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How Long?

PASTOR JEFF BROWNING

How long? I would conservatively estimate my children ask me this question at least three times a day.

How long is this car ride? How long to dinner? How long do we have to wait to start the movie? How long until Christmas Eve?

But let's be honest. It's not just something that the kids do. Inevitably, life brings us all to circumstances where we can't help but ask the question: How long? We wait. We wonder. We struggle. We grow impatient and frustrated.

Human beings have been asking the question ever since God created human beings. The story of God's people, as recorded in the Scriptures, is packed with so many in-

stances. For example, in Psalm 13 King David writes:

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I take counsel in my soul and have sorrow in my heart all the day? How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

Right now, for obvious reasons, this question is such a big part of life as we know it. For many of us, several times a day, we find ourselves wondering and asking: How long? How long until this is all behind us? How long until I can go to that place or do that

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Men of Resurrection: Faith for These Times

Editor's Note: How are the Men of Resurrection faring through these surreal times? You are sure to be impressed, inspired, and encouraged by the following accounts from these men of God. A huge thank-you to Glen Boehmer, Jim LiCalzi, Alex Sabella, and Tony Santangelo for sharing their experiences.

Faith During a Time of Covid

What a year! Strange ... weird ... filled with anxiety ... sickness ... fear ... so many of us are ready to change the calendar and move

on to 2021. For our family, we've been in the thick of it. We've cancelled weddings, a hospital visit with Mom, the joy of running a business during a pandemic, the isolation from family and loved ones, and the absence of in-person church services.

Since honesty is the best policy and Pastor is reading this article, my conversations with God in March and April were not as friendly as I generally have during a church service. I was angry, frustrated, and extremely intense in fighting for my family and our income.

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Message from the President

WALTER WOICYK

October marks the beginning of the last quarter of the calendar year and with it a change in the season. This is accompanied by a change in the number of hours of daylight as well as a change in the temperature. Some will welcome these changes, while others will not.

That's the thing about change; sometimes change is good, such as welcoming a new child into a family, achieving a goal, or getting that new job. At other times, change could be more challenging. In the temporal world in which we live, change is inevitable.

Here at Resurrection, numerous changes have taken place. We've had changes to our worship opportunities with the choice of worshipping outside at 8:30 a.m., inside the church at 11 a.m., or online at 10 a.m., and we've had changes to our Bible studies which are now offered online. We've even had changes to our property with the removal and trimming of a number of trees as a result of the storm in August.

While some may embrace change, others may find it unsettling. As Christians, however, we can take comfort in the immutability of God. As God reminds us in the Book of Malachi, "I the Lord do not change." (Malachi 3:6). God's unchanging character provides stability to a world in which nothing stable seems to exist.

Although change is certain, live in the joy of knowing that God's love, mercy and forgiveness are steadfast, unchanging, and given fully to each of us, and take comfort in the unchanging assurance of Jesus' words, "And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

Catching up with Rev. Jordan Voges

Vicar Jordan Voges came to Resurrection in the fall of 2016. After vicarage, he returned to Concordia Seminary and completed the Master of Divinity program. "I set two goals for myself at the outset: start a student journal at the seminary and get accepted into the Seminary's Master of Sacred Theology (STM) Program," he said.



Rev. Jordan Voges and son, James.

He could never have imagined what was ahead. Rev. Voges explained, "What I did not expect was to meet a lovely woman named Alyson at a friend's wedding in October of fall term."

He was accepted in the STM program and became engaged to Alyson a little over a year after they met. "The 2018–2019 school year was an incredibly busy year but was happily capped off by our wedding on June 3rd, 2019," he said.

"June 2019 through June 2020 were far more laid back, a welcomed change of pace to the prior year. I spent most of my time learning how to be married, writing my thesis, working a handful of parttime jobs, and deciding to go for placement. Alyson became pregnant with James in mid-November. Then Covid-19 hit, and all three of us spent our time working from home—Alyson did graphic design, and I

continued writing—though I don't think James much noticed the difference."

Asked about his feelings on Call Day in April of 2020, Rev. Voges said, "Call Day was still a big reveal for us. We knew anything could happen, even with our ink-lings. There was no in-person Call Day service, of course. Instead, we watched the service remotely. I vividly remember sitting on our bed, listening to driving wind and rain, and my heart pounding as Dr. Nielsen finally approached the end of the alphabet!" Reverend Voges was to become Pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Warwick, New York, just two hours north of Resurrection.

Not surprisingly, fatherhood has also changed his life. "Fatherhood is—as Rev. Browning would loudly put it—awesome! God has humbled me by giving me this boy. If I can recall a quote from C.S. Lewis, the people around us are eternal beings. That includes our children. For some reason, God thought it a good idea to entrust me (and Alyson) with the keeping of this little one for a brief but critical moment of his existence. I know James will have an eternity of some sort, and I pray God works through me to give James the one filled with life.

"God has also humbled me with my wife. I see how hard she works to care for James and myself. It puts my efforts to shame and stirs me to unending gratitude. I could think of no better partner to have with me for this adventure called parenting."

Reverend Voges adds, "I'd like to add a word of thanks. Resurrection was very good to me. My predecessors and replacements are agreed: you have always been good to your vicars. Your kindness is warm, and your patience is necessary. God has worked through you and I pray He continues to do so."

Micki Dolan
is a member of the S.A.I.L. board and
reader at services. A retired teacher,
published poet, and freelance writer, she
is the Mom of two and Grandma of three.





Midway

Lionsgate

November 2019

“This is our job. And we’re the guys who have to hold the fort until the cavalry arrives.”

That’s the pep talk Dick Best gives a petrified pilot before the final battle commences at Midway. And it’s also a terrific summary of the no-nonsense bravery exhibited by the sailors and pilots whose stories are woven together heroically here. These men had a job to do. And they did it, bravely, willingly. It was a job that cost 307 of them their lives.

But their sacrifice, movingly depicted by director Roland Emmerich (*Independence Day*), turned the tide in the Pacific. It was the beginning of the end for the Japanese Navy. It represented the awakened giant of Yamamoto’s nightmares.

Midway is a deeply inspiring movie. It’s also a war movie, though, with all of the content that comes with it. Many men die, and there’s plenty of “language” here, too.

Some viewers may not want to endure the verbal assault that goes along with the visual one here. But those who do choose to sit through this dramatization of the greatest naval battle in U.S. history will be profoundly reminded of the cost to secure the liberties that Americans—and many other people around the world—cherish.

Review from *Plugged In.com*

The Fine Print

One of the first things I learned in my first year contracts class in law school was to always read the contract “from the top edge of the paper, all the way to the bottom edge of the page.” This was an important lesson because it taught you to make sure you didn’t miss any fine print. Fine print, of course, is the extra language, generally down at the bottom of the document, which normally contained information that the author didn’t want to draw your attention to. If it were a rental contract, this might be information about additional fees. If it were a service contract, it might be information about exceptions or limitations to your service. However, if you’re the author of the contract, you want to make sure that the fine print gives you a way around the seemingly iron-clad language of the text.

I’m sure I’m not alone when I say that I sometimes try to find the fine print exception to some of the Commandments. Sometimes when I hear, “do not lie,” I think, “OK, but what about a fib to avoid

hurting someone’s feelings?” Jesus didn’t give us any fine print. Specifically, He didn’t give us any exception to “love thy neighbor.” There is no asterisk, footnote or fine print to this, the Greatest Commandment. There is no amendment to this rule stating that it only applies if your neighbor looks like you, speaks the same language as you, and lives their life in a way that is approving to you. We are not called to do this on our terms, we are called to do this as Jesus has instructed us to do.

Will it be hard? Unequivocally. Will we fail? Undoubtedly. However, we must continue to try, each and every day. It is easy to hate, and it is easy to find reasons to criticize others. Loving people because, not in spite, of their differences is courageous and finding that courage to get up and try day after day is what we are called to do, no exceptions.



Diana Auer

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

How Long?

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activity again? How long until life gets back to some greater semblance of what it once was?

There are few clear answers, no clear timeline, and we are frustrated. Yet, make no mistake, God continues to bless us. Above all else, he blesses us with the promise of His presence. “Behold,” Christ tells us, “I am with you always, until the end of the age.” Of course, Jesus’ words are more than a mere promise; they are living breathing, resurrected reality. The resurrected Savior of the World has been and always been with us, every step of our journey on this earth.

Over these past nearly eight months, many of us have asked the question,

“how long,” so many times we have lost track. But in the midst of everything, Jesus has answered us, reminding us He is with us right now, and will continue to be with you for the duration, into eternity. We have and we will continue to celebrate and find comfort in the ongoing presence of Jesus. And right now, you and your family can join us, every week-end from your home at our virtual service or at any of our three in-person services.

(See last page for NEW, UPDATED WORSHIP SCHEDULE!)



Pastor Jeff Browning

Pastor Browning is Pastor at Resurrection.

Men of Resurrection: Faith for These Times

Continued from page 1

We seemed to be hit week after week with new and more challenging events. The time dealing with my mother's hospitalization and follow-up treatment topped the list. Every morning and evening at 8:00, I had to give mom IV infusions. However, with each new challenge and each new event, my anger began to subside.

I cried, then I prayed. I cried for my kids and their future. I prayed for some healing in our communities and in our nation. I do believe that God doesn't place the obstacles in front of us, but I believe He helps us learn what we can do with them. With every challenge there becomes a new opportunity, and I know that when we let Him, He will open our eyes. He will show us that anger and fear aren't needed because He opens our eyes, allows us to see, will be there as we heighten our senses and will lead us to a new path.

During my years, I've also learned that the easy path doesn't always lead to green pastures and that challenges faced with our faith have always made me stronger. God has always shown me that Love feels a heck of a lot better than hate.

During this time, Janet and I have created a new business and are about to embark on a new journey. We have recognized new opportunities, and with God as our focus, we will build something to help others.

Let us all be the hands and feet of God. I pray that we can infect our world with the love and grace that God has bestowed upon our wonderful Resurrection community. God has reminded us that our time on this earth is limited, and I have been reminded that our opportunity to create and love are endless.

God bless you all.
Glen Boehmer

Men's Ministry Breakfast



Resurrection's Men's Ministry met recently for a return to their usual monthly breakfast, this time on the church lawn. Vicar Peter Debernay, attending his first such event, opened with prayer and led discussion on the pandemic, with the conclusion that "We'll see things through with God's help." Men's Ministry plans to meet again in October.

Focus on God to Lead Us

The last six months have certainly been difficult and challenging. We have all struggled with uncertainty, apprehension, isolation, and sadness due to COVID-19. Unfortunately, many of us have directly felt the impact of this pandemic due to the loss of a family member or friend, the loss of a job and being unable to attend church services and spend time with extended family and friends.

Life entails one fight and challenge after another. This pandemic is just the latest one and happens to impact all of us at once. However, I have tried to continually focus upon God's desire and ability to lead us out of the darkness and into the light. Tough times build Christian character and faith. When I come across a particular Bible verse which inspires and encourages me, I set it aside and continually return to it to remind me how Jesus and my faith in Him will get me through hard times. Here are some of my favorites:

"The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts." Psalm 28:7

"The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" Psalm 27:1

"Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many

kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything." James 1:2-4

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things." Philippians 4:6-8

Strangely enough, the pandemic has forced me to slow down and appreciate all that I have been blessed with: my wife, my children, my friends and my community. We will all get through this so long as we focus on our faith in the Lord.

Jim LiCalzi

God Has Been Here All Along

Following God's path is not always easy, but 2020 has made it especially difficult. In a world filled with illness, chaos, and division, many people find themselves wondering, "Where is God?"

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Resurrection Confirmation 2020: (front row, from left) Sydney Varvaro, Lindsey Engheben, Ava Parker, Thomas Dutton, Molly McKeough; (back row, from left) Tara Filomena, Rebecca Phinney, Patrick Marino, Sophia Fort, and Harrison Martin

Confirmation in the Time of Covid

DIANA AUER

How, one might ask, do you get ten students together, teach them about Jesus and the Sacraments, gather their families, hold a meaningful service celebrating the confirmation of their faith, all in the midst of a pandemic? The answer is: carefully, with ingenuity and with lots of prayer. Fortunately, we were able to execute this plan, and we are so thrilled to welcome ten new members into our Resurrection family!

Throughout the course of these past seven months, we have tried to figure out a way to continue our Confirmation program, and ensure that our 8th grade class (now all of whom have entered 9th grade) could complete their studies and make their Confirmation.

Ultimately, the decision was made to hold the few remaining classes beginning in the end of August, and have our students meet, socially distanced, outdoors and/or in the gym. Then, we were on to the chal-

lenge of figuring out what a safe Confirmation service would look like.

As has been the mantra of the entire pandemic, safety was, and continues to be, our top priority. It was a delicate balancing act trying to keep the sanctity and reverence of the Confirmation process, while also making sure that we adhered to social-distancing guidelines.

Our solution was to conduct five separate Confirmation services for our confirmands and their families. We arranged these services with a focus on making sure all students, parents and families felt comfortable and special. Our first service was held on Saturday, Sept. 5, and we were able to confirm all of our students by Tuesday, Sept. 22.

Each service honored the traditions of our typical Confirmation service, while integrating individualized components, tailored to each of our confirmands. As

part of our Confirmation program, each student was tasked with writing a final essay, entitled “What Faith in God Means to Me.” We were blessed to be able to hear portions of these essays at each of our services. It was truly a privilege to hear our confirmands describe, in their own words, the significance of their faith and their relationship with God.

We are so thankful for the love and devotion of our Confirmation families and our Resurrection community. While our Confirmation program may have looked quite different this year, we are grateful that we were able to personalize the process, maintain the divine significance of the service and ensure that everyone felt safe and comfortable along the way.

We continue to pray for our students and hope that they are always comforted by the promise that Jesus made in Matthew 28:20: “Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

The Importance of Friends

We were thrilled to kick off our fall High School Youth Group session with a wonderful guest speaker. Her name is Danielle Xanthos, and she is a PhD candidate, specializing in oncology psychology with a focus on spirituality and veteran mental health.

Danielle also received her Master of Divinity degree from Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology. Aside from being an incredibly well-credentialed person, she is a dear friend of mine with a wonderful heart for service.

Danielle joined us to talk about how to manage stress and anxiety in these particularly challenging times. I'm so grateful that Danielle was able to meet with our youth group and remind us to look around and be comforted, knowing that we have people to help us through these hard times.

During our time together, Danielle focused on different Bible stories that underscored the importance of relying on one another. She specifically focused on a story from the Gospel of Luke where a paralyzed man went to see Jesus to be cured.

At that time in His ministry, Jesus definitely drew a crowd! The man and his friends were unable to get through the crowd, so the paralyzed man's friends climbed onto the roof and lowered the man down in front of Jesus.

Danielle highlighted the significance of the man's friends in this story and discussed how we can use this story to realize the importance of our

friends, and how we can be blessed through our friends and those relationships.

We also discussed the struggles that we all feel with wanting to know how our "stories" turn out.

*God has great things
in store for all of
us ... we are not
walking through
these challenging
times alone.*

She pointed us to a passage by C.S. Lewis, in "Mere Christianity" where, while discussing God's plans for us, he stated, "[y]ou thought you were going to be made into a decent little cottage: but He is building a palace.

He intends to come and live in it Himself."

Danielle closed our time together by emphasizing that God has great things in store for all of us, and that we are not walking through these challenging times alone.

One of the last things that Jesus said before He was betrayed is found in John 15:12-13: "[m]y command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

Jesus tells us how important our friendships are. Thanks be to God that we can look to Jesus, and look to one another, knowing that we will always have someone on our side to help us get through all the ups and downs of this life.



**Blessing
of the
Animals**

Sunday, October 4th
after the 11am service • outside on the Emmet Pl. lawn

All pet owners are invited to bring their furry friends to church for a blessing. There will also be a small keepsake item to take home!

Please consider bringing lightly used pet supplies or unopened pet food as a donation.

Men of Resurrection: Faith for These Times

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I am fortunate to have a job in an industry that actually grew during the outbreak, and working from home has long been the norm for me anyway, but the world around me was not so used to this. Family and friends were forced to quit working, while others were thrown into a difficult position, caring for patients with a potentially deadly virus. The only place to turn was to God.

One thing that helped me during this difficult year was knowing that even when a situation is out of our control, God can do anything. He is fighting for us. Everything happens according to His plan, and He will overcome the hardships in our lives when the time is right. He will never give us more than we can handle:

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33 (NIV)

But we need to be patient! Although it can be frustrating, God works on His own time because He knows the situation and the outcome that He is planning. So, we need to wait and have faith, knowing that He is doing what is best for us:

"Be still, and know that I am God. Psalm 46:10 (NIV)

And even though life can be uncertain at times, if we submit to God and allow Him to show us His way, everything will become clear:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

So, after all the praying and waiting, where is God?

Why hasn't He shown himself during this difficult time?

The truth is He has been here all along. God is all around us. God is the sun that

continues to rise, even during a pandemic. God is the mask you wear to protect yourself and others. God is the respirator that breathes life into patients. God is the healthcare worker who saves lives even though they worry for their own. God is the diversity that we celebrate in our country. God is the family and friends who care about us. God is love. And love is all around us.

Alex Sabella

More Time

To say this year, 2020, has been challenging is an understatement! It seems our whole world has changed overnight. Covid 19 came in March, and nothing has been the same since. Who knows what the new normal will be? We were told to close schools, work from home, social distance and wear masks. We were locked down in our homes. Churches closed, no movie theaters or plays, no restaurants!

However, I think there are some positives to all these negatives. I notice people going out of their way to help each other. We are wearing masks to protect others, not ourselves.

We have more time for family, more time to pray, more time to think about our lives. More time to think about where we have been and where we are going. New ways of doing things have developed overnight, virtual school, virtual church, online shopping and delivery. We can now connect via Zoom and similar apps to family and friends we have not seen for years. Virtual church has brought many people who have moved away back to church.

Like all things, I am sure God had a reason for this pandemic. I hope we will learn from it and take those lessons with us. God will bring us through this; He always does. Perhaps not on our timetable, but His.

Tony Santangelo

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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.

"Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." 1 Corinthians 15:58

It's easy to get discouraged when you don't see the results of your efforts and hard work right away. You can start to second guess yourself and even question if the goal you're striving toward is even worth the effort. However, this verse reminds us to not let discouragement over a lack of instant results keep us from working toward our goals. If our goals are rooted in God's truth, then we can persevere with the confidence of knowing that our efforts are pleasing to God. This requires persistence, and what is most wondrous of all is that persis-

tence is a quality that we ourselves control. Do the good that you have opportunity to do, knowing that your work will have eternal results.

People can rationalize anything if they have no standards for judging right and wrong. Before putting any plan into action, you may want to ask yourself these three questions: (1) Is the plan in harmony with God's truth? (2) Will it work under real-life conditions? (3) Is my attitude pleasing to God? Once you have the answers to these

three questions and you plan to move forward..." Stand firm and let nothing move you!"

Dear heavenly Father, please grant us wisdom and discernment to know Your will for us in this fallen world. Help us to not be discouraged by our setbacks and grant us the perseverance to face and overcome life's obstacles. Persistence is stronger than failure.

In Jesus name Amen.

MATT LANGDON

WORSHIP WITH US

Sundays, 8:30 and 11am
Traditional Worship Services
Outdoors (weather permitting)

*** NEW * Saturdays, 5:30pm**
Contemporary Service
Indoors (starting Oct. 10)

Sundays, 10am
Online Worship Service, resgc.org

*Reservations required
for all in person services.*

COMING NEXT ISSUE

Watch for your November *Lamplighter* with news and articles to inform, encourage and inspire you through the uncharted days ahead. Each issue promises to help you stay connected with the family of Resurrection, and inform you of upcoming opportunities to worship, strengthen your faith, and love others as Christ has loved us.