

RESURRECTION

Evangelical Lutheran Church

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

www.relcarlington.org - 6201 Washington Blvd. Arlington, VA 22205

Rev. Harry Therwanger, pastorharry@relcarlington.org

Vicar Jessica Zurcher, vicarjessica@relcarlington.org

From the Pastor's Pen

I have heard many say that Thanksgiving is their favorite holiday. Oh, Christmas, Easter, all fabulous, but the stress and expectations aren't there for Thanksgiving. And everyone seems able to celebrate Thanksgiving. Although we do recognize that for many Native American communities, colonization has led to mixed emotions about Thanksgiving. Some First Nation groups observe a National Day of Mourning instead.

For Christians, the role of faith adds deeper significance.

Gratitude isn't just a polite custom, it's a biblical mandate. Scripture overflows with commands and reminders to give thanks. Psalm 107:1 (NRSV) declares, "O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever." Biblical gratitude is rooted not in fleeting moments or a national holiday but in the eternal goodness and faithfulness of God. "And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Col 3:17) Gratitude should permeate every aspect of our lives — at church, home, work and throughout the community.

One of the most challenging aspects of biblical gratitude is God's command to give thanks in *all* circumstances (1 Thess 5:18). This doesn't mean we're excited about pain, suffering or hardship, but we can maintain a thankful heart while trusting in God's goodness. It's one thing to thank God for a promotion at work. It's quite another to offer thanks for a pink slip. Giving thanks to God for troubling medical news is tough. The key? Gratitude isn't merely a feeling. When the going gets tough, our theology — what we believe about God — shines through. Think about Job, who lost everything yet still blessed the name of the Lord (Job 1:21). Job's gratitude wasn't tied to material blessings but to his understanding of God's promises and presence. Paul, writing from prison, encouraged believers to rejoice in the Lord *always* (Philippians 4:4). This verse emphasizes that a grateful heart transcends circumstances, anchored in faith and God's goodness.

My *thanks* Stephanie Martin a writer at Homiletics Magazine Blog for these thoughts!

Blessed Thanksgiving Dear Church!



Notes From Vicar Jessica

Beloveds –

This week is often a time that is dedicated to remembering all of the things that we are thankful for. Friends and family, food and shelter, handknits and creature comforts – I thank God for all of these things and more. And yes, sometimes it's hard to express what we are grateful for when there is so much that can cause us to worry. Being thankful doesn't mean that worry doesn't exist. However, thankfulness is often an antidote for worry. One thing that has helped me look past the worries that I may be carrying comes from the Revelation text from this past Sunday. Revelation 1:8 reminds us that the Lord God is the one who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. For as much as I can tie myself into knots thinking about all that is, and was, and could be, I find great comfort in knowing the God who is in all of it. Not passively but actively, working to reconcile all things to Godself. For this, I am eternally grateful. So, take heart, beloveds, as we enter into this season of Advent where we wait and prepare, and anticipate the coming of Emmanuel, God With Us.



ADVENT



Sunday, December 1, Advent 1

9:00 a.m. – Sunday School in the Parish Hall & [No “My Bible” Class]

10:00 a.m. – Worship, First Sunday of Advent, Pastor Harry Therwanger

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship in the Parish Hall

- We receive non-perishable food items donations for Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) in the Narthex on December 1st. We collect donations the 1st Sunday of every month.
- Chrismon Display. The excitement builds while we wait with anticipation for the birth of the Christ's birth. Before the Chrismons are placed upon the tree in the Sanctuary, view all the new Chrismons up close and learn the meaning about each in the Narthex.
- Wreath Making. The supplies will be provided: foam ring, candles, candle holders and greens. We have a couple of pruners to share but if you have one, please bring it. Also, bring greens to share for extra variety. Suggested donation: \$10.00, donations will support our youth attending the 2027 ELCA National Youth Gathering. Please RSVP to Angie Brooke. randy_angie@hotmail.com
- Create a Quilt Square. Our RELC quilters the *Piecemakers* will guide us, details below.



Tuesday, December 3

6:30 p.m. – RELC Handbell Choir rehearsal in the sanctuary, if you would like to join the Handbell Choir or if you have any questions speak with Suzanne Tsitsibelis, suztsi@gmail.com.



Wednesday, December 4 – Midweek Advent Devotional

7:00 p.m. – Information about the Midweek Devotional can be found below.

Pick up your Advent Devotional booklet in the Narthex.



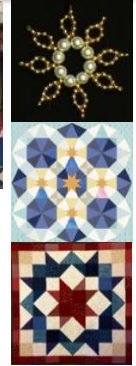
Thursday, December 5

11:00 a.m. – Online Bible Study, contact Pastor Harry for the link



Sunday, December 8, Advent 2

- 9:00 a.m. – Rehearsal for the Christmas Pageant
- 10:00 a.m. – Worship, 2nd Sunday of Advent, Pastor Harry Therwanger
- 11:00 a.m. – Fellowship in the Parish Hall
 - St. Nicklaus will visit Worship. The children can bring a shoe for St. Nick to fill.
 - Chrismon Display. The excitement builds while we wait with anticipation for the birth of the Christ's birth. Before the Chrismons are placed upon the tree in the Sanctuary, view all the new Chrismons up close and learn the meaning about each in the Narthex.
 - Create a Quilt Square. Our RELC quilters the *Piecemakers* will guide us, details below.



Tuesday, December 10

- 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – Be at peace with the Piecemakers Quilters Group
- 6:30 p.m. – RELC Handbell Choir rehearsal in the sanctuary, if you would like to join the Handbell Choir or if you have any questions speak with Suzanne Tsitsibelis, suztsi@gmail.com



Wednesday, December 11 – Midweek Advent Devotional

- 7:00 p.m. – Information about the Midweek Devotional can be found below.
Pick up your Advent Devotional booklet in the Narthex.



Thursday, December 12

- 11:00 a.m. – Online Bible Study, contact Pastor Harry for the link.
- 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. – Church Council Meeting



Sunday, December 15, Advent 3

- 9:00 a.m. – Rehearsal for the Christmas Pageant
- 10:00 a.m. – Worship, 3rd Sunday of Advent, Christmas Pageant
- 11:00 a.m. – Fellowship in the Parish Hall
 - Santa Lucia will visit Worship.
 - Chrismon Display. The excitement builds while we wait with anticipation for the birth of the Christ's birth. Before the Chrismons are placed upon the tree in the Sanctuary, view all the new Chrismons up close and learn the meaning about each in the Narthex.
 - Create a Quilt Square. Our RELC quilters the *Piecemakers* will guide us, details below.



Wednesday, December 18 – Midweek Advent Devotional

- 7:00 p.m. – Information about the Midweek Devotional can be found below.
Pick up your Advent Devotional booklet in the Narthex.





Sunday, December 22, Advent 4

10:00 a.m. – Worship

10:00 a.m. – Worship, 4th Sunday of Advent, Pastor Harry Therwanger, presiding Minister;
Vicar Jessica Zurcher, Preaching Minister

– Blessing of the Chrismons.

11:00 a.m. – Fellowship in the Parish Hall

– Create a Quilt Square. Our RELC quilters the *Piecemakers* will guide us, details below.



Christmas

Tuesday, December 24, Christmas Eve

6:30 p.m. – Music offerings by RELC musicians

7:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Tuesday, December 25, Christmas,

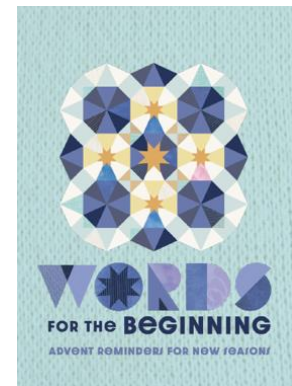
10:00 a.m. – Christmas Worship Service with Holy Communion



Midweek Advent Devotions

Midweek devotions for the Advent season are on December 4, 11 and 18. The theme for the Advent Devotional is “Words for the Beginning.” This will coordinate with our special Advent Devotional Booklets from *Sanctified Art*. Let me share the words of Rev. Sarah Speed, one of the creative folks at *Sanctified Art* to introduce our theme.

“When I was a kid, my dad came up with “four things,” four truths that he wanted my brother and I to memorize. Those “four things” were four reminders about love, responsibility, our choices, and God’s care for us. Anytime I left the house as a teenager, my dad would simply hold up the number four to remind us: four things! We knew what he meant. We knew it was love. Friends, I think Advent offers that same invitation. Tucked into the end of the year when it can often feel like we’ve run out of time, Advent invites us to begin again. In the depths of winter, and on the heels of an election season in the United States, Advent declares: this is not the end, this is yet another beginning. With that hope and encouragement in mind, we have selected simple truths that we believe a mother would want to tell her baby, that God wants to tell the world, and that we need to tell each other. My prayer is that these weekly themes can be a foundation for beginning again, a foundation built on hope and love, as we once again begin again. May it be so, with God’s help.”



Create a Quilt Square

The creators of *Sanctified Art* also felt these words were “like a warm blanket bringing comfort.” Sundays during fellowship time quilt patterns will be provided that relate to our theme. Materials will be available for you to be a bit creative. Our RELC quilters, the *Piecemakers*, have agreed to be on hand to help. Many creative options are available. Some may want to color the patterns. Others may want to cut and glue materials to the pattern. Some may want to use the pattern to create a real quilt square! You may take materials home to finish your creation and bring it back to display at church.

The *Piecemakers* will incorporate any completed square into a congregational quilt that we will display and send off with to Lutheran World Relief.



A Time for Burning Revisited

"A Time for Burning" is film about one Lutheran pastor's efforts to bridge the racial divides in his community in the 1960s. You are invited to an online discussion and preview of a new documentary that revisits this classic film on Tuesday, December 3, 2024, 8:00 p.m. (EST). A link to the film:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X4A3HDcbP-U>

Register to join the zoom discussion:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0qf-iurT4sHtV03HUFxrf0H_5_DNx3H_ME#/registration



Bruce Onobrakpeya: The Mask and the Cross

Nigerian sculptor and printmaker Bruce Onobrakpeya began creating works depicting Christian iconography in 1966, when Catholic priests petitioned the artist to interpret the Passion of Christ. The resulting body of work is titled *Fourteen Stations of the Cross*. *Bruce Onobrakpeya: The Mask and the Cross* showcases the earliest of these commissions, from the late 1960s, on display through January 21 at the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art, 950 Independence Ave., SW, Washington, DC



RELC Ongoing Programs

RIC (Reconciling in Christ)

There are RIC reading materials in the Narthex. With an anonymous question box. The RIC Core Team Encourages you to go to the RIC official website for additional information: <https://www.reconcilingworks.org/ric/>



Collection of Food Items for AFAC - www.afac.org

We receive non-perishable food item donations for Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) in the Narthex. Donations are collected on the 1st Sunday of every month.

Chrismon Project

Beginning December 1, you can learn about the Chrismons which will adorn the Christmas tree in the sanctuary. All the new Chrismons will be displayed with short descriptions in the Narthex. Thank you to all who contributed talents and time to this rejuvenating project. Contact Mimi Van Poole with questions. vanpoole2@comcast.net



Music at Resurrection

The Music at Resurrection committee seeks quality musical groups to perform concerts. Email Cathy Carr, jccarr7@gmail.com with concert suggestions.

RELC Meal Ministry

RELC's Meal Ministry needs volunteers who are willing to cook and bake when the need arises. If you know of someone who needs the Meal Ministry, reach out to Pastor Harry. Contact Mimi Van Poole with questions. vanpoole2@comcast.net



Piecemakers Quilters Group

The Piecemakers Quilters Group meets each month on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Join us to put together quilts for Lutheran World Relief that are sent to refugee camps around the world. No sewing skills needed and no experience necessary. Speak with Gail Flatness for more information, gailflat@gmail.com.

Livestreaming Worship – View past worship services on YouTube by searching for “Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church.” See you online.



Other Announcements If committee chairs or those responsible for ministry initiatives have announcements, email both Dale, church admin, office@relcarlington.org and Leslie, Church Council President, leslie_nolen@hotmail.com before noon Wednesday. Announcements will be published for one week unless specific run dates are given.