



**Resurrection
Lutheran
Church**

Resurrection Report

December 2024

rlcfw.org

“Being an example of God’s acceptance and grace to all.”

From Pastor Will Smith

To my siblings in Christ,

It is that time of year, and with it comes all kinds of noise and hurry. For us, it is important that the reason for the season is a love story. It is the fullness of God’s love, given with such reckless vulnerability, that brings us the story of Jesus’ birth. It is this focus on God’s love as the reason for the season that makes all the difference.

First, it is easy to lose Jesus as the embodiment of the Creator’s love for creation, when he is turned into a symbol of the cultural norms that I hold dear; norms I want defended and advanced within society. It isn’t Jesus who wants to see the Santa display lit up downtown; or who expects a world where everyone knows that you greet each other with “merry Christmas!”; or who demands that everyone who puts up a tree and exchanges gifts knows full-well that it is Christmas NOT Xmas! The root of these issues is not concern over society’s well being but its conformity. Jesus could care less about whether people say, merry Christmas, but he cares a great deal about what his followers are doing to inflict merriment upon the world.

On a more individual level, we must be mindful of how easy it is to lose love as our foundation and motivation amid the noise and hurry. One of the biggest traps that any life of love can fall into is the weight and demand of obligation. It is out of love that we give ourselves to others. It is out of love that we put others and their needs ahead of our own, and sometimes give to the point hurting ourselves. But too often, especially over longer periods of time, the love that moves us can be worn down to the motives of mere obligation and expectations. How quickly we get caught up in all that must be done, all that must

be purchased! How easy it is to give until all that is left looks nothing like love at all. Love has little to do with the demand of Must, and is not held in the grip of worry, guilt, or shame. “That’s the way we’ve always done it”, is not a motive of love, and it can’t be measured by what we give to



Rev. William H. Smith

appease others' expectations. Love is not reflected by the cost or popularity of a gift, and it is never found in tolerating others' abuse, or excusing bad behavior.

As you enter this season, I ask you to remember that God’s reckless and vulnerable love, made known in Jesus, the Babe of Bethlehem, is the reason for the season. And I dare you to insist on the motive of love in all that you do and say during the holiday. Let love be the measure of what obligates you. Let love be the expectation you insist on meeting. Are the gatherings and gifts the best embodiment of your love, and the love of God? Do the traditions hold the best of what makes you, your family, your family circles what they are? How can you inflict the most merriment on loved ones and strangers alike? It is okay to be burned out at the end, so long as you are burned out on love of God and neighbor by the end.

A blessed Advent journey and the merriest of Christmas to you and yours!

Pastor Smith

Treasurer Report Highlights

as of 31 October 2024 By J Groscop

BALANCES

Checking Account (Oper)	\$44.0 K	10/31
Restricted Accounts	\$16.3 K	10/31
MIF fund (Building)	\$7.7 K	10/31

INCOME

Oct Oper Income	\$ 23.5 K	Budget \$ 27.0 K (doesn't incl. 5% Mission Support)	Tracking 90.1%
YTD Oper Income	\$ 191.2 K	Budget \$ 234.6 YTD (doesn't include 5%)	Tracking 82.7%
Other Income	\$ 0 K		

EXPENSES

Sept Expenses	\$20.9 K	Budget	\$29.5K	Tracking 70.3%
YTD Oper Expenses	\$173.3K	Budget	\$236.1 K YTD	Tracking 72.8%

RATIO

Month Oper Exp / Oper Income	89%	←
YTD Oper Exp / Oper Income	90.6%	←

OVERALL

Doing well budgeting expenses versus income

Communicate upcoming big spending amounts ahead of time for approval with Treasurer

Next Steps:

Need Budget numbers from each group for 2025 budget planning

Need to discuss adding in potential positions at the church

Lutheran Social Services Christmas Family Program

We are proud to continue to support Lutheran Social Services. With the growing need for assistance, this season they are asking supporters to consider giving directly to their Cup of Kindness ministry. Learn more at <https://lssin.org/our-programs/cup-of-kindness/>

You can also shop for their Christmas Eve Family Experience Baskets at <https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/3W23CXLKUASLQ>

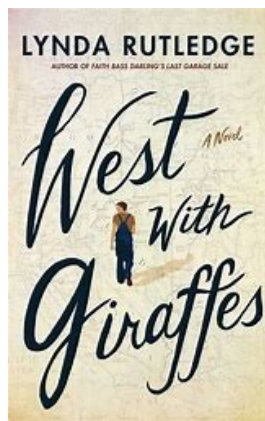
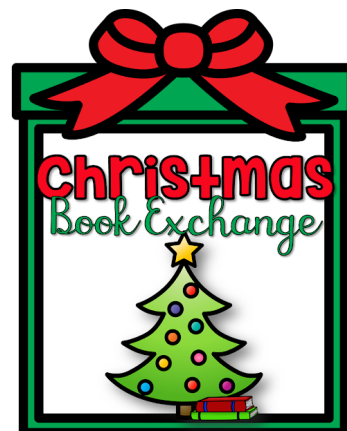
Ship your items directly to LSS at 4031 N Clinton St, Fort Wayne, IN 46805 or deliver them by December 13.

- 80% of Cup of Kindness families showed a reduction in debt
- 91% of Cup of Kindness families have demonstrated positive financial behavior
- 76% of Cup of Kindness families opened or increased savings



Book Exchange Dinner

Our annual Christmas Book Exchange Dinner will be held on Thursday, December 5th at Don Hall's Factory at 6:30. If you would like to join us, please RSVP to Betty McCrory by Monday, December 2nd. Anyone who would like to carpool can meet at the church at 6:00. Please remember to bring a wrapped new book for our gift exchange. Happy Holidays!



West With Giraffes

Our read for January is West With Giraffes by Lynda Rutledge. West with Giraffes is a wonderful novel based on the true story of the cross-country road trip America's first giraffes took in 1938. It's also a coming of age story that demonstrates the positive influence caring friends and gentle animals can have on a young man's life.

Seniors Can Reduce Tax Burden

By donating to the church (or any other Charity) through your IRA, you may be able to reduce your tax burden. To reduce the tax it is done as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). A qualified charitable distribution (QCD) is a tax-free donation from your individual retirement account (IRA) to a qualified charity. A qualified charitable distribution is not included in your taxable income.

Requirements / Restrictions

Over 70.5 years old (*or close to it if you are thinking about planning for in the future*)

Max \$100,000 per person / year (*couple 200,000*)

From an IRA (*not pension plans nor Employers match*)

QCD amount cannot exceed, the amount of the distribution that would be income


Need more information? <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/reminder-to-ira-owners-age-70-and-a-half-or-over-qualified-charitable-distributions-are-great-options-for-making-tax-free-gifts-to-charity>

For more information about IRA distributions and QCDs, see [Publication 590-B](#), also available on IRS.gov. Or seek out the advice of your tax preparer/ accountant and see if you might be eligible. Qualified charitable distributions are great options for making tax-free gifts to charity.



The church office will be closed
December 25th and 31st.





Christmas at the Embassy


The Christ Child: Our Confidence and Joy Shall Be

At the Historic Embassy Theatre

December 15, 2024 | 4:00 p.m.
\$15 - Students and Seniors | \$20 - Adults



Concordia Lutheran High School



Tickets available at the STAR Bank Box Office at the Embassy or at [Ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com)

Christmas at the Embassy

Concordia Lutheran High School's Christmas at the Embassy is less than a month away! Gather together with your families, friends and congregation and come celebrate Christmas at the Embassy with Concordia Lutheran High School's Music Department! On December 15 you'll be treated to an evening of Christmas music by our high school's bands, choirs, and orchestra. What better way to get into the Christmas spirit? This year's theme is 'The Christ Child: Our Confidence and Joy Shall Be.' Get your tickets today by scanning the QR Code or [purchase online at this link!](#)

Christmas Eve Service Times

Tuesday December 24th, 6:00pm

Christmas in the Barn @ Allen County Fairgrounds

Tuesday December 24th, 9:00pm

Traditional candlelight service @ church



Cups of Cheer

Be a part of extending our fellowship to our homebound members by helping make a Cup of Cheer for them. **Sunday, December 8th, after worship**, as we snack and visit, all ages will be invited to pitch in. The cups and goodies will be ready to go when we are done, so anyone who would like to help deliver can take them that day. Questions? Reach out to the church office office@rlcfw.org or to Lauren Henry.



Women's Retreat

In November we had a Women's Retreat at Wolf Mission House led by Missy Schroeder, spiritual director and Suzanne Clemenz, pastor and spiritual director. We learned about the Wisdom of Sophia. We explored the feminine side of God. One we often don't



think about. It was a wonderful day and when we were leaving the women agreed we need to do more retreats. Maybe a Sophia 2.0.



YOUTH HAPPENINGS

Confirmation is underway. All welcome to join us for class in the youth room from 11-12 on December 8th and 15th . Never hurts to refresh your knowledge.

The youth and a couple of young adults volunteered at the Fantasy of Lights, flip the switch, for opening night. We were stationed throughout the display and flipped the switch to open for the season. It was raining and muddy, but everyone was a good sport. Then we needed a snack so we headed over to McDonald's.



One youth, one parent and myself rang the bell for the Salvation Army at JCPenney's for a couple hours. It is always interesting to watch people really try to avoid



you. We did have several people donate, but it was certainly slower than last year.





The youth went to Crazy Pinz and enjoyed Pizza, Laser Tag, Go Carts, Ropes Course and the arcade.



COMING UP

Volunteering for the Salvation Army will take place on Sunday December 8th from 1-3. Parents can drop off and pick up or stay to help. We will be helping put together the family boxes with clothes, coats, toys etc. All are welcome to join us.



The youth Christmas Bingo will take place on Sunday December 15th from 11-1. We will have pizza, drinks and snacks and we make sure everyone gets prizes!



College Finals Care Packages

Thank you to all who donated items or money for the college finals care packages. Our college students are very appreciative and have begun to look forward to their packages, which include food items, school supplies, snacks, inspirational items, stress relief balls, gift cards etc. We sent out 10 boxes!

**THANK
YOU!**

YOUTH CALENDAR

December 8	Confirmation	11-12
	Bring \$5 for pizza for lunch; we will ride together to the Salvation Army Any parents able to carpool?	
December 8	Volunteering for Angel Tree @ Salvation Army	1-3
December 15	Confirmation	11-12
December 22	Christmas Bingo	11-1
January 12	Youth Outing	12-2
February 7	Youth Valentines Bingo	11-1
February 16	Congregational Meeting	11-1
March 2	Confirmation	11-12
March 9	Confirmation	11-12
March 16	Confirmation	11-12
March 23	Confirmation	11-12
April 3-5	Youth Retreat	TBD
April 11	Easter Glow	7-10 PM

Other important dates to note

I will be adding other outings and service events for January-May as I get those arranged.

May 11-15	Garage Sale set up
May 16 and 17	Garage Sale
June 8	Confirmation Sunday - (Please let me know if your child is in 8 th grade and being confirmed this year.)
June 15-20	Confirmation Camp grades 6-9
July 20-25	Youth Service Trip (Most likely hurricane relief work in North Carolina)

December Birthdays

1	Bryan Burgett Rob Mundroff
2	Marge VanGundy
5	Anne Rogers
7	Jenny Jones
9	Brenda Mundroff Lee Humbert
10	Thomas Manquero
12	Shery Grosjean Cy Bentley
16	Zach Braun Richard Kiser Sadie Lowenstein Tracy White-Exner
18	Moira Groscop
19	Carolyn Aker
21	Jennifer Braun Lynn Dennis
22	Cindy Dankert
27	Masey Lowenstein Lorenzo Manquero Bob Walker
31	Starr Barnett Vivian Godfrey Cheryl Walker

December Anniversaries

18	Dan & Carol Heingartner
20	Craig & Andra Blume - 48



Is your birthday or wedding anniversary this month but not listed? Please let us know! Send an email to office@rlcfw.org or call 260-637-5900 so we can get it listed!



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14318 Lima Road
Fort Wayne, Indiana 46818
260.637.5900
www.rlcfw.org



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

STAFF	Office Hours
Rev. William H. Smith prsmith@rlcfw.org	Monday Wednesday: 10:30 AM - 5 PM Tues. - Sermon prep day: Out of office Thursday: 10:30 AM - 3 PM, Nursing home worship - 4 PM - 5 PM Sunday, all day @ RLC
office@rlcfw.org	Monday-Thursday: 9 AM - 2 PM
Sue Smith youth@rlcfw.org	Monday: 10 AM - 2 PM Wednesday: By Appointment Sunday, all day @ RLC
Robin Wessley accts@rlcfw.org	Tuesday

Church Office Hours:
Monday - Thursday
9 AM - 2` PM

After church hours?

*Leave a message or call
Pastor Smith at 260.409.6971*

**Sunday Worship
Schedule**

9:30am

In Person Worship w/
Communion every Sunday

9:45 am Faith Formation
September-May

8:30 am live-streamed on our
Facebook page.
<https://facebook.com/rlcfw>

Articles for the next month's newsletter are due by
Friday, December 20th. If you have something you
would like to add, please send it to Robin J at
office@rlcfw.org

Church Council Members and Ministry Team Leaders

Pastor - Rev. William H. Smith	Evangelism - Open
Council President - Dave Avery	Stewardship - Team in place
Vice President - Mary Ibe	Social Ministry - Open
Council Secretary - Kelley Bawmann	Fellowship - Diann Williams & Julie Sonnenberg
Financial Secretary - Esther Meyers	Property - Team in place
Treasurer - Justin Groscop	Worship & Music - Team in place
At Large 1 - Lorenzo Manquero	Youth - Sue Smith
At Large 2 - Bryan Burgett	Education - Team in place