

LIFELINE

RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH

MARCH 2022

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From the President

Larry Peterson

Greetings from the Reluctant President of the Church Council.

Yes, I was elected president at the January church council meeting. It has been several years since I was last on the council because it seems every time I am, we change Pastors. Well here we go again.

As most of you know, the Synod has experienced a lot of retirements of pastors lately, and there is not enough people entering seminary to fill all of the openings. Therefore we have to understand that we may not be able to have a full time pastor in the foreseeable future. Also our congregation is shrinking. All of our existing living members are getting older, and it is increasingly difficult to continue with our past activities as they were structured.

I have begun to wonder if God is using our situation, the Covid closures and distancing guidelines, and just general attitude toward formal worship/religion as a stimulus to rethink what we are doing. It is often the case that we continue to do things as we have always done them because it takes less energy than changing direction.

One of the teachers of the law came and heard them debating. Noticing that Jesus had given them a good answer, he asked him, "Of all the commandments, which is the most important?"

"The most important one," answered Jesus, "is this: 'Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.'" **Mark 12:28-39**

In the days that Jesus said this, many of the religious ceremonies revolved around sacrifices, burnt offerings, teaching and obeying laws. Yes they read scriptures and discussed them as well. It was not the way we worship today.

Moving ahead a couple of thousand years, I am wondering if we are being given an opportunity to ask God to help us determine what is the role of Resurrection Lutheran Church in Green Bay Wisconsin. Are we here to just deliver Sunday worship services based on a formula that seems to be based on tradition several hundred years old, or is God saying let's rethink how we "live and share the love of Christ"?

Therefore, I am looking for some input and ideas about what you believe we should do. Here are 2 questions to which I would like to have prayerful answers so we can start the council working toward a plan.

1. Why should Resurrection Lutheran Church continue to exist? (I would hope you have several things you believe should be in our list of reasons.)

From the President

Larry Peterson

2. Besides Sunday services and maybe other midweek services, activities or even counseling, what other support should come from the church. (there are few children, so let's focus on other services that the church should provide, like maybe adult bible studies, organizing retreats, support of the homeless, hungry, lonely, sick, etc...)

Please jot me note with those ideas. My Email is lightboy216@gmail.com or put them in my mailbox in the church office.

I don't know what is possible right now but unless we have a plan or a map to follow, we certainly will not know if we are going in the right direction, much less knowing when we get to where we are going.

In any case, I believe this church belongs to God, and if God wants it to continue that is what will actually happen. I also believe God speaks to all of us and can use each of us to accomplish His will. Therefore, Pray,,,and listen for directions from God and help us to determine what we should be doing. I am also confident that your input and opinions are important and need to be considered as we put together a plan for the future.

Thank You.

Larry Peterson

P.S.

There is a group of people who are trying to update the church directory. Please look at the current church directory and find information about yourself. If you don't find your name in the directory, assume we don't have any information. Please update any information that is incorrect or is missing, and put it in my mail box at the church or send it to me via the Email above. Thanks.

From the President

Larry Peterson

March Greetings from the council president.

As I write this letter to you, the day after my first council meeting as president of this very special congregation, I want to state that I believe God has a plan for this church. I do not see it staying the same as it was 20 years ago but I believe God is with us and we have a mission.

As a 71 year old male, it is not unusual to be required to make a trip to the bathroom during the night. Last night it was 2:30ish for the call. When I have trouble falling back to sleep then, I often find it helpful to open my heart to God to help me unload my troubles and review ideas. It is often a time for me to remember those who have asked me to pray for them. However, this night it seemed that God had something different in mind for me. All I could think about was I needed to communicate to you. It is still really early in the morning. So these are the thoughts that I believe God wants me to share with you.

Yes, things are changing at church. It is part of God's plan. We are to be part of it. We don't have all of the details of what it is going to be but it is exciting. It will be amazing.

I was reminded that when Jesus died on the cross, his followers were greatly afraid. They hid away. When he ascended into Heaven, *they gathered together and prayed*. They were told the Holy Spirit would come to help them. I think we are in that same position at Resurrection Lutheran Church. We have the teachings and words that Jesus wanted us to have. Now it is time for us to begin our "Acts" chapter. The Holy Spirit is with us and will guide us to where God want us to be. When Pastor Ed left us, there was a moment of panic. (I am not comparing Pastor Ed to Jesus, but it feels like this may have been the way the disciples felt when Jesus was no longer with them physically.) They needed the guidance of God's spirit, and then they *needed* to share what was given to them. We need to be in a time of Prayer now. So please Pray for your church council.... Constantly! With the help of God we will get through this time of change and will come out stronger.

One of my fears at staying with the model of using supply pastors rather than a full time pastor is how do we offer pastoral care? I have purchased a book titled "Becoming a Hybrid Church". It focuses on being an "on the ground church" as well as an "on line church". There is a lot of work involved in doing more than a simple broadcast of the Sunday Service on Facebook. That is not what Hybrid means. One of the chapters titled Pastoral and Congregational care reminded me that we are called to love one another. Through that love for one another, we as members can and should be doing much of what traditionally has been expected and sometimes done by a pastor. To accomplish that requires us to be true friends, sharing each other's joys, sorrows, love, and problems. We need to be intentional in this activity. But that

From the President

Larry Peterson

has been already happening here for as long as I have been a member at this congregation. There are counseling issues that need professional involvement but we may need to use referral activity in those cases. Going back to the model of the early Disciples, they were not trained as psychologists.

So that is where I see us now. We have a lot to do. I am confident that with God's help, we will find our way to be what we are supposed to be.

Now for some info on what the council is doing:

The Resource and Finance team reports that the bills are all paid and the congregation is financially healthy. The funds approved to be distributed from the Mission Endowment Fund have been distributed as directed. The congregation has met the 3 year pledge to Crossways Capital Campaign for \$6,600.

The church support team has approved additional hours for our Church Secretary (Emily) to pick up more of the work that should be done in the office. This includes more activity putting together the bulletins, lifeline, Facebook, Youtube videos and our web pages publishing a new directory once all the information is accumulated etc. One critical part of a web presence is that it has to be updated regularly, and it needs to be monitored for opportunities to be of service to people who access the information. There is a lot of opportunity for Resurrection Lutheran here. We are really excited to have Emily take on some of this additional support.

Education team. Traditional Sunday school may not be the best way to train children any more. The children, like adults were created to live and share the love of Christ with others. That is how we feel fulfilled. The kids have decided they want to do bible studies about the Sunday Lessons and then do outreach projects. They are meeting to determine their own agenda for what outreach activities they want to do for the coming year. They will be calling themselves the Kidz Kouncil. They are guided by Joan Swigert and Sally Seidl. But they have other helpers also. I believe this is a really exciting development. I am hoping that they will eventually invite adults to be part of their social outreach projects. I think it would be fun and it would be a great way for the members of the congregation to show our love and concern for both the Kidz and for the community. They were reminded that there is a budget of \$400 for their work and it was decided that an additional \$60 from the work camp group petty Cash will also be contributed to the Kidz Kouncil for their work and any materials.

Outreach team reported that families served at the pantry are slowly increasing for the past few months. Food contributions have been able to keep up with the demand and we have also been able to distribute fresh fruits and vegetables this winter. Also of note: the pantry has been recognized for being partnered with Feeding America for 21 years.

From the President

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There are 2 new people helping the quilters. What a joy! Sandy is from Incarnation Lutheran, (Their quilting group disbanded) and Cindy Silvers now comes to help. More volunteers would be appreciated.

The neighbor family of Melissa Smith who lost their home to fire was given \$160 in cash and \$75 in gift cards. Thank you to all who participated. The support of the family was greatly appreciated. When it was given to them, Melissa was surprised with the hug she received. So just be aware you all received a hug. You were just represented by Melissa. Thanks to her for standing in for you all.

The worship team met in February to pick songs for the services, but want your input to suggest music that is meaningful to you. Outside of their meeting, there is still some uncertainty about Ash Wednesday and mid week Lenten services. This is coming very fast and we may need to be really flexible in how we handle it. At the time of this writing we don't have a supply pastor who will reply to requests to fill the pulpit for these extra services. It is harder than you may think to get response from potential supply pastors right now.

I know this is a "long report". I hope you find this helpful. Let me know if there is anything we should be communicating that you feel we are not doing well. There are more things in the works but we are not far enough along to have anything to really tell you yet. Hopefully there will be more actual information on some of these things for the next report.

Please pray for us

Larry Peterson.

Food Pantry

Spring type Greetings from the food Pantry.

First, Thank You for all the soup that was donated to the pantry for the Souper Bowl Sunday collection. There is never enough soup that comes in to satisfy our standard distributions so we use some of the funds that are donated to purchase it from Grocery stores. The same is true for canned baked beans or pork & beans.

Early in the pandemic, we were advised that we should not be reusing paper or plastic grocery bags for distribution of food from the pantry. That is the same time we were told that we should let all food donations sit for a week before using them in distribution. Those guidelines have been relaxed now that they have validated that the Covid virus doesn't survive on Dry surfaces very long. So that means we can now reuse grocery bags.

For all of you who have been collecting paper and plastic grocery bags for the past 2 years, Please bring them in to the food pantry. Torn paper bags or plastic bags with hole in them cannot be used. We also cannot use bread or produce plastic bags. It would be helpful to have only plastic and paper grocery bags contributed.

That said, I want to let you know the pantry is doing well right now. There is always room on the volunteer list for additional people. There have been a few times late last year and so far this year when our current list of volunteers is reduced by illness, injury, and other personal commitments. It has not prevented us from distributing food but there are tasks we need to have back up people trained to do. They will have the ability to get into the regular cycle of work that the pantry does. This will allow us to work around vacation schedules and other activities that sometimes are desirable during the year. We will be looking to some of our pantry partner congregations to see if they have some people who would like to become involved with the pantry as well as people from Resurrection Lutheran. Our current list of volunteers includes people from several congregations and several volunteers from the community at large. There is great diversity in our current list of volunteers. We have become good friends with people we would otherwise not have met. If you have any interest in volunteering, *talk* with me. There is something that I am sure you would enjoy doing at the pantry and it is not a lifetime commitment and not everything needs to be done on Thursdays.

Now for some dreams for the future: The pantry has a Facebook presence that is kept up by Emily Greatens and Chris Peterson. There is also a web page associated with the Church Website. The Web site page, while nicely done, is pretty static.

Dream 1; create a position at the pantry where a volunteer updates the information regularly to help serve our clients with information they need. For example: it would be nice to let people know what foods and special items are currently available, what is happening with government programs like Food Share, Extra benefits and requirements like help paying for

Food Pantry

internet, child tax credits, schedules for changes to benefits, how to sign up for extra benefits with social agencies, where and how to get emergency services in Brown county etc. All of this information is available to our pantry and changes as often as every 2 weeks. This is an opportunity to let the community know more about what we are doing here. It would also be helpful to have someone who could monitor the site for people who want to contact us.

Dream 2; Evaluate if can offer some home delivery to clients who have no transportation *and* are homebound for reasons of disability. This is a topic that is on the agenda for our new pantry Board of Directors to address. If it is approved by the Board, we will need volunteers who have a heart to bring food to people who really need it as well as bring a bright sign that there is someone who cares about them and is willing to Share a bit of the Love of Christ with them.

The number of families using the pantry is starting to creep up. This is expected. We are still used significantly less than prior to the pandemic. When the food share program returns to the pre-pandemic amounts this year we expect the usage to quickly expand back to at least the usage we saw in 2019. (About 300 families per month.) It could be higher. There are some new pantries that have opened over that past few years that may reduce some of the usage pressures. We will have to see what happens.

Here are the statistics for January 2022.

Resurrection Food Pantry	January 2022
# of families	154
Total # of adults incl. seniors	271
# of seniors	102
# of children (minors)	103
Total people served	374
New families registered	17
Families of 5 or more	20
Volunteer hours	236.75
Total donation/purchase weight	10,830#

Larry Peterson, Pantry Manager



RESURRECTION LUTHERAN

Holy Week Services

Wednesday, March 2nd—
Ash Wednesday Service
6:30 PM w/ Pastor Jen Christensen

Friday, April 15th—Good Friday
6:30 PM w/ Dr. Ed Maniscalco

Sunday, April 17th—Easter Sunday
9:30 AM w/ Pastor Joel Xavier

Lenten Services will be available at Bethel
(1350 Bond St) on Wednesdays at 6:00 PM.

Incarnation Lutheran Church will be hosting a
weekly worship/bible study series entitled
“Voices at the Crossroads” during the
Wednesday in Lent beginning at 2:00 PM.

Incarnation Lutheran Church will be hosting
Maundy Thursday worship at 2:00 PM on April
14th.

Holy Communion at Incarnation will take place
in the pews with individual sealed communion
packets.

Church Staff

Secretary – Emily Greatens
Organist – Adria Cary

Why Are We Here?

Our Mission;

“Live and Share the Love of Christ”

Our Vision:

“Strengthen and Grow our
Commitment to God, Church &
Community”

Worship

Main Worship
9:30 AM on Sundays

Shut-ins

Ron Anderson

Woodside Rehab
Mulberry 615
1040 Pilgrim Way
Green Bay, WI 54304

Joyce Corriveau

250 Ninth St. #112
Depere, WI 54115
(920) 983-5112

Church Requests

If you have an activity or event scheduled,
please notify the church office and put it on the
calendar in the hallway.

If you would like to add an article to the
Lifeline, please email
rlutheranchurch@yahoo.com



John Horkman	3/04
Hunter Van Den Elzen	3/12
Craig Sterk	3/27
Jim Gatske	3/28
Carol Borremans	3/31

Church Council Liaisons & Committee

Council President – Larry Peterson

Vice President – Bill Hartung

Treasurer – Ken Rudie *

Secretary – Jodi Koch

Financial Secretary – Chris Peterson*

Resource & Finance – Jim Gatske

Christian Education – Sally Seidl

Celebration – Christina Marcin

Worship – Melissa Smith

Mutual Ministry – Carol Borremans

Food Pantry – Joan Swigert & Larry Peterson

Church Support & Property – Bill Hartung

Outreach – Val Nelson

* Not on council

Do you feel you need a prayer?

Resurrection's Prayer Chain is available for you!

Whatever your need, whether it's the concern of a desperate need, a joyous prayer of thanksgiving for blessings received, or something in-between, we will pray for you in all confidence.

**Simply call Kathie McFarlane at (920) 499-6381 or
Linda Bertrand at (920) 217-8770
to activate the process.**



come join us!
INVITATION TO WORSHIP

COME JOIN US

1024 SHAWANO AVE

EVERY SUNDAY

AT 9:30 AM

WE MISS EVERYONE!

Even though we do not currently have a pastor, the church is up and running!

We would like to invite you back to in-person Worship! Masks are required and social—distancing is encouraged.

If you cannot make it to in—person worship, we have live recordings on our Facebook Page (Resurrection Lutheran Church) or past recordings on our Website (rlutherangb.com)



RESURRECTION
LUTHERAN

Live and Share the Love of Christ

March

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1. Quilters 9:00 AM	2. Ash Wednesday Service 6:30 PM	3. Food Pantry 9:00 AM	4. AA 9:00 AM	5.
6. Worship 9:30 AM	7.	8. Quilters 9:00 AM	9.	10. Food Pantry 9:00 AM	11. AA 9:00 AM	12.
13. Worship 9:30 AM	14.	15. Quilters 9:00 AM	16.	17. Food Pantry 9:00 AM	18. AA 9:00 AM	19.
20. Worship 9:30 AM	21. R + F Meeting 6:00 PM Council Meeting 6:30 PM	22. Quilters 9:00 AM	23.	24. Food Pantry 6:00 PM	25. AA 9:00 AM	26.
27. Worship 9:30 AM	28.	29.	30.	31.		29.