



This Issue

It's Time to Give

Pastor Browning offers variety of reasons and ways for giving1

Notes & News

President Laura Bauer explains why she loves to learn.....2

Stewardship and Fellowship

Jeff Carstens suggests various ways of giving generously.....2

What I'm Thankful For

Patrick Curry shares special thank-you....2

Media Spotlight

Kimberly Murphy previews upcoming sequel to *Wicked*3

A Citizen of Bethlehem

Armia Bajit shares her experiences as The Woman at the Well.3

Finishing the Sentence

Diana Rivkin points to the power of being part of God's community4

Building Blocks

Building Literacy Skills.....4

Thankful for....

Cynthia Carstens asks, "What about our church brings you the most joy?"5

Youth & Family Ministry

Making a Joyful Noise..... 6

Tinsel Time

Carolyn Orlik details Christmas Greens sale.....7

Out and About

Ken Meyn lists upcoming events7

Daily Bread

James Kumpel sheds light on this powerful passage from Revelation.....8

It's Time to Give

by PASTOR JEFF BROWNING

Giving has always been a point of emphasis at Resurrection in the late Fall. As you will often hear at church in the coming weeks, there are many great opportunities for you to give. One of our goals is to help those who are in need, at the local level and beyond. Another goal, as is always the case with every project and ministry at our church, is that we're seeking to share the life-changing love of Jesus Christ.

You can give nonperishable food to be distributed by our friends at Lutheran Social Services. You can give a Christmas gift to a needy child or family as part of our Christmas gift drive. You can give a \$25 Target gift card to be given to people with immediate needs. From firsthand, eyewitness experience, I can assure you that these gift cards have been a tremendous blessing to so many people from our congregation and the greater community.

Of course, there are other essential ways for you to give. This is also the season when all of us at Resurrection are asked to consider making a financial commitment to the church. As we seek to share Jesus here in this place and beyond, our tithes and offerings are essential. The work of the church is ongoing. If you are in a position to do so, please consider supporting the mission and ministry of Resurrection. The work of the church is so important. The world needs Jesus right now.

And God also calls us to help do the ongoing work of making Jesus known to the world. Ministry at Resurrection is contin-

gent on a whole lot of people stepping up to volunteer to fill various roles and help with the vital tasks of ministry. Every year, hundreds of people from our community give their time and their effort to be servant leaders at this congregation. There are always all sorts of areas of need where you can give your time.

One of the great legacies of this congregation, for more than 77 years now, has been a willingness to give. In terms of service, supplies, finances, and whatever has been asked, the people of Resurrection always step up when needed. For the most part, this giving is not a product of guilt, or to earn some sort of individual recognition, or to meet a nonexistent membership requirement. It is the outward manifestation of our eternal connection to God through Jesus Christ. As we are reminded in 1 John 4:19, *We love because He first loved us, and we give because we have been given so much.*

We give because of who we are in Christ. God gave us everything when He gave us Jesus. Jesus gave His life to give us life. He gave up everything in order to forgive our sins and to transform us into eternal beings, destined to live forever. Resurrected Jesus gives us perfect, unconditional, unbreakable hope, the hope that we carry with us in the midst of all circumstances, into eternity. Every day for the rest of forever, Jesus will never stop giving. We are a people who have been transformed and redefined by God's generous giving. Our response is inevitable. We give. 



Message from the President

LAURA BAUER

I like to learn things.

I like to learn about people; I like to learn about organizations; I like to learn about history and art; I like to learn about the Bible; and I like to learn about my faith.

All this learning expands my horizons in many ways.

I have developed connections with people I've met at church, and those connections have become meaningful friendships.

I learned about LuHi at Resurrection and sent my daughters to school there and later served on their Board. I have also learned about missions we support. Recently I became engaged with the Gbarnga Mission in Liberia by writing grant applications—enabling me to learn even more about the great work they do.

Pastor's Bible studies and book discussions led by staff have enriched my life. When I have the good fortune to travel, I have a deeper understanding of the architecture of the churches I visit and the art in museums. Remembering that as Christians we already understand a lot about some artworks—thank you Pastor Browning for that insight—I feel less intimidated by what I see in a museum and better able to enjoy it. Recently I was in Florence, Italy, where I viewed several Michelangelo statues highlighted in *The Agony and the Ecstasy*, read for a book discussion led by DCE Michelle. I probably would have missed them had I not read the book.

Bible studies have introduced me to parts of the Bible I am less familiar with and allowed me to have a deeper understanding of parts of the Bible I think I know. As the oldest daughter, I think it took me years to understand the story of the Prodigal Son—but now I do.

All this learning has enhanced my life and deepened my faith. I encourage *you* to connect and learn.

Stewardship and Fellowship: Growing Together in Faith

Dear Resurrection Family,

As we journey together in Christ, two beautiful aspects of our Lutheran faith—stewardship and fellowship—go hand-in-hand, strengthening our community and reflecting the love of Jesus.

Stewardship is our joyful response to Jesus' gifts, managing our time, talents, and treasures to serve Him, our church and our neighbors. Whether it's volunteering for Sunday school, contributing to our mission fund or caring for each other, stewardship is an act of gratitude that flows from God's grace.

Fellowship, the warm bond we share as Jesus' family, grows when we gather for worship, share meals, or support one another in times of need.

These two practices are deeply connected. When we give generously—whether it's our skills for a church event or do-

nations to help our church and community—we build stronger relationships, creating unity that fosters a deep sense of spiritual connection and mutual support.

Likewise, our fellowship inspires us to give cheerfully, as we see the impact of our shared efforts, from supporting local outreach to nurturing our youth programs. Together, stewardship and fellowship weave us into a vibrant family, living out our faith as one body in Christ.

This month, consider how you can join in! Volunteer for an upcoming event, share your talents, give generously or pray for our shared mission. Together, let's grow in faith, love, and connection.

In Christ's love,

Jeff Carstens,

Stewardship Chairperson 

What I'm Thankful For

by PATRICK CURRY



I was hospitalized last week for major brain surgery.

This was my second surgery. It was a particularly harrowing experience inasmuch as I had three (3) full seizures—before they could get the medication just right.

But I count it all to the glory of God—my Creator

Thank you, Jesus—for being seizure free. 

A Citizen of Bethlehem

by ARMIA BAJIT



Wicked: For Good (2025)

Wicked: For Good, the long-awaited sequel to *Wicked* (2024), picks up where *Wicked* left off. This movie also coincides with the story in the second act of the Broadway musical.

Elphaba has now become known as the Wicked Witch of the West and is living as an outsider while she fights for the rights of the talking animals. Glinda is now known as Glinda the Good, and has become part of the Wizard's administration, and is a public figure in the Land of Oz. Elphaba and Glinda's friendship has turned sour and will continue to struggle throughout the twists and turns of the movie. The timing of *Wicked: For Good* overlaps with the arrival of Dorothy Gale from Kansas, and interestingly, the role of Dorothy will be more prominent in the movie than it was in the Broadway musical.

Wicked: For Good will include musical number favorites, such as "No Place Like Home", and "The Girl In The Bubble".

Cynthia Erivo (Elphaba) and Ariana Grande (Glinda) reprise their roles for the sequel, as well as Jeff Goldblum (Wizard), Jonathan Bailey (Fiyero), and Michelle Yeoh (Madame Morrible).

Wicked: For Good, arrives on Nov. 21, 2025, just in time for the long Thanksgiving weekend.

Review by Kimberly Murphy

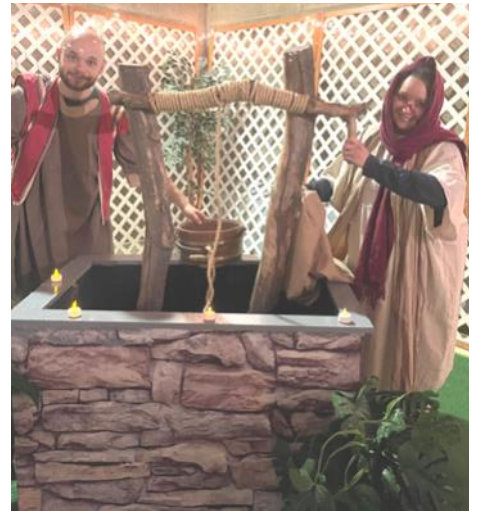
Each year, our church recreates the little town of Bethlehem throughout our campus. Hundreds of people walk through our census station, browse the booths in our marketplace, and visit the animals gathered around Baby Jesus and His family. When all of the costumed volunteers gather together, the excitement fills the air as everyone asks, "Where are you going to be?" or "What character are you?"

Last year, when asked, I replied, "I'm the woman at the well." After a few confused, raised eyebrows, I laughed and said, "No, not *that* woman!" This was a new character added to our cast for *Night in Bethlehem*.

Every volunteer in Bethlehem shares the same joyful responsibility—to serve and to tell the story of Jesus' birth. Some help visitors create crafts, others offer tasty snacks, and some demonstrate how to grind grain or toss fish. As we guide and serve, we also share the Good News in meaningful and creative ways.

As the woman at the well, my role was to share what I saw and heard. I told visitors that it had been unusually busy at the well that day—a man had been rushing back and forth between the well and the animal stalls. I thought I remembered his wife being very pregnant when they first stopped for water, but I hadn't seen her in a while. The man seemed concerned, asking for more water and where he could find cloth. And just a little while ago, shepherds had come running through the marketplace, exclaiming that angels in the sky had told them the Savior was born that very night! I encouraged visitors to go check the stalls for the man and his wife—and if they saw a baby, to come back and tell me.

Standing at the well made me reflect on its importance. Water was essential—for people, families, and animals alike. During a census, the well would have been even busier, filled with travelers stopping for refreshment and conversation. Of course, Joseph and Mary would have needed water too—for themselves, for their donkey, and especially for their newborn Son. It was right there, in Bethlehem, that God provided His Son, the living water, as the most essential gift of all.



Drawing water, sharing joy — just another day in the little town of Bethlehem.

I love watching families walk through our little town, engaging with the volunteers who stay in character and share the story of Christ's birth. Children delight in the crafts and activities—and even peek down the well! But you can also see the joy of Christmas reflected in their parents' faces as they experience the story from a fresh perspective.

This year, please consider volunteering and becoming a citizen of Bethlehem for a night or two. You, too, can share the Good News of Jesus' birth in a way that brings joy and wonder to all who visit. 

Finishing the Sentence

Our service continues as we confess the ancient Christian faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed. Please stand. 'I believe in God, the Father Almighty..."

...Creator of Heaven and Earth. I'd wager that 99 times out of 100, we could all recite the rest of the Creed without hesitation. These are words we've known since childhood—words we speak both privately and together as a community.

But have you ever found yourself standing in church, saying the Creed or the Lord's Prayer, and suddenly your mind goes blank? Maybe you lose your place. Maybe you can't remember whether it's "the communion of saints" followed by "the forgiveness of sins," or the other way around.

If you're anything like me, when that moment hits, your cheeks flush, your stomach tightens, and it feels like the entire room heard your mistake. And yet—if you pause to listen—you'll notice something beautiful: the people around you keep going. The collective voice carries on, even when ours falters.

The same thing can happen during hymns. Sadly, I've attended many funerals over the years, and many have included the hymn *Abide With Me*. Without fail, there comes a moment when the emotion of the day overwhelms me, and my voice cracks, or I lose track of the verse. But just as with

the Creed or the Lord's Prayer, the voices around me carry me through, singing the words I can't quite find.

That's the power of being part of God's community. As Paul reminds us in Galatians 6:2, "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." When the weight of the world makes it hard to speak—or sing—we rely on one another. We help each other find the words when they escape us.

In worship, we're reminded of this shared calling again and again: "We join together and sing..." "We confess together..." These aren't just phrases. They're affirmations of who we are as the body of Christ.

T.S. Eliot wrote in *Choruses from The Rock*: "What life have you if you have not life together? There is no life that is not in community, And no community not lived in praise of God."

These words remind us that life in Christ is never meant to be lived in isolation.

So, when our voices fail or the words slip away, let us remember: we are not alone. We are surrounded by the Communion of Saints—those beside us and those who have gone before us—ready to help us finish the sentence. 



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



**A special session of
"Loss of a Loved One, Shared"
Saturday, Nov. 15, 1pm
Contact Linda Wardley
or Deacon Ellen Farber**

BUILDING BLOCKS

Stories & News from Resurrection Preschool

Building Literacy Skills

KERRI ANDERSEN, Pre-K Teacher

Early literacy blooms long before kindergarten, and for 3- and 4-year-olds, it grows best through warm, playful moments with caring adults.

Read together every day, even for 10–15 minutes. Let your child hold the book, turn pages, and "read" the pictures. Talk about the cover, wonder what might happen next, and ask open-ended questions like, "What do you notice?" or "How does the character feel?"

Play with sounds to build phonological awareness. Sing songs, chant nursery rhymes, clap syllables in names, and enjoy silly rhymes—cat, hat, splat! Explore letters gently, starting with the letters in your child's name. Use magnet letters, write in sand or shaving cream, and point out environmental print on signs and labels to show that print is all around.

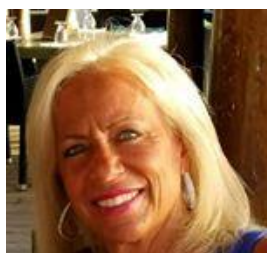


Grow vocabulary through rich conversation. Narrate everyday routines—cooking, getting dressed, going outside and expand on your child's words: "Yes, it's a big, fluffy dog. It's wagging its tail because it's excited!" Encourage early writing with crayons, markers, and chunky pencils. Scribbles and invented spellings are important steps; strengthen little hands with playdough, tweezers, and blocks.

Invite storytelling through pretend play, puppets, and drawing. Most of all, keep it joyful. Follow your child's interests, celebrate effort, and visit the library to discover new favorites together. Have fun with your child, and always encourage play!

Thankful for ...

by CYNTHIA CARSTENS



Thanksgiving is a time for counting our blessings and, for many of us, being a part of Church of the Resurrection ranks high on that list. So as we prepare to celebrate the holiday, we asked members of our Resurrection family to tell us what about our church brings them the most joy. Here's what they said:

- A. "We're grateful not only for the spiritual support the church has provided us over the past 50 years, but also for the warm and friendly fellowship with the church's leadership and other members of the congregation. Raising four sons who participated in Resurrection's spiritual and youth activities adds to that feeling, allowing us to say to God "Thank you." —Gisela and Gerhardt Müller
- B. "I am deeply grateful for our Saturday evening contemporary service where the worship band's beautiful music and Pastor Browning's inspiring Christ-centered sermons uplift my spirit each week. I also cherish volunteering with Altar Care, sharing meaningful moments with our team while preparing the altar and Church for the weekend's worship." —Patricia Wilton
- C. "I am grateful for the people who work

at our church." —Rachel Santangelo, age 10

- D. "I am thankful that the church comes together in peace and I am able to spend time with my family and friends there." —Emma Santangelo, age 10
- E. "Pre-school!" —Luke Santangelo, age 3
- F. "I am most grateful for our church body. We are a congregation that loves and serves God, one another, and our neighbors. It's amazing grace to see God using our time, talent and treasures. Our light shines bright. I can feel the spirit of God in our midst through Pastor's sermons. Sometimes, there is a perfect silence and awe to hear God speaking to us through Pastor!" —Marianne Wat
- G. "Resurrection is my home away from home. Our pastors have blessed and continue to bless us with Christ-centered inspirational sermons for which I am grateful. I thank them for their friendship and for mentoring me in the various activities in which I participate. Family, friendship and fellowship—that's Resurrection. A favorite hymn of mine, "Blest Be the Tie That Binds" (#649) says it all." —Marian Farber

- H. "I love how personal the church is. It is like a family. No, it is a family! We all care about each other. We notice if you miss a service. I was just in the hospital, and Michelle came to visit me, and prayed with me. Pastor texted me every day. Also, Resurrection offers boundless opportunities to volunteer. and to learn. There is always an event going on that you can get involved with. We know that we do not have to do anything to gain our place in Heaven, but all things in response to all that Christ has done for us. Amen!" —Diane Gatto
- I. "We are blessed by the sacred music on Sunday morning, combined with Pastor Browning's jovial delivery of scriptural encouragement, and, of course, the delightful congregants!" —Jack and Rachael Buck
- J. "I'm grateful for the thriving Christian education that my kids receive in Confirmation classes and youth events. In addition, the worship services are focused on Scripture and provide vital nourishment for the soul. The church community is so warm and welcoming. We are blessed to have a sense of belonging where we can strengthen our faith together and make new friends along the way." —Patrick Thompson

Making A Joyful Noise

by DIANA RIVKIN



Clockwise from top: left: Making a joyful noise; Spreading Christmas cheer; A fun and festive day of fellowship.

Sometimes in life, you need to be decisive and pick a side. Sometimes ambivalence is not good enough, and you have to take a firm stance. Mets or Yankees? Ketchup or mustard on a hot dog? Is “Die Hard” a Christmas movie? These are the great debates of our time—but as the air turns crisp and the days grow shorter, one question rises to the top: when is it officially okay to start listening to Christmas music?

For some, the holiday season doesn’t truly begin until Santa makes his grand appearance at the end of the Macy’s Thanksgiving Day Parade. Others argue that as soon as Halloween wraps up, it’s full speed ahead into tinsel, twinkle lights, and timeless carols. If you ask department stores, Christmas seems to start earlier every year! No matter where you fall on the festive timeline, one thing is certain: Christmas music is

a tremendous part of the Christmas season.

A 2022 Danish study even found that holiday music might help lower blood pressure and boost feelings of joy. Neuroscientist Robert Zatorre, Ph.D., of McGill University, found evidence that shows that the music we love can reduce stress and elevate our mood. And according to the Journal of Consumer Research, people actively revisit experiences—like listening to Christmas songs or watching favorite holiday movies—because they anticipate the same positive emotions they’ve felt before.

So not only does Christmas music fill the air with joy—it’s actually good for us!

With that in mind, we’re thrilled to



continue our beloved tradition of Resurrection Christmas Caroling this year on Sunday, December 14th! We’ll gather in the gym at 12:30pm to enjoy some festive treats before heading out to bring music and merriment to Resurrection members in need of a little Christmas cheer. Wear your Santa hats, bring your jingle bells, and get ready to spread the joy of the season. All are welcome—the more voices, the merrier the sound! 🎵

Tinsel Time

by CAROLYN ORLIK

It will soon be time to decorate our homes for Christmas, and the Women's Ministry's Plant Sale Committee is here to help! All your greenery needs for the holiday season will be available by pre-order form only.

Choose from assorted wreaths, roping, grave blankets, poinsettias and more. As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of our country next year, you might even consider a patriotic wreath like the one pictured here.

Order forms will be distributed after worship services and will also be available in the narthex and on Resurrection's website. Orders must be received by Sunday, November 16.

Please pick up your orders at church following the worship services on November 29 and 30. There will be some items for sale at those times, but the best selection will be on the order form.



All proceeds from this sale go toward Resurrection's Christian Concerns Fund to help those in need enjoy a happier Christmas this year. 



Carolyn Orlik

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

EDITORIAL & CREATIVE

Ginny Raffa, Jenny Fort

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Pastor Jeff Browning, Laura Bauer
Jeff Carstens, Patrick Curry
Kimberly Murphy, Armia Bajit
Diana Rivkin, Kerri Andersen,
Cynthia Carstens, Carolyn Orlik
Ken Meyn, James Kumpel

PHOTOGRAPHY

Cynthia Carstens, Chrstine Zimmerman
Ginny Raffa

MAILING VOLUNTEERS

Linda Wardley, Helen Smith
Rolf Lohse, Lorraine Kuzniar
Eileen Peers

OFFICIAL ACTS

Baptisms

_Kennedy Foerschner	9/28/25
Killian Murphy	9/28/25
Lucina May Valentine	10/19/25

Weddings

Julianne Marie Ortiz & Duffy Edward Zimmerman	9/27/25
Jennifer Meghan Byrne & Lucas Robert Carra	10/3/25

Out and About with the People of Resurrection

by KEN MEYN

Alyssa Cherson, Resurrection's French Horn player, is playing with the South Shore Symphony in a "Halloween Spooktacular" at 7:30pm, Sat., Nov. 1. Included will be "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" and "Adventures on Earth" from John Williams's score for "E.T." Concert is at the Madison Theater at Molloy University. Tickets through box office at 516/323-4444, or www.madisontheatre.org

Cellist Chang Guan will play with SymphoNY, a "New York City based choir and orchestra," Sat., Nov. 1. Concert starts at 7pm at the Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Avenue, White

Plains. Info: thesymphonychorus.com

Alyssa is returning to Carnegie Hall at 7pm on Tues, Nov. 25. She will play with the South Shore Symphony in a concert entitled "Seth Rudetsky and his Broadway Friends." Rudetsky is a Sirius Radio host and Broadway accompanist. His friends will include notables such as Andrea Martin, Norm Lewis, Jessie Mueller, Will Swenson and others. Info: sssymphony.org Discount code MLY54237. 

Kenneth Meyn

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



*“For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of living water, and God will
wipe away every tear from their eyes.”*

Revelation 7:17

OPENING

This powerful passage reflects John’s vision of redeemed people coming out of the tribulation into the presence of God the Father and the Lamb. After taking away the sin of the world on the cross, the Lamb of God becomes our Shepherd, our protector, and our greatest advocate. By His way and His guidance, we are freed of the bonds of a sinful broken world and led to living water that will sustain us forever. All the challenges and burdens and sorrows of the world will be no more because God will bring perfect consolation and everlasting comfort.

I connect this passage with the Beatitudes from Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount. When He mentions that

though His followers may be persecuted and suffer for righteousness’ sake, theirs IS the kingdom of heaven.

THINK

Jesus does not promise an easy path in this world, but He assures that eternal life and comfort await. His chosen apostles endured all forms of torture, torment, and opposition as they spread the Good News. Undoubtedly, God’s grace was sufficient to overcome these challenges, and the Lamb shepherded them to everlasting life and provision. Our difficulties in this world are temporary. Our reward in heaven is never-ending.

PRAY

Heavenly Father, we thank you for your grace, which is more than sufficient to endure the trials and tribulations that this world presents. Help us to remain strong in faith, as we realize eternal comfort and living water awaits us. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

DO

Regardless of the imperfections and difficulties of this world, take comfort that they are fleeting. Remember that Christ’s victory over death has redeemed our souls. He is the Good Shepherd who will guide us to the green pastures and still waters of heaven.

JAMES KUMPEL

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 December publication, bringing feature articles and highlights of ministry and people of Resurrection—to inform, inspire and bless you.