

Resurrection Lutheran Church
A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
January 4, 2026



Our Mission Statement

Grounded in the Word, *we Gather* in Grace
Grow in Faith and *Go* with love to change the world!

We are a Reconciling in Christ Congregation

As such, we uphold the words of the Apostle Paul: "In Christ, there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female." (Galatians 3:28)

Christ has made us all one. We believe that this oneness extends to all persons regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identities, or religious, economic, or political affiliation.

Ancestral Homelands

"We are gathered at this assembly on the original and ancestral homelands of the Coastal Salish peoples. We give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home. Let us remember the Indigenous peoples and tribal nations who were the first to love, pray, grow, celebrate, cry, drum, dance and sing upon these lands."

10:00 Worship
Sunday, January 4, 2026
Service of Lessons and Carols

Gathering: *There Was the Word*

Welcome

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, God, Creator of the world,
Jesus, God made flesh among us, God, the Holy Spirit, who bears us witness to the
same. Amen

Opening Prayer

We pray:

Shine into our hearts the light of your wisdom, O God, and open our minds to the
knowledge of your word, that in all things we may think and act according to your good
will and may live continually in the light of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

First Reading: *Genesis 3: 8–15; 17–19*

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening
breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God
among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the Lord God called to the man and said to him,
“Where are you?” ¹⁰He said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid,
because I was naked, and I hid myself.” ¹¹He said, “Who told you that you were naked?
Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹²The man said,
“The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.”
¹³Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman
said, “The serpent tricked me, and I ate.” ¹⁴The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because
you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon
your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵I will put enmity
between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your
head, and you will strike his heel.”

Carol: *Joy to the World (ELW 267)*

Second Reading: Genesis 22: 15-1

The angel of the Lord called to Abraham a second time from heaven ¹⁶ and said, “By myself I have sworn, says the Lord: Because you have done this, and have not withheld your son, your only son, ¹⁷ I will indeed bless you, and I will make your offspring as numerous as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. And your offspring shall possess the gate of their enemies, ¹⁸ and by your offspring shall all the nations of the earth gain blessing for themselves, because you have obeyed my voice.”

Carol: *It Came Upon a Midnight Clear (ELW 282, vs 1-3)*

Third Reading: Isaiah 9:2, 6-7

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.

Carol: *While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night*

Fourth Reading: Isaiah 11: 1-9

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.

³His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder’s den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

Carol: *A Story for All People*

Children’s Message and Offering and Noisy Offering

Noisy Offering Song: Away in the Manger (ELW 278)

Prayers of the Church

We pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their need. Be with all who have occasions of joy. . .

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Be with all in need of healing. . .

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Be with all who grieve. . .

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, in this season and always, make us ever ready to welcome Christ into our hearts. Send us forth to be your people in your world, announcing your redeeming love in both our word and our actions.

Lord, in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Fifth Reading: Luke 1: 26–38

In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.

Carol: *Immanuel*

Sixth Reading: Luke 2: 1; 3-7

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

Carol: *Hear the Angels Sing*

Seventh Reading: John 1:1-14

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

Carol: *Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming (ELW 272, vs 1, 2, and 4)*

Announcements

Benediction

The God of love, the Creator, word from the Beginning of Time, God's son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, Word made Flesh, and God the Holy Spirit, ever present witness to the Word Made Flesh, pour Grace upon you, give Light to your path, and increase your joy, today and always. **Amen**

Song: *He Came Down* (ELW 253)

Sending

Go in peace to serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**
And All God's people said - **Amen!**

Announcements

Happy Birthday Paul S.!

As you are able, please remember a donation to the Mission Endowment in honor of your birthday or to honor another's birthday.

Pastor Karen will be on vacation January 4 - 5th.

Today: Outreach meeting following worship.

1:00 – Cards and games

Coming up:

Tomorrow at 11:00 – Finance meeting, 7:00 pm Prayer tidbits on Zoom

Tuesday, (1/6) at 9:30 – Worship and music meeting

Thursday (1/8) at 6:30 – Council meeting

Sunday (1/11) at 12:30 - Food and Fellowship at Mama Stortini's, please sign up

3:00 - Book study begins

Upcoming book study

As part of our conversation regarding civic discourse and discernment in these days, we will be looking at Dietrich Bonhoeffer's book "*Life Together*" in the light of the ELCA's recent statement on Faith and Public Life.

Dates will be January 11 and 18th and February 1 and 8 at 3:00 Sunday afternoons.

I'll be sharing which chapters in Bonhoeffer's book to look at, and where you can get access to the ELCA document. **Life Together** is available on Amazon.

January 25th at Noon - Annual Congregational meeting

Please plan on attending our annual meeting, that will take place right after worship.

Looking for a way to liven up your spiritual life? Join us for Prayer Tidbits on zoom, Mondays at 7 pm. This is an opportunity to pray for your concerns, the concerns of RLC, the concerns of the worldwide church, and anything else brought along.

Zoom ID: 279 362 6486 Zoom password: Prayer

Continued prayers:

Wes and Dot, and the family as Wes enters hospice care. Marie (Brenda's mom) is at Swedish doing intensive PT due to a stroke. Bud and his wife Vicki (friend of Gail's) Bud is fighting prostate cancer. Marion (dealing with fatigue and dizzy spells). Kathleen G. several medical tests. Holden village. George C. health issues. Don (Kathleen's brother) chemo treatment. Tiffany (Gail's, daughter in law) lesion on her brain. Krista (Jennifer's friend) for knee issues. Stanette for healing. Dianne (heart pains, praying for diagnosis and treatment). Sylvia (hip surgery, dealing with pain, prayers for healing). Steve and Nikki (dealing with being sick). Maria (Cindy's mom), continued healing and improved health. Kim. Scott (Jim and Judy's son) recovering from spinal fusion surgery. Bill O.

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| <p><u>Sunday, January 4</u> 10:00: In-Sanctuary and Online Worship 11:45: Outreach meeting 1:00: Cards and games Join us for fellowship after worship, all are welcome!</p> <p><u>Monday, January 5</u> 11:00: Finance meeting 6:00-8:00: Jump into music lessons 7:00: Prayer tidbits (Zoom)</p> <p><u>Tuesday, January 6</u> 9:30: Worship and music meeting 3:45-4:15: Jump into music lesson 6:00: AA</p> <p><u>Wednesday, January 7</u> 9:30 – Worship and music practice</p> | <p><u>Thursday, January 8</u> 10:00: Quilting 3-3:30: Jump into music lesson</p> <p><u>Friday, January 9</u></p> <p><u>Saturday, January 10</u> 8:00-9:00: Jump into music lesson</p> <p><u>Sunday, January 11</u> 10:00: In-Sanctuary and Online 12:30: Food and Fellowship at Mama Stortini's 3:00: Book study</p> |
| <p style="text-align: center;">Pastor Karen Bates Olson – Email: resurrectionpastor@aol.com Cell: 253-263-4094 Holly Kindt – Administrative assistant Church office: 253-927-3301 Email: churchoffice@resurrectionlutherantacoma.org</p> | |

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Office hours Mon. – Thurs. 9:00-1:00