

RESURRECTION



NEW LIFE NEWS

Jesus is the Resurrection
and the Life...

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



Baptism for All

Baptism...saves you—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

- 1 Peter 3:21

“Want a tough stain out?” That’s how the old commercial began. It ended by claiming a product that could get the job done. There are lots of sprays, foams, and cleaners that companies promise are the answer to our coffee, wine, and pet stain problems. But can any of those products deliver? If there actually was a stain remover guaranteed to deliver results as promised and was free...would you be interested?

God has one for you. He has provided a special “product” that has his faithful promise and almighty power behind it, and it is completely free. It’s not for coffee, wine, or pet stains, but for something far worse. It’s for guilt!

Guilt is what is left behind when we sin, and like an ugly stain it sticks in our hearts and minds. We want to get rid of it, but how? We can’t shout it out, even though guilt can make us angry and do lots of shouting. We can’t scrub it out, even if we try our hardest to clean up the messes we have made. So, what can get the tough stain of guilt out?

Baptism.

Baptism is a word that means to wash with water. God’s word together with water makes baptism a cleanser that God promises will bring results: “... not the removal of dirt...but the pledge of a good conscience toward God.” A guilty conscience comes from sin, and sin makes us unacceptable before our holy, sinless God. Baptism takes away our guilt because in baptism God connects us to Jesus and his work of salvation. In baptism God gives us the great gift of forgiveness through Jesus. His death was the payment for sin, and his resurrection is the guarantee that the stain of our sin has been removed. By our baptism God frees us from guilt. We are saved from the consequences of sin—death and damnation!

Think about your house with every single stain removed from your carpet and couch, and from your shirt and blouse. Even the toughest stains are eliminated. Baptism is a blessing of God that is much greater! Baptism is God’s amazing life-saving “product” to take out the stain of sin’s guilt from your heart. Jesus guarantees it.

Resurrection Lutheran Church

New Life News



✂ Christmas Eve ✂

Christmas isn't just for kids

Christmas Worship Blessings!

Our first-ever Christmas Eve preview service on Thursday, December 22 was richly blessed by Jesus. We had 76 people in attendance. There were 9 first-time guests with us. Two of those guests returned on Christmas Day. We plan to continue offering this service in future years.

Christmas Eve worship on December 24 had 200 in attendance. Over 60 of those were guests (not members of Resurrection.) We are thankful for the chance to share the good news that will cause great joy with so many people. Thanks to all who invited friends and family to celebrate Christmas with us.

Christmas for Kids and Sunday School Christmas Program

On December 16 & 17, Verona, Wisconsin had huge snow storms! On Saturday the 17th we had to cancel our Christmas for Kids event and the Sunday School practice session that day. On Sunday morning the children gathered together before the service and participated in a quick rehearsal for the service and they did a wonderful job! It was a beautiful service. Christmas for Kids followed the service during Sunday school.



RLC Preschool News from Director Ali Manning

The preschool children were very busy in December! We enjoyed learning more letter sounds, writing in shaving cream, sledding in the snow and learning that matter can be a solid, liquid or a gas. We also explored Newtonian liquids!



The children loved our Christmas Spirit Week and enjoyed fun activities on our White Out Day, Christmas Spirit/Crazy Socks and Pajama Day! We had a special guest reader, Nancy Ott, come in and share the Polar Express! Thanks to our Preschool families who donated their time and items needed during this fun week!

In Lunch Bunch we focused on our greatest gift, Our Savior! The children loved learning and making ornaments and decorations that shared the message of the birth of Jesus. Our wreaths shared all the Names of Jesus and went home with all the children. Thanks to Kent Woller's Stepfather for making and sharing Christmas ornaments with our children! They loved hanging them on their trees at home!

We had 10 children from our preschool sign up for Christmas for Kids and 6 students and their families attend our Children's Christmas Service. The families continue to thank us and share their praises of our Lunch Bunch program. They all loved hearing God's message and songs delivered by their children.

Heading into January we look to return to our learning on January 3rd. The children will be learning about animals that live where it is cold. We are also hoping to have a special guest from the Antarctic later in the month!

We will look at Jesus as a young boy and continue to focus on singing our praises and praying for others! We even have a few of our 12 Lunch Bunchers adding every day or an additional day to their schedule! God be praised for this opportunity!

Please remember to keep the families and the preschool ministry in your prayers. We always welcome volunteers and would love your help inside or outside of the classroom! Please also prayerfully consider giving to this ministry effort. Thanks to the church family members that gifted to our classroom at Christmas! The children were very appreciative of your gifts!

I am very thankful to be your called servant and I also appreciated the cards, prayers and the gift I was given at Christmas. I give all glory to God and rely on Him to continue to provide and guide me!

Your Sister in Faith,
Ali Manning



MASON JAR nightLight

Because Jesus is the light of the world, his followers don't need to fear darkness or life's dark times. Make this nightlight to remind you of Jesus' light and presence.



What you need:

- Work area with good ventilation
- Mason jar
- Clear glue that works on glass
- Paintbrush
- Glass stones
- Tealight candle
- Lighter
- Adult supervision

What you do:

1. Starting at the top of the jar, brush glue on a small section.
2. Press glass stones onto the glue in rows. Let dry.
3. Continue gluing stones, in small sections, until the entire jar is covered.
4. When dry, place a candle inside. Light with adult help.



Light OF THE World

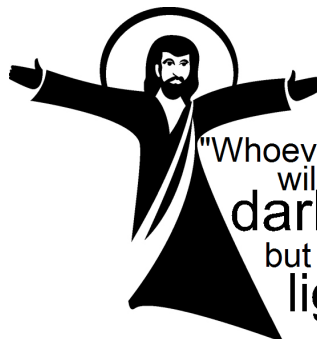
In a world full of sin and darkness, how can we find our way?
Discover Jesus' answer in John 8:12, NIV.

*Directions: Use the key to fill in the missing vowels.
Then read the completed Bible verse.*

KEY:  **A**  **E**  **I**  **O**

" _ _ M TH _ L _ GHT _ F
TH _ W _ RLD. WH _ _ V _ R
F _ LL _ WS M _ W _ LL N _ V _ R
W _ LK _ N D _ RKN _ SS."
J _ H N 8:12, NIV

Answer: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness." John 8:12, NIV



"Whoever follows me
will never walk in
darkness,
but will have the
light of life."

JOHN 8:12



Special Bible Study January 8th

Our pastor has been blessed with unique experience to serve congregations with a variety of relationships. Pastor Strutz will be sharing that experience at a special Bible study on Sunday, January 8 at 10.30 am.

As we discuss working together with Mt. Olive in Monroe and possibly starting another location in Fitchburg, it would be good to provide some information and education on the different ways churches can work together as well as how to start new locations in a way that best reaches the most people and best utilizes the resources God has given to us.

Topics will include: what's a multi-site church? How is the different from a daughter congregation or a dual parish? What even is a dual parish? What are all these terms? What do they mean for expanding Christ's kingdom and reaching more people with good news of our Savior's death and resurrection? Come January 8 and find out. If you are unable to attend, contact Pastor Strutz (pastorstrutz@rlcverona.com) and more information can be provided.



Join us for Crossroads Consulting Ministry Seminar

“Responding to Today’s Realities”

A Biblical and Conceptual Foundation for Ministry Planning

Sunday, January 15th, 10:30am - 2:45pm

Free child care and lunch provided.

Changes at the RLC PreK program

In November, Mary Beth Knippel suddenly resigned her position as Lead Teacher of our 3K here at Resurrection. She wanted to focus on her studies at Wisconsin Lutheran College. Prior to the Thanksgiving break we met with the 3K families and spoke with them about the situation. They were very understanding and positive. During the break we spoke with several people and had one seriously considering the opportunity. Unfortunately, 3 of the 5 families made other arrangements for their children for the remainder of the school year. While we are sad to see them go we also know that God's plan never fails. Through all of this we now have the opportunity to serve 2 of those families in our now blended 4K. They were welcomed with open arms and a great amount of love! The transition has been seamless and we give all praise and glory to the guiding hand of God who has done all of this!

Please continue to pray for the children and families that we are serving in our preschool ministry. Pray for the teachers that serve these little lambs on a daily basis and pray that we continue to have the wonderful opportunities to share God's word with now 12 of the 15 children weekly in our Lunch Bunch. Thank you!

Kid's Expo Outreach

The Preschool Committee was involved in the first ever Verona Area School District Kid's Expo in the high school gym in November. We had a table, talked to a lot of people, handed out literature, pens of course, magnets, and other knick knacks. Parents could fill out personal information to participate in a raffle drawing with donated Culver's and Pizza Ranch certificates. A positive outcome was that two families were unchurched and wished to be contacted. It was worth it!

Thank you from Pastor Strutz

Pastor and his family, Elizabeth, Caleb and Elijah, wish to say a big thank you to the congregation for the always-generous Christmas gift. We realize that there is much love and thought and prayer and encouragement behind this gift and that means even more than the gift itself.

We are truly blessed to be serving here at Resurrection and living with God's people here. Hard to believe it has already been over six years.

We thank God continually for all of you!

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