

RESURRECTION

Evangelical Lutheran Church

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

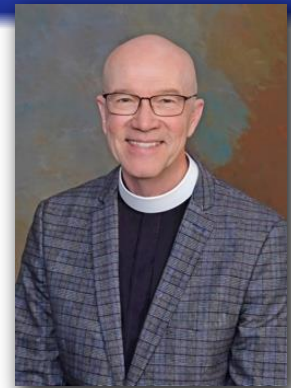
www.relcarlington.org - 6201 Washington Blvd. Arlington, VA 22205

Rev. Harry Therwanger, pastorharry@relcarlington.org

Vicar Jessica Zurcher, vicarjessica@relcarlington.org

From the Pastor's Pen

“The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord.’” This coming Sunday and the following Sunday we hear again the call of John the Baptizer. John is not a person of importance in the view of the world. The religious leaders and the Roman overlords all saw him, perhaps as we do, as some strange guy out there in the wilderness. Yet, John is a person of undeterred hope! People sense this and in a time of despair when people were desperate for hope, his call to repent is a message of hope that the world is about to change. They were drawn out to the wilderness to hear him. God is acting and we are called to be part of it.



As I was reminded in a recent Advent devotional I read: “Hope is hard. But Christian hope is faith turned toward the future. Christian hope is not based in a naïve optimism or superficial assessments. It is grounded in the steadfast love of God made known in Christ, and it trusts that because nothing can separate us from God’s love in Christ Jesus, all shall be well. Christian hope is grounded in the surest reality that exists: God.”

Hope is hard. But the God of the resurrected Christ calls us to be a people of hope, for the sake of a wear, cynical world. Hope is hard – and desperately needed today as well. Be who you are dear Church – people of hope!

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day Schedule

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

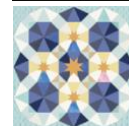


ADVENT



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. Thank you to all who contributed time and talents to this rejuvenating project.
 - 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. – Midweek Devotional, more information below, devotional booklets in the Narthex

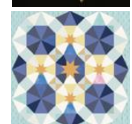
Thursday, December 12

- 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, Children's 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. Thank you to all who contributed time and talents to this rejuvenating project.
 - Create a Quilt Square. Our RELC quilters the *Piecemakers* will guide us, details below.



Wednesday, December 18 – Midweek Advent Devotional

- 7:00 p.m. – Midweek Devotional, more information below, devotional booklets 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

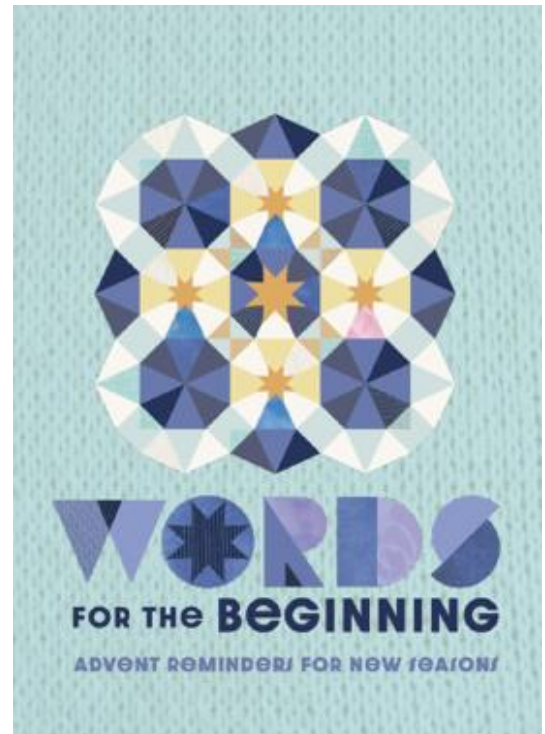
– Create a Quilt Square. Our RELC quilters the *Piecemakers* will guide us, details below.



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.



The 2025 Bishop Election and Transition Team

As Tom VanPoole wrote about in the recent “The Steeple Light” election of a new Bishop is at hand, Read more here. <https://metrocelca.org/about-synod/2025-bishop-transition/> The Synod Survey is open until December 20. <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe7FfVdXq9rFvuLjyf2FuFguTCGnJNkO5F35HObt3sN-GpK9Q/viewform>

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. The next collection at RELC is January 5, 2025.

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.



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



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.

