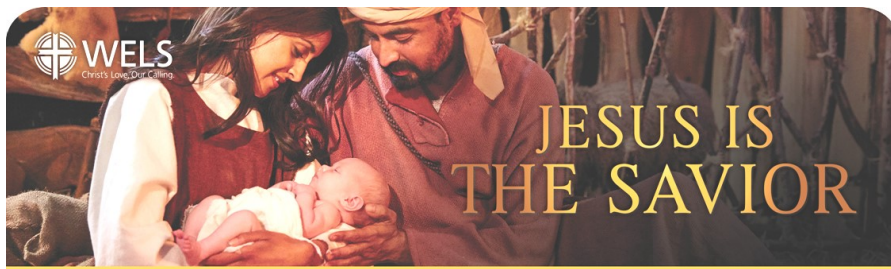


RESURRECTION**NEW LIFE NEWS**

**Jesus is the Resurrection
and the Life...**

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



Jesus is the Suffering Savior

**He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and familiar with suffering. ...
He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities, the punishment
that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.
Isaiah 53:3,5**

God's Word is Love

Valentine's Day cards contain words that are chosen very carefully. They are meaningful words of love and affection. Sometimes when we are sending a valentine to someone, we might even agonize over which words to use. We want to choose the right words that express the deep love we have.

How about the words printed above by the prophet Isaiah? Would you include any of his words in a card to your loved one? At first thought you would say, "Absolutely not!" Words like "despised... rejected... sorrows... suffering... punishment" would be the last choice for a Valentine's Day card! But the Bible surprises us. These words from God are really a wonderful expression of his true love for people.

The first thing to understand is that Isaiah was writing about Jesus. Jesus, God's Son, was sent to earth to be the world's Savior. The Bible tells us that because of sin there was punishment looming for all people. But Jesus took that punishment on himself. Jesus is our Savior who suffered for sinners. He took all this suffering on himself, including death on a cross, so that people wouldn't suffer eternally.

The second thing to remember is that we are talking about something very personal to all of us. We were the ones Jesus came to suffer for. We were the ones who were headed to the punishment of eternal separation from God. Our sinful thoughts, words, and actions condemned us. But as the prophet wrote, "He was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities, the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed."

Jesus' love for us is deep and long-lasting. It's not a shallow love that we might receive from others, or a love that is here today and gone tomorrow. Jesus' love is eternal. He promises that since he suffered and gave up his life for us, he will continue to love us each and every day.

Every time you open the Bible it's like Valentine's Day. These are God's words of love for you.

Resurrection Lutheran Church

New Life News



Anniversary Blessings

On Thursday January 14 and Sunday, January 17 we celebrated ten years of God's grace in the facility he has given to us. It was a marvelous day! Worship on Sunday was packed with friends old and new. Members who had helped with the building project rejoiced and remembered how God's undeserved love allowed the building to be completed. Newer members got a taste of the history and grace God showered in the past and gave thanks that he continues to shower those blessings on us today.

Pastor Tomhave preached a wonderful sermon that Christ has always been the one building Resurrection Lutheran Church. He also led a presentation of the building process and showed that some members haven't aged a day in ten years. During a potluck meal, members shared stories of God's grace, including how bedrock was found right under the spot where our altar sits today. It was a great day. We thank all who participated. We look forward to thanking God for many more years of his grace.

Christmas for Kids in December

Christmas for Kids was tons of fun! We focused on the theme "Joy to the World". Just like the shepherds and angels, we learned to share our joy with everyone. We share the good news that Jesus the Savior is born!

We also broke a Christmas for Kids attendance record! 44 children took part in the program! 18 children attended who are not members of Resurrection.

The children had fun learning a Bible story, making crafts, eating snacks, and singing songs. A "shepherd" even made an appearance! Many parents came to hear the closing devotion and hear the children sing the songs they learned. A special thank you to all the volunteers who made the day so great!



Preschool News from Our Director, Katie

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe it's almost February already...where has the time gone? Here's what's happening in our classrooms this month:

3K Class with Mrs. Melso

The threes have been busy learning letters. Mrs. Melso always has a fun project and/or book to go with the letter of the week. This month, the kids will be learning about letters L, S, and V. Math activities include counting, graphing, and using the "more/less" language when comparing. Scissor cutting skills will be practiced more this month and a science project involving candy hearts is planned as well! Mrs. Melso also has a fun Valentine's Day party planned for both the kids and their families.

4K Class with Ms. Mikula and Ms. Becky

The fours have also been busy learning about letters and numbers. This month, the 4K kiddos will focus on the letters K, V, W and X. Our themes for the month are, "Shapes and Colors, Friendship and Be My Valentine, and Community helpers. Activities include going on a color hunt in the classroom, playing "guess the shape", contact paper shape art, talking about what it means to be a friend and how we show love and kindness to others, scissor cutting practice, having the kids draw a picture of what they want to be when they grow up, and more! Ms. Mikula and Ms. Becky are also planning a super fun Valentine's Day party and gearing up for our 2nd field trip at the end of the month.

Bible Stories

Our Bible stories this month are "The Baptism of Jesus", "The Temptation of Jesus", "Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael", and "Jesus Preaches on the Mount".

Other Misc. Info

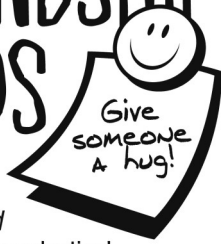
-Parent/Teacher conferences are underway. What a blessing it is to be able to meet with parents and celebrate their child's growth!

-An open house is planned for Tuesday, February 2nd from 6:15-7:30pm. Any and all are welcome! Another open house is planned for early spring.

-Registration is open for any families that would like to enroll their child in our 3K class. Monthly tuition is \$168. Registration fee is \$50. Classes are every Tuesday and Thursday, 8:15-11:15am. Lunch bunch from 11:15am-12:15pm is also an option for 3K students. Please contact me (Katie) with any questions.



FRIENDSHIP CARDS



This month, don't just *send* valentines; *be* a valentine! Create these Friendship Cards to express love through kind acts for your loved ones — all month long.



What you need:

- 29 index cards
- A small box or container
- Colored pens or glitter pens
- Stickers

What you do:

1. On each card, write something nice you can do for other people. Ideas include "Give someone a hug," "Clean someone's room," "Read to someone" and so on. You can use colored pens to draw a picture.
2. Decorate the box or container. Place the cards inside.
3. Each day in February, select a card and do that nice thing for someone!



True Friendship

What makes someone a good friend? The Bible offers lots of advice about true friendship.

*Directions: Starting at the *, connect the dots clockwise and complete the words using the word bank. Then fill in Proverbs 27:9, NIV.*

WORD BANK:

heart prings ir verbs vice ness end

27:9, NIV

pleasant_____

• pro_____

*
The

• of

• ad_____

• a

_____ felt •

• fri_____

the__ •

• s_____

from •

_____ 27:9, NIV

Answer: The pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice. AIN '679, NIV

Soccer Camp 2016

Please think about volunteering to help out with soccer camp next summer July 2016. The camp is tentatively planned to take place from Monday, July 11th through Friday, July 15th at Veteran's Park in Verona. If you'd like to volunteer to be a coach or assistant coach just talk with Vicar Melso or email him at: vicarmelso@rlcverona.com. No experience required, training and soccer drills will all be provided for the volunteers.





Lent Worship Coming Up

Easter is early this year, Sunday, March 27. That means Lent is also earlier than usual.

Lent is the season of the Church year when we prepare our hearts for Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection. We reflect with somber sorrow over our sins that caused his suffering, while rejoicing that he suffered for me and died for my sins and rose to empty my grave!

Special services are held during Lent. All services are at 6.30 pm. A meal will be served before each service, starting at 5.30 pm.

The first service is on Ash Wednesday, February 10. Pastor Strutz will preach.

Then the remainder of the Lenten services will be held on Thursdays, February 18, 25 and March 3, 10, 17.

Sermons will focus on how Jesus kept the commandments perfectly for us as our Substitute. Pastor Strutz and Vicar Melso will preach a majority of these services. Pastor Moldenhauer from Our Redeemer and Pastor Bauer from Good News will also each preach one sermon in the series. Themes for each service are as follows:

February 18: Give everyone what is due them (Fourth Commandment)

February 25: Honor God's gift of the body (Fifth and Sixth Commandments)

March 3: Keep yourself free from the love of money (Seventh commandment)

March 10: Speak in the kindest possible way (Eighth Commandment)

March 17: Be content with what God has given you (Ninth and Tenth Commandments)

Resurrection Lutheran Church & PreK School

6705 Wesner Rd. Verona, WI 53593

Phone: 608.848.4965

Website: www.rlcverona.org Email: resurrection@rlcverona.com

Pastor Nathan Strutz - cell: 608.515.4334, Email: pastorstrutz@rlcverona.com

Vicar Eric Melso - 608.848.4965, Email: vicarmelso@rlcverona.com

PreK Director - Katie Mikula, 608.848.4966, Email: kmikula@rlcverona.com

Ministry Coordinator - Susan Dilgard, 608.848.4965 Email: sdilgard@rlcverona.com

Council Highlights

The church council met on January 19. Highlights include:

- ◆ The council continued reading through the Bible individually and discussing together. Discussion was on Samuel and Kings.
- ◆ New members were welcomed by transfer from other WELS churches: Jeff and Ann Kopp, Kimberly Thony, Nathan Brunk and David Plenge. One member, Lu Evenson, was called to his eternal rest in heaven. We keep Lu's family and especially his daughter, Linda Parks, in our prayers.
- ◆ The council welcomed Chris James from Dane County Parks. The Town of Verona has vacated the portion of Wesner Road east of the church driveway. The Town will continue to plow and maintain the road up to that point and install a turnaround for town vehicles. This has left the church in possession of a portion of Wesner Road. It is agreeable to both the county and the church council that we quit claim deed our portion of the road to the County. The County will maintain and plow the road, freeing the church from any responsibility or costs in this regard. This decision was shared and approved by the congregation at a January 24 congregational meeting.
- ◆ The outreach team reported with joy that through distribution of 3000 postcards before Christmas, 3 people attended worship for the first time at Resurrection. A similar effort is planned prior to Easter. In addition, 13 people are attending instruction classes to learn more about God's Word and possibly become members of Resurrection in the future. Thanks be to God for these gifts.
- ◆ The council was informed that our 4K teacher, Katie Mikula, has received a call to a Prek in Mequon, WI. Katie will now decide where she best can serve, either continuing at Resurrection or going to Mequon. We all keep Katie in our prayers.
- ◆ Youth activities were shared, along with approval of door offerings to assist with youth rally costs. Special voluntary offerings will be gathered after the youth led service on Sunday, March 13 as well as part of one of the Lenten meals which the youth will help serve.

The council is pleased to serve the congregation. Please share any thoughts or input with the council.

Congregational Meeting Highlights

At the congregational meeting on January 24, the congregation authorized the renewal of the contract with the Verona Area School District for the 2016/2017 school year.

The congregation also approved the plan for stain glass windows presented by the interior design committee. With gifts on hand, new windows may be in place soon.

We Hear God's Word

In December, average Sunday attendance was 171, average Thursday attendance was 25 for a total of 196. We welcomed 171 guests during the month. Current membership is 300 baptized souls.

Christmas Eve was the highest Christmas Eve attendance ever at 189. Christmas Day attendance was 72 and New Year's Eve was 58.

Adult Bible attendance was 43 each week. We currently have 218 adult members.

Thank God for each person who heard God's Word.

RLC Ski/Snowboard Outing

Join us for the annual RLC ski/snowboard outing Friday, February 19th, 7-11pm at Tyrol Basin in Mt. Horeb. We will have a bonfire reserved, cook out hot dogs and marshmallows and have snacks and refreshments, and, of course, great fellowship. Sign up sheet is on the bulletin board. If you have any questions, please see Ned Reimer or Sonya Huebner.