

# RESURRECTION

Evangelical Lutheran Church

## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

[www.relcarlington.org](http://www.relcarlington.org) - 6201 Washington Blvd. Arlington, VA 22205

Rev. Harry Therwanger, [pastorharry@relcarlington.org](mailto:pastorharry@relcarlington.org)

Vicar Jessica Zurcher, [vicarjessica@relcarlington.org](mailto:vicarjessica@relcarlington.org)

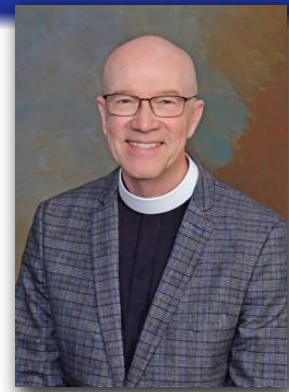
### From the Pastor's Pen

Dear Church,

The days of Advent rush along and many of us are busy with the holiday prep. Let me give a warm reminder (that I need to hear also!) to not let the busyness steal your peace! We are not just preparing for an annual party, after which the world goes back to “normal” when the decorations are packed away. The incarnation is the decisive, pivotal moment for the whole world: its maker is coming to live in it and to change its possibilities for ever.

However our holiday plans turn out, the Babe of Bethlehem let's us know how God feels toward us and the presence of Christ is worth celebrating every day, for “He is our peace” in all the turbulence of life.

Blessed Advent, Dear Church!



### ADVENT



#### Sunday, December 15, Advent 3

8:45 a.m. – Rehearsal for the Christmas Pageant

10:00 a.m. – Worship, 3rd Sunday of Advent

– Children's Christmas Pageant

– Santa Lucia will visit Worship

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

– Chrismon Display. The excitement builds while we wait in anticipation of 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 can be found below. The devotional booklets can be found in the Narthex. The Offerings from the three Midweek Advent Devotionals have been designated to Culpepper Garden. <https://culpeppergarden.org>



## 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 Chrismos.

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

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



## 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 with Holy Communion, Pastor Harry Therwanger



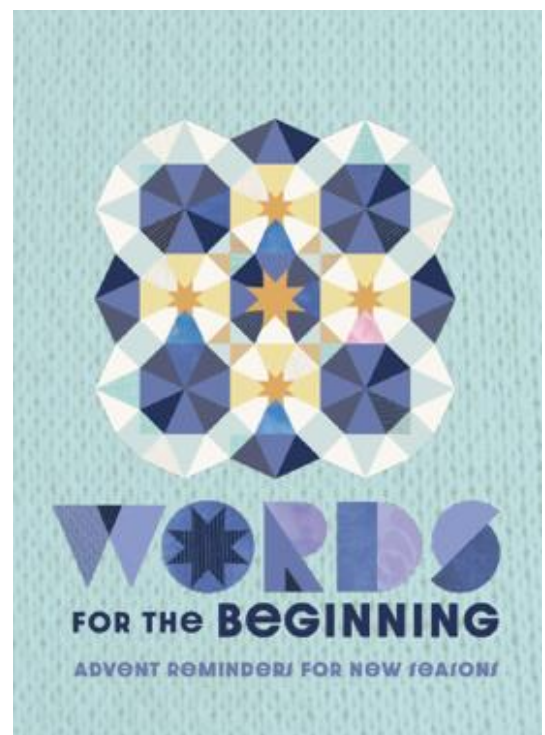
### Wednesday, December 25, Christmas

10:00 a.m. – Christmas Worship Service with Holy Communion, the Rev. Dr. Gordon Lathrop

## Midweek Advent Devotions

The last Midweek devotion for the Advent season will be held on Wednesday, December 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.



## ELCA and Metro DC Synod News



### The 2025 Bishop Election and Transition Team

As Tom VanPoole wrote in the recent “The Steeple Light,” the election of a new Bishop is at hand. Read more here: <https://metrodcelca.org/about-synod/2025-bishop-transition/>

This is your last week to take the survey! The Transition team’s survey, asking what the direction of the Metro DC Synod is open until 12/20/24.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe7FFVdXq9rFvuLyi2FuFguTCGjNkO5E35HObt3sN-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



Not sure what to give someone for Christmas? Check out the ELCA Good Gifts Catalogue in the pamphlet display in the Narthex or online: [goodgifts.elca.org](http://goodgifts.elca.org)  
It's as easy as 1, 2, 3.

1. Choose and pay for a gift
2. Get a card
3. Give the card



# RELC Ongoing Programs



## Altar Flowers

The 2025 sign-up chart for altar flowers is posted outside the kitchen. Please sign up for your desired dates. There will not be altar flowers during Lent or Advent.

## 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](http://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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:gailflat@gmail.com).



## Music at Resurrection

The Music at Resurrection committee seeks quality musical groups to perform concerts. Email Cathy Carr, [jccarr7@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:office@relcarlington.org) and Leslie, Church Council President, [leslie.nolen@hotmail.com](mailto:leslie.nolen@hotmail.com) before noon Wednesday. Announcements will be published for one week unless specific run dates are given.

