

RESURRECTION



NEW LIFE NEWS

Jesus is the Resurrection
and the Life...

A Life He gives and a
Life we share...



What happens to us when we die?

What happens to us when we die? What an important question, because we all need and want to know the answer!

Many people attempt to guess at an answer, even people whom many others trust! The guesses are all over the place. Some people think that we will reincarnate as a new life after we die. Others think we continue as a ghost over a favorite spot or maybe as an angel over a favorite friend.

Our eternal God gives the trustworthy answer in the Bible for his believers. He moved one of the authors of the Scriptures to write:

Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord

forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

We no longer have to grieve like everyone else who may still be guessing about what happens to us when we die. The question has been answered for us. By his death, Jesus paid for our sins. By his resurrection, Jesus guarantees that those who believe in him will have life with him after death. We will spend eternity with him in glory!

Now, since we know that those who fall asleep in Jesus will enter life in heaven, we want to dedicate ourselves to reading, studying, and applying God's Word! We want to make sure that all our loved ones know the truth about God's love for them in Christ, so that trusting our Savior we don't have to wonder what will happen to us when we die. We know with confidence that we will be together forever with the Lord in heaven.

For more Questions & Answers, go to
www.WhatAboutJesus.com, then *Questioning God*.

Resurrection Lutheran Church

New Life News



LENT AND THE IRONIC SAYINGS OF JESUS' ENEMIES

Lent is a unique season in the Church Year. It is the time we prepare our hearts for the greatest celebration of all: Easter and the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. Prior to his rising, Jesus had to suffer and die to pay the price for our sins. During Lent we focus on that suffering and death with a tone of somber reflection and repentance.

To aid in this reflection, there will be special services. The first special service will be held on Ash Wednesday, February 18 at 6:30 p.m. Ashes were used in the Bible as a sign of sadness over sin and cleansing from sin. We will again have the opportunity for the imposition of ashes for those who wish. A meal will precede the service, beginning at 5:30 p.m.

All other Lenten services will be held on Thursdays (February 26, March 5, 12, 19,26), at our regular worship time of 6:30 p.m. A meal will precede at 5:30 p.m. The main focus of these services is to hear again the details of the suffering and death of our Savior. Those portions from the Bible will be read at each service. All of these services will be different from our Sunday services. Communion will be offered to members following the services on March 5, 12, 19 and 26.

The theme for the sermons is the ironic sayings of Jesus' enemies. These sayings are ironic because they were spoken to insult Jesus or discredit him, but at the same time, they contain a great truth. Pastor Phil Moldenhauer from Our Redeemer in Madison and Pastor Bauer from Good News in Mt. Horeb will rotate preaching with Vicar Pelischek and Pastor Strutz for these special services.

Here is the schedule and themes:

- ✘ **February 26: Pastor Strutz, "The whole world has gone after him!"**
- ✘ **March 5: Pastor Moldenhauer, "You are a king, then!"**
- ✘ **March 12: Pastor Strutz, "His blood be on us and on our children!"**
- ✘ **March 19: Vicar Pelischek, "It is better that one man die than that the whole nation perish."**
- ✘ **March 26: Pastor Bauer, "His disciples will tell the people he has been raised from the dead."**
- ✘ **Maundy Thursday Worship will be held with communion on Thursday, April 2 at 6:30 p.m.**
- ✘ **Good Friday worship will be April 3 at 6:30 p.m. (no communion).**

Easter Sunday is April 5. Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m.
Easter breakfast between the services
Easter Festival Service at 9:00 a.m.
These two services will be different. You can come and enjoy both!

FEBRUARY IS ALREADY HERE! TIME IS FLYING BY AND BOY, ARE WE HAVING FUN!

DIRECTOR, KATIE MIKULA

Here's what's happening in our classrooms this month:

3 Year Old Preschool

Themes: numbers, letters, Valentine's Day and color blending

Books: Chicka, Chicka series and Harold and the Purple Crayon

Activities: Matching numbers on a chicka, chicka tree, playing and using chocolate smelling playdough to make Valentine candies, participating in a coconut cooking project and using fruit loops and string to make a rainbow necklace. Mrs. Strutz will also be putting recycled coffee grounds into her sensory table. How fun!

Bible Stories: Zachaeus, Transfiguration, Jesus Raises Lazarus and Mary Anoints Jesus.

Registration will begin this month for the 2015-2016 school year. We have 6 spots available! Once those spots are filled, a waiting list will begin. Contact our director, Katie, for more information or grab a preschool flyer from the school!

4 Year Old Preschool

Themes: Pets, will you be my valentine?, Dentist and transportation.

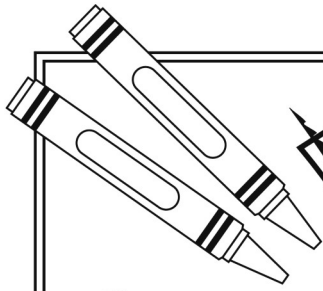
Books: Children Make Terrible Pets, Just Me and My Puppy, The Day It Rained Hearts, The Valentine Bears, Open Wide, The Berenstain Bears Visit the Dentist, First 100 Machines and Go Dog, Go!

Activities: Tissue paper fish suncatchers, creating our own "rock pets", go on a pet hunt, transform our dramatic play center into a pet shop and vet clinic, create a "I love ____" book, estimate how many candy hearts we can fit in our hand, have a special dentist (Heather Schumacher-member of RLC) visit our classroom and talk to us about dental health, begin an at-home reading log, and truck bingo.

Resurrection Lutheran Preschool will be hosting an open house on Wednesday, February 4th from 6-7pm for all new families interested in preschool! Spread the word! We're so excited to announce that we will be offering wrap around care next school year ALL 5 DAYS! We're also offering a lunch-bunch program as well! Lunch bunch will run from 11:01am-12:15pm Tuesday-Friday and wrap around care will run Monday through Friday until 6pm. Please let our director know if you're interested in signing your child up!!

The Education Support Committee will be meeting Tuesday, February 10th from 6-7:30pm. At our last meeting we discussed more promotional ideas for the preschool, set a date to send out more PreK mailers to include families with 2 year olds, and set a new tuition rate for our wrap around care. Our committee is working hard and doing great things....Thank you all!!



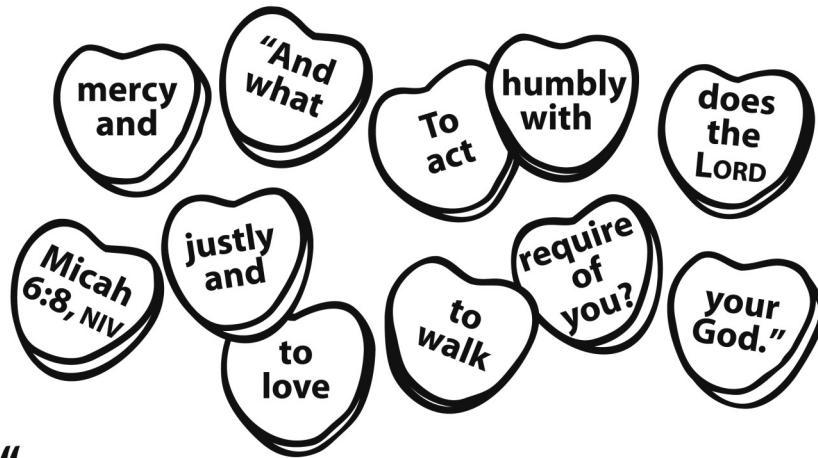


PUZZLE

Conversation hearts

The world encourages people to look out for themselves and seek success, but in Micah 6:8, God tells us to live differently.

Directions: Put the conversation hearts in the correct order by writing the words on the lines below. Hint: Capitalization and quotation marks are included.



"

_____ ? _____

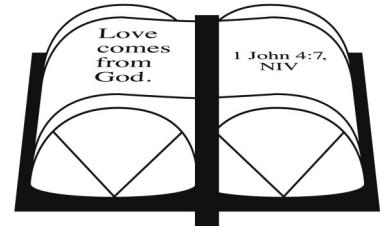
_____ " _____ 6:8 _____

Answer: "And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God." Micah 6:8, NIV

GOD'S

SWEET WORD

Share this Bible treat — and God's love — with a special valentine.



What you need:

- Black card stock or construction paper (2" x 1.5")
- Double-sided tape
- 2 wrapped Hershey's Nuggets candy bars (silver or gold)
- Pen or marker
- White paper (2.75" x 1")
- Thin sliver of red paper or ribbon
- Scissors

What you do:

1. In the center of the black paper, tape down the candy bars side by side.
2. On the white paper, write a short Bible verse about love. Then wrap it around the candy bars horizontally and tape it down.
3. Place the red paper or ribbon between the two candy bars, and tape the top of this "bookmark" to the Bible.
4. Give away this fun, sweet message of God's love!

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

In December, worship attendance averaged 170 per week. Current membership is 259. We welcomed 294 guests for worship during December! Many of these were friends and family of Lakeside choir and children's Christmas service family members. We did have ten guests for Christmas Eve and several more on Christmas Day.

We also share with joy that all of our members at Resurrection, other than those who have moved away, have been in worship at least one time in the last three months! God be praised!

Twenty-seven adults were in Bible study on average each week. There were also 60 adults participating in Vine and Branches, our small-group, in-home, sermon-based Bible discussions. Currently, we have 191 adult members.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

A regular, quarterly meeting of the congregation was held on Sunday, January 18. Here are some highlights.

- ◆ It was reported with joy that worship attendance at Good News is averaging over 50 per Sunday. God be praised! Worship attendance at Resurrection grew in 2014 from 129 per week to over 160! And all of our members worshiped with us at least once in the last three months of the years, except those who have moved.
- ◆ The congregation was thanked for offerings in 2014 that were an 8% increase over the previous year. The congregational ministry plan calls for a similar increase in the coming year.
- ◆ The congregation authorized going to a fiscal year, starting July 1, 2015. This will better align the calendar with ministry items such as Lutheran grade school and high school support, vicar year and Prek ministry. The congregation authorized expanding Prek hours to 7:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday with the prayer to have more students enroll. An evaluation moving forward will be made based on student enrollment.
- ◆ The growth and blessings of Vine and Branches was shared, along with encouragement to sign up for the next session (see the sign up sheets at church or speak with Ned Reimer or Pastor).
- ◆ Above all, God was thanked for the many, many blessings he has given to our congregation!

GROW CLOSER TO JESUS. GROW CLOSER TO EACH OTHER.

Our first session of Vine & Branches was incredibly blessed. This Big, Audacious Goal was bigger and more audacious than we could have asked or imagined (Ephesians 3:20). Over 60 adult members participated in small group, in home, sermon based Bible discussions and grew closer to Jesus. Members also grew closer to each other by gathering for fellowship, food and fun twice each month. Vine & Branches groups also bore much fruit by gathering food for the food pantry, caroling at a community Christmas event and serving our congregation and community in many other ways. The only sadness was that the session had to end, and much too quickly.

The good news is that the next session is beginning soon! Sign ups are on the table by the Vine & Branches display. Did you like the group you were in? Great. Sign up with the same people and continue to grow closer. Want to meet some new people? Great. Sign up with a different group. Haven't been in Vine & Branches? No problem! There is plenty of opportunity to get involved.

Each group will determine its own meeting schedule and location once the group is formed. Groups will meet from late January until May, depending on the group's desire and schedule.

Have questions? Talk to Pastor or Ned Reimer or see the display at church.

AT RESURRECTION WE HAVE SIS!

Your fellow members of SIS (Sister in Service) would like to invite you to our upcoming quarterly meeting. We recognize that everyone has very busy schedules these days, so we have opted to host our next meeting following the church service on Sunday, February 8th. We will plan to meet in the sanctuary at 10:30 am and will be sharing a short devotion, discussing upcoming events and opportunities to serve our Lord. Some of the events we will be discussing are Lenten meals, Easter Breakfast, and activities for the next quarter.

What is "Sisters in Service" or SIS? SIS is an organized group of women at Resurrection coming together in faith, friendship and service.

If you cannot stay for our meeting and would still like to help or get involved please contact Lori Cate.

FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY COMING UP

Sunday, March 1 will be our next Friendship Sunday. This is a great opportunity to invite a friend to meet our best friend, Jesus! The service, sermon and hymns will be specially tailored for those joining us for the first time. Special invites are available at church and will be included in the service folder February 15. ►

We will also provide encouragement and help in thinking of whom you can invite to meet Jesus.

PRESCHOOL SNACK DONATIONS NEEDED!

February is almost here and our preschool is in need of snacks! Snack donations help our teachers spend more time in the classroom and not at the grocery store. The snack sign-up sheet is located on the church bulletin board and it is SUPER easy to sign-up! Just find a date, sign your name, and drop off the designated snack to Miss Mikula's room a few days prior. Our teachers appreciate your help!! Thank you!!!

PRESENT MOMENT PARENTING SESSIONS BEGAN JAN.13TH AND IS CONTINUING IN FEBRUARY

If you have children, and sometimes they are challenging, consider attending the upcoming "free Parenting Group classes" presented by RLC member Kathleen Harwood PC/MFT-IT, Certified Parenting Coach and group facilitator.

Upcoming classes will be:

- ✦ Communication's effect on the child's body and brain
- ✦ Why a child's behavior is communication
- ✦ Why punishment doesn't work: Break the judge, blame and punish cycle
- ✦ A new way: Growing desired behaviors
- ✦ Finding new solutions!
- ✦ Creating successes where they didn't exist before

These upcoming sessions will be held here at RLC on Tuesdays Jan. 13th-March 3rd at 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM.

If you have any questions speak to Kathleen at church on Sundays or by email at:

Kathleen@InTheMomentParent.com. You can also get more information in general about Kathleen's work and the program at: www.InTheMomentParent.com

RESURRECTION/ORLC SKI TRIP

The Resurrection/Our Redeemer annual ski trip will take place on Friday, February 20th, from 7-11pm at Tyrol Basin, a short 20 minute drive west of Madison. We will have a reserved campfire area and cook hot dogs over the fire, enjoy hot chocolate and, of course, plenty of good skiing & snowboarding. Cost is \$12 for lift ticket and \$8 for rentals, if needed. Free helmets and free beginner lessons are also available. There is a sign-up sheet for those interested on the bulletin board or contact Ned Reimer for more details.

UPCOMING BOOK MEETING

All women are invited to participate, whether it is for just one month or every month. There is no commitment or sign-up required. Please join us for an evening of discussion and fellowship at 7:00 p.m. in the youth room at church. The meeting for this month is February 17: "I Am Malala" by Malala Yousafzai

STRENGTHENING MARRIAGE

Marriage is a blessed arrangement that God himself established at creation when the world was still without sin. Marriage following God's direction brings great blessings to husbands and wives and families and our society as a whole.

But sadly, marriage is under attack in our society. Members of our church are not immune. To combat this trend, we are working to strengthen marriage. The first step will be a marriage retreat that Pastor and his wife of nearly 20 years, Elizabeth will attend. This will take place February 20-22. Pastor and Elizabeth will then bring back materials to offer this marriage enrichment seminar here at Resurrection.

Pray for this effort and for all people to treasure marriage as a precious gift from God.

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