

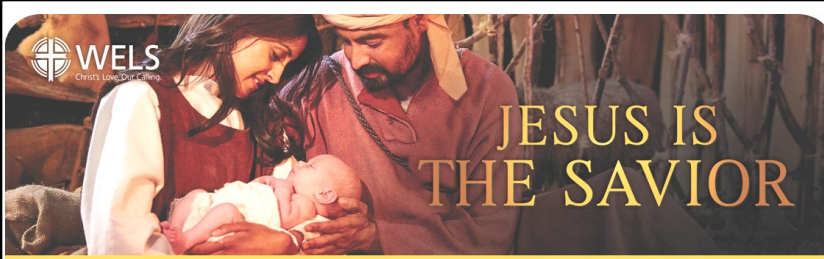
## RESURRECTION



## NEW LIFE NEWS

Jesus is the Resurrection  
and the Life...

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



### Jesus is My Savior from Fear

The angel said to [the shepherds],  
"Do not be afraid. I bring you good  
news of great joy that will be for all  
the people. Today in the town of David  
a Savior has been born to you; he is  
Christ the Lord." – Luke 2:10-11

Isn't it interesting that God's angelic announcement of Christmas begins with, "Do not be afraid"? What do fear and Christmas have in common? Based on people's Christmas anxieties, plenty!

December fills many with depression. Some are overwhelmed by what their Christmas celebration should feel like, look like, even sound like. Thoughts of creating the perfect Christmas celebration fill many with stress.

Some dread Christmas due to money issues and the pressure to spend more than they can afford. Other have lost loved ones, making Christmas a painful trigger of past memories and missed loved ones. There is pressure to attend Christmas gatherings. As anxieties grow, so do shame, guilt and the gaping hole of depression.

If you've ever been fearful or anxious at Christmas, you're in good company. Mary, Joseph and the shepherds all felt fears.

No warm, safe, sterile birthing suite or medical team would help Mary give birth to her first child. Instead she faced the stress of childbirth with only Joseph to help her. No room at Bethlehem's inn meant a barn was the best shelter Joseph could find for Jesus' birth. Imagine the anxiety this couple faced when Jesus was born.

The shepherds were filled with fears too. "Terrified" described their reaction to a sky full of angels. They might have wondered, "Did God send the angels to punish us?"

God knows your fears. That's why the announcement of Christmas begins with an amazing command, "Do not be afraid!" This is good news for you! God has come in the flesh to erase all your fears!

Ever fear not measuring up? Jesus came to forgive you from all your past faults or present failures. Anxious over a life situation? God says, "Do not be afraid!" You don't have to do life on your own. God came at Christmas to prove his love and to assure you, "Never will I leave you or forsake you!"

Peace comes from a life free from fears. God's Christmas comfort is, "Do not be afraid!" Rescue has come. A Savior has been born for you!



# Resurrection Lutheran Church

## New Life News

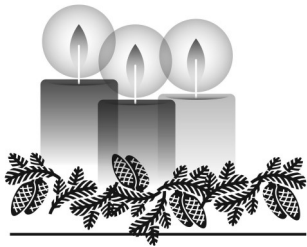
### We Hear God's Word

In October weekly worship attendance averaged 191 souls. Five people attended worship for the first time. We are currently blessed with 314 members. Adult Bible classes averaged 52 each week. Current adult membership is 226. Thanks be to God for each person who heard God's Word.

### Advent Worship

The time before Christmas is always a busy one. The Christian Church has for hundreds of years prepared for Jesus' birth with a season called Advent. Advent means coming. We prepare not only for the coming of Jesus at Christmas, but also his coming at the end of the world.

In addition to our usual Sunday worship services, our Thursday services will be different in Advent. These special services will be held December 1, 8 and 15 at 6.30 p.m. The theme for these special services is, "We praise the Lord with ancient songs." Communion will be offered December 8th & 15th.



**December 1st** Pastor Moldenhauer from Our Redeemer will preach on the song of Zechariah, the Father of John the Baptist.

**December 8th** Vicar Phelps will preach on the song of Mary when she heard she would be the mother of Jesus.

**December 15th** Pastor will preach on the song of the angels announcing the birth of Jesus.

### Spread The Good News of Great Joy!

December brings Christmas and special opportunities to spread the good news of great joy: Jesus is born.

Postcards with Christmas for Kids and Christmas worship information are available at church. Take one for a friend. Take one for a family member. Take one for a co-worker. Take one to leave on your desk at work.

**Saturday, December 3** we will distribute these postcards around our community. At Easter two people attended worship for the very first time after receiving a postcard that was simply left in their door. We will meet at church at 9 am and be back in time for a free lunch. (There is such a thing.) This is just a walking event, not a talking event. If you would like to help distribute postcards but are unable on December 3, cards and maps of places to go will be available December 1.

**Saturday, December 10** we will revisit people with whom we have had contact. We will be working with Good News in Mt. Horeb and students from Lakeside. We will meet at Good News (1217 Springdale St in Mt. Horeb) at 9 am for breakfast and training. You and a friend will visit a few people in Mt. Horeb, a few people in the Verona area and meet up at Resurrection for a free lunch. (There really is such a thing!)

For more information or to volunteer for these events, speak with Gene Cate, outreach chairman, or Pastor Strutz.



**“Christmas for Kids”**  
**Begin celebrating the Christmas Season!**  
**Crafts, Story, Songs and Snacks!**  
**December 17th - 10 am-11:30 am**

**“The Angel’s Joy”**  
**Children’s Worship Service**  
**December 18th, 9 am**



**✂ Christmas Worship ✂**

**Christmas Eve candlelight worship will be on Saturday, December 24 at 6.30 pm**

**Christmas Day worship will be on Sunday, December 25 at 9.00 am with communion.**

**New This Year!**

**Candlelight Worship the Thursday before Christmas, December 22, at 6.30 pm**

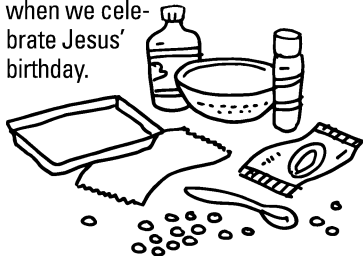
On December 22nd, will have a preview of our Christmas Eve candlelight service. That way if you are going out of town or otherwise cannot attend worship at Resurrection on Christmas Eve, you can still enjoy the sights and sounds of the candlelight service. This would be a great opportunity to invite a friend to worship as well. Information for this special service is found on our Christmas invitation postcard.



**New Year’s Worship - December 29th, 6:30 pm**

# birthday bark

Make this yummy treat to give to family and friends at Christmas, when we celebrate Jesus' birthday.

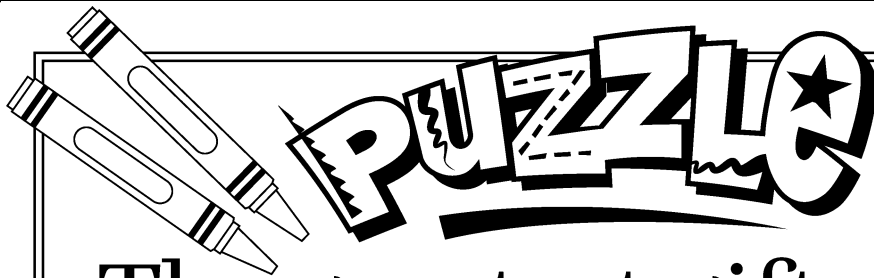


### What you need:

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 3 cups chocolate chips
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Spoon or spatula
- 2 Tbsp. shortening
- Baking tray lined with wax paper
- Red and green M&M's (or sprinkles)

### What you do:

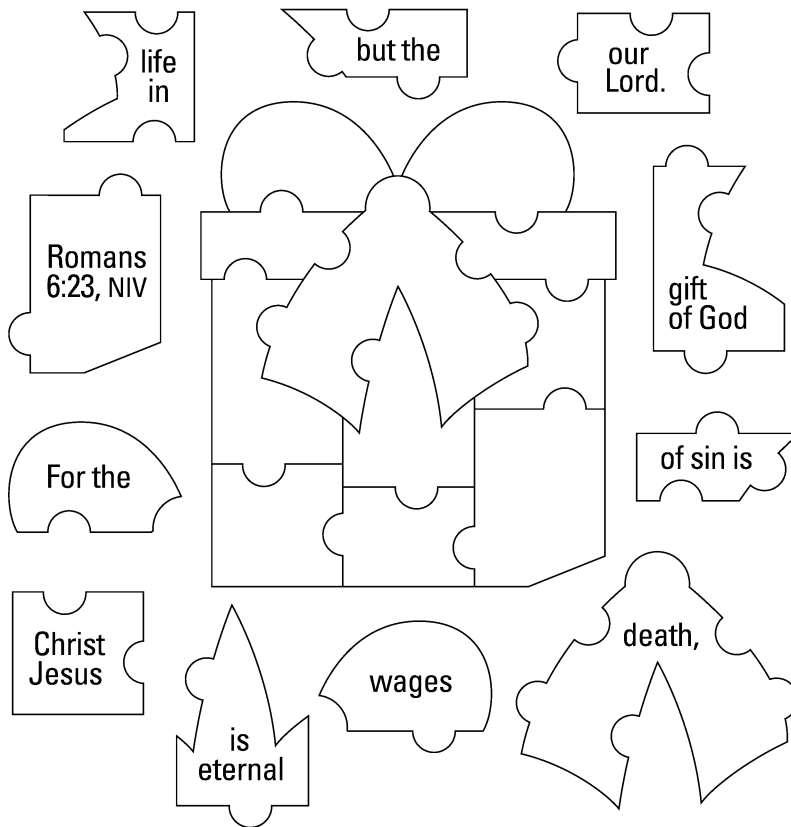
1. Lightly spray bowl and wax paper.
2. Microwave chocolate chips in bowl for one-minute intervals until chocolate is melted. (Stir after each minute.)
3. Stir in shortening. Heat in 10-second intervals, stirring until smooth.
4. Pour chocolate onto tray and firmly press in M&M's or sprinkles.
5. Refrigerate until firm. Remove bark and break into pieces.



# The greatest gift

Gift-giving is a fun Christmas tradition. What very special gift has God given to you?

**Directions:** Write the words from each puzzle piece on the matching blank piece of the gift-shaped puzzle.



Answer: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23, NIV



## RLC Preschool News from Director Ali Manning



### **A Bounty of Fall Blessings**

The Preschool Family Ministry at Resurrection has been blessed with many wonderful opportunities, volunteers and children we have the privilege to serve. During the months of October and November we traveled to Appleberry Farm, had a visit from The Aldo Leopold Nature Center and Fire Station #1. We also just wrapped up Fall with a focus on The First Thanksgiving and had a wonderful Thanksgiving Celebration.

We are so thankful we had the opportunity to celebrate with both the 3K and 4K families around a devotion led by Vicar Phelps. We had church families join with our preschool families around 2 delicious turkeys graciously donated and cooked by Resurrection members. The pot luck was well attended by our preschool and everyone enjoyed their time around delicious food and friendship. We also enjoyed seeing and hearing the children sing their Thanksgiving songs led by Mrs. Strutz. The children invited their parents up to be "Turkeys" during our final song and dance. The day was a wonderful celebration and reminder that God does deliver wonderful blessings and to Him we give all the glory!

As we reflect on the Bible lessons taught over the last few weeks we see that the children in 3K and Lunch Bunch were focused on Moses and God's plan to provide for His people. The children learned about God's love and power through the crossing of the Red Sea, Manna and Quail from Heaven, The 10 Commandments and as we wrapped up our month we turned our gaze upon the Bronze Snake. How wonderful it was to hear from their own lips how the snake on the cross lifted by Moses in the wilderness was just like Jesus dying on the cross to save us from our sins! As we begin December we will continue to point our eyes to the coming of our Savior who will be born in a manger, grow and live a perfect life and die on the cross as a sacrifice for our sins. How awesome that whoever believes in Him will have eternal life. That is a true Christmas gift!

### **Focus on Christ This Christmas**

The Preschool children have been invited to participate in our Christmas for Kids and our Children's Christmas Service. The 3K and Lunch Bunch children will begin working on their songs and be encouraged to join us for worship. Several preschool children and their siblings have already signed up for Christmas for Kids! We are excited for this opportunity and look forward to how God will bless our time together!

### **Preschool Gifts of the Heart Tree**

The Preschool family would like you to consider purchasing a gift from our tree this year. The items are on gift tags hanging from our Christmas tree outside of our classroom. The items range from pipe cleaners, bulletin board paper, lamination sheets, board games like: Guess Who, Sleeping Queens to items from The Learning Station and other pictured items available from catalogs and other local stores. Gift cards are also appreciated. It is our hope that these items will be purchased, wrapped and placed under our tree by December 21st. The children will open them during our Christmas Celebration on the 22nd. This is a wonderful opportunity to purchase items that are needed by our preschool ministry. We have also included a few items that would greatly enhance the learning centers and lessons that are planned for the remainder of the year. We thank you in advance for your consideration of this effort and look forward to unwrapping your gifts from the heart on December 22nd.

### **Prayer and Thanks!**

As many of you know we have had a few challenges this year in our preschool ministry. I want to thank you all for your support and prayers. I feel very blessed to be serving as your Preschool Servant. I rest daily in God's embrace knowing He has great plans not only for me but for the ministry here at Resurrection. His will always gets done!

We said goodbye to Mary Beth Knippel as our 3K Lead Teacher and had a meeting with the families. Currently, we are prayerfully considering options to best meet the needs of those families. Please pray along



with us that a resolution comes quickly for our 3K. We wish Mary Beth the best as she turns more of her attention to her college work at Wisconsin Lutheran College. May God bless her efforts and her future.

Thank you once again to everyone that helps with the Preschool. I always encourage you to prayerfully consider how you can best serve this ministry with your time, talents and treasures. This ministry is God's and he has placed it into all of our hands here at Resurrection. If you would like to know more about how you can help, please don't hesitate to call/text me at [503-949-6334](tel:503-949-6334). You can also email me at: [amanning@rlcverona.com](mailto:amanning@rlcverona.com) or just stop by most days and some nights too at the church! May God continue to use all of us to reach more souls, young and old, with the Gospel!

Your Sister in Faith,  
Ali Manning



### **Martin Luther: Art and Reformation Road Trip**

12 people went on the RLC road trip to Minneapolis to see the Martin Luther: Art and Reformation exhibit. Hundreds of artifacts and artwork from all over Germany were on display giving a glimpse into Renaissance and Medieval life in the homes of peasants, Lords, and the powerhouse of the Roman Church. It took about 2.5 hours to fully explore the exhibit. Other members have gone on their own time and have also reported a good experience.

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