The Open Door

Pastor Browning reminds us that Resurrection’s door is always open.

Banners Add Color and Joy

Ken Meyn talks with the seamstresses who create beautiful Easter banners.

Sorry, Not Sorry

Pastor Erb explains Christian Apologetics and why we shouldn’t apologize.

Notes & News

Be sure to mark these dates on your Spring calendar.

Raddatz Family News Update

Learn what’s new with our former vicar and his (growing) family.

Media Spotlight

Missed the private screening? Catch this excellent movie at a theatre near you.

An Insider’s Look at SAIL

Micki Dolan shows us around a SAIL Luncheon.

LSS to Honor One of Our Own

Nancy Graf interviews Roxanne Oellrich about an upcoming award.

Mother’s Day Plant Sale, May 5

Carolyn Orlik suggests what to shop for and good reasons why.

Building Blocks

Tips for experiencing spring through the eyes of your child.

Empty Nest Reflections

Life Transitions: Emotions when your last child goes off to college.

Daily Bread

Eva Gaspari points out signs where Jesus reveals Himself.

Plant Sale Order Form

Banners Add Color and Joy to Worship

by KEN MEYN

I love to be creative when it comes to decorating the church. Seeing the banners as part of the celebration gives me great joy.” These are the feelings of Carol Triebe, longtime member of the congregation.

Shelley Leslie, Carol’s partner in decorating, and also a member of the congregation, adds, “I love to make banners and other decorations because they add a visual effect to the church celebration.” Banners make “our church a joyous and wonderful place to be,” she says.

The decorations and banners created especially for the church’s special festival service marking the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation last Oct. 31 are a recent example of the pair’s work.

Carol and Shelley are now hard at work preparing new banners for this Easter. The new banners, in a butterfly motif, will grace the faces of the wooden buttresses visible from the entrance to the nave. The spectacular banners the pair made for last Easter will be moved to the reverse side of the buttresses.

Banners used to be felt glued on felt, but now, Shelley explains, “we have embroidery machines,” which are like sewing machines, but are actually “computers that we can load with designs we create.”
Sorry, Not Sorry

A t the end of April, some 300 plus teenagers from the tristate area will be gathering at the Tuscarora Inn in Mount Bethel, PA, for a weekend retreat. It’s going to be a blast! The theme of the weekend is “HERO: Greater, Better, True.” No doubt that refers to Jesus who has rescued us from all harm and danger, from the greatest foe ever known to man.

I’ve been asked to lead a breakout session for this gathering, and the topic I was assigned is Apologetics. Apologetics is a field of study in which one uses resources outside the Bible, to defend the truth claims of the Bible. And it’s a broad field. It can involve Science, History, Literature, Archaeology, even Philosophy. And, by now, you may be thinking what I started thinking: how can I make Apologetics sound fun and exciting for a group of Middle and High School students? The name alone sounds too academic. Students are looking for a retreat—not more heady instruction.

Apologetics means “to give a defense.” St Peter reminds us to “always be prepared to give a defense to those who question the hope you have in Jesus Christ; doing so with gentleness and respect.” (1 Peter 3:15) And while apologetics sounds like apology, which we use to mean, “I’m sorry,” we don’t say we’re sorry for believing, but we defend it with every breath we take.

The working title of my talk is “Sorry, not Sorry.” Perhaps you’ve seen these words floating around your social media feed. It’s meant to convey the idea that while we might have a difference of opinion, I’m not going to apologize for what I believe to be true, even if you feel hurt or offended. In other words; I’m sorry you’re offended, but I’m not sorry for standing my ground.

That idea, perhaps, is something I’m hoping can inspire students and all of us. It’s Easter season after all. And our Hero, Jesus, did something miraculous; He died and rose from the dead. That singular historical fact is the end all and be all of our faith. It is the ground we stand on. And while we, in faith, need no outside evidence to convince us, the rest of the world does.

I encourage you to think about your faith. Look at the cross and the empty tomb; pray and understand why you believe it. And then be ready to stand firm in faith, and share (defend if necessary) Jesus Christ with the world—and do so unapologetically.

Pastor Nathan Erb
Serves Resurrection as Pastor and Minister to Youth and Families.
The Raddatz Family: News Update
by MICKI DOLAN

Every summer, the people of Resurrection excitedly welcome a new Vicar, but that means that a few weeks before, someone we have come to know and love has left us to continue studies and follow on the road the Lord has set before him.

The road followed by Simeon Raddatz and wife Lauren has led them to the town of Pekin, Illinois, where Vicar Simeon is now Pastor Simeon Raddatz of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Recently I had the pleasure of catching up with Pastor Raddatz and learned that many things have changed since we last saw him.

"We are so excited to have welcomed our new son, Elias Daniel, into the world," Pastor Raddatz said. "My first thought upon seeing him in the delivery room was, 'Wow! Birth really is a miracle. This is so awesome!'"

I asked about their new home in Illinois, and he replied, "People often ask if we’ve ‘settled in’ yet. I think that it will take a while before our new church feels like home. Lauren and I have moved so much since we’ve been married, but the congregation has done nothing but care for, welcome, and support us since we’ve been here."

His thoughts on being a Pastor: "I think that my vicarage with Pastor Browning at Resurrection, as well as life as a pastor’s son, helped to prepare me for different situations that can come up for a pastor. What has surprised me most, though, is how different it is to handle those situations as the pastor rather than as a vicar or an outside observer. As much as seminary and vicarage prepared me for that, I think you just have to learn as you go!"

"There are three things that Pastor Browning taught me while I was on vicarage that have been really important. I haven’t mastered them by any means, but I have them in mind often.

1. Not taking myself too seriously as a pastor. It’s healthy to be able to laugh at yourself, and it’s sometimes good to simplify something that you’ve overcomplicated.

2. Take time out for yourself and for your family. Pastor Browning modeled this balance. There is always so much to do at the church—a never-ending list. It’ll be there tomorrow. Sometimes you just have to get away from it to recharge and spend time with your family.

3. The importance of the little things. I learned that just “being there” for someone during important or tough times in their lives can mean so much more than you might think. What might be little to you could mean the world to someone else."

“I have a picture of Resurrection and the plaque given to me, mounted on my wall in my church office. I keep Pastor Browning, Pastor Erb, and the Resurrection congregation in my prayers as I look at those two items!”

I am sure The Raddatz family knows we keep them in our prayers as well.

Paul, Apostle of Christ
Affirm Films, March 2018

The movie PAUL, APOSTLE OF CHRIST was a Private Premier event for the members of Resurrection and friends on March 22.

It is the story of two men, Luke, as a friend and physician, who risks his life when he ventures into the city of Rome to visit Paul, who is held captive in Nero’s darkest, bleakest prison cell. Before Paul’s death sentence can be enacted, Luke resolves to write another book, one that details the beginnings of “The Way” and the birth of what will come to be known as the “Church”!

Bound in chains, Paul’s struggle is internal. He has survived so much—floggings, shipwreck, starvation, stoning, hunger and thirst, cold and exposure—yet as he waits for his appointment with death, he is haunted by the shadows of his past misdeeds. The two men struggle against a determined emperor who wants to rid Rome of Christianity, and the frailties of the human spirit in order to live out the Gospel of Jesus Christ and spread their message to the world.

Review by Laura and Peter Wigger
Watch the trailer, on YouTube.
An Insider’s Look at SAIL

Many of you have seen the posters and flyers for SAIL, but what exactly is it? A senior group? Does that mean a lot of old people rocking in their rocking chairs? Well, not by any means!

SAIL stands for Seniors Acting in Love. No, it is not the Resurrection dating site either. It is the love of the Lord we share and fellowship with so many of our friends. And our seniors include any retired people (and their guests) who would like to come. New people are always welcome. Church membership is not required.

SAIL was begun over 20 years ago. Today it is headed by a committee made up of Marion Farber, Ruth Chisholm, Irene Pellicane, Kathy Lowe, Rolf Lohse, Maria Herrmann, and me (Micki Dolan). Every month the committee meets and plans for the upcoming SAIL event.

Every third Friday of the month brings something exciting and different. The afternoon begins with some humorous stories told by Jean Quinn and follows with a devotion, and a prayer before our meal.

Then comes a delicious catered luncheon, often a seasonal meal. In November we shared a full Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings. At Christmas, a Christmas party with hors d’oeuvres, holiday punch, a spiral ham dinner and a Christmas sing-along. St. Patrick’s Day brings the traditional corned beef and cabbage with Irish soda bread, and in June a barbecue. (There are no events during the summer months or in January.) There is always plenty to eat, and many people go back for seconds. Then we relax with coffee, tea and delicious desserts and conversation. Leftover food is available for our shut-ins. All of this for just $15 per person!

Trivia games, musical sing-alongs and speakers provide our entertainment. In October, Pastor Browning spoke on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, and we were treated to a sneak preview of the beautiful paintings done by Deacon Michelle Kollmeier. In March, Hempstead tax collector Donald X Clavin spoke on tax advice for seniors. There is always something fun and informative.

Every event sponsors a mission for which we collect donations. Some of our recent causes have been Heifer International, Living Water for Women, The INN in Hempstead, and a collection of warm winter wear for the homeless.

Interested? The signup sheet can be found on the table in the church lobby at the beginning of each month. If you have never been to a SAIL luncheon, please join us. You will find new friends, old friends and a wonderful afternoon of food, fun and fellowship.

Jean Quinn welcomes everyone and leads with a prayer and devotion.

Nora Telfeyan and daughter Jennifer at February Valentine’s lunch.

SAIL Committee plans monthly meetings. (from left) Micki Dolan, Marian Farber, Ruth Chisholm, Rolf Lohse, Irene Pellicane and Kathy Lowe.

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The introduction of computers did not make the work of creating up to eight banners any less arduous or time consuming than before. Individual designs can take up to six hours to produce. A single banner, made up of multiple designs, might take two or three days.

Themes come from Pastor or those who will be in charge of the holiday worship. After a theme is selected there is research for suitable symbols.

“Carol and I start as soon as we know the theme (usually one month before) and visualize what we want to do,” says Shelley.

This process has been going on for a number of years. Carol says, “I started after helping Amber (Browning) one Easter with Shelley and Deb Wolk. I volunteered myself and brought Shelley along. The embroidery banners started last year with Easter.”

Both Carol and Shelley are Long Island natives. Carol grew up in Sea Cliff and got her Associate in Applied Science degree from SUNY Farmingdale. She has worked in the medical field since 1975 and is currently employed by Quest Diagnostics as a Customer Care representative, fielding calls from doctors and hospitals.

Carol married Bill Triebe in 1980 after Shelley invited her to join a bowling league with Bill on it. Bill died in 1996.

Shelley grew up in Albertson, went to Herricks High School and attended trade schools to become a medical tech and medical assistant. She has worked in medical labs and a dialysis unit. She is now retired and providing round the clock care for her elderly father.

The two friends enjoy what they do. Says Carol, “Shelley and I have always worked well together. We start with a theme and we go with it.”

Longtime friends Carol Triebe (top) and Shelley Leslie sew butterfly designs on banners to decorate the church for Easter.

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The door is always open to you every single worship service throughout the year, and every single day. The door is open, forever and always. The door is open to your spouse, your children, your grandchildren, your neighbors, your friends, your coworkers, and everyone else. Come and invite others to join us at Resurrection this weekend or any weekend to hear and taste the miracle of our resurrected, living Savior. Our door is open to, and we have always seemed to find a seat, for everyone.

As we read in Luke’s Gospel, and all the gospel accounts, the stone has been rolled away. Jesus is risen, and He will live forever. The door that was opened that first Easter morning is the gateway to everlasting life, and the door will never close again.

The Open Door
Continued from page 1

from the dead. The One who was dead is alive again, and He will live, and He will reign for all of eternity. On Easter, Jesus won an eternal victory over death, and He calls us to share the full fruits of His victory. Also, not to boast or anything, but our talented musicians and church decorators always do an amazing job capturing the significance of the day. Their efforts meet and exceed even the loftiest expectations.

But as Christians, we believe the celebration of Easter is ongoing. At the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, we have Easter services 52 weekends a year, every year. All of our services are celebrations of the miracle of Easter, because we have been eternally redefined by the death and resurrection of Jesus. Death has been defeated. Life with Christ is eternal. That is our year-round, proclamation for the rest of forever. We are blessed to live in the assurance that each and every one of our days is now part of an eternal story, thanks to Jesus and the miracle of Easter.

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Continued from page 1

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Longtime friends Carol Triebe (top) and Shelley Leslie sew butterfly designs on banners to decorate the church for Easter.
Lutheran Social Services to Honor One of Our Own

Roxanne Oellrich

Lutheran Social Services of New York (LSSNY) will honor Roxanne Oellrich at its 13th Annual Awards Celebration on April 23, 2018, at the New York Athletic Club. LSSNY serves over 7000 of the metropolitan area’s most needy; strengthening lives, families and communities via foster and child care, hunger prevention, immigration, housing and special education programs.

According to LSSNY, Roxanne will receive the Honorable Daniel W. Joy Dedicated Service Award in recognition of her many years’ service to our congregation and to our church plant, THE LIFE, and to LSSNY’s New Life Center in Uniondale. She is also being honored for serving the people of Haiti through “Chances4Children.” Work there includes establishment and operation of orphanages, medical and mobile medical clinics, feeding programs, women’s empowerment programs and building churches in remote regions. Her work focuses primarily on its medical and educational initiatives, and she gratefully acknowledges Resurrection’s support.

Roxanne’s dedication also extends to “Both Ends Believing,” supporting the organization her husband, Harry, helped create to serve children living outside of parental care. Their vision statement is, “Every child’s most fundamental right is to grow up in a loving family.” BEB works with the governments of 26 countries.

Roxanne received her BS in nursing from SUNY Plattsburgh and an MS in perinatal nursing from University of Pennsylvania, where she subsequently worked and taught. After marrying Harry, she worked as a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Winthrop Hospital’s Neonatal ICU for 30 years. She and Harry have three adoptive children from Hungary.

Roxanne thanks God every day for giving her the gifts of ability, energy and so many opportunities to serve others.

Resurrection Women’s Ministry will hold its 12th annual Mother’s Day Plant Sale on Saturday, May 5, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. This is a convenient way to plan your spring and summer garden as well as an opportunity to support wounded and recovering members of our armed forces. Our grower, Borella’s in Nesconset, will once again be providing a wide variety of quality perennials, annuals, ornamental grasses and select vegetables.

Pre-order forms will be available (see insert) and must be submitted by April 23. This form offers the greatest variety and selection of plants. Please come to the public sale on May 5 to support your church and your veterans. If you are interested in volunteering on the committee or on the day of the event, please contact Nancy McDonald thru the church office. Don’t forget, Mother’s Day is May 13!

Carolyn Orlik enjoys sharing her love of music (worship team), photography and writing (publicity), and gardening (Women’s Ministries Plant Sale)
‘EMPTY NEST’ REFLECTIONS
by ELIZABETH GEILING, MSEd, LCC Psychotherapist

My heart is heavy tonight, and sleep is not likely to happen. I used to sit in this room in the wee hours of the night to comfort and feed crying babies. It seems like yesterday.

In a few short hours, we pack up the car and bring our fourth and last child to college. You see, she is our family’s true baby. She is gentle and sweet and oh, so pretty. She has a nice way about her, and I will miss her energy in the house. As the youngest, she went along for the ride more times than I care to admit. She was parented and loved by all and learned too early that the world didn’t revolve around her.

When my children were little I used to tell them if they got lost to find a mommy with a stroller and she will help you find me. Over the years, “Find the mommies” has become a joke, a parting line at the airport. Nonetheless, in my opinion, this still remains solid advice.

For the first time in 24 years, I won’t be involved in the day-to-day operation of any child’s life. Did she eat? What time will he be home? Is there a big assignment coming up? Does she have clean laundry? Did we print that permission slip? This part of parenting is over, never to happen again for me or my children. How did I arrive here? I imagined myself a young, vibrant mother forever.

Is she ready for college? Did I forget to tell her anything important? Was our home a good enough launching pad for her to accomplish her dreams? What will stand in her way? I have lived this night three times before. The parental self-evaluations are brutal. By October, they gradually shift to the feeling that we can manage this transition. But, as they go, there is always a lingering sense of regret. Parenting is filled with “if only ....”

Remember, this is my fourth child going to college. I have no illusions about the herculean parenting task that lies ahead of me. I will be needed, and needed in ways that will stretch my person and parenting skills to the breaking point. Big kids, big problems, no doubt—no kidding.

College is the parenting version of planned obsolescence. Some features of the day-to-day parenting tasks disappear completely to make room for the parenting upgrade required to navigate the young adult years.

As she leaves our house, my advice remains the same, “When you are lost, find the mommies and they will bring you to me.” I am here, always.

But beginning tomorrow, the mommies she encounters will have a new role. In most situations, they will not bring her back to me, but away from me. There will be new mentors that will help us separate and change the course of her life in ways that we can only imagine. Another day, another week, another month, I will have the words and perspective to sugar coat this. But not today.

It is morning now, and some are waking to load the car. It is time to go.

Mrs. Geiling counsels children, teens, adults and couples at LCC’s Bronxville and Advent, NYC sites. Call the Lutheran Counseling Center at 516-741-0994 or 1-800-317-1173 or e-mail Center@lcny.org for more information or to set an appointment. LCC has nine counseling sites in and around metropolitan New York. Visit lcny.org.

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Experiencing Spring through the Eyes of your Child
by JEANNE BICE & JOANNE SARDIS

Warmer weather ushers in many of our favorite things, such as birds singing, flowers blooming, budding leaves, green grass, and elusive butterflies. Most of all, spring brings an end to being stuck inside due to bitter cold and stormy days. As spring appears, we have the opportunity to go outside and enjoy the beautiful signs of spring through the eyes of our children.

Longer daylight hours provide us with many opportunities for fun spring activities. Some suggested activities include a nature walk around your neighborhood to observe the sights, sounds, smells, and feel of God’s beautiful creations.

Springtime brings changes all around us. It’s now time to choose seeds for planting. Have fun choosing, preparing, and planting various seeds together with your child. Children grow like the seeds in our garden. Savor this time as you watch your child and your garden grow beautifully.

As the hard work in the garden comes to an end, take the time to enjoy relaxing spring activities with your child. Visiting a park, flying a kite, and riding bicycles are all ways to enjoy the longer daylight hours.

The days are long, but the years are short. Take the time to enjoy God’s gift of spring and your child.

Some suggested spring reading:

Mouse’s First Spring by Lauren Thompson

Planting a Rainbow by Lois Ehlert

The Listening Walk by Paul Showers & Aliki

My Spring Robin by Anne Rockwell, Harlow Rockwell & Lizzy Rockwell

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BUILDING BLOCKS
Stories and News from Resurrection’s Preschool

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ResGC.org / 7
Easter! It is a joyful time of year. My daughter is preparing for her First Communion, my son for Confirmation. In our home, it has been a period to reflect and examine the evidence that supports our faith. Some of the answers are easy: Jesus is the Son of God because the Bible tells us. But, as this passage illustrates, there is more. Jesus reveals Himself to us in ways that do not lend themselves easily to words. There is more than we know, but in a wonderful way, deep seeded in our hearts is a perfect understanding of Jesus. We do not know what signs Jesus revealed that are not spoken of in the Gospel, but we do know that there were many. In the same way, Jesus reveals Himself in a million little ways still. Jesus is present in each sunrise, in each act of kindness and forgiveness. And Jesus reveals Himself in the tiny little faces of the children who are called in their hearts to Him. We are all children growing in faith. May we read His Word and see Him in our presence.

**THINK**
In what ways has Jesus revealed Himself to me?

**PRAY**
Jesus, open my heart that I may see You in the stillness and in the signs which do not lend themselves easily to words.

**DO**
Forgive, love, do unto others and be a reflection of Jesus so that others may see you as a sign of Christ.

Eva Gaspari

**Worship with Us**

Saturday 5:30 PM
Sunday 8:30, 9:45 & 11 AM
Sunday School, Youth Forum & Adult Education 9:45 AM

**Coming in your next newsletter ...**
The June issue of *The Lamplighter* will feature articles on Music at Resurrection, Vicar Sean’s reflections on his year with us, a Getting to Know You interview, messages from our pastors, a devotional on the verse of the month, and much more.