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## **75 Years of Baptisms**

PASTOR JEFF BROWNING

One of the blessings of the past year has been the return of baptisms to our worship gatherings. Needless to say, baptisms are a really big deal.

Baptism is a special moment, a once in eternity experience. We are blessed that we get to share these special moments a lot. Many of you are aware of this, especially if you attend the 11am service, where having a baptism during the service often feels like the norm and not the exception.

As we commemorate our Resurrection's milestone anniversary this year, I can't help but recognize that there have been so many baptisms over the past 75 years: thousands of mostly infants, but also a good number of older children, and even a handful of adults. Every single one has been a blessing. Obviously, so many fami-

lies and their close friends have been blessed to experience an unforgettable moment, shared with the wonderful people of this congregation. Our worshiping community has been blessed to witness all these baptisms and, in every instance, remember our own baptism. Most of all, the ones who have been baptized are truly blessed, because in baptism they receive a gift unlike any other, a gift that will last forever.

In fact, to label baptism as merely "special", doesn't quite capture it. We believe that baptism is so much more than just symbolism or ceremony. In baptism, God, the Holy Spirit, descends upon us to live with us and in us forever. Through baptism, the Holy Spirit unites us to Jesus. This truth is central to who we are and

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## **Resurrection To Celebrate 75 Years: First Annual Pig Roast**

MIKE SANTANGELO

Have you ever wondered what all the fuss is about when people talk about pig roasts? If so, you will have an opportunity this summer to witness firsthand what all the excitement is about.

February 15<sup>th</sup> marked the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Resurrection which was recognized at services on the week of February 12. Continuing our yearlong 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration, Resurrection will host their first

annual Pig Roast and Barbeque.

As we continue to rebuild and establish new traditions in this anniversary year, this new experience will offer a fun and unique opportunity for fellowship with plenty of delicious food! This free event will be held at Resurrection on Sunday, August 6, at noon, following the 11 o'clock service.

*Please turn to page 2*



## Message from the President

LAURA BAUER

Seventy-five years: a different century, a different time, when Resurrection came to be. The congregants are different, the buildings are different, the Pastors are different. A lot has happened to all of us in 75 years; in fact most of us were either not yet born or small children.

Yet, this year we celebrate the founding of Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, a place that has been integral to many of our lives, as we marked major life events through baptisms, communions and confirmations, weddings and funerals. Some have been members briefly, while others are intergenerational members whose families have participated in the life of the church for decades. Children have been raised in the church by Preschool, Sunday School, Communion and Confirmation classes.

Through my more than 25 years as a member, I have witnessed the flow of people through the church, through worship services, fellowship and service events, through church leadership and staffing. And the one thing that ties all these people together is our faith.

Faith binds all Resurrection members to Jesus and to one another. It is our faith that guides our worship, our fellowship, and our service to others through missions near and far. It is our focus on faith, our willingness to be led by faith, that has helped Resurrection grow and be strong over challenges facing our church and society.

Resurrection has been here as a rock, a touchstone, when people face crisis. Our faith informs our kindness to those who visit, because we know we are to love our neighbors as ourselves. Our faith informs our commitment to missions as we follow Jesus' command, "Feed my sheep".

I don't know what Resurrection will face in the next 25 years, or who its members will be at the 100th Anniversary. But I do believe, that as long as we remain in our faith, Resurrection will be here, a fellowship of believers.

## 75 Years of Baptisms

*Continued from page 1*


what we are as people of faith. In his letter to the Romans, Paul captures the miracle of baptism. He writes:

*Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His.*  
**Romans 6:3-5**

In baptism, God redefines our entire existence. The language that Paul uses is jarringly specific. Through that water, we become one with the death and burial of Jesus Himself. He literally grafts us into the ultimate act of love, his atoning sacrifice for all of humankind. Jesus' fate

becomes our fate. He rose from the dead, and so will we. Sin and death are put to death. Resurrection becomes our eternal destiny. We are made alive in Christ, and we will rise again.

As we sing following every single baptism, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow." Sing it loud. After all, we have cause to celebrate and rejoice. We're witnessing and participating in something truly extraordinary, the greatest moment of life as we know it in this world. God is transforming death into resurrection. He is turning temporary into forever. He is recreating us as His children, eternal citizens of His kingdom, people of the resurrection.

What's happening in baptism is a miracle in the fullest sense. Never forget the gift of baptism. And join me in praying that God blesses the Lutheran Church of the Resurrection and the Church throughout the world with many more. 



**Pastor Jeff Browning**  
Pastor Browning serves as Pastor at Resurrection.


## Resurrection Celebrates 75th Year: Pig Roast

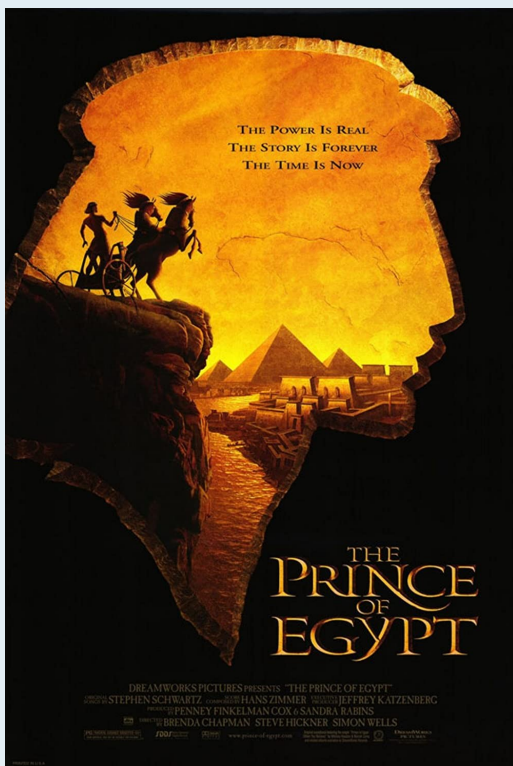
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The Pig Roast celebration will have a block party feel, with a DJ, a snow cone truck, and games for the kids.

The Pig Roast promises to be a great time for everyone! As committee member Bill Sweeney sums it up: "I'm really looking forward to the Resurrection Pig Roast and Barbeque this summer! It's going to be so much fun seeing everyone and enjoying a summer Sunday. The food is going to be awesome, there's going to be a DJ, and some games for the kids, too. [It will be] a really wonderful family day for all. [I] can't wait!"

We hope to see you this summer at what promises to be a memorable event! 



## Prince of Egypt

Dreamworks 1998

Anyone who knows me knows that I love the stories in the Old Testament. It is filled with stories of adventure, love, sacrifice, and richness of God in the lives of His people. It has prophets, priest, and kings but more importantly God's promise of Jesus Christ.

In many ways you cannot have the New Testament without the Old. However, many of these stories are hard to explain or to visualize for yourself. That's where the film "Prince of Egypt" by DreamWorks Studios can help so much. It tells arguably the most important story from the Old Testament: Moses leading Israel out of Egypt.

The movie follows Moses as he was raised in Egypt, fled, and his return to free the people of God (with God's help, of course!). It does so faithfully with some fantastic animation and some of my favorite music ever!

I cannot recommend this movie enough to those interested in the story of Moses and how God set his people free. You can rent or buy "Prince of Egypt" on Amazon video. I'd love to hear anyone's thoughts on it!

Review by Vicar Matthew Lynch

# Why Filling the Pews Can Help Keep People Alive

JOHN KINGSTON

**I**t's an utterly depressing term for our era: **Deaths of Despair.** It refers to causes of mortality that include suicide, drug overdoses and deaths from alcohol-related liver disease. None of these are new causes of death. But what has been a trend in the last 30+ years is how much they've risen, and in particular how much they've climbed in a particular demographic: white working-class people.

Could going to church help reverse the rise?

This is not one more oft-heard plea to come to church on Sunday. The question is posed in a recent study by the highly-respected National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER). A recent working paper published by NBER, and the topic of our Men's Ministry discussion in April, is its title: "Opiates of the Masses? Deaths of Despair and the Decline of American Religion."

The title is a play on Karl Marx's declaration that religion is the "opiate of the masses." But the reality of course is that Marxism is still only operating in a few countries and has failed miserably everywhere, while the tomb very much remains empty.

The NBER study looks at the rise in deaths of despair going back to the late '80s. That time is chosen because the authors say data shows that is when attendance at church in the U.S. began to drop.

And what also was going on then?

The end of "blue laws" which kept most businesses closed on Sunday.

According to the study, it's been a toxic combination. The end of blue laws weakened church attendance. And weaker church attendance has correlated with the increase in depths of despair.

The study further shows that the rise in deaths of despair has not been evenly distributed across the country. States with a high degree of what the authors call "religiosity" have fared relatively well in the rising tide of these sadness-wracked deaths. Those with low numbers have not. (North Dakota has fared particularly well in those comparisons. I wonder what denomination a lot of them are up there?)


*Come to church.  
It might help  
keep you alive.*

Deaths of despair have often been tied to the rise in opioids. And while the authors don't ignore that, they cite other data that shows that deaths of despair

began rising in that period between the end of blue laws and the introduction of OxyContin.

These findings are probably not stunning to the members of Resurrection. We know that the natural state of affairs for many is darkness but that we accept the Light of the World.

But now it's an academic study that gives us a very practical conclusion: Come to church. It might help keep you alive.

(Please contact me if you want to see the study, or simply Google "NBER Deaths of Despair.") 



# The In-Between

DIANA AUER

*“Thy will be done on earth,  
as it is in Heaven.”*

**H**ow many times have we recited these words, all the while living in this liminal space, between the harsh reality of our daily lives and the fullness of Heaven. It seems that we are perpetually caught in this in-between.

We know God is with us, but we don't quite see the fullness of His perfect world—the world we pray for, a world that looks like Heaven. We as Christians are caught between the ascension of Jesus, and the return of Jesus that is promised. And if we're honest, we are sometimes caught between succumbing to the darkness of this world and being a light and blessing to one another.

But as Christians, fortunately, when we are faced with these challenges, with the realization that we've yet to fully experience true heaven on earth—we can turn to prayer, for strength and guidance.

So, what is one way that God's will be done on earth as it is in Heaven? By us being conduits for God to answer prayers. As we are caught between the pull to drown in the darkness of this world, and trying to share God's love, we can take a moment to appreciate how amazing it is that God can use us to answer other people's prayers. By simply being kind, loving, and patient, you could be the answer to someone else's prayer.

You could be the reason that someone continues to believe in God. You could be the reason that someone chooses not to give up.

There is an exceptional woman named Kate Bowler who is a PhD, best-selling author, graduate of Duke Divinity school and a religious historian that writes, honestly, about the struggles of life, and how, sometimes, there isn't a “bright side”, and that it's OK to grieve the lives we thought we'd have. Here is part of one of her blessings for the lives we actually have—not the lives we hoped for, not the lives we wished we had, but the in-between of God's perfect heaven, and the challenges of this world:

*Let today be a divine  
exercise in yes... and...*

*Yes, I have so much to be  
thankful for, and this  
hasn't turned out like I  
thought it would.*

*Yes, I feel moments of joy,  
and I have lost more than I  
could live without.*

*Yes, I am trying to be  
brave, and I feel so afraid.*

*Make me capable of  
great joy,  
great love,  
great risk,  
even fear,  
as you expand my heart  
with this yes...  
and... today.*

Kate Bowler 



**Deacon Diana Auer**

Director of Youth & Family Ministry,  
loves to sing, bake, and spend time  
with her husband, Matt, and their  
miniature schnauzer, Ollie.

## BUILDING BLOCKS

Stories & News from Resurrection Preschool

### The Importance of Play

KATHY JENDRAS, 3's Teacher

At Lutheran Preschool, a large part of our day is centered around play. While playing in the classroom, in the gym, or on the playground, the children are constantly learning new skills.

Throughout our school day, there is no doubt about it—we learn while we play!

In the classroom, students use toys such as blocks to foster their problem-solving skills. When they work to build a tall tower, they find the right combination to build a sturdy foundation or sort the blocks by color. The students are learning through trial and error and using their creativity and imagination to accomplish their tasks.

Through play, students can strengthen their fine-motor skills in activities such as stringing beads and playing with play dough. On the playground the children work on their gross-motor skills by climbing the stairs, running and jumping on and off the seesaw.

Throughout the school year, we see a tremendous increase in the children's communication skills. The children learn that they need to ask for things in order to share and play with their friends. We teach the children phrases such as, “Can we play together?” and “Can I use that when you are done?” Play helps children learn to work together and aids in the enhancement of their social skills.

It's such a joy watching our little ones grow and learn throughout this school year. We can't wait to see the great things they will accomplish as part of the Lutheran Preschool 4's program next year!

# Chances4Children: Haiti Mission Update

ROXANNE OELLRICH

**R**esurrection continues to support the feeding program of Chances4Children, (C4C), a Christian organization providing hope for Haitian children and families. Despite political upheaval, gang violence, kidnappings and devaluation of the Haitian currency, C4C continues to serve over 7,000 children, thanks to God and a dedicated Haitian staff.

C4C's mission is taking Haitian communities from survival through stability to sustainability via orphan care, feeding programs, medical/dental care, education, church/community

development, agriculture, and economic programs. The feeding program provides food to 6,400 children in 15 villages, partnering with Feed My Starving Children. Food is received from the docks in Port au Prince or Cape Haitian and trucked to secure locations, then distributed via motorcycles when it is safe to travel.

Our support feeds 500 children in Model, a church community, where they are fed three days a week. For many this is their only reliable food source due to ongoing food insecurity caused by shortages and increasing prices. This also provides jobs for five workers, who transport the food and cook in large vats in the villages, helping provide stability for entire families. In 2019, Sharon Meyer and I had the opportunity to visit Model's church, school and feeding site; assisting with the distribution of these meals.

Pastor Bourdeau (Model) recently sent this message: "Good afternoon, sponsor, supporting our church and children. You all deserve to be thanked for continuing to think about us. We continue to pray to God, so that the insecurity situation can pass away. The feeding program is a big help to the people in the community and the church. The parents have a program where they know their kids are going to eat. We have many who come because



Roxanne (top center) teaching CPR

they are very hungry, and the MannaPack is very important. So, in the name of all parents and children, I want to thank you. We will be praying for you for more blessing and grace for you as our supporters. God bless you all."

In August I returned to Haiti, staying at the orphanage/medical clinic compound and interviewed/hired doctors and nurses to



Roxanne (left) and Sharon administer the Feeding Program in Model

travel to our remote sites to continue necessary medical care. CPR and staff development classes were also taught.

Despite all their travails, the people of Haiti persevere. The latest input from staff and contacts in-country indicate that with God's help, the worst of the political and civil upheaval may soon be ending. 🏠

## Plant Sale Benefits Paws of War

CAROLYN ORLIK



(left) Paws of War veterans/volunteers Linda Schmanky with therapy dog Valentino, Mike Kilano, Janine Halstead with therapy dog Merri. (right) Youth volunteers Grace and Matthew Kumpel.



**A** sunny day and many volunteers contributed to a successful Plant Sale on Saturday, May 6th. Women's Ministries would like to thank the Men's Fellowship and the youth volunteers, without whom we would not have been able to have our public sale. Thanks to the efforts and support of all, a \$5000.00 donation will be made to Paws of War. 🏠



## Broadway Laughs and Hunger Relief

One of my favorite things about youth and family ministry at Resurrection is the great balance between fun, casual outings and impactful mission-driven events.

One reviewer advised to, "See it if you have a pulse. This show has something for everyone. It's brilliantly hilarious and will not disappoint. Don't see it if you pride yourself on sharing personal qualities with the likes of the Grinch. Even then...still see it!"



Resurrection youth spend an evening on Broadway .

At Resurrection, we find time to enjoy all that New York has to offer, while also making sure that we dedicate time to spreading the Gospel and helping those around us.

This past month, our middle and high school youth groups headed into New York City for our annual Broadway show. This year, we went to see "The Play That Goes Wrong," a hysterical "whodunit" that, as the title would suggest, goes terribly wrong.

One critic commented: "This is a planned demolition (and an exceedingly well-executed one at that)...We wonder how on earth the performers are going to sustain this level of lunacy. Remarkably, they do..." I can't help but echo this sentiment. Admittedly, this was my fourth time seeing this show, and it still managed to have me laughing until I started to tear up. I think it is safe to say that we all left the theater with a permanent smile on our faces.


### Meal Packing Event

After spending a great, fun evening out in the city, we look forward to one of our biggest outreach events of the year, our annual meal packing event on Saturday, June 17, from 9am to 2pm to support Rise Against Hunger.

Recent statistics indicate that the number of people affected by hunger rose globally by more than 60 million since 2020, so the need to support organizations like Rise Against Hunger is more dire than ever.

We give thanks for Rise Against Hunger and their partnership, but we can't do it without our amazing Resurrection family! We need over 100 people to volunteer on June 17, so that we can meet our commitment to pack 20,000 meals.

I thank everyone in advance for their support and participation! Anyone interested in helping can sign up and find more information on our website.

We continue to be encouraged and strengthened by our Resurrection families, who remain committed and dedicated to the mission and ministry of our amazing church! We look forward to a wonderful spring and summer ahead. 



## VBS 2023 Is Coming July 31 - August 4!

Rocket into an out-of-this-world adventure at Resurrection this summer! Participant registration is now open through our website: [www.resgc.org/vbs](http://www.resgc.org/vbs).

Help make this year's program an enormous success, and sign up today to serve as a Volunteer in one of Resurrection's biggest community outreach events.

For more information, visit our website, [resgc.org/vbs](http://resgc.org/vbs) or email Deacon Michelle Kollmeier, [VBS@resgc.org](mailto:VBS@resgc.org).

*(Children entering kindergarten through 5th grade in the fall of 2023 are eligible to participate. Preschool-age children must be 3 years old before September 1, 2022, and have completed a full year of Preschool in order to participate.)*

### EDITORIAL & CREATIVE

Ginny Raffa, Jenny Fort

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### OFFICIAL ACTS

#### Baptisms

Nicolas Cristopher Ferro	4/1/23
Hyden Huang Guan	4/16/23
Kaylani Skye Vincenti-Campbell	4/30/23

#### Funerals

Jean Muff (Memorial Service)	4/3/23
Gerhardt Frank	4/17/23



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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.

*“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”*

*Romans 12:2*

In this verse, the apostle Paul guides Christians in Rome on how they should approach their lives and relationships with God.

The verse emphasizes the importance of not conforming to the patterns, values, and attitudes of the world; but instead, embarking on a transformative journey to understand what is truly good and acceptable to God. It highlights the need for believers to consistently resist the allure of conforming to societal values and allow their minds

to be continually renewed by the powerful truth of God. By doing so, they are able to understand and align themselves with God's will, discerning what is pleasing and virtuous in His sight.

As Christians, we firmly believe that our bodies are as sacred to God as our souls. Therefore, we are called to serve Him holistically—with our bodies, minds, and spirits. When we understand that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit and instruments through which the Spirit works, we

are inspired to devote our daily lives as acts of worship to God. This is not an easy task; the world is full of temptation and can pull us away from God and the path of righteousness.

Because of this, I encourage you to pray for renewed and continued faith so that you may offer yourself wholly to Him. When you do, remember that your thoughts and actions can be transformed into offerings of love and devotion to God.

SARINA SINGH

## 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

The next *Lamplighter* will be your July/August edition, bringing encouragement and opportunities to build your faith, as well as inspiring features and articles on timely topics. Watch for more news and reflections on Resurrection's 75th Anniversary celebration.