

THE QUARTERLY  
*Messenger*

January – March 2022

WISHING YOU A



FULL OF GOD'S LOVE & GRACE!

Love, Your Resurrection Lutheran Church Family

**RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
1250 LORA SMITH ROAD  
NEWNAN, GA 30265  
(770) 254-8833

Happy New Year, Resurrection Family!

My hope and prayer is that this quarterly newsletter finds you beginning a new year open to what God is doing in and around you! A new year is often an invitation to reflect on the previous year, with all its joys and sorrows, accomplishments and disappointments. This space is holy ground because it invites us into honest conversation with God and ourselves, holding in tension gratitude, grief, and grace.

However, the new year is also an invitation to hope and be bold in our faith as we prayerfully discern how God will lead, transform, and call us into new adventures within ourselves and among family, friends, our congregation, and community!

Yesterday, was the day of Epiphany, a day when the church remembers the arrival of the wise men to visit the holy family, bringing their gifts to the Christ child. The day of Epiphany and the short season that follows focuses on a theme of light, the light that the wise men followed to find Christ and the light that shines within and around us as we continue to follow God in our own lives.

It is interesting to me that both the occasion of a new year and the celebration of Epiphany occur within a week of one another, as an invitation to see how both inform and invite us into the continued mysteries of God's presence and promise in our lives.

So, in this new year and Epiphany season, I have found this quote from theologian Walter Brueggemann to be a place of reflection, prayer, and hope. Perhaps these words are also inviting you on this journey too ...

*"On Epiphany day, we are still the people walking. We are still people in the dark and the darkness looms large around us, beset as we are by fear, anxiety, brutality, violence, loss – a dozen alienations that we cannot manage. We are – we could be - people of your light. So we pray for the light of your glorious presence as we wait for your appearing; we pray for the light of your wondrous grace as we exhaust our coping capacity; we pray for your gift of newness that will override our weariness; we pray that we may see and know and hear and trust in your good rule. That we may have energy, courage, and freedom to enact your rule through the demands this day (this year). We submit our day (year) to you and to your rule, with deep joy and high hope."*

Beloved, this new year personally and as a congregation will be a beautiful testimony to God's work and love and I am so grateful and honored to be on this journey with you all!

God's love and mine,  
Pastor Jennifer Roberts



# InReach at RLC

## Advent by Candlelight

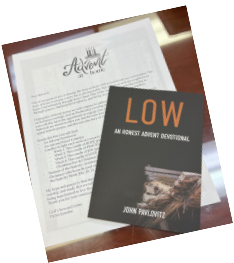
Each Wednesday night in Advent our congregation gathered for a delicious soup meal provided by members of the congregation. Following the meal, we moved into a beautifully candlelit sanctuary where we prayed, read scripture, and heard stories of hope, peace, and joy. Members also gathered online via Zoom to participate.

Our children gathered with Mrs. Liza to explore Advent and create items that invite them on the journey of waiting for Jesus.

Thank you to all who attended this special time of fellowship and faith formation! Thank you to those who shared stories that encouraged us in our Advent journey!



## Advent at Home Packets



During the season of Advent our congregation read through the devotional LOW and contemplated the posture of God as God came low to take on human flesh.

## Bible Study on Zoom

Each Tuesday evening on Zoom a group gathers to study in depth the readings for the coming Sunday! This time is a great time to hear others understanding of the scripture, to ask questions, share insights, and pray with one another.

## Christmas Eve Children's Program

Lisa Saunders and our RLC families worked hard to present to us the story of the Candy Cane for this year's Christmas Eve Program! It was delightful and each and every person who participated did an excellent job! Thank you all for sharing with us the story of Jesus through the image of a candy cane!





# Outreach at RLC

## Operation Christmas Child

In the months of October and November the congregation collected items for this year's Operation Christmas Child. On Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup> some of the children from our children's ministry gathered to fill the boxes to be sent off to children and families in need. They enjoyed a great time of filling out booklets about who they are, packing the goodies, and enjoyed some pizza together. Thank you to all who donated for this outreach activity and who support our children's ministry!



## The Buttercups Fall Gathering

For the fall gathering of the buttercup group, the children gathered at Mrs. Lisa's home for a fun time of games, snacks, and a service project. Each child made a warm and cozy scarf to hand out to those in need of warmth as the cold weather sets in. The children then enjoyed a turkey brownie snack and played some "minute to win it" games that included some whipped cream fun!



## Thanksgiving Gift Card Giveaway

While COVID has changed the way we do outreach over the past two years, it has not stopped the people of RLC from continuing to think about our neighbors during the holiday season. This year, our congregation generously gave away over 100 gifts cards (worth \$50 each) to those in the community who needed a little bit of help. Thank you to all who gave so generously, who served the day of the giveaway, and who continue to pray for our neighbors and their needs!





## Newnan Tornado Relief Welcome Basket Giveaway

On November 23rd, a group of members joined RLC's tornado relief liaison, Jeni Rios, to take welcome baskets to those who have recently received temporary housing as they await more permanent housing. Each welcome basket included practical household items such as a trash can, plates, cups, and command hooks as well as new bedding sets. All of this was made possible through your generous contributions and support of Newnan tornado recovery.



## Hope Global St. Nicholas Ice Cream Party

The 2021 God's Work, Our Hands activity included a St. Nicholas Ice Cream Party for the students and mentors of Hope Global here in Newnan. Hope Global serves students and families with after school care, mentorship, and the space to discover art, games, and tutoring within community. The tornado destroyed the gaming systems that many of the students enjoy playing after they complete their schoolwork. Our congregation raised money to replace a gaming system and provided games to go along with it. The students and mentors enjoyed ice cream from Rock Salt Milk Bar, some yummy sundae toppings, and lots of fellowship time!



## 2021 Christmas Angel Tree

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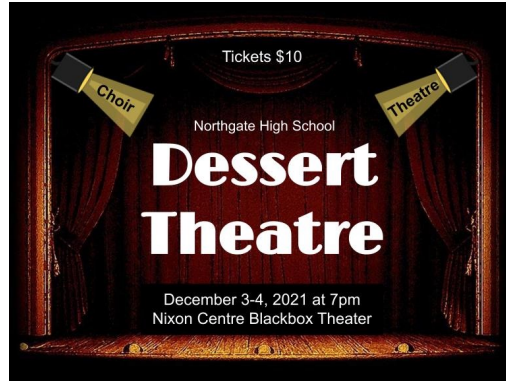




# RLC Families in the Community

Our youth are doing amazing things in their extracurricular activities and around the community and we wanted to share some of the latest things they've been involved in.

On December 3 & 4, Caroline Connolly participated in a wonderful dessert theater production at Northgate High School. Caroline is the daughter of Jill and Kevin Connolly. Congratulations, Caroline! We are so proud of your hard work and many talents!



Arin Stover joined her classmates in a play that remembered the birth of Christ at her school, Lafayette Christian School.

We celebrate Leah and Caleb Sterling who both made all A's for the first term and were listed on the Lee Middle School Honor Roll!

Additionally, Leah sang with the Lee Middle School chorus at a Hawks game! What a cool experience and place to sing!





## Council News

At the annual congregational meeting on Sunday, December 12, 2021, the congregation voted to elect five new council members to council. Each of these members bring exciting perspectives and gifts to the council and we are grateful for their willingness to serve! Each of them have written a brief introductory bio below, so please read over them as a way of getting to know them better.

As new members rotate on to the council, we give thanks for the faithfulness and dedication of those members who now take a much-deserved rest. Special gratitude for Nick Sterling and Lloyd McLean whose dedication and leadership were gifts to the council, particularly through a time of transition. We will honor their work and install new members of council at worship this Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup>.



Cheryl  
Buyarski

Cheryl Buyarski grew up in rural Wisconsin and traveled extensively stateside and abroad during her 40-year civilian career as an administrative assistant, documentation/security specialist, and all-around "Girl Friday" for the US Army during the Cold War era and Defense Contractors thereafter. The demands of military life and raising a family left little time for Cheryl's desire to participate more within the church, but in retirement and whilst battling cancer, her perspective and priorities were given a new order. Cheryl now lives and serves only with motivation centered in God, and she passionately fights for what she believes in.

Cheryl is well known at RLC as Fred's other half but also for her stewardship in the service of God. She became a member at RLC in 2015 and actively participates in Worship & Music and Outreach ministries. She served on the RLC Council from 2015-2019 and represented RLC at the ELCA SE Synod's TM2.0 ministry workshops during 2018-2019. Cheryl would love to see RLC grow as a congregation and within the community, and she is committed to serve RLC with excellence and give with enthusiasm and extravagance the way God gives to us.

Sharon Delgado grew up in Ohio and moved to the Atlanta area in 1974 with her then husband and two children. Her family grew up in the Atlanta area. Sharon attended nursing school in 1980 after her children were older and retired in 2010. Sharon began attending Resurrection Lutheran Church after moving to Newnan in 2017. She currently lives with her dog and enjoys doing yoga and walking every day except the weekends. She also enjoys relaxing with a good book or watching a good movie. Sharon is a positive energy here at RLC and is always willing to step in and serve where needed.



Sharon Delgado

## Council News

Jeni moved to Georgia from the suburbs of Chicago with her husband Ish, in February of 2015 and started attending Resurrection Lutheran Church two weeks after arriving. She tries to use her time and talents as much as possible, so as a professional stage actor/director, she directed Cotton Patch Gospel in 2016, served as a grade school mentor since 2015, following 2 sisters from 5th/6th grade to currently as Jr/Sr students, plus 3 Kindergarten boys and and a grade school student and serving on Outreach to "Love our neighbors as ourselves" in as many ways possible, including Sweets for Soldiers, planning and maintaining the Food Pantry, conceptualizing and managing Food Truck Friday Nights and starting a relationship with Hope Global and the first event, the Ice Cream Social. She was also asked to serve as the local representative for Lutheran Disaster Relief to assist survivors of the tornado. She hopes that by serving on the Council she can set a good example for all of our Congregation to serve more to the community, remembering that Time and Talent are just as important as Treasure. She has many ideas for the church to bring more awareness and hopefully bring more members to RLC. She hopes you all join in helping the church grow inwardly and outward as well!



Jeni  
Rios



Steven  
Luschen

Thank you for electing me to the church council, I am looking forward to using this opportunity to help strengthen and grow our congregation. I moved to the Newnan area from Illinois 16 years ago while I was finishing college to work for 3D Solutions making prototypes. In 2013, I married my wife Meagan and in 2015 and 2017 we welcomed our children Lily and James into our family. I believe my background, enthusiasm, and family will help me be a positive member of the church council.



Garrick  
Widdowson

Garrick Widdowson is pleased to have the opportunity to serve Resurrection as a member of the Church Council. A graduate of East Coweta High School in 2015 and the University of Georgia in 2019, Garrick began attending Resurrection in his early teens, and has always taken great joy in having an active role in worship. Garrick hopes that his time with the council will act as a valuable learning experience for him, and that he will be able to provide valuable input amidst a time of change and uncertainty; he is particularly interested in the task of identifying effective ways to reach out and engage younger adults and their families in the mission and the fellowship of the church.



# Ministry Team Updates

## COVID-19 Task Force

The COVID-19 task force continues to keep an eye on the trends and numbers statewide for Georgia and is monitoring recommended protocols as there are developments.

Currently, the task force is monitoring the numbers following the holiday season and gatherings among friends and families. Given the recent spike in cases and the transmissibility of the Omicron variant, the task force asks that anyone who is unvaccinated wear a mask to worship and any other church activities. If you are fully vaccinated the task force highly encourages you to mask in worship and at other church activities. As always, practicing precautions that will continue to keep you safe is also highly recommended and those include frequent hand washing, distancing when able, and joining us online if you feel unwell.

As winter settles in, it is good to be aware of illness trends, both COVID-19 related and others such as the flu and respiratory viruses. If you wake up not feeling well or are running a fever, the task force asks that you worship from home or attend events via Zoom until you are feeling better, the fever is gone for 24 hours, or you have a negative test result.

As always, part of loving our neighbor is making sure that we are doing our part to not spread germs and to make the church a place where all can gather safely. Thank you all for your continued efforts to show love in this way!

## Worship & Music Team

The Worship Team has been active over the past quarter at RLC. In-Person worship has continued the past several months, with attendance generally increasing from Reformation Sunday through the end of the year. We also have continued to offer live-streaming of our services. Members have served in worship by singing in the choir, serving as readers, serving as worship assistants, and serving as ushers. The Team is looking for more volunteers to serve in all worship positions, and if you are interested, please contact Cheryl Buyarski [cherylhipke@hotmail.com](mailto:cherylhipke@hotmail.com) or Chris Scott [cscottswslaw@aol.com](mailto:cscottswslaw@aol.com).

Beginning November 1<sup>st</sup>, Rev. Jennifer Roberts became RLC's full-time pastor, and she was formally ordained on December 4<sup>th</sup> at St. John's Lutheran Church in Knoxville, Tennessee. We will be scheduling Pastor Jennifer's installation service at RLC early in 2022.

Our choir is again under the direction of Chris Scott as of December 1<sup>st</sup> and, on December 24<sup>th</sup>, David Kocsis began serving as RLC's accompanist. The choir presented special music during Advent and on Christmas Eve, and will resume choir practice on January 12, 2022 at 7:00 and will continue practice at that time each Wednesday.

On Wednesday nights during Advent our members gathered for a light supper followed by a Advent service highlighting the theme of each week of Advent: Hope, Love, Joy, and Peace.



# Ministry Updates

## Care & Prayer Team

The past 3 months have been rewarding with all the things we do. Most of our members are aware of what our team does for others. Just a quick review for those who are not aware: meal train provides for those in need of meals following surgery, prayer shawls for cancer victims, prayer vigils (generally multiple times per year), individual prayers said for those or with those requesting it, and a weekly written prayer list to keep us on our toes (or better said, on our knees).

The Meal Train is a process whereby our parishioners provide meals either by cooking them or providing a restaurant delivered meal. This service includes options for those with diet restrictions or allergies. It is a very helpful service for when the family requires assistance and gives others an opportunity to enjoy serving others in need.

Prayer shawls are knitted, crocheted, sewn, quilted, and created by those in our congregation. These shawls are used over the shoulders or lap which bring joy to the recipient as prayers are said for them as they are created. By the way, we need volunteers to create more shawls. If you are interested or looking for more information, please call us.

The prayer vigils that took place over the last quarter included remembering in our prayers Mike Twomey, the hurricanes in Haiti, a thanksgiving vigil for all the things we are grateful for, and the Stations of the Nativity.

If you want or need prayer, please call us. We maintain confidentiality whenever you want it kept that way. Some people choose to be placed on the weekly prayer list so others not on the care and prayer team can pray. However, there are some who do not wish to be placed on that list.

Any time you have a want or a need, be it some type of assistance or just to chat, call us. We are here for you!

Linda Harris (678) 378-2511  
Barbara Miller (954) 253-2920


## Education & Youth Team

While there have been many precautions in place due to COVID, this has not stopped faith formation for our children at RLC! Lisa Saunders has continued to meet with the children at church and through various meetings in her home to do service projects and to teach. The buttercups have worked hard at learning about God's love and serving from that love through Operation Christmas Child and making scarves for those who may need extra warmth this winter season. Additionally, through the season of Advent, the children met to work on activities that centered around Advent and the nativity. They also learned and performed an amazing play for Christmas Eve.

The youth are beginning to gather for Confirmation classes beginning this month. Our confirmation class has 8 students who will embark on catechism classes once a month and will also be serving in worship, embarking on a service trip, and participating in other formation activities! If you would be interested in serving as a mentor for a confirmand, please contact Pastor Jennifer!



# Ministry Updates

<p>Property Team</p>	<p>Over the past 18 months the property team has maintained RLC's property but has not had much to report. With the on-going pandemic, we have not scheduled any volunteer workdays, although there are two scheduled in the new year in January and February. The workdays will focus on interior cleaning and organization and painting. With our budget for 2022, some volunteer yard work may be required in order to keep the grounds presentable. Two exterior items that will require attention soon include the double doors in the front of the building and gutter cleaning. The property committee is dedicated to keeping up our property and building so that it can be utilized in a variety of ways for ministry and to God's glory!</p>	 <p>Saturday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> 9 AM - 1 PM</p> <p>Saturday, February 26<sup>th</sup> 9 AM - 1 PM</p>
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<p>Witness &amp; Outreach Team</p>	<p>The witness and outreach team continues to be busy and creative in the ways our congregation engages the community around us. The Food Pantry ministry continues to feed the community and meet the food insecurity that has grown as the COVID-19 pandemic has continued. This ministry is possible because of the hard work of Jeni Rios, Sandi Israel, Lloyd McLean, and the congregation. If you are interested in learning how to stock the pantry on a weekly basis, please sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board or contact Jeni Rios.</p> <p>Additionally, this ministry has continued a partnership with Lutheran Disaster Relief and other community charities and organizations to help with the Newnan tornado recovery. Our liason, Jeni Rios, continues to meet weekly for updates, organized welcome baskets, and continues to sit at allocations in order to designate grant money for families in need.</p> <p>Another creative ministry that saw a lot of success in 2020 was the Food Truck Friday nights. This ministry will continue in 2021 and will be looking for volunteers willing to host community members, set up and clean up, and assist in other ways that engage visitors! Please consider this opportunity to reach out to those around us this spring!</p>
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Back in the summer of 2021 RLC created a new Stewardship and Finance Committee. The committee members consist of Ish Rios, Peter Anderson, John Setzer and George Arnold. Pastor Katie was very influential in moving this committee forward and I would like to thank her. Since we “restarted” inhouse worship we have renewed the stewardship aspect of our congregation. During the fall drive for the campaign, we had several congregation members share stories of faith and their personal interactions with ministers from their past. With the help of Pastor Mike Ward and his staff at “Stewardship For All Seasons” we were able to put together a campaign to raise awareness as well as funds to obtain a full-time pastor. Our efforts led to the calling of Pastor Jennifer Roberts. As we continue forward into the new year, we will be updating the congregation with plans for a Capital Projects” campaign. We look forward to the new year and the challenges that await us and know that the Lord will provide us with the tools and inspiration that we need to continue to make this a great congregation.

## The Congregation’s Response to the Fall Stewardship Drive



**21**  
households  
pledged to  
increase their  
giving



**6**  
new  
households  
pledged to give  
in 2022



**\$676/week\***  
increased  
giving + new  
pledges

***These are all things to give God thanks for and celebrate! Thank you!***

There is still time for stewardship growth in 2022!



If you have not pledged, please consider doing so!  
You can mail your pledge to Liz at the church office!



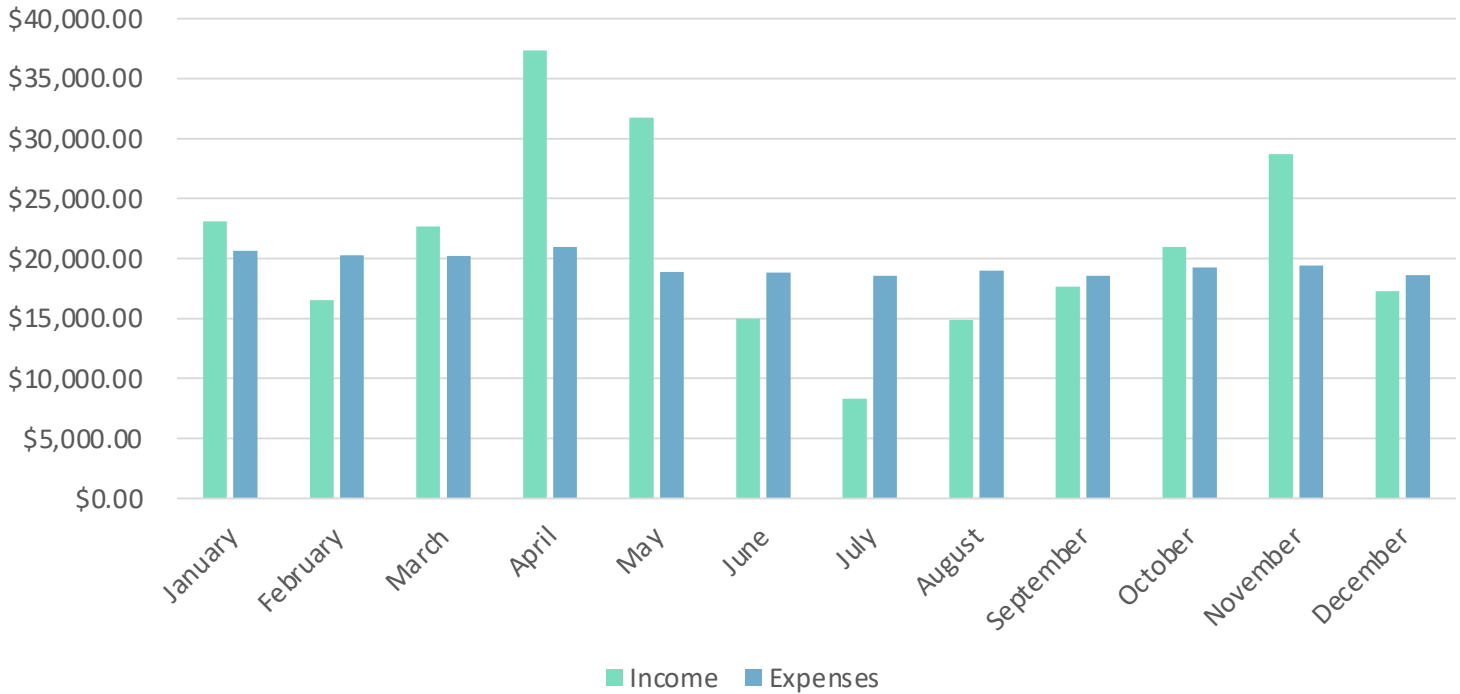
\*We are still in need of \$124 weekly to meet our  
\$800 / week goal to fund the call of our full-time pastor!

We also have **big** ministry plans for 2022 and your support of our congregation will make those plans and that ministry a reality! Thank you for considering this investment into God’s mission in our community!

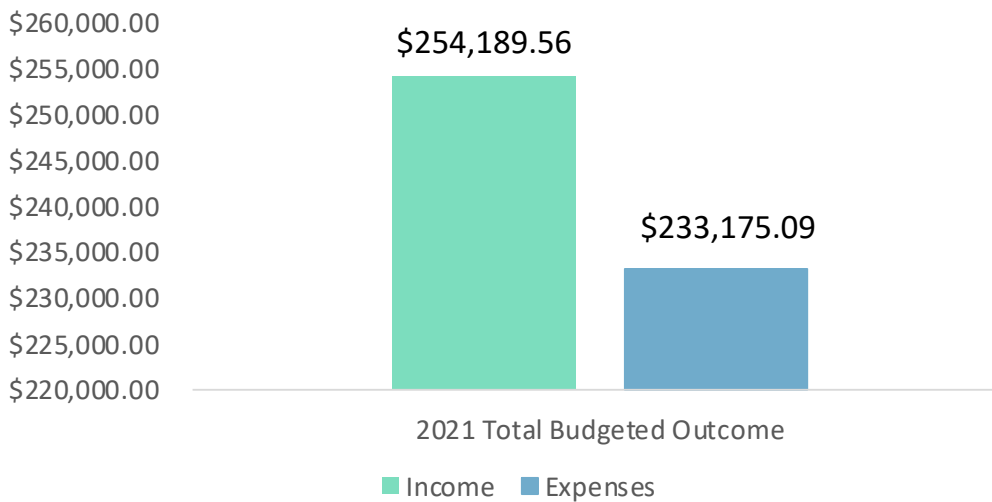
# 2021 Financial Recap

Our congregation is blessed by the expertise of Katie Sterling as our treasurer and Mary Lynn Bolado as our financial secretary! Thank you all so much for your service to God's church!

## 2021 Monthly Income & Expenditures



## 2021 Yearly Income & Expenses



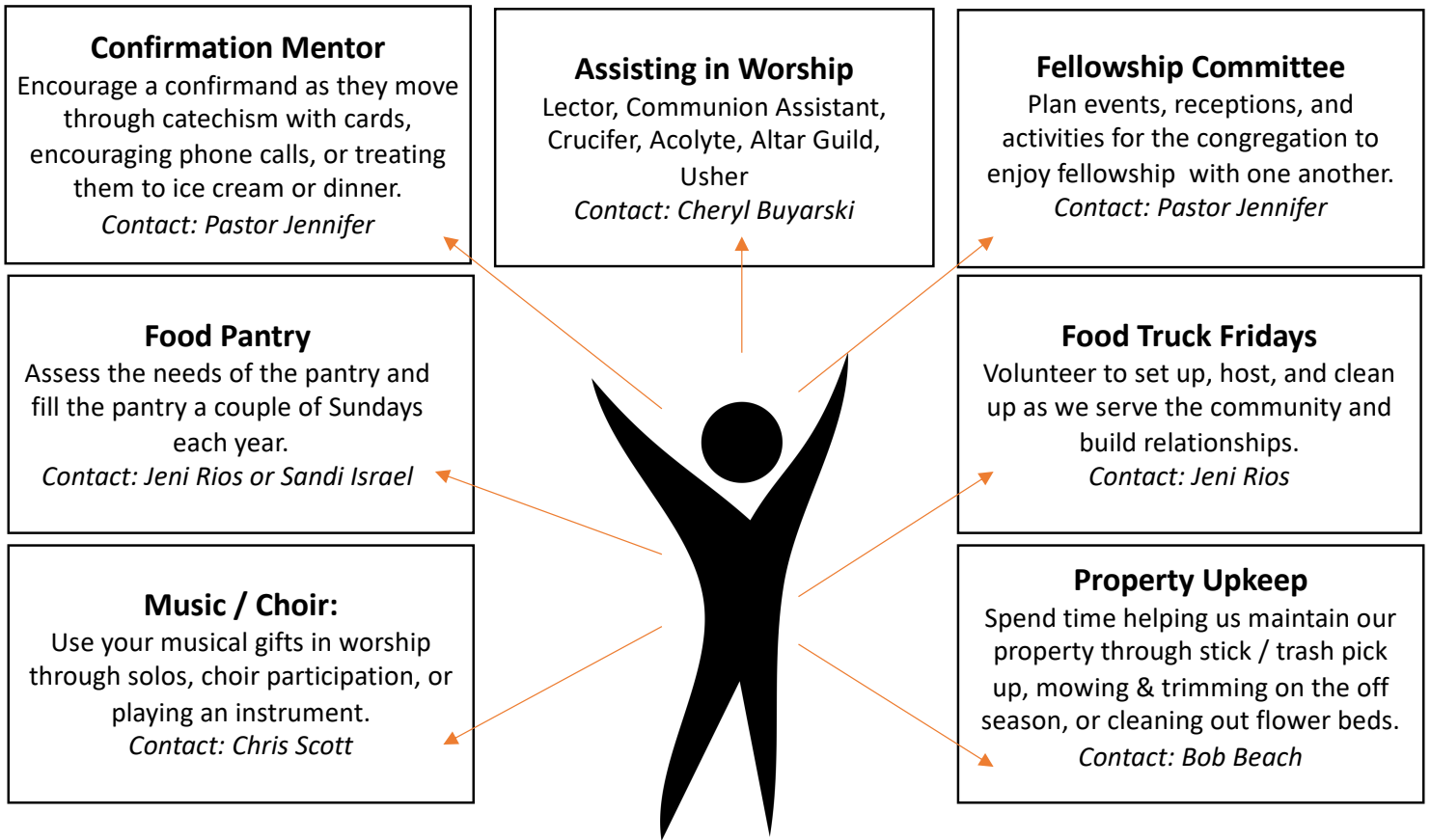
At the end of the 2021 year, our congregation finished with a **\$21,014.47\* surplus!**

*This was made possible by the PPP loan the congregation obtained in 2021 and was forgiven.*

Our goal for the coming year is to continue to be good stewards of all that God has given us and to give abundantly of our time, talent, and treasure in faith of what God is doing through us!



## Where Can I Serve at RLC?



## Birthdays & Anniversaries

January

Leah Sterling	1/8
Christopher Bouchard	1/12
Timothy Price	1/14
Pat Dasenbrock-Fuerstenau	1/17
Blanche Jarvie	1/19
Katie Twomey	1/20
Chris Hendricks	1/23

February

Linda Harris	2/6
Jennifer Sims	2/6
Nicholas Bouchard	2/7
Ilga Young	2/13
Greg Widdowson	2/19
Barbara Miller	2/21
Barbara North	2/22
Elizabeth Connolly	2/26

William & Mildred Wohlers  
2/4 celebrating 67 years

Lloyd & Linda McLean  
2/27 celebrating 51 years

March

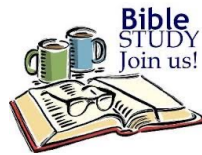
Meagan Luschen	3/4
Carole Malhoit	3/7
Debbie Bouchard	3/10
Roy Matthews	3/11
Pat Richmond	3/17
Michael Kelly	3/18
Adam Pierce	3/18
James Luschen	3/21
Fred Buyarski	3/23
Ismael Rios	3/23
Janet Eichman	3/24
Mike Manning	3/27
Caroline Connolly	3/29

# Announcements & Upcoming Events

Offered Weekly at RLC



**Worship**  
Sundays at 10 AM  
In Person & Online



**Bible Study**  
Tuesdays at 7 PM  
on Zoom



**Choir Practice**  
at 7 PM  
Wednesdays

Date	Time	Event	Location
January 22	9:00 – 1:00	Church Work Day	Church Building
January 23	11:15 – 12:30	Confirmation Class	Conference Room
January 30	1:00 – 3:00	Pastor Jennifer's Installation Service	Sanctuary
February 11	6:00 – 8:00	Taste of St. Valentine	Fellowship Hall
February 13	11:15-12:30	Church Council Meeting	Conference Room
February 20	11:15-12:30	Confirmation Class	Conference Room
February 26	9:00 – 1:00	Church Work Day	Church Building
March 1	6:00 – 8:00	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner	Fellowship Hall
March 2	6:00 – 7:00	Ash Wednesday Service	Sanctuary
March 9	6:00 – 7:30	Lenten Wednesday Meal & Worship	Fellowship Hall
March 13	11:15-12:30	Church Council Meeting	Conference Room
March 16	6:00 – 7:30	Lenten Wednesday Meal & Worship	Fellowship Hall
March 20	11:15 – 12:30	Confirmation Class	Conference Room
March 23	6:00 – 7:30	Lenten Wednesday Meal & Worship	Fellowship Hall
March 30	6:00 – 7:30	Lenten Wednesday Meal & Worship	Fellowship Hall
April 6	6:00 – 7:30	Lenten Wednesday Meal & Worship	Fellowship Hall

*If you have any questions about upcoming events, please email or call Liz or Pastor Jennifer at the church for more information.*

# Community & Southeastern Synod News



## CONTRIBUTIONS

### Total Amount of Allocations by Representatives

Coweta Community Foundation - \$50,720

Newnan Presbyterian Church - \$33,450

United Methodist Church - \$17,150

Newnan-Coweta Habitat for Humanity - \$13,950

(additional \$3,400 materials & volunteer hours)

Foundation Christian Church - \$8,300

Lutheran Disaster Relief - \$4,500

St. Mary Magdalene - \$2,000

Another way our congregation continues to be good stewards of God's resources is through Lutheran Disaster Relief (LDR) in helping those affected by the Newnan tornado. Recently, Pastor Morgan Gordy and RLC's Jeni Rios were able to secure a grant that has allowed LDR to assist families in recovery by offering money to repair their homes. See this news below that was published in the Coweta Community Foundation newsletter that mentions LDR.

## "Unmute Yourself: Proclaim the Love of God to all the World" Unmute Yourself



Southeastern Synod Assembly  
June 3-5, 2022

2022 Southeastern Synod Assembly will be held at the Chattanooga Convention Center.

Our congregation will be attending and represented by a few leaders at the 2022 Southeastern Synod Assembly in Chattanooga, TN this summer! If you are interested in representing RLC at this assembly, please contact Pastor Jennifer and let her know! It will be a great time of learning about what is going on in our synod and collaborating with others!

We plan to be BACK IN-PERSON for AFFIRM 2022!!!

June 12-17, 2022

University of West Alabama, Livingston, AL



Affirm is a Summer Youth Event of the ELCA Southeastern Synod typically held at the **University of West Alabama in Livingston, Alabama**. Affirm nurtures faith, equips youth leaders for today and tomorrow, and trains youth in discipleship skills. Affirm is for youth who have completed grades 6-12 and the Young Adult and Youth Ministry Institute (YAYMI) is held simultaneously with AFFIRM For college freshman and sophomores interested in exploring a call to youth ministry. Affirm is based on 10 different age-appropriate leadership and discipleship units. Each of these units are staffed by small group leaders and a pair of unit directors. Youth will spend about 6 hours each day in experiential learning with games, skits, and discussion.