

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

Dear Church,

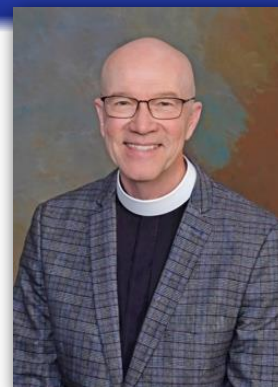
There is so much happening in our life together as a community of faith. This Sunday is the opportunity for us to come together to hear updates of the past year together, elect new leaders, thank those ending their terms for their service, ask questions, and vision the year ahead. We call this the **Annual Meeting**. Yes, the Annual Meeting is about business, but more importantly it is about ministry. What are our challenges and plans as we share the Good News. Do plan to be present this Sunday and participate in our work together!

Speaking of 'together' – I hope you have noticed we are including a sister ELCA congregation of our Potomac and Fairfax Conferences each Sunday in the Intercessions. We are not in this alone. God calls us into community. At a recent gathering of the clergy, we felt it important to be praying for one another to express our care for one another and our common calling.

“You’re as welcome as the flowers in May!” This was a phrase a neighbor lady said often when I was growing up. I thought it a bit silly, but here in the depths of winter I am beginning to yearn for the flowers of spring. It reminds me that as we yearn for the coming of spring Jesus has called us to welcome all people with that same yearning and desire for the coming of spring. As you know, we are already welcoming as a congregation, but there is an intentionality of true welcome. We make ourselves available with time and an open heart. When we receive guests at home we offer refreshment, perhaps set another place at the table, spruce up the house and prepare a guest room.

When guests come to church, they are more likely to return when they have sensed that the welcome was genuine and intentional. The process of considering and becoming a **Reconciling in Christ** (RIC) partner congregation is to help us do just that – to be authentic and intentional to welcome people who have not always felt welcomed or that they could come and be authentic themselves.

I urge you to take the survey prepared by the RIC Team. Details are elsewhere in these Announcements including a link to the survey. We will be including in our Intercessions this Sunday RIC partners and their intentional welcome as many churches observe the last Sunday of January as “RIC Sunday.”



CALENDAR

Sunday, January 26 – 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

9:00 a.m. Sunday School in the Parish Hall & “My Bible” Class in Room 13

10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Vicar Jessica Zurcher preaching, Pastor Harry Therwanger presiding

11:30 a.m. ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The agenda & annual report are available at RELC. Please make every effort to attend in person to review our activities of the past year, elect Council members, and approve the 2025 budget. A potluck lunch will be in the Parish Hall immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service. You are invited to bring a dish to share.

Tuesday, January 28

10:00 a.m. The *Piecemakers* Quilters Group



Thursday, January 30

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



Sunday, February 2 – Presentation of Our Lord

9:00 a.m. Sunday School in the Parish Hall & “My Bible” Class in Room 13

10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Pastor Harry Therwanger

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



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

2:00 p.m. Joint Confirmation Class @ Faith, 3313 Arlington Blvd.

Thursday, February 6

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



Sunday, February 9 – 5th Sunday after Epiphany

9:00 a.m. Sunday School in the Parish Hall & “My Bible” Class in Room 13

10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Pastor Harry Therwanger

35th Annual “Super Bowl of Caring” - Homemade soups, stews, and chili will be available for purchase during Fellowship Time.



11:30 a.m. Adult Forum in the Chapel on the “Gospel of Luke” led by the Rev. Dr. Gordon Lathrop.

Tuesday, February 11, 10:00 a.m. The *Piecemakers* Quilters Group



Thursday, February 13, 11:00 a.m. online Bible Study, contact Pastor Harry for the link



Sunday, February 16 – 6th Sunday after Epiphany

9:00 a.m. Sunday School in the Parish Hall, No “My Bible” Class

10:00 a.m. Worship Service, Pastor Harry Therwanger

Please submit articles to office@relcarlington.org for the next *The Steeple Light* by the end of the day.

11:30 a.m. Adult Forum in the Chapel on the “Gospel of Luke” led by the Rev. Dr. Gordon Lathrop.



Thursday, February 20, 11:00 a.m. online Bible Study, contact Pastor Harry for the link



Sunday, February 23 – 7th Sunday after Epiphany

9:00 a.m. Sunday School in the Parish Hall & “My Bible” Class in Room 13

10:00 a.m. Vicar Jessica Zurcher preaching, Pastor Harry Therwanger presiding

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

February 23 is the last day to take the RIC survey, online or paper copies of the survey are in the Narthex. [Click here to take the anonymous survey](#)



Tuesday, February 25, 10:00 a.m. The *Piecemakers* Quilters Group



Thursday, February 27

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

7:00 p.m. The RELC Book club will meet on February 27 in the RELC lounge.

Recognizing that February is Black History Month, the book club will discuss the highly acclaimed first novel of James Baldwin, *Go Tell it on the Mountain*. Light refreshments will be served. Contact Jack Schoen, jbschoen@alumni.colgate.edu or Christina Cuesta, christinav.cuesta@gmail.com, with any questions you may have.



RELC Reconciling in Christ (RIC) Survey



Siblings in Christ, we would love your feedback! Over the past year, the RIC Team has been exploring with the congregation the process of becoming a Reconciling in Christ partner. We have journeyed together through book studies, adult forums, and other activities, and we would like to hear more from you. Please take a few moments to complete [the anonymous survey](#) by February 23. There are paper copies of the survey and a basket to return them in the Narthex, for those who would prefer that method. Thank you for your continued participation!

[Click here to take the anonymous survey](#)



ELCA and Metro DC Synod News



Council Orientation & Training

All new and returning council members are encouraged to gather for an in-person orientation with Bishop Ortiz. Participants will walk through church leadership best practices, constitution & bylaw processes, and answer any questions you may have about your leadership role on Saturday, February 8, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Springfield, VA. In-person attendance is strongly encouraged, but a Zoom option will be available upon request. Registration is open until Saturday, February 1 on metrodcelca.org.



Traveling Prayer Night

Join the next Traveling Prayer Night on Thursday, February 13, at First Trinity Lutheran Church, 501 4th St. NW, Washington, D.C. A potluck dinner begins at 6:30 p.m., followed by a prayer and meditation service at 7:00 p.m. All are welcome!



Virtual Town Hall: A Transition Conversation with Bishop Ortiz

All Metro D.C. Synod lay and rostered members are invited to a virtual Town Hall with Bishop Ortiz on Thursday, January 30, as she shares her personal insights and experiences in the role of bishop ahead of the upcoming bishop election at the Synod Assembly on June 6-7. This is a unique opportunity for all synod members to hear directly from Bishop Ortiz, ask questions, and gain a deeper understanding of this important role and the transition process. Hosted by the Bishop Election/Transition Team, this event will be held on Zoom from 7:00 PM-8:30 PM. Please register on metrodcelca.org.



Living Faithfully in Fractious Times

Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Fairfax is excited to invite you and your faith community to join us for an exceptional opportunity to spend an afternoon with Dr. Diana Butler Bass. She will speak on "Living Faithfully in Fractious Times," followed by a book signing and reception.

We are honored to host this prolific author, world-famous theologian, and historian, Dr. Diana Butler Bass, who will lead an inspired and informed discussion on progressive Christianity renowned commentator on contemporary Christian issues.

This community-wide event is co-sponsored by the Metro DC Synod of the ELCA and will be held on Saturday, February 22, 2025, from 3:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Rd., Fairfax, VA 22032. Free childcare for children between 3-10 years old will be provided for those who register in advance.

A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex. If we have 10 participants sign up, the office will register us as one group and we will qualify for the discounted registration price of \$15.00. If we do not get 10 signed up by February 16th, you will be contacted to register individually at the standard ticket price of \$20.



RELC Ongoing Programs

Your 2025 Offering Envelopes Are Here!

Offering envelopes for the new year are available for pickup now in the Narthex. If you don't find envelopes for you or your family, please see Glen Mason or contact him at gdmason@verizon.net – there are plenty of envelopes available!



RIC (Reconciling in Christ)

In the Narthex there are RIC reading materials 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 in the Narthex for the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC). Donations are collected on the 1st Sunday of every month. The next collection at RELC is February 2, 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, jcarr7@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 on Wednesday. Thank you for respecting our time. Announcements will be published for one week unless specific run dates are given.

