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Remembering Those We've Loved and Lost

PASTOR JEFF BROWNING

One of the best weekends of the year is coming up very soon. On the weekend of November 1 and 2, we will join with Christians throughout much of the world in observing the Festival of All Saints and All Souls.

Our All Saints worship services are always so incredibly powerful. The readings are so meaningful. The hymns are especially wonderful, including what is quite possibly my all-time favorite, "For All the Saints." Yet perhaps the most significant moment of the worship services happens during the prayers, when we name all those from the Resurrection community who have passed away during the past year. Of course, as we remember them, we also feel sadness and grief, and the sense of now living with a void that simply cannot be filled again in this life.

Yet, All Saints/All Souls weekend is a celebration above all else. We do indeed remember those we loved and lost. We remember the love, the kindness, the friendship and all the good they were able to give and receive. We remember the stories, the moments, the times they helped us, the times they were there for us, and the indispensable roles they played in our lives.

But most importantly, on the Festival of All Saints/All Souls, we remember that our dearly departed loved ones have claimed the greatest promise ever, made to us and shared with us by Jesus Himself.

Jesus says, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me will live, even though they die, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

Jesus shares the gift of His resurrection and everlasting life with all of us. Jesus lovingly gives us His immortality and makes eternity our destiny. Because Jesus lives, they live also, for the rest of forever, and we know that we will see them again one day.

As we have the past few years, we will be having the All Saints board in the lobby of church throughout the month of October. The All Saints board provides an opportunity for us to remember those we've loved and lost. When you attend a service, you can attach a picture or a name to the board. The names and images will be a focal point of all of our worship services the weekend of November 1 and 2.

Join us that weekend, as we give thanks for every name, every picture, every person. We remember with thanksgiving their lives on this earth and the gift of eternal life they now have through Jesus Christ. We look forward, knowing that God has big plans for us. Jesus has prepared a place for us in the mansions of heaven. Because of Jesus, we all will be together again one day. 



RESURRECTION
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Message from the President

LAURA BAUER

Over the years, Resurrection has supported many missions—even some in Nassau County.

We have been blessed to help these organizations and those they serve. Like most of you, what I know about the missions we support comes from reports made by our Missions Committee and visits by sponsored missionaries. I would like to share a bit more about a local mission.

For many years we have supported the New Life Center food pantry (formerly in Uniondale, now in Franklin Square) a part of Lutheran Social Services in NY (LSSNY), with “in-kind” donations of food, collected and delivered regularly and supplemented at holidays. The families we help with Christmas “angel” gifts are usually connected to the New Life Center. We have also provided layettes for babies stocked with essentials like diapers and clothing.

Due to the funding crunch faced by LSSNY at the New Life Center, their need for funding increased significantly and rapidly. I visited the new location over the summer, and it is a large, bright space where people referred by social services agencies can “shop” from the shelves containing nonperishable food. First-time visitors are given food without a referral. All are welcomed. The amount of food that can be selected is based on household size. I was very happy to see that high quality proteins like chicken are available in a refrigerated section.

They also sort and distribute clothing, primarily for children, although adult clothing is also available. There is a continuing need for new or gently-used children’s clothing which can be delivered (call first to check available hours 516-483-3240).

The new missions budget designates \$10,000 to this vital ministry which helps meet our neighbors’ basic needs. This is one of many ways your generous contributions to missions help alleviate hunger and share the love of Christ.

“Surviving the Holidays” Event

Lossing 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. These feelings are especially acute at holiday time.



We will be conducting a special session of Loss of a Loved One, Shared in November – “Surviving the Holidays.” Thanksgiving and Christmas—focused on family and social events and yearly traditions and expectations—can arouse many emotions. Our goal is to assist you to know what to expect and how to be prepared.

The meeting will take place on Saturday, November 15th at 1pm. Attendees will share a devotion, watch a video and discuss the subject matter. Each person will

receive a Survival Guide—a booklet which contains information and daily encouragement for this difficult time.

Our time together will include snacks

and beverages and will take place in the parish hall.

We would be pleased to welcome members and their families and friends who would like to attend.

LINDA WARDLEY and
DEACON ELLEN FARBER

Stewardship Spotlight:

“We Love Because He First Loved Us”

Dear Church Family,
Lutherans love a good potluck meal, but Jesus’ love is the ultimate casserole—He served it up first, and now it’s our turn to pass the dish! Rooted in 1 John 4:19—“We love because He first loved us”—our stewardship theme, steeped in Lutheran grace, calls us to share our time, talents, and treasures with the same joy as swapping recipes at a church meal.

Inspired by Luther’s call to live out faith in love, we’re rallying our congregation to:

- Deepen Gratitude: Savor Jesus’ grace through worship, small groups, and devotionals, reflecting on the Cross as the ultimate gift.
- Engage Generously: Share your gifts to fuel our mission, from outreach to youth ministry and community service, trusting in Jesus’ provision.

- Foster Community: Gather together like a family, uniting in service to Jesus and neighbors with hearts full of faith.

To keep the table set, we’re serving up:

- A sermon series on stewardship as a joyful response to Jesus’ grace.
- Testimonies on sharing how giving reflects Jesus’ love.
- A transparent pledge drive to sustain our ministries, grounded in Lutheran stewardship.
- Discussions on Biblical giving, financial planning, and volunteering—think of it as a framework for generous living.

Let’s make stewardship a grace-filled celebration of Jesus’ love—like a church feast, with endless coffee. Join us for a season of faith, fellowship, and generosity!

Respectfully,
Jeff Carstens



Dancing with the Stars

TUESDAYS, ABC 8 p.m.

One of my favorite shows, *Dancing with the Stars*, has just entered its 20th year on the air. Each season, a new batch of celebrities is introduced and paired up with a professional ballroom dancer. They learn different styles of dance and compete to get the highest scores from the judges and fan votes to win the coveted Len Goodman Mirrorball Trophy.

This popular show has been capturing audience attention over the years with its fun dancing, choreography, costumes, set designs, and exciting components that appeal to all ages.

Its 34th season premiered in September with many recognizable stars, including nostalgic and new faces who are competing this season. A few familiar faces feature actress Danielle Fishel (*Boy Meets World*), Grammy Award Winner Scott Hoying (*Pentatonix*), and actor/musician Corey Feldman (*The Goonies*, *Stand By Me*).

The first episode of the latest season included shockingly amazing dances in just its first week. Standout performances included a Jive to the song, "Born to be Wild," by famous conservationist Steve Irwin's son, Robert Irwin, and a Tango by *Secret Lives of Mormon Wives* star, Whitney Leavitt, to the song "Golden."

So, if you are interested in seeing the glitz and glamor of ballroom dancing, tune in to watch the competition play out this season, Tuesdays on ABC at 8:00 p.m.!

Review by Ruby Murphy



Blood Drive

Monday, Oct. 6
3:15pm - 7:30pm
Resurrection Gym

People 16-75 can donate, minimum weight for donors is 110 lbs. Bring your donor card if you have one, or an ID with name and photo. Donors should eat well and drink fluids on the day of the drive. To sign up or for questions, contact Linda Wardley, Linda@resgc.org.



Flu Shot Clinic

Friday, Oct. 17, 10:30am—1:30pm
Sponsored by Walgreens

For those with insurance, bring your insurance card. Medicare, Medicaid, and most insurances will cover the cost. For further info or to sign up, contact Linda Wardley, Linda@resgc.org.

Out and About with the People of Resurrection

by KEN MEYN

Changqian Guan plays cello with The Symphony Chorus. The next concert is Sat., Oct. 4, from 7 to 8:30pm. Location is The United Methodist Church of Danbury, 5 Clapboard Ridge Road, Danbury, Connecticut. For more information, go to thesymphonychorus.com

French Horn player Alyssa Cherson performs with two different orchestras a week apart.

The first is an appearance with the North Shore Symphony at Adelphi, Sat., Oct. 25. The concert, which begins at 7:30pm, features a program

including the Brahms Symphony No. 4. For information and tickets, go to northshoresymphonyorch.org

Alyssa also plays with the South Shore Symphony. Sat., Nov. 1 at 7:30pm in a program called "Halloween Spooktacular." Included is "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" by Paul Dukas, "Funeral March of a Marionette" by Charles Gounod and "Adventures on Earth" from John Williams's score for the movie "ET: The Extra Terrestrial." For information and tickets, go to northshoresymphonyorch.org

Clichés for a Reason

This weekend, Pastor mentioned that, when working with a new vicar, he likes to use clichés and stories to help illustrate what it's like to work in ministry. I feel that, oftentimes, clichés get a bad rap. Let's face it: humans have been using the spoken word for more than 150,000 years.

Chances are, someone has already said what I'm thinking, and has probably said it better than I will.

- Don't want to reveal your source? "A little birdie told me."
- Finally see someone you've been missing? "You're a sight for sore eyes."
- Someone being impatient around you while you're trying to complete a task? "A watched pot never boils."

Tried and true clichés stick around for a reason; they capture a large thought in a small bite.

While I appreciate clichés, quotes tend to resonate more with me. I saw one recently that said: "I often hear people say we should be the 'hands and feet of Jesus.' I totally agree. Just remember, those hands and feet had nails through them. Following Jesus comes at a cost."

While being the "hands and feet of Jesus" isn't exactly a cliché, it certainly seems to be a phrase that people like to throw around when they're doing something good or philanthropic. It's a phrase we use to encourage others to support our cause, but what does it actually mean?

We can find some further guidance by looking to what Jesus said Himself in Matthew 16:24. Jesus says, "...let him take up his cross and follow me." Much like the quote I saw, Jesus references

the cross as part of following Him. As Pastor has stated, in sum and substance, in past sermons, Jesus doesn't say "put on your fuzzy bathrobe", or "sit comfortably at home" and follow me. Jesus, knowing full well that He was going to be crucified, said that to follow Him means to take up our cross.

In practice, this means that following Jesus can be, at the very least, uncomfortable. Whether that be because of difficult conversations, or actions that are in accordance with Jesus' teachings but hard to follow in this day and age, to truly be His "hands and feet" means to look to His teachings and follow His example, no matter how difficult.

So, where can we start? In the New International Version of the Bible, the word "love" appears 574 times. If you aren't sure if your behavior is aligned with Jesus' instruction to "follow Him," maybe start by asking yourself whether your actions lead with love.

And while we are looking to the Bible for guidance, let us remember exactly why the story of Jesus' life was written. John states this explicitly in his Gospel, chapter 20, verse 31: "...these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name."

When we are in the world, trying to be the hands and feet of Jesus, let us remember that, like John's Gospel, the things we say, the things we do and the way we act should always point others to Jesus and His life-giving Word. 



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

Fun Fall Activities

JEAN DIETTERICK, Preschool Director

Looking for fun ways to enjoy fall with your preschoolers? Whether it is sunny, windy, or rainy, autumn is full of opportunities to slow down, connect, and explore. These simple activities are perfect for making memories while supporting your child's growth and development.

Go out to your backyard or to your nearest park and collect a bunch of leaves, sticks, acorns, and rocks. Once home, sort each item by colors, shapes and sizes. This provides early experiences with classification, comparison, and observation. Collect leaves of all shapes and sizes. Paint the leaves with paint stamps or brushes to create unique patterns when pressed onto paper.

Instead of carving pumpkins, try having your child decorate it with different materials. You can provide paints, pipe cleaners, pom-poms, googly eyes, stickers and let the creativity begin. This encourages creativity and imaginative play.

After carving out your Halloween pumpkin, save the seeds, wash them, and spread them out on a tray to dry. To use them for a creative activity, on a piece of paper, print your child's name in big letters. Encourage your child to trace their name with glue and place individual pumpkin seeds on top. This helps to practice small motor activity and recognizing their own name.

Go on a nature walk. Make sure that each child has a magnifying glass. Use it to observe small insects and objects found in nature. This will spark interest and curiosity about the small wonders of nature.

Hop into the kitchen with your little one and create some fun treats together. Bake your favorite cookie recipe using fall cookie cutters. Read the recipe, gather all ingredients, follow the instructions step by step. Decorate the cookies with fall-colored icing. Baking is a great interactive way to share math concepts, measuring, counting, and following instructions.

Hope that these activities encourage cozy moments, big smiles, a curiosity for learning, and beautiful memories.

Miracles: God Among Us

Stop, Look and Listen

DEACON HARRY OELLRICH

Today, I'd like to apply the oft over-used acronym of KISS, "keep it simple, stupid"! No deep theological discourse needed here, just stop, look and listen to what we experience in our lives every day. Miracles are all around us, we just need to see them for such!

Over the years, I've spoken to my own family as well as to so many kids as part of various VBS programs each summer about "God sightings;" those moments both big and small that show us the miraculous work of God in our midst each and every day as we go about our routines living out our lives in this world.

Things as diverse as the beauty of a flower, the impact of a kind word, the power of a smile, the unconditional love of a parent for a child, the beauty of a sunset at the end of a hectic day are each mira-



cles surrounding us every day but so easily missed. Similarly, the power and magnificence of a stroke of lightning followed by its consequent clap of thunder, the grandeur of mountains and power of the ocean, the unimaginable vastness of our very universe above on a clear, dark moonless night are more obvious manifestations of God's miraculous presence always among us.

So, stop, look and listen; miracles are everywhere around us. *Be still and know I am God*....and reflect on the words of that wonderful hymn; "How great Thou art!" 

Open Your Eyes

DEACON ELLEN FARBER

Every one of us is surrounded and accosted by miracles every day if we but open our eyes to what is around us.

Each of us is a miracle alone. Plants that seemingly died last year, sprouted and bloomed again. Births of any life form have occurred. 



God Will Make a Way

DEACON ARMIA BAJIT

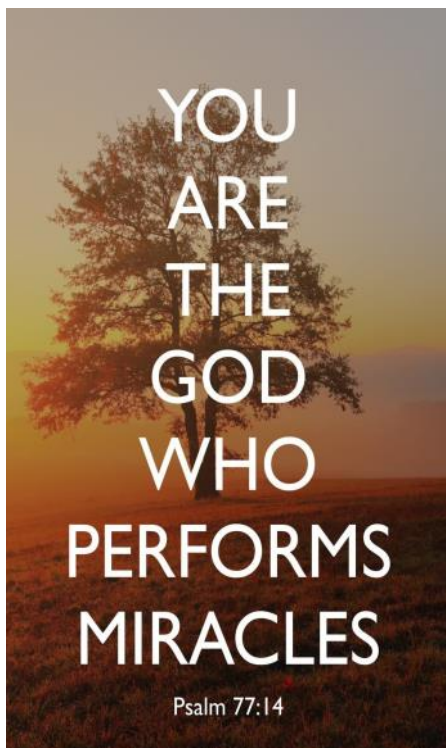
There are times when nothing seems to be going right. Every turned corner presents another obstacle that is exhausting to hurdle or a maze too complicated to navigate. One may ask, "How will I get through this?" In these desperate times of hopelessness, we see that God delivers miracles.

There is one miracle that stands out. The people of Israel received their freedom, finally released from years of bondage and are being pursued by Pharaoh's army. They are trapped between being captured again or drowning in the Red Sea. But God made a way. God made a way that was perfect, powerful, and removed any doubt of His love for His people.

Past experiences have shown that miracles are not just something recorded from the past but are the incredible, unbelievable gifts that are received each day.

Miracles are not random. It is not by luck that something good has happened. Our God loves us, protects us and cares for us. He will move water, and through our Lord's resurrection, heaven and earth.

Therefore, in every moment of struggle, we can trust that God will make a way—because His miracles are not just part of history, but are unfolding in our lives, reminding us of His constant presence and unwavering love. 



Youth and Family Ministry: Fall 2025 Overview

At Resurrection, service—to God and to our community—is the cornerstone of our youth ministries. Our focus remains fixed on identifying the needs of others, and striving to serve, as Christ served, and love as He has loved us.

Three Thriving Youth Groups

We are thrilled to offer three youth groups: elementary (Explorers), middle and high school. These groups meet once a month, during which time we focus on a new Bible topic and use games and activities to help reinforce the Bible message and the teachings of Jesus.

Our monthly youth groups meetings will reconvene at the end of September, with our Explorers group meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 30, 4-5pm and our middle and high school group meeting together on Thursday, Sept. 25, 6-7pm. We look forward to another great year with our students!

Blessing of the Animals

Our annual Blessing of the An-

imals will be on Sunday, Sept. 28, after the 11am service. We will, once again, be asking for monetary donations or unopened pet food/lightly used pet items to support our friends at the Little Shelter in Elwood. All are encouraged to bring their furry (feathered, scaly, etc.) friends to receive a blessing and a small commemorative gift.

Preparing A Meal-a-Month

We have resumed our additional Meal-A-Month food preparation, in partnership with Soup To Nuts in Freeport. Once a month, our youth will prepare a nutritious meal to feed over 100 community members who rely on Soup To Nuts for their daily hot meal. This opportunity is open to youth 6th grade and older. For more information, please contact Deacon Diana Rivkin (diana@resgc.org).

Collecting Food for the Hungry

In connection with Stewardship month in November, we will be distributing new Resurrection tote bags to parishioners after worship to encourage everyone to fill the tote with nonperishable food, bring back the full bag of donations the following week, and keep the tote to help spread the word about Resurrection—a total win-win! Look

for more information about this event toward the end of October.

Hygiene Kits for the Bronx

In connection with our ongoing partnership with Lutheran Social Services and Seneca House, an emergency housing community in the Bronx, we will be putting together hygiene kits this winter to be distributed to the residents at Seneca House. Paul, the housing manager, indicated that there is always a need for new toiletries, as well as warm winter socks. We look forward to helping to alleviate this need. Volunteers are invited to attend a “packing party” scheduled for early 2026, as well as help deliver the completed hygiene kits to the Bronx.

New Focus for Advent Night

Advent Night is getting a facelift! This year we will be moving the event to Sunday, Dec. 7, after the 11am service and instead of doing a craft together, the event will be a more traditional potluck, with a focus on gathering together to share a meal and prepare, in fellowship with one another, for a meaningful Advent season. All attendees will receive a small Advent keepsake to bring home to help celebrate the Advent season. All are welcome and encouraged to attend! 

Come to the Christmas Fair

KATHY LOWE

Looking forward to another great fair, as we raise money for many different charities! We need workers to set up and to help staff the tables.

Donations of jewelry, holiday white elephant

items, and baked goods are all very much appreciated.

Sign-up sheets are on sign-up row for workers and donated baked goods.

(No regular White Elephant table this year!)

A Christmas Heads-up

by CAROLYN ORLIK

Women's Ministries Plant Sale Committee will be selling Christmas greenery for a third year. All proceeds will go into the Christian Concerns Fund to help a needy family from our community better enjoy their Christmas. Stay tuned for details!

Volunteer at Resurrection

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

Get involved this month—October 2025.

Christian Care -

Meal A Month – Sept. 16, 1:30pm
LSS Food Donations - ongoing

Fellowship -

Sunday Morning Coffee Hour. Contact Michelle.Kollmeier@resgc.org or call the church office.

All Volunteers, please contact Michelle.Kollmeier@resgc.org

THE LAMPLIGHTER

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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.

"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

John 8:36

OPENING

In America, freedom usually means independence. We think in terms of "rights" and "choices." It's the spirit of declaring: *I'll chart my own path—no kings, no masters, no limits.* So when Jesus says, *"If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed"* (John 8:36), it's tempting to hear it as the ultimate self-determination. But that's not what He means. His freedom is far different—and far greater—than anything we could ever script for ourselves.

Because independence never stays independent for long. The office calendar dictates your time. The news cycle floods your mind. Sin and guilt whisper in the dark when you're trying to sleep.

Left to our own devices, we don't end up free—we just trade one master for another. That's the cruel irony of "freedom" on our own terms: no amount of independence can ever snap the chains.

And this is where Christ steps in. The freedom He gives isn't the right to rule yourself—it's the gift of release. He doesn't just loosen the chains; He shatters them. And then, instead of leaving us adrift, He welcomes us into the Father's house as beloved children.

That's real freedom: not abandoned to our sins, not abandoned to ourselves, but joyfully abiding in the One who breaks every chain. Free indeed.

THINK

Where in your life do you mistake independence for freedom? How does belonging to Christ give you a deeper joy than "self-rule" ever could?

PRAY

Lord Jesus, thank You for shattering the chains of sin. Guard me from chasing false freedoms, and teach me to delight in the life I have in You.

DO

Each time you hear "freedom" this week—on the news, in conversation, or in your own head—pause to thank Jesus for the greater freedom He's already won for you.

VICAR TYLER MARTIN

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 our November publication, packed with feature articles and highlights of ministry and people of Resurrection—to inform, inspire and bless you.