in the Holy Spirit? Yes.

PRAY

Lord, we ask for a childlike faith in response to the gift of grace that You have given us through Your Son, Jesus Christ. May we live godly lives in service to our fellowman. Amen.

MARIAN FARBER

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

Our next newsletter will be the June edition, bringing feature articles and highlights of ministry and people of Resurrection—to inform, inspire and bless you.