



Clifty Cross†Walk



August 2019

I don't yet fully know what Resurrection Lutheran has done for its stewardship campaign in the past but I do know that we do need to talk about money. This is because, in truth, the giving of the people of this congregation (as in every congregation), determines the mission and ministry of the congregation.

A conversation about giving reminds me of one of my favorite stories. It is a true story from the early 1800s. It seems that the people of Reading, England, were deeply disturbed when suddenly there began appearing "strange signs and omens" on the bottoms of their loaves of bread. Some loaves had a picture of the "skull and crossbones", others said, "Rest in Peace" or "Died on Christmas day". People were really frightened. They thought that it was some terrible divine warning of impending judgment. Finally, the local constable thought to question the baker. At last the old man confessed. Seems he needed new stones for the floor of his very large baking oven but couldn't afford to buy any. So one night, in the middle of the night, he went out to the graveyard and stole the largest flattest gravestones that he could find. The message on the gravestones was baking into the bread.

That may be how you feel when you contemplate stewardship. You may think someone on the church council will sneak in a little dark omen or strange sign, that you will be made to feel guilty or shamed into giving. That will not happen! May I let you in on a little secret? Many pastors are not so fond of talking about this topic either. Fortunately (or unfortunately, depending on your perspective), I don't mind talking about stewardship. In fact, in a sense, I talk to you about it every Sunday because *stewardship, at its center, is not really about money. It is about faith!* Money comes into it of course because money is one of the big competitors with God for our time, attention, love and devotion and therefore is often one of the hardest challenges to our faith. But if we remember that stewardship is *nothing more and nothing less* than the *whole way of living that our loving God calls forth from us*, of which how we use the blessing of our money is only one small part, then we will be much closer to what the Scriptures teach us about both stewardship *and* money and we will realize how important this conversation about faith really is.

In Luke 17, Jesus' disciples plead with Jesus to increase their faith so that they can do the things to which Jesus has called them. Jesus answers that even the smallest amount of faith has all the power they need. When Jesus talks about faith he is not merely talking about a notion of intense believing or positive thinking. In Luke, faith is always faith in God and in God's Christ and it is closely connected to the presence of the Holy Spirit. ***Faith is powerful because it is a link to the power of the Triune God.*** Faith is a gift from the Holy Spirit, not something that we own or do for ourselves. Faith is the way that God works in and through you.

While it is true that we make decisions about our ministries, how to budget, and what we can expect in our search for a new pastor based on the gifts of money that we receive, far more importantly, the state of our giving helps each one of us reflect on the state of our faith. Ask yourself, "When I look at my checkbook (and my calendar for that matter) does it reflect that the Lord and his work is my most important priority?"

Please join me over the next two months to pray about this process. *Dear Lord, give us the insight to discern your will for us and the courage to follow where you lead. Help us, O Lord, to turn to you for all things and to entrust ourselves to your provision so that we might do all things to which you call us. Let us never resent anything that we do for you and fill our hearts with gratitude and joy. Amen.*



August 4—WELCA meeting following worship

August 4—Rejoicing Spir-its at All Kids Can @ 3:30 pm

August 8—Holy Whine at Rembrants's @ 5:30 pm

August 11—Lunch and Joint Service with St Stephen's and Hanover Pres @ 12:30 pm

August 12—Pub Faith at Shipley's @ 7 pm

August 18—Council @ 11:45 am

August 20—Food Pantry @ 4 pm

August 21—Homemakers @ 1 pm

August 23-24—WELCA Yard Sale

WELCOMING PEOPLE IN CHRIST



Holy W(h)ine

All women in our congregation are invited to join us on Thursday, August 8 at 5:30 pm at Rembrant's.

ship and faith filled conversations over dinner and a beer. We meet August 12 at 7 pm at Shipley's.

Pub Faith

All men in our congregation are invited to join us for a time of fellow-

Cards Group

The church cards group meets every Tuesday at 11:30 am for lunch and at 12:30 at the church for cards or dominos. Please join us for an afternoon of fun and fellowship.

Coins for Kids

Help support kids in our community who are in need- whether that be with clothing, school supplies, or scholarships to participate in events- by bringing your spare change to church. A box is in the back of the sanctuary to collect your loose change.

CARING, SHARING, SERVING

Food Pantry

We served 35 households for a total of 117 people in July. We continue to be blessed with lots of helping hands and hope that continues when the school year starts again.

We need your donations of plastic grocery/shopping bags for the food pantry and for the upcoming WELCA yard sale. We would VERY MUCH appreciate if the grocery bags are already double-bagged for us. This really saves us time when setting up the food pantry. Bags can be left in the food pantry.

There is exciting news! We have a new (to us) food bank we are now partners with. Master Provisions is located in Florence, Kentucky and we will drive there the morning of our food pantry to shop for what they have available that day. In July, Master Provisions provided loaves of bread, fresh produce, and hamburger patties for our patrons.

The food pantry coordinators (Gayle & John Podczerwinski) in conjunction with the church council continue to work on our options with Gleaners twice-a-month service mandate. With the addition of Master Provisions, one possibility is that we may now be able to host a second, but different, food pantry each month. It's still being thought through, but the current idea would be to have only select items available at the second pantry vs our current shopping format. This would allow us to offer bread, fresh produce when available, and whatever other items are available that month at a low cost from the two food banks. Only a few volunteers would be needed as patrons would pick up the select items on their own. Our other pantry day, on the third Tuesday of the month, would remain mostly as it is.

If we would have a second pantry day, we are looking for ways to do this without increasing our costs by much and without greatly increasing the workload on our members. If you have any thoughts, ideas, or concerns please talk to John, Gayle or a council member. We plan to have our thoughts/proposal to Council by the end of September.

However, if it happens that we feel we cannot meet Gleaners requirements, we will now still have Master Provisions items available to our patrons.

If you are interested in coming along to help shop at Master Provisions on the morning of our pantry day (s) and/or being a back-up shopper for times when our pantry coordinators are not available, please talk to Gayle or John.

MINISTRIES OF BIBLICAL PROPORTIONS



LITTLE FREE LIBRARY

Sometime in late August or early September we hope to have a Little Free Library in place at Resurrection. Council has approved the idea and it will be a mission in conjunction with the Food Pantry. Gayle has contacted River Valley Resources who sponsors many Little Free Libraries in Jefferson County and will be speaking with them about the possibility in mid-August. You can find more information about Little Free Libraries at www.littlefreelibrary.org.

WELCA

WELCA will have a meeting on Sunday, August 4. We will be finalizing our plans for the annual yard sale and starting a discussion on WELCA's mission.

The dates for the annual yard sale have changed to Friday, August 23 and Saturday, August 24. We tentatively have scheduled work days to help set up the yard sale for Wednesday, August 21 and Thursday, August 22. Please drop off items for the yard sale in room 4.

WELCA will not have a bible study in August, but will resume with a new study on Thursday, September 19 at 4:30 p.m. at church.

YARD SALE

The dates for WELCA's annual yard sale have changed to Friday, August 23 and Saturday, August 24. You can help support WELCA by donating items that can be left in room 4, shopping at the yard sale, or better-yet both. Please hang onto any large items until the week before the sale if possible. And please do not donate televisions, computers, or exercise equipment as these do not sell well and are hard for us to handle.

We need your donations of plastic grocery/shopping bags for the upcoming yard sale and for the food pantry. Bags can be left in the food pantry.

Altar Guild for 2019

Thanks to all who have signed up.

Council

meets Sunday, August 18 at 11:45 am.

Homemakers

Will meet on Wednesday, August 21 at 1 pm at Resurrection.

Rejoicing Spirits

will be August 4 at 3:30 at All Kids Can. Treats should be labeled for Rejoicing Spirits and left in the small kitchen by Sunday morning. Treats are also needed for October- December. Thank you for helping!

On Sunday, August 11th there will be a Joint Service by Resurrection Lutheran Church, Hanover Presbyterian and St. Stephen's A.M.E. to be held at Resurrection Church. Starting with a light lunch at 12:30 , Service at 1.30 PM followed by fellowship with coffee and cake. We hope to see you there!

Mid-Year congregational meeting on

Sunday, September 8 after Service. Council meeting to follow. Please keep the date. More details to follow.

Worship Assistant Sign Up

There are a lot of opportunities available for people to help out in worship this month. If you are interested please sign up in the narthex.

Pr. Vicki is hosting a Women's Retreat

October 11-12 at the Jesuit Retreat Center in Milford, OH. If you have any questions or would like to attend please contact Barbara Trembley.

A Minute from the Council

Finances:

Financial results for the church in the first half of 2019 has been a “bad news, good news situation.” The bad news is that incoming tithes to the church have fallen well below both budget and last year’s levels in the first half of the year. This shortfall (detailed more below) raises concerns about the church’s ability to afford a full-time pastor while maintaining its existing building and missions. The good news for the first half of the year is that lower than expected expenses (due to not having a full-time pastor’s salary & benefits) allowed us to run a surplus for the period.

Key points related to finances include the following:

Incoming tithes for the period (excluding funds designated for specific capital expenditures, the food pantry or other uses) totaled \$49,837. This was \$5,600 (10.2%) below budget and 7% below last year. Council is concerned about this trend and the possibility that tithes could fall further in the second half of the year due to relocation of some church members. The potential negative impacts should revenues continue to be at current or even lower levels will be discussed at a congregational meeting set for September.

Expenses for the first half of 2019 were \$12,005 below plan due to lower salary & benefit costs since we did not have a full-time pastor for much of the year. Pastor costs were \$17,393 below plan.

Due to lower spending, Resurrection Lutheran Church has recorded a surplus of over \$6,000 in 2019. However, if costs associated with a full-time pastor had occurred, the church would have had a significant deficit of over \$11,000 for the first half of the year at current revenue levels.

Financial assets of the church continue to be solid with approximately \$25,000 in checking & savings accounts, more than \$42,000 in investments and a parsonage that has only a minimal mortgage remaining.

Capital Expenditures

During the first half of the year, approximately \$5,200 was spend on various capital improvements to church properties including the following:

A wireless sound system was installed in the church.

The carpeting in the sanctuary was replaced. This project was approved by Council as it was funded by a donation from WELCA and designated giving from church members.

The toilet in the women’s restroom closest the sanctuary was replaced.

Church volunteers have trimmed and removed damaged or dying trees on church property.

Council continues to compile and review potential future capital improvements on church properties while also considering our current financial concerns. In the immediate term, repairs on the parsonage (including painting walls and replacing damaged carpeting) have been identified as priorities. Other projects being analyzed include parking lot repairs, repair or replacement of church doors, maintenance issues with our air-conditioning & heating units, and general landscaping of the property. Please continue to bring property concerns to Council members for consideration.

Other Items

Food pantry spending in 2019 is up from prior year due to greatly increased utilization of our pantry by the community’s needy. Expenses for the first half of 2019 were approximately \$2,500. However, these costs have been fully-funded by designated gifts from church members and over \$3,000 remains in the Food Pantry fund for future 2019 expenses.


The Call Committee has completed all paperwork necessary for the Synod to post our opening and solicit candidates for Resurrection Lutheran Church.

Your Church Council:

Barb Trembley (President)
Sue Fairchild
Dave Ommen

John Podczerwinski
Charlie Schnabel
Susan Gray

August Calendar

<div> <div>28</div>  <div>10am Worship</div> </div>	29	30	<div>31</div> <div>Aug 1</div>	2	3
<div>4</div> <div> <div>10am Worship</div> <div>3:30pm Rejoicing Spirits</div> </div>	5	6	7	8	10
		<div>12:30pm Cards</div>		<div>5:30pm Holy W(h)ine!</div>	
<div>11</div> <div> <div>10am Worship</div> <div>12:30pm Joint Service and Lunch</div> </div>	12	13	14	15	17
	<div>7pm Pub Faith</div>	<div>12:30pm Cards</div>			
<div>18</div> <div> <div>10am Worship</div> <div>11:45am Council</div> </div>	19	20	21	22	24
		<div>12:30pm Cards</div> <div>4pm Food Pantry</div>	<div>1pm Homemakers</div>		<div>WELCA Yard Sale</div>
<div>25</div> <div>10am Worship</div>	26	27	28	29	31
		<div>12:30pm Cards</div>			

WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER...

We lift up in prayer...

Our friends and loved ones:

Our Church Family

Loved Ones in the Military

Help Us Pray for Each Other: we will be updating the prayer lists on a monthly basis. A sign up will be in the narthex or let the office know if there is someone you would like us to pray for. This helps us remember who we are praying for and why. Our new prayer list will be up until August 25

Resurrection Lutheran
Church
1429 Clifty Dr.
Madison, IN 47250

Resurrectionmadison.org

812-273-3525

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE