



January 2022

Resurrection Church's

The Vision

We are Moving Forward into a New Year at Resurrection!

As we come into a new year, it is a great time to look at where we have been and where we want to **grow**. We are so immersed in abundance and beauty here in Oro Valley that it can be easy to forget that some brothers and sisters in Christ may be struggling. However, the reality is, we don't have to travel far to find someone in need. We also know that servants' hearts need to be encouraged and nurtured. It's important for all of us, especially our younger members, to be included in servant ministries.



Pastor Tim Nybroten

That's why, moving forward, all our events will have the following three components:

- **The event will fit with the Vision and Mission of RLC**
- **The event will include a fellowship opportunity**
- **The event will include an opportunity for service**

As you read of upcoming events, look to see how we have fulfilled these three pieces in our ministries. If you have new ministry ideas, think of how your new idea ticks these boxes!

Let's help to model our servant hearts in our community and to prepare our next generation of Christ-loving members and leaders.

We are looking forward to growing and serving with you in 2022!

Pastor Tim Nybroten Tanya Elias

Chris Justesen Brenda O'Connor

Janitzzy Spencer Jason Benedict



Given the recent rise in COVID cases we strongly recommend masking at both of our locations when attending services.



“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. I pray that

you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, with is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” Ephesians 3:14-31



Pastor Jackie Bloom

Do you remember ever happening upon your mother or father while they were at prayer? You may have become aware of a quiet gentleness of expression, or even tears. It was as if you had entered a hidden, sacred space.

Reading ***Ephesians 3:14-21*** is somewhat like coming upon Paul while he is at prayer. He reveals to us his deep love of Christ and his concern for the church. His own personal struggle is also reflected in his prayer.

In the prayer, Paul places himself before the Father. The intimate tone of the passage tells us something of Paul’s relationship with God; it was as a son to his father. Paul’s prayer is a prayer for oneness with Christ. Then, as now, what was occurring in the larger world was also taking place in individuals. As they struggled with the chaos that existed in themselves, they wrestled with the questions, “Who am I? Am I a broken person in a broken world? Where is hope?”

Paul knew hope. He discovered that the “fullness of God” in Christ was what gave his life meaning. That is why he prays so fervently that we would grow strong in, with, and through Christ. Paul closes his prayer with praise to God for the transforming power that is his gift to all who believe in Jesus. It is through this energizing Spirit of love that Jesus unites his followers and brings to fulfillment his presence in his body, the church.

“Be still and know that I am God.”

It happens so fast it makes your head spin, or it develops in agonizing slow motion over time ...and then there you are, wondering what comes next and not sure if you can handle it. In the midst of uncertainty, anxiety, and despair, the lifeline of prayer connects you to the heart of God and to the infinite possibilities that await. Possibilities such as comfort, peace of mind, assurance, grace, mercy, joy, goodness, faithfulness, and confidence.

In the book of Luke, Jesus teaches his disciples about the power of prayer. ***Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them they should always pray and not give up. Luke 18:1.*** That’s because prayer changes things. It changes us, our attitudes, our perspective, and it changes our focus. When we pray, we can be certain that God hears us because God knows our name, our voice, and our situation.

Our congregation is a praying group of believers. We value prayer. We engage in prayer. We depend on prayer. In the coming months, our shared commitment to prayer will be enhanced by a new, dedicated space for personal and small group prayer. It is envisioned to be a place for reflection, contemplation, and for conversations with God our Father. It will be a place to encourage prayer and to strengthen faith. Watch for more details in this newsletter as the plans take shape. Please look forward to using the prayer space as a quiet refuge no matter your age or circumstance. As ***Psalms 46:10*** reminds us, ***“Be still and know that I am God.”***

Annual Meeting Elections

Council – 3 Year Term

Lorene Faulkner
Mary Joviak
J.T. Wagoner

Treasurer – 2 Year Term

Chuck Roehrick

Synod Assembly

Jim & Sandy Seppala
Al & Patrice Toensing

Nominating Committee

Kim Becker
Diane Foster
Rob Hartmann
Curtis Prickett
Patti Thompson

The Executive Council

for 2022 is:

Lorene Faulkner - President
Ron Thames - Vice President
Chuck Roehrick - Treasurer
Melanie Franz - Secretary

Council at Large:

Tim Bauer
Mary Joviak
Bill Smith
Stephanie Thompson
JT Wagoner

Profile: Charles Riddell



Music is a vital part of worship in the life of the church, and Resurrection is blessed to have excellent leadership in its music ministries. Charles Riddell, Choir Director at our SaddleBrooke congregation, is one reason music in worship services gains such high-quality marks. Charles is about to transition to another adventure in his life. It's called retirement.

Born in Alexandria, Virginia, Charles is a graduate of San Jose State with a major in music. After a brief teaching career in Australia, Charles was employed by United Air Lines, a relationship that lasted more than 30 years. Not to leave his love of music behind, he was able to maintain that passion by directing church choirs in a part-time capacity. In 2009, Charles began four years as Choir Director at the Community Church in SaddleBrooke, and then in 2014, he began his direction of the Resurrection at SaddleBrooke choir. His final Sunday direction will occur Sunday, January 9. Special recognition for his seven years of excellent leadership will be January 9 during and following the morning worship service. Asked about his plans for the future, Charles said he will spend time going through his 10,000 record albums, putting them into a digital format, and then formulating a way to share them with friends and neighbors.

“Serving as Choir Director at Resurrection at SaddleBrooke is the best experience of ministry I have ever had,” Charles remarked. “It’s the people who have made it that way.” Pastor Roger Pierce, Coordinating Pastor for the SaddleBrooke congregation, commented: “My relationship with Charles as Choir and Music Director goes back almost fifteen years, and he is one of the most talented and dedicated Christian leaders I have ever met. Charles is really going to be missed. We wish Charles well in his future endeavors and express our genuine gratitude for his remarkable leadership.”

OV: Oro Valley Location

SB: SaddleBrooke Location

*Dates & times are subject to change

January

EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
2 Worship Service OV: 9:15 AM SB: No Service	3 Office Closed	4 Staff Meeting 9 AM - 10 AM Prayer Group #4 11 AM - 1 PM	5 Sisters in Christ 9:10-30 AM Prayer Group #3 10:45 AM Wood Working 1-3 PM Knitting Group 1:30-3 PM Call Committee 6:30 - 8 PM Spirit Singers 7 PM	6 Undecorate Church 10 AM-12 PM Prayer Group #5 1 PM Art By Heart 1-3 PM Matching Dragons 1-4 PM Chancel Choir 7 PM	7 Quilting Bee 10 AM-2 PM	8 P.O.W.W.O.W 8 - 11 AM Men's Breakfast Canceled Worship OV: 5PM Healing Services
9 Worship Services OV: 7:45, 9:15, & 10:45 AM SB: 9:00 AM VdC Table 8 AM-12 PM BLAST & SPARK	10 Banner Committee 1-3:30 PM	11 Staff Meeting Card Writing 9-10 AM Prayer Group #4	12 Sisters in Christ Prime Time 11:30 AM - 1:30 PM Social Ministry 1-3 PM Wood Working Knitting Group Spirit Singers	13 Prayer Group #1 10 AM Art By Heart Matching Dragons Chancel Choir	14	15 Desert Wanderers 8 AM Worship OV
16 Worship Services OV & SB BLAST & SPARK	17 Office Closed (MLK Day) Desert Wanderers 8 AM	18 Blood Drive 7:30 AM-1 PM Staff Meeting Church Council 7 PM	19 Sisters in Christ PMD Alliance 10:30 AM - 12 PM Wood Working Knitting Group Spirit Singers	20 Art By Heart Matching Dragons Chancel Choir	21 Quilting Bee 10 AM-2 PM	22 Men's Bible Study 8 - 9 AM Ben's Bells Event 9:30 - 11:30 AM Worship OV - Holden Service
23 Worship Services OV & SB BLAST & SPARK	24	25 Staff Meeting Bible Study 10-11:30 AM	26 Sisters in Christ Wood Working Knitting Group Spirit Singers	27 Art By Heart Matching Dragons Chancel Choir	28	29 Worship OV
30 Worship Services OV & SB BLAST & SPARK New Member Class 12 - 2 PM						

Youth & Family

at Resurrection



Children and Youth Christmas Program

January Fellowship/Service Event

Please join us on Saturday, January 22 from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM in the gym in our Outreach Building to create Ben's Bells Kindness coins through the Ben's Bells organization. If you would like to attend this event, please email Brenda O'Connor, boconnor2222@yahoo.com, with the number of people in your party. Thank you! If you have questions, you can reach Brenda on her cell phone at (520) 247-9086.

What is Ben's Bells? Here is the founder's story:

In 2002, Jeannette Mare's life changed forever when her son, Ben, died suddenly just before his third birthday. In the months following his death, Jeannette and her friends and family began making ceramic wind chimes – the first Ben's Bells in her backyard studio. Being surrounded by supportive people and working with clay toward a common goal was therapeutic for her family and their healing. During this time, Jeannette learned how a small act of kindness could make such a difference in a person's life, no matter their background. She wanted to find a way to teach others about the impact of intentional acts of kindness, and so the idea for the bell came to life. Jeannette and her friends made four hundred Bells and distributed them in the Tucson community on the first anniversary of Ben's death. Through these Bells, she had found a way to pay forward the kindness that had been shown to her.

This started a powerful ripple effect. People who found the Bells shared their own stories of grief and healing hope. The local newspaper printed the story on the front page. School groups, businesses, and individuals started calling to see how they could get involved, and soon, thousands of Tucsonans were helping to craft Ben's Bells.

Since 2003, Ben's Bells has been operating as a nonprofit, growing kindness education programs and continuing to distribute thousands of Ben's Bells every year. The Bells are a symbol of kindness and its power to heal. These simple wind chimes touch people's lives and create kinder communities.

What will we do at this event?

We will receive a to-go box from the Ben's Bells Studio that includes a packet of kindness education activities, as well as materials and instructions for painting Ben's Bells Kindness Coins. Kindness Coins are handmade by volunteers in studios or at an off-site location (this is what we are doing). Kindness coins are an important tool for practicing kindness. Each one comes with a tag stating "This is a Ben's Bells Kindness Coin. Thank you for sharing your kindness. Pass it on." Givers are encouraged to recognize kind acts around them and present a Kindness Coin to those who demonstrate kindness. That person is then encouraged to pass it on to another person, and so on, and so on. Research shows that recognizing kindness in others increases a person's happiness and satisfaction. Kindness Coins are a great way to acknowledge the kindness around us and practice our kindness skills!

"Stuff the Stockings" Results

Thank you RLC for your generous contributions to GAP Ministries! We were able to deliver 38 no-sew tie blankets, \$495.00 in \$5.00 & \$10.00 gift cards, lots of candy, chips, make-up, playing cards, books, stockings, hygiene items, etc.... Because of you, the children and teens in the GAP program will receive gifts this Christmas! Thanks be to God for our blessings that we can share with others.



Ministries

at Resurrection

2022 Flower Chart

now available in the church office.

\$20 per altar arrangement.

Undecorating the Church

**Thursday, January 6
10:00 AM in the OV Sanctuary**

Please join us and help us
undecorate the Church!

Men's Breakfast

Paused until further notice.

P.O.W.W.O.W.

**Saturday, January 8
8:00 AM - 11:00 AM
in the Outreach Center**

\$12 cash for
70 pounds produce.

Ladies Luncheon

Friday, January 14

1:00 PM

Ranch House Grill & Brewery

Whether dining in our exquisite dining room or enjoying the breathtaking panoramic views of our patio the Ranch House Kitchen takes a home style approach with our menu items. Our dinner item specialties reflect our seasonal approach to availability and freshness. Our brewery and tap selections are all from small breweries in Arizona that reflect the small batch method of brewing beer. Our two rotating handles reflect our brewers choice of beer that he create or a local favorite he has found. RSVP with Jacque or Lyn by **January 10.**

Location:

31143 S Amenity Dr, Oracle, AZ 85623

Each person will order from the menu and pay individually.

Any questions, phone
Jacque Thames (520)982-5501
or Lyn Pariseau (651)775-2929

Blood Drive

Tuesday, January 18

7:00 AM - 1:30 PM

Katie's Quarters

Give the gift of life this New Year!
The American Red Cross will be hosting a blood drive on January 18.
To register, [click here.](#)

Just Coffee Sales

\$10 per bag. Always available after worship or in the church office. See Kristina.



New Life Group Opportunity

It would be fun to get a group together from Resurrection who would enjoy playing table tennis. In addition to players, we will need a venue since all the space at the Church is taken. Once we have a group and a venue, we will need tables. If interested, please call Mary Pacholczyk at 520-297-6760, or leave a message.

There are topic studies:
Cultivating the Fruit of the Spirit
The Armor of God
The Parables of the Kingdom
Sermon on the Mount

Christian Living studies:
When the Game is Over, It All Goes Back in the Box
Better Decisions, Fewer Regrets
If You Want to Walk on Water, You Got to Get Out of the Boat
Navigating Your Change Mazes: Increase Your Reliance on God As Your Guide

Relationship studies:
Crazy Love
Marriage Built to Last
The Five Love Languages of Children
The Love Dare for Parents

Bible studies:
John
24 Hours That Changed The World
Prophets and Kings
Better: A Study of Hebrews
He Chose the Nails: What God Did to Win Your Heart

Happy New Year in Christ! He has made all things new.

The Life Group Appreciation dinner was held on December 1, with approximately 75 people participating. It was a fun evening with a lot of raffle prize winners and joyful conversation. Participants responded to a written survey which reflected that most life group participants are enjoying their groups and feel that participation is deepening their relationships with others and their Christian walk.

Most groups are taking a break (of varying lengths) until the first of the Year. Officially, the Christmas break will be over on **January 8**, and groups will be back meeting on their regular schedules. In a couple of instances, Sermon Discussion Group hosts/leaders are unable to continue, but their groups remain intact. We are looking for leader replacements for them, as well as for the people who are currently on a waiting list. If you think God is calling you to facilitate a group, please let us know of your intention. Encouragement and training are available.

As always, members of the life group leadership team are available before, after, and between the services on Sunday near the Life Group Kiosk. We want to answer your questions, possibly sign you up for a group, or even be a group leader. We are starting the New Year on "full steam ahead!"

Life Group's Library - located in Luther's Lair

Interested in study options for January and beyond?
The library has stacks of studies for you or your group to choose from.

Desert Wanderers

Saturday, January 15

Sweetwater Preserve, departing RLC at 8 a.m.

The trailhead is at 4001 N. Tortolita Road, one mile off El Camino del Cerro. The 800 acre preserve is in the eastern foothills of the Tucson Mountains. There are 12 distinct trails that interconnect. We will hike 4-5 miles; trailhead elevation 2800 feet; accumulated gain ~500 feet. The trail is rocky in sections. We will stop for a snack and devotion break at a rocky viewpoint. To sign up email Elisabeth Wheeler, hikerelisabeth@gmail.com. Indicate if you are willing to drive or lead the devotion. Suggested driver donation is \$3.

Monday, January 17

Guided Walk through the Sweetwater Wetlands, departing RLC at 8 a.m.

Naturalist Doris Evans will guide us on a 1 mile flat walk through the wetlands. Sweetwater Wetlands is the best wetland birding site in Tucson. We will meet at RLC at 7:50 am to sign in and form carpools. Maps will be provided for the 26 miles round trip from RLC. Suggested driver donation is \$3. Sign up with Elisabeth Wheeler, hikerelisabeth@gmail.com. Indicate if you are willing to drive or lead the devotion.

Prime Time

Wednesday, January 12

11:30 AM - 1:30 PM

A delicious lunch of lasagna with meat sauce, salad, rolls, and cheesecake with cherry topping. \$10 per person.

Kindly make reservations by [clicking here.](#)



Amber Norgaard Band Concert at Resurrection Church

A rootsy, soulful, inspiring afternoon of music with Amber Norgaard (vocals, keyboard, guitar) and bandmates Doug Floyd (electric guitar), Jay Trapp (bass) and Casey Hadland (drums). They'll perform songs from Amber's new album "Roots Run Deep" as well as favorite originals and entertaining covers. This "singer/songwriter to be reckoned with" (Tucson Lifestyle) always delivers an uplifting experience of song and story; and the musicality of her bandmates is stellar.

Hailing from an Iowa farm, Amber received her bachelor's degree in nursing and set off to do volunteer work in the Dominican Republic and Oregon. Eventually she settled in southwestern Alaska working as a nurse for a tribal health corporation 400 miles off the road system. During her immersion within the indigenous culture, Amber learned that music is a powerful source of connection, transcending language and cultural barriers. She began writing songs and fully departed her nursing career in 2008 to pursue her passion in the "healing" art music. She has released seven albums; tours nationally; opened for Judy Collins, Kenny Loggins, and Michael McDonald; received accolades for her songwriting; written song commissions for organizations, film projects and fans; and speaks at universities and community events on "Music as a Healing Art and Instrument for Social Change."

Upcoming New Member Class

Sunday, January 30
12:00 PM

This class gives you the opportunity to learn more about Resurrection and meet the staff.

After any of our Oro Valley services sign-up with Kristina, or Pastor Roger Pierce at SaddleBrooke. For more information please call (520)-575-9901.

Soul Sisters

Friday, January 21
11:30 AM
Agave Lounge

Ladies from both the Oro Valley and SaddleBrooke campuses are invited to enjoy a Soul Sisters lunch on Friday, January 21, 2022, in SaddleBrooke's Agave Lounge. The faith-based discussion topic this month will be "New Beginnings." Reservations are due no later than **noon on Friday, January 14th.**

SaddleBrooke ladies may sign up and drop their envelope with \$20 in the Soul Sisters basket at church. Please write your name and whether you have food allergies on the envelope.

Oro Valley ladies may either leave an envelope containing your name, \$20, and whether or not you have a food allergy with the main church office. Oro Valley ladies may also send their money to Sue Westby at 438 West Spearhead in Oro Valley or call her at (520) 730-6604.

We look forward to welcoming ladies to the
January Soul Sisters Luncheon.

Book Study

Tuesdays Beginning January 18 - March 8, 2022 at 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

in the Oro Valley Sanctuary - Facilitator: Jeff Kraus

If God Is Love, Don't Be a Jerk: Finding a Faith That Makes Us Better Humans by John Pavlovitz (2021)

Thou Shalt Not Be Horrible.

Imagine for a moment what the world might look like if we as people of faith, morality, and conscience actually aspired to this mantra. What if we were fully burdened to create a world that was more loving and equitable than when we arrived?

What if we invited one another to share in wide-open, fearless, spiritual communities truly marked by compassion and interdependence? What if we daily challenged ourselves to live a faith that simply made us better humans?

John Pavlovitz explores how we can embody this kinder kind of spirituality where we humbly examine our belief system to understand how it might compel us to act in less-than-loving ways toward others. Join us Tuesdays in the Sanctuary starting January 18 through March 8, 2022, from 10:00 – 11:30 am. Jeff Kraus will facilitate what promises to be lively discussions. All are welcome! The book is available at Amazon and other sites.

25th Anniversary of Southern Arizona Lutheran Via de Cristo (VdC)

This year marks the 25th Silver Anniversary of Southern Arizona Lutheran Via de Cristo (VdC). The Secretariat of VdC is planning a Grand Ultreya (Reunion) to celebrate this milestone on January 30, 2022, at our Annual Meeting. This will be held at Streams in the Desert Lutheran Church, 5360 E. Pima, Tucson Arizona.

The purpose of this communication is to inform you that VdC will be having three (3) fundraisers associated with this 25th-anniversary celebration. The Secretariat of VdC has approved these three separate fundraisers in the form of raffles. They are as follows:

1. A queen-size quilt is being made by Leslie McCourt, a VdC alumni, that will display the Bible verses for each weekend held over the last 25 years. The estimated value of the quilt is more than \$500.
2. 25 silver coins donated by a VdC alumni that are 1 troy ounce each made of .999% silver. The value of these silver coins is based on the spot market value of silver - at today's market price about \$560.00.
3. A guitar handcrafted by Doug Hamp, a VdC alumni, valued at \$3500 - \$4,000.

The VdC Spiritual Director, Pastor Tom Dunham at Streams in the Desert Church, has a similar guitar from Mr. Hamp, and based on Pastor Tom's opinion it is a great musical instrument.

- Tickets for the silver coins raffle will be \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20
- Tickets for the quilt raffle will be \$1 each or 6 tickets for \$5
- Tickets for the guitar raffle will be \$10 each or 3 tickets for \$25

Proceeds from the fundraiser will be deposited in the Southern Arizona Lutheran Via de Cristo bank account and used for future VdC (Adult) and Tirosh (Teens) weekend expenses. These weekends are at no cost to the participants, consequently, the proceeds are important to the future of VdC. Drawings for the raffle will be held on January 30, 2022, at Streams in the Desert Lutheran Church, 5360 E. Pima, Tucson Arizona.

Please prayerfully consider supporting these fundraisers. If you would like to purchase tickets for each of these raffles, please contact RLC member Tim L. Bauer via phone (720-560-5980) or email (Tbauer1736@gmail.com). He will be available after worship services at the Oro Valley campus on Sundays starting next week as well as future Sundays to give you and any of your friends an opportunity to purchase raffle tickets.

Refugee Ministry Team

The RLC Refugee Ministry Team continues to meet and discern how best we can support our new friends as we look for ways to reach out in service to new refugees arriving in Tucson. The Team recently reflected on the joy we've all felt over these past several years and how much we've learned. We would like to share insights from three of our team members with you through the questions we pondered, with an open invitation for you to join our team. You will be blessed beyond measure, and you will have new friends for life!

Question 1: What led you to volunteer to serve on the RLC Refugee Ministry Team? Interestingly, all three respondents cited a different Biblical verse:

Pam Batten: One of my spiritual gifts is hospitality, which motivated me to volunteer to serve on the Refugee Ministry Team. I enjoy hosting, making strangers feel comfortable and welcome. Likewise, making strangers feel welcome and comfortable in my community and my country is rewarding; I want them to experience that love through me. I love my Lord and want the stranger to feel the power of that love through their association with me.

Jeff Kraus: I have always had a heart for service. I volunteer because my faith instructs me to "love the stranger in our midst" (Psalm 146:9 and Hebrews 13:2). Christians are called to live out their beliefs, especially when it is challenging and uncomfortable. Jeff's wife, Martha, added: I look at what God said in Micah 6:8b, "And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

Laura Lentner: The more I read and study the Bible, the more it becomes abundantly clear to me that God mandates us to care for all of God's creation and the people God has made in God's own image. We are clearly told that to do the will of God is to help the widow, orphan, and stranger and extend hospitality to all. Hebrews 13:2 and Romans 12:13 are just a few scriptures that have caught my attention and convinced me.

Question 2: What surprised you most about serving on the Refugee Ministry Team:

Pam: I didn't realize the extent of friendships that would blossom...refugees would become friends, but also close bonds of friendships with other refugee team members have emerged.

Jeff: I was surprised to learn the vigorous vetting process that refugees must endure, and how it can take many years of living in refugee camps before they legally qualify for resettlement in host countries. I was also surprised and encouraged by the generous response of congregation members to participate in this ministry either in person or with financial support.

Laura: The gracious and welcoming nature of the refugees we have come in contact with. Hospitality is a core value of Middle Eastern communities and every time we see them, whether to deliver food or take them to an appointment or just to visit, they always want us to come in, share a cup of tea and a treat; to refuse their hospitality would be rude.

Question 3: What has been the biggest challenge working with families from cultures different from your own?

Pam: I believe a challenge working with refugees from cultures different from ours is the perception that many have of "refugees" and perceptions of their specific culture. I recently viewed a Ted Talk by Ngozi Adichie entitled "The Danger of a Single Story." Refugees do not have a "single story." Do we mistakenly label them "poor, traumatized, uneducated, victims, incapable?" I remember the first time I met Grace and she asked me, "What do you think of refugees?" So a refugee wonders how they are perceived by us. Later, thinking of transportation for Grace, my thoughts were that Grace needed a bicycle. What Grace needed was a car and what Grace proved was that she was very capable of getting a driver's license and owning a car.

Jeff: Most challenging are refugees who arrive without English speaking skills. LSS-SW assists with translators and ESL classes, but often Pantomime and Google Translator are our only tools for communication. It is encouraging that most refugees realize the need and benefit to learning English as soon as possible, and rarely resist ESL classes.

Laura: I echo what Jeff said, language difficulties. Another huge challenge is that our refugees have so little and I have so much, so I struggle that my help may be seen as condescending or disrespectful.

Question 4: What are one or two things that you find most universal about the human spirit?

Pam: What our culture, whatever our circumstances, whatever our ethnicity, we all need to be loved and we all need to feel safe.

Jeff: Refugees have an amazing capacity for resilience and hard work. All the refugees I have encountered have endured much challenge and hardship, yet they embrace their opportunity here in the US with tenacity and a willingness to work and become self-sufficient as soon as possible. Also, there is a joy about them that warms my heart!

Laura: The desire to be treated with respect, to be free to worship, learn and work to better themselves. The love of family is universal.

Question 5: What is one thing you've learned about working with refugees that has impacted your life the most?

Pam: Supporting refugees works both ways! Refugees will enhance your life! Working with Grace, especially throughout the pandemic, has been a blessing and support to me personally. Grace, though she had a high school diploma from Burundi in Africa, needed to pass a GED exam to be eligible for community college in the US. I learned that math was a concern for Grace, so being a former high school math teacher, Grace and I met every Wednesday afternoon for two hours for several months preparing for the math exam. I had a purpose and I felt needed. Long story short: Grace passed her math exam on the first try (as well as all GED courses) and is now successfully managing required math courses at the community college level.

Jeff: Probably their deep gratitude for being resettled in a safe and hospitable place. One family mentioned that they were not afraid to come to Tucson because they knew they would be safe and that people were waiting to welcome and help them. I wonder how

resilient I would be if our situations were reversed, and I am aware of how much I take for granted as a US citizen.

Laura: When I spend time with our refugees, I feel like I get more out of it than I give. Without exception, they have been wonderfully kind, gracious people that have become new friends. It has opened my heart and mind to other cultures and beliefs and has helped me see that everyone is a child of God, not just American Christians.

Question 6: What is one thing you would like RLC members who might be considering volunteering to know about serving on the Team?

Pam: The gratification you will receive from serving is abundant.

Jeff: Assisting refugee resettlement has been one of the most rewarding things I have ever done. It may require stepping out of your comfort zone, but the relationships you develop will warm your heart and strengthen your faith, knowing you are serving as God's hands and feet to those God has love and compassion for and making our world smaller and more inclusive.

Laura: If you feel called, please join our Team. It is incredibly rewarding and fulfilling and you can learn about other cultures that you may never have contact with. You will find that the people you read about in headlines and news reports are real people with life stories worth hearing and sharing. They are amazingly strong, resilient, human beings; not just statistics and numbers.

Join us next month when I will share responses to interview questions from our first refugee, **Grace Ayinkamiye**.

To learn more about serving on the Refugee Ministry Team, contact Rachel Rulmyr at 520-909-8008 or the church office. Financial donations are cheerfully accepted by check payable to RLC (in the memo line, please write "Refugee Ministry").

Kris Perry,

Retired ELCA Deacon

Prayers of the People

Please make sure to let the church office know if you have any prayer requests or a need for pastoral care. **Bold names are those new to the list.**

We Pray for Healing

Aaron and Lacey and their baby girl, Adrianna, Pasquale Abruzzese, Aldena, **Bob Havens-Assenzo**, Joanne Baier, Michael Barney, Liz Baty, Marty Bonfanti, Mark Boyce, Pam and David Brandt, Cathy Clark, Baby Cassie Rae Crandall, Jenna and Robert Crandall, Gretchen and Jim Crandall, Bruce Culham, **Dee Cunningham and family**, Julie Davidson, Keith and Sandi Dickmann, Carol Dilks, George Dregler, Carol Rohr's brother, Fred, Bill Dunlap, Arlo Eggen, Paul Frederickson, Mike Gardner, Virgil Gerdes, Bob Hanson, **Sharon Hertle, Susanne Hustek**, Char Hassel, Virginia Hiatt, Sue Hoffman, Margaret Hunt's mother Jane, Anna and Andrew Hollington, their twin baby girls, Gayle Gustafson Jacobs, Anne Jacobson, Evans Jones, Mary Joviak, Dan and Jan Jungling, Bill Kautenburger, Denny Koehntopp, Carol Koeneman, Henny Kuipers, Ron Kuykendall, **Shari Lind**, Herb Maag, Janice MacFerrin, Maddie and Yoshio, Turi Maki, Manny, Ina Mapes, Patti and Michael McDonald, Bill McInnis, **Jim and Kate McInnis**, Michael Meder, Bill Meusel, Penna Michalczyk, Miguel and Kate, Gina Morelli, Martin Moser, Ed Ogilvie, Mike Parr, Jerri Pavers, Sue Pearsey, **Scott Randolph**, Gail Porter, David Rohr, Baby Olivia Roller, Kendall and Casey Roller, Dyann and Franklin Roller, Steven Romej, Mary Ruth, Frank Santoro, John and Joanne Schleisman, Sue Searcy, Jim Seppala, Ilona Skjordahl, Wally Smeby, Janitzzy Spencer, Elizabeth Spengler, **Bob and Jane Sterritt**, Susan Sterritt, Dean Strandskov, Shelly Summerville, Jaxson Swann, Mary T., Ron Thames, **Bill and Kathleen Thomas**, **Marti Thran, Matt and Carol Tombre and his 97 year old mother**, Duane Udstuen, Cliff Van Eaton, Wayne, Wendell Westenburg, Trish Wheeler, Marie Winkelman, Connie Winslow, Maxine Wydick's daughter Crystal, John Yakimow.

Friends and Other Concerns

ELCA Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Grand Canyon Synod Bishop, Deborah Hutterer. Members of the military and their families, people with disabilities and chronic illness, the homeless, Youth On Their Own, people with addictions, foster kids, foster families, widows, widowers, all essential workers, healthcare workers, first responders, caregivers, scientists, medical researchers, and for all those affected by the devastating fires and hurricanes.

Active Military

SFC Amanda Davis, granddaughter of Peggy and Martin Valley.
Amanda Amanda is deployed in Syria. Pray for protection, peace, good health, strength, and comfort.

We Mourn with Those who Mourn

JT, Lori, Jacob, and Mikayla Wagoner due to the death of JT's mom, Barb.

Please submit, and re-submit names, of those to keep in our prayers. As names will not be carried over for the February Vision. Please contact the church office. Thank you!
