



# ***Resurrection Lutheran Church***

*To Live & Share the Love of Christ*

Pastor Melissa Pagel

**Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup> 2025.**

*(Congregational responses are printed in **Bold** type.)*

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## ***To Live & Share the Love of Christ***

Welcome to Resurrection Lutheran Church where different people come together for the shared purpose of worshiping God and encouraging each other through the inclusive love of Jesus.

Whether you are our guest, looking for a church home, or already a member, we want you to feel welcomed by our congregation and inspired by our worship service.

## **Contact Us**

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# Introduction



## everything [in] between lost & found

### GATHERING

#### Announcements

#### Call to Worship

Our God is a shepherding God.

**Our God knows us by name.**

Our God will never stop searching for us. So if you feel lost,  
**then know that God is seeking you.**

If you feel found,  
**then know that God will never leave.**

This is the promise of scripture.

**This is the promise of God's love.**

Let us worship our with-us God.

*Gathering Hymn      Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

*ELW 631*

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

Friends, in the Christian tradition many have used “lost” and “found” labels to describe people “out there” versus people “in here.” Many have used “lost” and “found” language to create a damaging dichotomy that Christians are found and non-Christians are lost. But the truth is, each and every one of us is a little bit lost and a little bit found from time to time. Each and every one of us needs the love of the Good Shepherd. So join me in the prayer of confession, as people who know both ends of that spectrum. Join me as we go to God in prayer:

If God is a painter,

**let us be the brush.**

If God is a musician,

**let us be the song.**

If God is an architect,

**let us be the tools.**

**Let us be the hands.**

**Let us be the builders.**

But if God is a shepherd,  
who never stops seeking,

**let us be willing to be found,  
no matter how lost we feel.**

Our God is never far away.

**Forgive us for forgetting this good news. Amen.**

Family of faith, we are all a little bit lost and a little bit found.

We grumble. We push back. We doubt God. We doubt ourselves.

We leave the flock and lose our way.

But fortunately for us, our God is a shepherding God who is always by our side. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

**No matter how far we wander, we can never wander from the bounds of God's grace. We are loved. We are forgiven. We are not alone. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

Shepherding God,

**You look for us.**

**You search for us.**

**You turn every corner and climb every mountain.**

**You call our name until your voice is hoarse. When we lose our way, you never stop seeking after us. So once again we pray, find us in this moment.**

**Look for us.**

**And then surround us with your presence, so that we might feel you near.**

**With hope we pray, with hope we listen. Amen.**

*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

### **Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21**

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! <sup>1</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since

God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

*Lenten Acclamation*

*Alleluia*

*p. 205(bottom)*

**Gospel:** Luke 15:1-10

The Holy Gospel according to Luke 15:1-10 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

Then Jesus told them this parable: “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent. “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**Sermon**

**Pastor Melissa Pagel**

*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

*Hymn of the Day next page vs. 2-4*

## God, We Gather As Your People



1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -  
2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be  
3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and  
4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



bove, and we dare to claim the prom - ise of your love,  
free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,  
shame, so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love,  
wide can ... live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.



Though the day may not yet be here, we  
that they nev - er have a rea - son to  
May the mes - sage now be ban - ished that your  
As they grow in strength and stat - ure, may they



trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.  
doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest.  
love is for the few; may their faith in you re - new.  
join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.

### *Refrain*



Oh, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen



wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry - one in - side.



For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -



long. May that wel - come be our song.

Text: David Lohman, b. 1961

Music: WELCOME BE OUR SONG, David Lohman

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## Affirmation of Faith

**We believe in a seeking God,  
a with-us and before-us God,  
a chasing-after-us God.**

**We believe that no matter where we wander or what mountains we  
climb, this God—  
the God who walked the streets of Jerusalem, shook hands with lepers,  
patted children on the head,  
and told stories of love—  
is always close at hand.  
So on the good days and the hard days,  
on the mountains and in the valleys,  
we believe that we are always being found. Thanks be to God for a love  
like that. Amen.**

## Prayers of the People

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to places of drought and sunshine to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may again support life. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease

squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of compassion. Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of radical inclusion, widen human circles to welcome all who are excluded. Bless the work of disability ministries, ministries by and with neurodivergent people, and multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries; that the welcome of Jesus be extended to all. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

God of resurrection life, welcome home all who have died. We thank you for their lives and entrust them into your keeping, where true reconciliation and eternal peace are found. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

## **Peace**

The peace of God be with you always. **And also with you.**

*Please share a sign of the Lord's peace with those around you.*

## **Offering**

**Choir Anthem**

**God of Love, God of Mercy**

**Berry**

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

## **Offering Prayer**

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our



abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. **Amen.**

## MEAL

### Words of Institution

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

On the night in which he was betrayed  
Which is to say, on the night before he was sentenced to death by those who didn't like him challenging their power and disturbing their status quo,  
Which is to say, on the night before he was subjected to an unjust trial, torture and humiliation, On that night, with the heart of God on full display, as feet were washed, a meal was shared and encouragement to carry on ministry was given, on that night, Jesus took bread and gave thanks. He broke it and shared it among them saying:

**Take, eat; this is my body given for you. Do this and remember me.**

In the same way after supper, in the same way, which is to say, with those same incredibly imperfect and fallible people there,

His closest friends, the ones who knew him the best, the ones who had watched him heal, heard him teach and yet would doubt, deny and betray him,

In the same way, among those same flawed and forgiven people, with their fear and confusion on full display,

In the same way, after supper, Jesus took the cup, and he gave thanks. He gave it to his friends, (his deeply loved, fully human friends), each of them in turn, saying:

**Drink. This cup is poured out for you and for all people. It is the promise of God. Drink it and remember me.**

We remember Jesus' death and resurrection, our hope and our life. We break the bread and share the one cup.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

### **Invitation to Communion**

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

### **Post Communion Prayer**

Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, **Amen.**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the World.*

## **SENDING**

### **Benediction**

As you leave this place,  
may you find God in every messy middle.  
May you know that the world is bigger than two sides.  
May you trust that you are made in the image of God,

and therefore, you contain multitudes.  
So may you move through this world with an open heart,  
with a curious mind, and with the confidence that you do not go alone. God  
is with you in the mountains, in the valleys, and everywhere in between.  
Almighty God,  
motherly, majestic, and mighty, ☩ bless you this day and always. **Amen.**

***Sending Hymn***

***Lamb of God***

***ELW 336***

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. To live and share the love of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

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### **This Week at a Glance**

Monday -Wednesday Office Hours 9:00am-1:00pm

Tuesday- 9:00 am Quilters

Wednesday-5:00 pm Choir

Wednesday-5:00 Confirmation Class

Wednesday-6:30pm Worship **Here**

Thursday 9:00am-11:00am Food Pantry

Sunday- Bible Study 8:00am Worship 9:30 am

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Lent Worship Schedule**

April 2nd Worship 6:30- **Here**

April 9<sup>th</sup> Worship 6:30pm- **Bethel**

April 17<sup>th</sup> Maundy Thursday Worship 6:30pm **Here**

April 18<sup>th</sup> Good Friday Worship 6:30pm **Here**

April 20<sup>th</sup> Easter worship 9:30 - **Here** *No Bible Study*

There are envelopes in the narthex for **Easter Lillies or Tulips**. Please fill out and return in the collection plate.

There will be a **Church brunch on Palm Sunday April 13<sup>th</sup>**. There is a signup sheet in the narthex.

### **The Story behind the hymn Love Divine, All Loves Excelling**

Charles Wesley (1707-1788) was a prolific hymn writer of the 18th century. Coming from a musical family, he left a lasting legacy of congregational song. The youngest of 18 children, Charles, possessed prodigious talents that soon blossomed. Little did he know that “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling,” would rise to become one of the most popular and consistently vocalized Christian songs.

Writing hymn texts that are solidly based on the Scriptures gives them an appeal across denominational lines. It is estimated that during his lifetime, Wesley penned more than 9,000 poems of a spiritual nature, 6,000 of which are hymns. His writings were passionate and well-crafted, conveying the true essence of Christian teaching.

Wesley married Sara Gwynne in 1749. She was a constant companion to him on his evangelical journeys. Only five of their eight children survived infancy. Charles Wesley Jr. (1757-1834) and Samuel Wesley (1766-1837) were musical like their father, and his daughter Sarah (1759-1828) was gifted in spiritual poetry.

A substantial number of his writings were completed while riding on horseback to his evangelical meetings. What really set Charles apart from other hymn writers was his effective use of scriptural allusions, providing a spiritual roadmap whereby individuals could imagine a Christ-centered life. Scholars suggest that he was able to compose about 10 lines of verse daily for 50 years. Charles’ brother John sometimes served as editor to his hymns. John’s typical response was, “some were good, some were mediocre, and

some were exceptional.” John can also be credited with improving the singability of Charles’ hymns.

Both John and Charles were instrumental in changing the spiritual environment of Britain during the 18th century. In doing so, they formed the bedrock of what Methodism has become worldwide. Their unwavering devotion to expressing Christian spirituality through hymns has impacted individuals across all denominational lines.

“Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” was first published in a collection of hymns entitled *Hymns for those that Seek, and those that Have, Redemption in the Blood of Christ* (1747). The incipit (opening line) was a play on the opening line of John Dryden’s (1631-1700) poem “Fairest Isle, All Isles Excelling” set to music by Henry Purcell (1659-1695) in the generation before Charles Wesley was born.

The tunes BEECHER or HYFRYDOL typically accompany the text in most hymnals. The hymn is written around a progression of thoughts: (1) our prayers for the Holy Spirit, (2) praying for the return of our Lord through the second coming, and (3) prayers for the finalization of his new creation. In comparing hymn stanzas across several denominations, very minor variances did occur, mainly in single word changes. However, in the *Hymnal 1982* (Episcopal) stanza two is omitted. The original stanza expressed the Wesleyan concept of the “second rest.” When Charles referred to this in his hymns, it specifically applies to the “second birth,” “second blessing,” “second gift.” All of these are directed toward achieving full “sanctification” or “Christian perfection.” This is an important theological tenet of Methodist preaching from the very beginning.

There is no better way of describing the culmination of adhering to the biblical teachings of Christ, than in stanza four of this hymn. Wesley’s phrase, “changed from glory into glory” is almost a direct quotation from 2 Corinthians 3:18 (KJV). Wesley describes that day in heaven when “we take

our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.”

**Assisting us this week March 30**

Usher: Jim Gatske

Communion Deacon: Carol Borremans

Counters: John & Jodi Koch

Lector: Bill Hartung

Altar Guild: Sandy Krakow

Fellowship: Hartungs

**Assisting us April 6<sup>th</sup>**

Usher: Jeff Borremans

Communion Deacon: Debbie La Plante

Counters: Larry Nelson & Debbie LaPlante

Lector: Bill Hartung

Altar Guild: Sandy Krakow

Fellowship: No one assigned

**Church Council Members**

Council President: Carol Borremans

Vice President: John Koch

Secretary: Jodi Koch

Treasurer: Debbie LaPlante

Pastor: Melissa Pagel

Secretary: Jean Kaster

Musician: Greg Pagel

Choir Director: Beth Krepline

Financial Secretary: Chris Peterson

**Committees**

Resource & Finance: John Koch

Education: Brent Phare

Worship & Church Music: Carol Borremans

Food Pantry: Debbie LaPlante

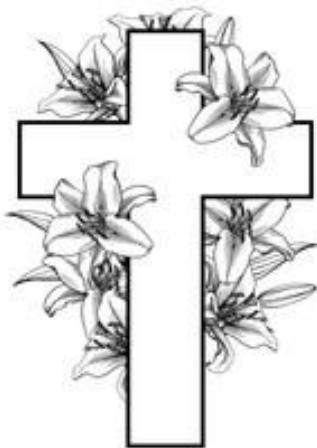
Celebration: Christina Marcin

Church Support & Property: Kevin Wood

Outreach: Sandy Krakow

Wiener Wednesday: Jodi Koch

Personnel: Carol Borremans



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