

Resurrection

LUTHERAN CHURCH

April 20, 2022

Dear Resurrection people,

What a joyous week we just had at Resurrection! On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, symbols and rituals pulled us deep into the mystery of God's grace, and our stories connected with the story of Jesus. Eight students received communion for the first time on Thursday evening. We gathered around the cross in prayer for the world on Friday, and, on Sunday, we threw open the doors for the fullest celebration we've had in more than two years!

During the children's message on Sunday, I called attention to the "dazzling clothes" worn by the two men who greeted the women at the empty tomb in Luke 24, and I wondered with the children about the significance of clothes like that and when we might wear them. We agreed such garments are called for on occasions of great joy. Whether you are in sequins or sweatpants today, I hope your spirit is clothed with joy – a theme I'll return to later in this letter.

This is the second quarterly letter of 2022 – a new practice I started in January to try to keep us all up to date with big things happening in our congregational life. There is plenty of news to share in this installment. Our members have been making remarkable contributions to our community, we have new staff, and it's time to introduce our annual giving appeal so we can plan for ministry in the 2022-2023 fiscal year.

Community Engagement

Believe it or not, our Weekender Backpack Ministry will have its final packing event for the school year on Wednesday, April 27. You can help with that! By the end of this school year, we will have distributed over 11,000 sacks of food and 960 small jars of peanut butter – a record for the program!

Our ongoing partnership with local schools means Resurrection is among the first called upon to help in times of urgent need. On Friday, Feb. 18 we joined efforts with Perry Township Schools/ Douglas MacArthur Kindergarten Academy, and Second Helpings to help students, their families, and other residents at the Capital Place apartment complex after water was shut off to the complex. Bottled water and microwaveable food items were distributed throughout the complex.

Staff News

Our new Parish Administrator, Bonnie Fox, joined the staff on March 1. Bonnie comes to us with many years of office management experience and a passion for the ministry of the church. She and her husband Ken have been dedicated members of their congregation for decades. Bonnie is in the office from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. Gary Myers, a very familiar face to many RLC people, started as our financial assistant in February. Gary is responsible for bookkeeping functions. He will also assist with assembling the budget each year and provide

regular reports on the church's finances to the Treasurer and Congregation Council. Gary works both in the office and from home. He can be reached at gary@rlcindy.org.

Two members of our music staff have shifted their roles. Laura Mueller now serves as Worship and Music Lead. She will oversee musical elements of worship, coordinate volunteers who assist with worship, and collaborate with me in worship planning. Rebecca Vernon, who took over as Handbell Director in January, now adds both the Senior and Children's Choirs to her responsibilities. With David Duncan, our organist, we are excited to have a talented and faithful team in place to lead our music programs and facilitate vibrant, liturgical worship in every season.

Annual Giving Appeal – Clothed with Joy

Resurrection needs your support. As you can see, our life together is full (and I ran out of space to mention faith formation in this edition)! Now is the time we begin planning for ministry in the next fiscal year. Our Treasurer, the Finance Team, and Congregation Council will work diligently to present a budget at our June 5 Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting, so now we ask you to consider how you can support the daily ministry of Resurrection in 2022-2023.

Enclosed with this letter is a pledge card so you can share your plan to give in our next fiscal year that begins August 1. Every contribution matters, and every contribution shows you believe Resurrection's ministry matters. The coming year will require significantly increased resources. For instance, we hope to add a second pastor to our staff, and our Weekender Backpack Ministry has already found the need in our schools far exceeding what was anticipated. Using the enclosed envelope, you may return the pledge card via mail or drop it in the offering plate. Or, you can skip the paper and pledge online at tinyurl.com/rlc-pledge. We plan to gather pledges as part of our worship at both services on Sunday, May 1, but you may submit yours any time.

Looking back on Holy Week, my heart is full of gratitude for the many volunteers who make what we do together as a church possible – our readers, A/V operators, and communion ministers who guide us into God's presence both in the sanctuary and via livestream; those who show up to pack meals on Wednesdays, serve meals on Fridays, and pick up trash on Saturdays; and so many more. A special thanks goes out to Larry Moore, who is "retiring" from his role as Resurrection's point person for Habitat for Humanity after more than 30 years. RLC's connection to that ministry will continue, because of the relationships Larry helped establish.

There's a close link between gratitude and joy. David Steindl-Rast, a Benedictine monk, said, "It's not joy that makes us grateful; it's gratitude that makes us joyful." I am grateful for you. I am grateful for our shared ministry at Resurrection that bears bold witness to God's love in our community. I hope our life together brings you joy, too.

Alleluia! Christ is risen!



Pastor Ryan