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Summer Mode

PASTOR JEFF BROWNING

As I have probably mentioned on numerous occasions over the years, I am a huge fan of the summertime.

I love being outside in the warm weather, longer days, picnics, the school break, impromptu trips to the beach, vacations, and pretty much everything about the season. Ideally, summer provides some opportunities to rest, recharge, and regroup.

Planning for the summer is something of an annual ritual in our household. Every spring, most every evening, we brainstorm.

We list all the places we want to go, all the events we want to attend, all the goals we hope to accomplish, and all the people we want to see. We look at the calendar, trying to figure out what might work. We plan long overdue reunions and get-togethers with friends. Anything seems possible at the beginning of summer, and we often plan accordingly. But every year it seems, so many of our plans never come to pass.

Like so many, my family often struggles with a tendency to overschedule. The calendar fills up very quickly. There are very few actual free days. As many parents know, summertime commitments for school-aged children are increasingly comparable to the rest of the year.

There are soccer camps, band camps, math enrichment camps, social events, and all sorts of unexpected, can't miss activities, all of which require parental transportation.

Beyond that of course, work still needs to happen. We still have doctors' appointments, car appointments, and a variety of other necessary errands that we scheduled for these months, because in our minds we were more available these months.

The activity that seemed like a fun idea back in the spring becomes a source of stress, just another box to check on that long list of things we have to do.

In reality, apart from the weather, summer is not much different from the rest of the year.

Summer for so many of us is busy, stressful, and often overscheduled. Resting, relaxing, and recharging cast aside because in all the planning and our ongoing efforts to try and keep up with everyone and everything else. in all the hustle and bustle, it was never put on the schedule.

God provides us with much-needed guidance. At various points in His time on this earth, as recorded in the Gospels, Jesus took a break, to rest and recharge.

Please turn to page 2



Message from the President

LAURA BAUER

For those who were unable to attend the Annual Meeting in early June, here is a recap:

The budget for FY25/26 was unanimously approved as were the proposals for the Living Endowment Fund: Life for Ukraine (\$6,000); Soup to Nuts Kitchen (\$3,960); and An Family Mission (\$3,050).

Some changes were made over last year in our Missions Budget to bring back The Atlantic District and add the New Life Pantry (LSSNY) in Franklin Square, which is facing reduced government funding. Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, renamed and re-organized as Global Refuge, has been removed from our mission funding.

Several new members were elected to Council for a term starting July 1, 2025. They include: Tracey Forger – Secretary, Jeff Carstens – Stewardship, Yaneika Brown - Education, and John Morelli – Missions

Dan McCarthy will be elected by Council to fill the Building and Grounds role, and he will be elected by the congregation at the next Annual Meeting.

Earlier this year Anne Kinn stepped in and was elected by Council to fill the remainder of the Financial Secretary's term for this fiscal year and was elected to a new term ending 2028.

Both Ken Byrne and I end our three-year terms on June 30, however we have been re-elected pursuant to the recent changes to the By-laws and intend to serve one additional year.

I look forward to working with all the new Council members, and I thank them for their willingness to serve.

At the same time, I am grateful for the work done by all the outgoing Council members—thanks to all for their time and efforts on behalf of Resurrection.

Out and About with the People of Resurrection

Alyssa Cherson will be playing outdoors with the South Shore Symphony Orchestra on Saturday, July 12 (rain date Sunday, July 13). Alyssa says, "It's a pops style concert with (Grucci) fireworks to follow." The concert is free and runs from 7:45 to 10 pm at the Mill River Park Complex, Rockville Centre.



Concertgoers should bring chairs and/or blankets, and, says Alyssa "They can bring food/drinks, or whatever they'd like!" For more information, go to sssymphony.org



Kenneth Meyn

Director of Music and Handbell Choir
Director. He retired after 38 years at
The New York Times.



Summer Mode

Continued from page 1)

In one instance, "*Jesus withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place.*" (Matthew 14:13)

On another occasion, "*because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, Jesus said to His disciples, 'Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.'*" (Mark 6:31)

Clearly this was a normal necessary part of Jesus' time on this earth, as we read in Mark, "*Jesus often withdrew to solitary places to pray.*" (Luke 5:16)


Jesus needed and wanted rest, refreshment, and recharging. If he needed to regroup in such ways, it's safe to assume that we all do. We need rest. And thankfully, Jesus, who is now and forever the resurrected savior of the world and truly present with us, offers us the rest that we need. *Jesus says, "Come to me all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."* (Matthew 11:28)

We all need rest. We all need Christ. For some of us, we hear those words, and the initial impact is stressful. Jesus feels like something additional to fit into the busy schedule, one more thing we have to do.

This is the opposite of what Jesus intends, I think. He doesn't want to burden you. He wants to set you free from the burdens that all too often seem to define our lives.

Jesus simply reminds us that we can't keep all of this up. All the busyness and burdens of trying to do everything and please everybody, eventually it will get the best of us. Inevitably it will disappoint us. When it does, Jesus is there waiting with open arms. He calls us to simply be...and to remember what is most necessary.

When life gets stressful, overwhelming, when everything that we have to get done just seems like too much, His words resonate, "be still, and know that I am God."

You are loved. You are forgiven. You are forever. He is always with you. He is always listening. Come to Him whenever you need, call on Him anytime, and never doubt that He will be there. Rest assured. 



Pastor Jeff Browning
Serves as Pastor
at Resurrection.



Summer Nights at The Gazebo

Summer is in full swing! A nice way to take advantage of the warm summer nights is with free entertainment Thursday nights at the Garden City Summer Gazebo Concerts. Beginning July 10th, the weekly concert series takes place on the lawn of the Village Green at the corner of Stewart and Hilton Avenues. Start time is 7:15pm every Thursday. This Summer's weekly schedule:

July 10: Step By Step - Celebrating the hits of Johnny Maestro from The Crests ("Sixteen Candles") to The Brooklyn Bridge ("The Worst That Could Happen") and many more!

July 17: Endless Summer- All-time best songs of The Beach Boys.

July 24: Radio Flashback - a '70s and '80s rock tribute band, featuring music from the Doobie Brothers, Meatloaf, Journey, ELO and Foreigner.

July 31: Get a "Peaceful Easy Feeling" and "Take It Easy" with a Tribute to The Eagles by Desert Highway.

August 7: The Devotions - Performing their Top 40 hit "Rip Van Winkle" plus "Whispering Bells" and other classic songs of the era. Voted into The East Coast Music Hall of Fame.

August 14: Manhattan Skyline with the greatest hits of the '50s, '60s, and more!

Bring a chair, and a sweet treat or cold drink, and sit back and relax. It's a great way to get together with friends and family to kick-start your weekend. Enjoy!

Review by Kimberly Murphy

Women's Fall Bible Study: "Promised Rest"



*"Peace I leave with you;
my peace I give to you."*

John 14:27

When the worries of the world overtake you, where do you turn? We face pressure and stress daily. We look for rest in many areas – rest from our jobs, family issues, and personal struggles.

Our fall Women's Bible Study, "Promised Rest," invites us to find God's peace by learning about eight different names and characteristics of God.

Each week of the study features a new name or characteristic of God, its pronunciation, and Biblical facts about it.


The author, Michelle Diercks, provides personal anecdotes, and Bibli-

cal examples of how you can, and should cling to God's names in times of need and stress.

Some features included in the study are Scripture readings, reflection questions, journaling space, prayer prompts, and even a weekly devotional coloring page.

Please join us as we are reminded that God is always there and we can rest in His peace. "Promised Rest" will begin with an introductory session on September 8th, at 7pm in the fellowship room.

We will meet approximately every other week for eight sessions.

If you have any questions or would like to sign up, please contact me at linda@resgc.org. 



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

Love Them Both

Let's be honest, the world can be a really challenging place. In fact, that is pretty much the understatement of the ... millennium.

On any given day, the average person comes in contact with 12-16 people. If you live in a metropolitan area, such as New York City, that number can be as high as 500. Assuming at least a portion of these people are strangers, each person that you interact with has an entire life that you know nothing about.

Someone might be having the best day of their life, while someone else might have received terrible news moments before you encounter them. As such, our interactions with strangers can vary wildly. Sometimes you get an unexpected smile, but sometimes you get a surprisingly cold response, and when you do, it's often really difficult to give that person some grace.

This isn't a new problem. If we oversimplify these types of interactions, we can arrive at two, age-old Biblical categories: neighbors and enemies. While "enemies" might feel like a strong word for the aggressive driver who cut you off in traffic, I believe the sentiment still remains; there are people in this world that we like, and people that we don't.


Identifying those people is the easy part. The hard part is following what the Bible tells us to do regarding both groups.

There are only two types of people in this world, neighbors and enemies, and Jesus said to love them both. Jesus explicitly discusses these two groups in His Sermon on the Mount, and makes it absolutely clear how we should treat them.

Jesus said: "You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you..."
Matthew 5:43-44

In a world that seems increasingly more fractured by the day, where it can feel like there is nothing we can do to mend and fix these divisions, let us turn to these words and find solace in this explicit call.

I've heard this sentiment put a bit differently: you've never looked into the eyes of someone that Jesus doesn't love.

So, maybe we should ask ourselves: if God didn't send Jesus to condemn the world, why do we think He would have sent us? 



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

BUILDING BLOCKS

Stories & News from Resurrection Preschool

Maintaining Skills Over the Summer

JEAN DIETTERICK, Preschool Director

Even though summer is a time for carefree days and relaxing vacations, it is a great opportunity to reinforce learning. Here are some of the activities that would be very helpful and keep preschoolers motivated.

In order to strengthen their fine small motor skills, you can have children collect sea-shells or any small figures you have at home. Practice counting them or putting them in any order. Scissor skills are also very important. The children can practice cutting shapes, straight lines or curved lines. Drawing with crayons or markers helps to reinforce the grip to hold them properly.

When traveling or on any car trip, take notice of numbers you may see. Playing hopscotch helps to identify numbers as well. Playing any games also reinforces counting as you count the number of steps that can be taken. Notice route numbers and numbers on signs as well.

Make sure that you visit the library and encourage the child to choose books that they like. Get them their own library card too. Ask them to identify letters in books, words in coloring books or words on signs wherever you may be. Buy some letter stickers, and see what words they may be able to make, which leads to rhyming words.

Most important of all, spend time reading and sharing books with your children. Discuss the pictures, predict what is going to happen next in the story and discuss the characteristics of the story characters. Encourage them to share their opinions.

Summer can be fun — and educational as well.



Battling World Hunger: 100,000 Meals and Counting

On a recent rainy Saturday, 80 members and friends of Resurrection gathered in the basement Parish Hall to assemble bags of ingredients for 20,000 meals intended for hungry people in a needy world.

Just before this fifth annual event got underway, it was announced that, by end of the day's activities, the total number of meals assembled over five years by Resurrection would reach 100,000!

A miniature gong, a smaller version of the one used to mark milestones as the daily work progresses, will be awarded to the church.

"The world produces enough food to feed all of its 8 billion people, yet 733 million people (1 in 11) go hungry every day," said Deacon Diana Rivkin, Director of Youth and Family

Ministry. "I am so incredibly grateful to Rise Against Hunger and the dedicated members of Resurrection for turning passion into action and answering the call to help end world hunger."

For the meal packing events, Resurrection partners with Rise Against Hunger, an organization seeking to grow "a global movement to end hunger."

Confirmation student James Ciaravella said he signed up because "all people deserve a chance to have a good healthy meal, and packing this meal helps those people who need help."

Church member and bell ringer Sarah McElroy volunteers "for the meal packing event each year as an opportunity to help, in a small way to lessen the global food crisis."

"The added bonus of volunteering with family, and working with church friends, means fun and frequent shared laughs!"

Pastor Browning feels that "Meal Packing is always a highlight of the season. I appreciate that the opportunity to pack meals brings out people of all ages. It's great to see people from across the generational spectrum working together."

Vicar Zach Thornton said, "Meal Packing is a fun and accessible way to share Jesus' love with our neighbors across the globe. It's a wonderful way to see His people join together as one, and work with each other to serve those in need!"



Kenneth Meyn

Director of Music and Handbell Choir
Director. He retired after 38 years at
The New York Times.



The Fun Is Just Beginning

School might be out for the summer, but the fun is just beginning with Resurrection's youth and family ministry!

We had so many wonderful moments throughout the month of June, and are looking ahead to an action-packed, community service-focused July and August.

Planning for Summer

On Wednesday, June 11, our middle and high school youth groups gathered together to celebrate the end of the school year, and to shift our focus toward another faith-filled summer!

We discussed our upcoming summer plans, including day camps, sports camps, family vacations and weekend getaways with friends.

We also talked about our excitement for the upcoming service events at Resurrection, and the importance of being the hands and feet of Christ in our communities.

Help with Meal Packing

On Saturday, June 14, Resurrection hosted its 5th annual Meal Packing event, in conjunction with our partners at Rise Against Hunger.

[\(see story and photos, page 5\)](#)

This event is always an incredible, intergenerational way to serve those most in need, but this year seemed particularly spirited as we met or

surpassed our previous time record for packing all 20,000 meals!

Thank you to everyone who was able to set up, clean up, pack meals or financially support our mission in any way.

Because of you, we are one step closer to meeting Rise Against Hunger's goal of ending world hunger by 2030.

Lutheran Summer Gathering

On Sunday, July 13, 15 youth and chaperones from Resurrection will head back to beautiful Silver Bay, NY, for the annual Lutheran Summer Gathering.

This weeklong trip gives our youth and volunteers a wonderful ability to connect with other Lutherans from across the country.

Together, they dive into God's Word through youth and adult Bible studies, learn new skills (such as watercolor painting, stained glass making, basketry, weaving and ceramics), face their fears on the ropes course,


sing worship songs around the campfire and disconnect from the pressures and demands of everyday life.

We look forward to another meaningful and successful trip together!

Backpack Packing Party

This August, we will be hosting our backpack packing party where we will fill 650 backpacks full of school supplies to be distributed to migrant shelters in Queens and New York City. These shelters are run by Lutheran Social Services, as well as our partner in ministry, Pastor Christophe Schultz who is the pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Bushwick, Brooklyn.

We give thanks for the continued support and generosity of our congregation, and we thank God for the opportunity to provide these much-needed supplies to children in need.

We look forward to a wonderful summer, together in fellowship and faith, and pray for the continued strength and dedication in serving our neighbor, both near and far. 

Volunteer at Resurrection

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

Get involved this summer—July/August 2025.

Worship -

Please let us know your availability for the August Volunteer Schedule.

Outreach Ministry -

Extra helpers are requested for Summer Sunday School, Sundays, 9:45-10:45 a.m. Contact Michelle.Kollmeier@resgc.org for more information.

Christian Care -

Help prepare "Meal A Month," July 15! Contact Elizabeth.bez@resgc.org for details.

Fellowship -

Summer Coffee Hour - Volunteer to help with Coffee Hour, during the summer weeks; Contact Michelle.Kollmeier@resgc.org for details.

Youth & Family Ministry -

VBS 2025

Calling Adult Volunteers for VBS - Join this amazing ministry and lend a hand. August 4—9, 8 am-12:30 pm. Adults are requested to help lead stations throughout the morning. Contact Michelle.Kollmeier@resgc.org

One Liners

Give it to God, and go to sleep.

++*+*+*+*+*+*+*

Don't let your worries get the best of you; Remember,
Moses started out as a basket case.

++*+*+*+*+*+*+*

Many folks want to serve God,
But only as advisers.

++*+*+*+*+*+*+*

When you get to your wit's end,
You'll find God lives there.

++*+*+*+*+*+*+*

Don't wait for six strong men to take you to church.

++*+*+*+*+*+*+*

Peace starts with a smile.

++*+*+*+*+*+*+*

THE LAMPLIGHTER

EDITORIAL & CREATIVE

Ginny Raffa, Jenny Fort

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Pastor Jeff Browning, Laura Bauer
Kimberly Murphy, Ken Meyn
Michelle Kollmeier, Diana Rivkin
Jean Dietterick, Linda Wardley
Ginny Raffa

PHOTOGRAPHY

Christine Zimmerman
Diana Rivkin

MAILING VOLUNTEERS

Linda Wardley, Elizabeth Bezruczyk
Helen Smith, Rolf Lohse
Lorraine Kuzniar

OFFICIAL ACTS

Baptisms

Matthew Ryan Bernardo 6/8/25
Isabella Lynne Ferro 6/22/25

Weddings

Josephine D'Amico & Gregory Lehenbauer
6/26/25

Funerals/Memorial Services

Betty Tweed dod: 5/29/25 dos: 6/10/25
Stephanie Schwalenberg dod: 6/11/25
Margaret Stacey dod: 6/30/25



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.

*Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart
take courage; wait for the Lord!*

Psalm 27:14

Your Turn ...

Create your own devotion on the Verse of the Month (above).

Write notes for your meditation below:

THINK:

PRAY:

DO:

WORSHIP WITH US

Sundays, Traditional Worship

In-Person — 8:30, 9:45 & 11am

Online — 9:45am

Saturdays, Contemporary Service

In-Person — 5:30pm

COMING NEXT ISSUE

Our next newsletter will be our September publication, bringing feature articles, reports, and highlights of ministry and people of Resurrection—to inform, inspire and bless you.

Enjoy the blessings of summer!