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Once-in-a-Lifetime, Then Repeat

PASTOR JEFF BROWNING

We’ve entered into the Lenten season, a truly meaningful time in the life of the Church. Lent brings additional worship services and a variety of other opportunities for growth and enrichment as we journey to Holy Week, the busiest week of this busy season. Everything points towards Good Friday and Easter Sunday. We look forward to observing the culmination of who we are and what we are as the people of God: the death and resurrection of Jesus.

This is also the season of First Communion instruction, which always proves to be meaningful for everyone involved. Students in Fourth grade will gather on Wednesday evenings throughout Lent, in preparation to receive the true body and blood of Jesus Himself for the first time at the worship service on Sunday, April 19.

First Communion kicked off the last week in February, and we have a wonderful group of participants. Needless to say, there is a lot of excitement. First Communion is truly a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

Like any program, there are requirements. In order for students to be eligible to receive First Communion at Resurrection, students must:

1. Attend all six classes. Missed classes must be made up.

2. Attend worship every single weekend during the program.

3. Complete all weekly homework assignments and the project.

The rationale behind these requirements is hopefully obvious. All of our students have so much going on in terms of academics, sports, music, and a host of other extracurricular activities. Families are extremely busy. Schedules are very full.

Nevertheless, the First Communion program cannot and will not be an afterthought, or in any way secondary.

It is a simple matter of priorities. We believe that Jesus is the one and only son of God, who died on a cross to conquer sin and rose again from the grave to conquer death for all of eternity. We believe that the risen Jesus shares Himself fully with us in the communion meal. We believe that when we eat and drink communion, we are experiencing something unique and other-worldly, something far greater than anything this world has to offer. We believe that Christ and what He gives us in this communion meal is all that we have that will last forever. Based on these beliefs, it’s safe to assume that the First Communion experience is at least as important as anything else happening in our busy lives. The same assumption applies to all of us as the people of God, no matter how many times we have received communion. Life sometimes feels like it’s

(please turn to page 2)



Message from the President

LAURA BAUER

I write this the day before Ash Wednesday.

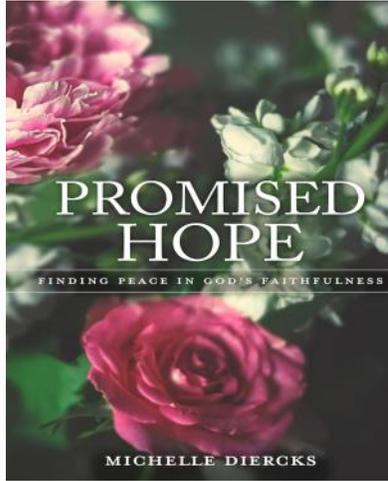
I grew up in a predominantly Catholic town—almost all my childhood friends were Catholic and a large Catholic church and elementary school stood several blocks away from my home. As a consequence, I was steeped in Catholic practices I could not participate in.

Two of those practices related to Lent: receiving ashes, and “giving up” something for Lent. When Resurrection began distributing ashes many years ago, I had a hard time accepting it—it was Catholic after all. Later, “giving up” something for Lent became acceptable, even though I thought only faith was expected. At some point, however, I tried the “giving up”—and I chose chocolate, a popular choice for many. I successfully avoided chocolate through Lent. I don’t know how much it focused my faith, but I did lose a few pounds. A year or two after, I tried no chocolate again, but my motive was more about losing a few pounds than self-examination. I failed. I realized my choice was about serving me, not focusing on God. At some point I gave up “giving up.”

More recently, this Lenten practice was presented as doing something positive, something that reflected our faith. This appealed to me, but I was uncertain what to do.

Tomorrow I am going to start something new. It is not punitive, restrictive or a deprivation. I do not have an ulterior motive. It is faith focused. I plan to read some Psalms, in order, each day. I feel good about this. I will be able to set aside time for God every day. I have no ulterior motive—other than being closer to God in this time of reflection and contemplation. I am hopeful for and looking forward to this Lenten journey.

New Women’s Bible Study: “Promised Hope—Finding Peace in God’s Faithfulness”



In this life, we aren’t promised health, wealth, stability, or perfect relationships. What we are promised is hope in Jesus.”

Biblical hope isn’t based on your circumstances—good or bad—it is based on the unchanging characteristics and unshakeable faithfulness of God. In this eight-week study, which is also written by the author of “Promised Rest,” we will study eight more names/characteristics of God. Learning God’s names and what they mean helps us to know Him better and gives us hope.

Our author, Michelle Diercks, tells us of

her own personal struggles and shares the promises in the Bible that come from our loving and caring God. Each section of the book begins with an illustration of the name of God which will be discussed. It is appealing visually and especially enjoyable for those who like coloring. Other study features are Bible memory verses, prayers, journaling space and a discussion guide.

The study will take place on Monday evenings during eight sessions beginning on April 13. We will meet at 7pm in the Fellowship Room. Our time together will include coffee, tea, and a treat.

Please know that this Bible study is able to stand independently. If you did not join us for “Promised Rest,” you need not be concerned. All interested women are welcome and encouraged to participate.

If you are planning to attend, please send an email to Linda@resgc.org. This will help me to know how many books will be needed. Thank you for your help. 🙏



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

Once-in-a-Lifetime, Then Repeat

(continued from page 1)

completely full and getting busier by the day. But Christ calls us to remember what is most important. Christ bore a cross for us. He walked out of His own grave for us. He is God himself, and He lives eternally.

He loves us unconditionally. He forgives us completely. He offers us a life unlike anything we could ever hope to find in this world, a life that will take us to heaven and will last forever.

All of this and more, Christ shares with us every time we receive the communion meal. In the coming weeks, make a point to take and eat the true body of Christ, to take and drink His precious blood. Nothing is more important. 🙏



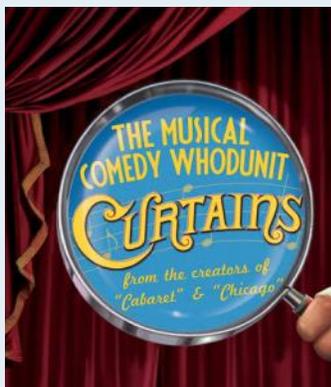
Pastor Jeff Browning
Serves as Pastor
at Resurrection.

March may come in like a lion and go out like a lamb, but in between you can experience great middle and high school musical theatre. This year Resurrection's youth are participating in some fantastic shows, and we invite you to come see them perform.

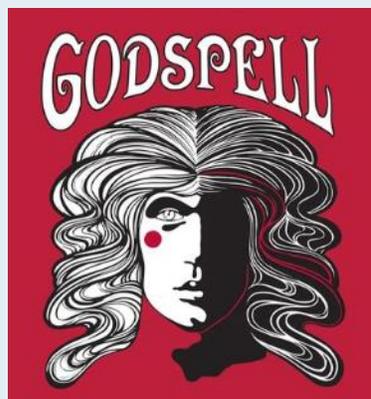
Grace Schwarz will play Veruca Salt in the fun and wacky **WILLY WONKA JR** at Lynbrook North Middle School March 5-7th. Reach out to the church office for ticket info.



Hana Kollmeier has a featured solo in West Hempstead High School's production of the murder mystery musical **CURTAINS!** Show dates are March 12-14th. Ticket info at whufsd.com.



Ruby Murphy will be in Chaminade High School's production of **GODSPELL**, as the dance captain and with a featured dance solo. Show dates are March 13-15, and March 20-21. Tickets available at www.chaminade-hs.org.



Review by Kimberly Murphy



Walking Toward Easter with Our Children

by ARMIA BAJIT

As adults, it can sometimes be challenging to grasp the depth of Jesus' sacrifice fully and to acknowledge that we are sinners in need of salvation. We see death with our eyes, yet we hold the promise of resurrection in our hearts.

Our children in our congregation are nurtured each week in Sunday School, where dedicated teachers faithfully share the Good News and guide them as they grow in faith and come to understand God's love.

Each Sunday begins with a time of devotion, a beautiful moment when siblings, cousins, and friends gather before heading to their classrooms. We introduce the Bible story through shared experiences, helping the children connect what they already know with the lesson they are about to learn. When teaching about Christ's death and resurrection, I brought several crosses from my home and shared their stories— who they were made by, whether they were gifts, and where they are displayed. The children eagerly shared their experiences, discussing the crosses they wear or keep at home. In that moment, the cross became more than a

decoration; it became a symbol of faith, love, and sacrifice.

We also explored the story of Jesus meeting the disciples on the road to Emmaus. The children closed their eyes as I removed different items from a bag. When their eyes were open, they could easily identify each object, but when their eyes remained closed, they could not see what was before them. This simple activity helped them understand how the disciples walked with Jesus without recognizing Him until He revealed Himself to them.

Art provides another way for children to process the Easter story. As they create, they ask questions, share ideas, and reflect on the meaning of Easter. Younger students will make mosaic crosses with stained-glass-style backgrounds, while older students will create crosses to accompany a resurrection mural. We hope to display what the children make in church on Easter Sunday.

Throughout Lent, we pray that all of us remain focused on the cross, Christ's love, and the hope found in His resurrection. 

Phantom of the Organ

by KEN MEYN



(left) The Resurrection organ, as still shown on the Zimmer Organ website.



(right) The Buttons

You're in church for Sunday morning worship, and the organ begins to play. But there's no one on the bench. How is this possible? It's all courtesy of a technology Johann Sebastian Bach could not have imagined.

Resurrection has a hybrid organ, meaning part of the instrument is traditional wood, pipes, mechanics and part is modern day electronic, with relays, speakers and digital engineering.

The organ, built in 2003, is a product of Cornel Zimmer Organ Builders of North Carolina. Mr. Zimmer, a fourth-generation organ builder, broke away from his more traditionally minded family to embrace new technologies. One of these technologies is a recording device, the Yamaha Midi Data Filer 3, which interfaces with the organ. At Resurrection, it is lovingly referred to as The Buttons. The gadget sits in a small slide-out drawer on the left side of the bottom keyboard manual.

When the memory is engaged and the organ is played, the device records the keystrokes and the organist's choice of stops, (the white pull tabs that allow the player to select which of the various voices the organ can produce). The sound itself is not recorded. Playing back, the device resets the stops and

replays the keystrokes, and the sound is produced live at the moment you're hearing it.

In a very sophisticated way this is similar to a player piano, except the organ keys do not move during playback. While nothing can compare to live performance, The Buttons will do in a pinch.

Michelle Kollmeier, the acknowledged virtuoso of The Buttons, estimates that there are more than 300 pieces of music currently stored on the system.

These include hymns, preludes, postludes and sections of the worship liturgies. All but a very small percentage of this music was recorded by Edward Dettling during his 32 years as Resurrection's Minister of Music. (I contributed four.)

A potential problem: the system uses a 3-1/2-inch floppy disk for data storage. These disks were standard in the 1980s and 1990s, but became obsolete by the mid-2000s. Sony discontinued manufacturing them in 2011.

The Buttons may soon be in need of an upgrade!



Kenneth Meyn

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

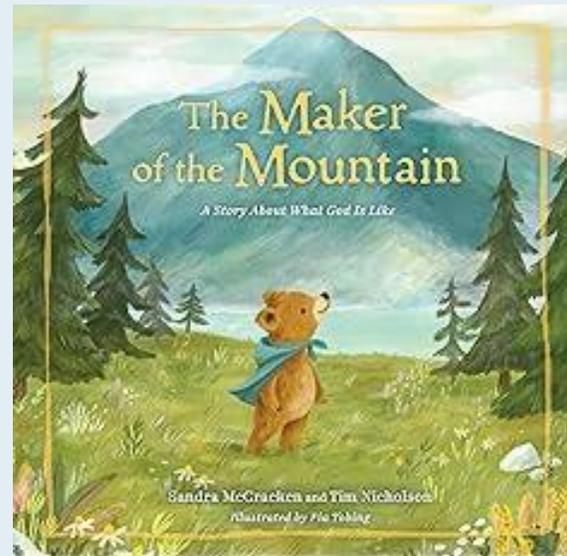


BUILDING BLOCKS

Stories & News from Resurrection Preschool

Maker of the Mountain

by SUE BAUER,
Three's Teacher Yellow Group



Have you heard of the Maker of the Mountain? I know I have—each day. He is my strength and my light.

Lent has always been my favorite season in the church year, and I hope to share its meaning with the children.

I recently found a beautiful story, *The Maker of the Mountain* by Sandra McCracken and Tim Nicholson. It tells of a little bear sent by his parents to find the Maker of the Mountain.

Along the way, he meets different animals. A fish says God is like a bridge over life's rapids. A sheep says He is like a gate that keeps us safe. A robin calls Him a stone that makes us strong. A fox says He is a rock who holds us up. A seagull describes Him as a boat carrying us safely home. A firefly says He is the light.

When his mother asks if he found the Maker, he replies, "I saw Him everywhere." I hope this story inspires the children to see their Maker of the Mountain.

Resurrection's Gift Prospers

by SHARON MEYER

As morning mist hovers above the bush, the sound of children's voices rises from down the rust-red dirt road. Another day of school will soon begin at the **Resurrection**-supported Gbarnga Lutheran Training Center (GLTC), and the students are on their way. It is not hyperbole to say that what happens on this campus is miraculous when compared with other schools and missions.

It may surprise you to know that most Liberians don't consider teaching a good career option as it is considered a "poor man's job." This is due to inconsistent or nonexistent government salaries. It is also not a respected profession as teachers are known to require bribe money from students to make up for lack of salary. Finally, many teachers haven't had the opportunity to access the kind of education that would lead to effective instruction.

At GLTC, we are focused on lifting up our staff to be the respected professionals educators truly are. Our teachers are well-trained and fairly paid with additional support provided for medical costs and continued education.

Our teachers can feel the pride of working in clean classrooms with books and supplies they wouldn't have in other schools. Our Pre-K to Grade 5 teachers benefit from rigorous training at the Rafiki campus in Monrovia where the Rafiki curriculum is implemented.

As the Education Chair for Gbarnga Mission, I am able to use my 34 years

of teaching experience in New York to introduce methods through co-teaching, provide training during meetings and introduce appropriate educational materials across the grade levels. We are proud of the faculty we have assembled that choose to be committed to our mission.

At this time, we are constructing the final buildings needed to complete our campus facility. These will include additional classrooms, a science lab and a computer room. With the final construction, we will have the space needed to move from a split session to a full day schedule.

This is one more step in creating an environment that provides an example of the love, safety, care and support that God intends for all of His children.

Just three weeks ago, I was listening as Mr. Galawulu (our English teacher) led his students in the novel study for **A Long Walk to Water** about the author's experience during the 1980's civil war in Sudan. Mr. Galawulu began sharing with our students his own experience of fleeing into the bush when soldiers arrived at his village during the Liberian Civil War.

By supporting Gbarnga Mission, **Resurrection** is lifting up a generation of Liberian students on a Christ-centered campus with a solid education. These will be the leaders for Liberia's hope-filled tomorrow.

We are thankful for your financial support and prayers. Please go to Gbarngamission.org to learn more about our work.



Roxanne and Sharon work together in a classroom.



Roxanne assesses a village woman with severe complications from malaria.



Sharon works with a 2nd grade reading group.



Jon Rossman works with Brother Isaac in the construction of our new building.

Baked Ziti for 125!

Across all ages, Resurrection has a heart for missions and outreach. On the third Tuesday of each month, members of our congregation gather in our kitchen to prepare several trays of Shepherd's Pie for delivery to one of our cherished and longstanding outreach ministries: the Soup to Nuts Soup Kitchen in Freeport.

Last summer, a group of staff members and volunteers from Resurrection had the opportunity to serve on-site. We were quickly (and effectively!) put to work at different stations to help prepare and serve over 125 people that day. They don't mess around; they run a tight ship!



Portioning pasta

Alongside their regular volunteers, we helped serve a wholesome meal to neighbors in the Freeport area who are struggling with food insecurity.

On occasion, I have been called to deliver and even cook the Shepherd's Pie that Resurrection provides. But nothing compares to being there in person, seeing firsthand just how necessary this minis-



Joyful teamwork.

try is. It's not just a meal that is served; guests at Soup to Nuts are welcomed and treated with dignity and warmth from every volunteer who is there to help.

With this in mind, and knowing that Soup to Nuts relies on partner churches to provide hot meals several times each week, we prayerfully sought to offer even further support. Beginning in

the spring of 2025, Resurrection made an additional "Meal-a-Month" commitment, this one prepared by the hands of our Resurrection Youth. That means Resurrection now provides a hot meal twice each month.

For the first time this past February, I had the privilege of organizing our Youth Meal-a-Month cooking outreach. Together with Vicar Tyler Martin and a group of enthusiastic young chefs, we prepared the meal. Vicar Tyler described the experience perfectly: "It's loud, it's messy, and the kids get weirdly serious about seasoning—watching our youth cook a meal for strangers really expands

your sense of what 'ministry' can look like."

It's true! Our youth jumped in as if cooking were second nature, much like a team sport. They worked together with great energy and encouragement, eager to take on each task, from prepping ingredients to packing trays. They brought such wonderful positivity to every step of the process.

Before we finished, we paused to talk about why we were preparing this meal and for whom it was intended. And then, gathered around the finished trays of ziti, we prayed together, that this food would be a blessing in more than just meeting a physical need, but that those who receive it would be nourished in the deep knowledge that God loves them wholly.

It was inspiring to see our students serve so eagerly, embracing the opportunity to care for others in Christ's name. Their excitement was a beautiful reminder that we are all God's children, and we serve with joy the One who looks upon us with love and provides for all our needs.

The youth brought a contagious joy in giving their time to serve God's people in such a meaningful way, and we cannot wait to get back in the kitchen again next month! *Youth and families are invited to sign up to help prepare the Youth-Led" meal going forward.

For more information, please contact DCE Michelle Kollmeier, Michelle.Kollmeier@resgc.org



Michelle Kollmeier
Director of Christian Education

Out and About with the People of Resurrection

by KEN MEYN

The Symphony Chorus, with **Chang Guan** playing cello, will perform at The United Methodist Church of Mt. Kisco on Sat., March 7. The concert begins at 6pm and the address is 300 East Main St. Mt. Kisco, NY. For information, go to thesymphonychorus.com/concerts

Alyssa Cherson will play French Horn with the North Shore Symphony Orchestra on Sat., March 21, at 7:30pm in the Adelphi University Performing Arts Center in Garden City. The pro-

gram will include Gustav Mahler's Symphony No. 1 in D, the "Titan." For information and tickets, go to northshoresymphonycorch.org

Alyssa will also play the following, Sat., March 28, with the South Shore Symphony. Concert is 7:30pm at Molloy University in Rockville Centre, and will feature the Ralph Vaughan Williams "Lark Ascending" and Stravinsky's "Rite of Spring". For information and tickets, go to sssymphony.org. 

Volunteer at Resurrection

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

Get involved this month—March 2026.

Lenten Opportunity -

Beginning Feb. 25 and every Wednesday until March 25. Bring your favorite soup to share for our Lenten meal, which will follow the 4:30 Midweek Lenten service. Sign-up is outside the office.

Christian Care -

Meal A Month – Mar. 17, 1:30pm
LSS Food Donations - ongoing

Fellowship -

Sunday Morning Coffee Hour

Worship Assistants -

Saturday Evening or Sunday Morning.
Ushers, Communion Assistants, Readers

All Volunteers, contact Michelle.Kollmeier@resgc.org

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Prayer Services

Kevin Brohm 2/15/26
John Jackson 2/27/26



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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.

*Oh come, let us worship and bow down; let us
kneel before the Lord, our Maker!*

Psalm 95:6

OPENING

The evidence of God's awesomeness is all around us: We can see it in everything from the tiniest of snowflakes to the vastness of the cosmos. Not to mention all the minor miracles that fill our lives with love and wonder. In the words of my favorite hymn: His power is throughout the universe displayed.

Yet all too often, we get wrapped up in our daily grind and forget the magnitude of God's greatness. This verse is our call to remember: All we have and all we are comes from

God. He is our Creator, our Father, our Redeemer. And without Him, we are nothing.

It's a humbling thought, and that's exactly the point. We are called to humble ourselves before God and surrender our hearts to His wisdom.

THINK

How often do we really kneel before the Lord? If not with our knees, then with our hearts? Do we truly offer ourselves in service to Him, or are we merely asking for things we want?

PRAY

Heavenly Father, thank You for being my Creator and my Sustainer. I lay down my worries, my pride and my plans before You. Help me to be the person You want me to be.

DO

Take a knee. Even if it's a metaphorical one. Honor God's greatness with humble prayer and give Him thanks for all He has done for us.

CYNTHIA CARSTENS

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 April/May edition, bringing feature articles and highlights of ministry and people of Resurrection—to inform, inspire and bless you.