



2021 Annual Report  
Resurrection Lutheran Church

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December 5, 2021  
12:00pm

## 2021 Annual Report from Pastor Tim Nybroten

*"I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing." (John 15:5)*

Brothers and sisters in Christ, grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! Welcome to Resurrection's 2021 Annual Report! This year's Annual Report is 20 pages celebrating and giving thanks for the many ways that you and I have abided in Christ in 2021. Abiding in Christ as we live out God's mission for our congregation *"Called by God's Spirit, we are to be the presence of Christ in our daily lives, so that others will follow Him."*

I presume that the word *'abide'* may not be part of your everyday vocabulary. But I do believe that it is a daily part of how you and I seek to live out our faith as followers of the risen Savior, Jesus. One definition for abide is simply *"to remain."*

This is one of the central themes throughout the Gospel of John. Abiding in Jesus means to remain in Jesus. And believe it or not, abiding in Jesus can often put us in direct opposition to what the world around us wants us to abide in. God simply desires for us to remain connected. A branch on the vine. And what is the vine? The love of God.

You and I are branches on the vine. And just as John's gospel reminds, our purpose as we walk through this journey of faith is to remain connected to the vine – the love of God. Resurrection Lutheran Church's 2021 Annual Report is filled with examples of the ways you and I remain connected to the vine. As we enter the year 2022, here are goals and visions that I believe God has set before us:

- we will continue to provide worship services both in person and online.
- we will address staffing needs, including welcoming a new associate pastor.
- we will develop a strategic plan embracing a Shared Leadership Governance Model.
- we will expand our footprint and presence in the communities we serve, including better communication across our two locations – SaddleBrooke and Oro Valley.
- we will increase servant leadership opportunities.
- we will provide additional opportunities to serve through Resurrection's Social Ministries.
- we will grow our Youth and Family ministries to include a multigenerational worship experience.
- we will cultivate a renewed understanding of generosity and discipleship.

During these very challenging times due to COVID-19, it is my hope and prayer that you and I have been blessed through our connection to the vine. I know for a fact that the mission and ministry we live out together is a blessing to thousands of God's children. All because we abide together to the one true vine. May we remain connected to the vine in all that we say and do as God's mission and ministry for Resurrection Lutheran Church continues to be lived out through you and me in all the days to come. Abiding together,

Pastor Tim Nybroten

## **Message from Pastor Jackie Bloom**

A friend asked me about my new “job” at Resurrection and my response, “It’s the perfect place for me!” And I really mean it. Where else could I possibly serve the Lord with gladness as I basically established this position with the guidance of Pastor Tim. Coming on the beginning of June has afforded me half a year of serving God here, and this is such a blessing. We felt the need for more specific focus on the care of the people, meaning connecting with people, helping them connect with each other, journeying with our family members as children of God, through illness, wellness, excitement in life, and fulfillment in the Lord.

Growing in our prayer life has been fantastic, and is complimented by the “rebirth” of walking the labyrinth, plans to renovate the prayer path, and the highlight, moving forward with a fabulous prayer room to encourage prayer to strengthen faith.

Ministry here is exploding with enthusiasm as we serve the Lord with gladness and I’m so thankful to be a part of Resurrection.

Blessings,  
Pastor Jackie Bloom

## **RLC at SaddleBrooke from Pastor Roger Pierce**

The worshipping community at SaddleBrooke remains a strong component of Resurrection Lutheran Church, and it’s all getting even better!

The recent announcement of the new coordinating pastor for SaddleBrooke is an indication of RLC’s dedication to the spiritual development and growth of this important part of our congregation. Pastor Roger Pierce will oversee worship coordination and will assist Pastor Tim in selected administrative areas. Worship attendance is leveling out at approximately 100 people each week, and winter visitors are returning to this wonderful community.

Future initiatives include small group study opportunities, the observation of liturgical seasons, and excellent preaching by a team of local, retired clergy. Questions about our church at SaddleBrooke can be addressed to Pastor Roger Pierce through the church office.

## President's Message

Members and Friends of RLC,

THANK YOU! In case you haven't heard me say it enough – THANK YOU! We have come through another year of challenges with many reasons to celebrate. We have the most INCREDIBLE staff. Everyone works so hard to make sure services and events are seamless and uplifting. Pastor Tim, Pastor Jackie and Pastor Roger continue to go above and beyond to bring the word and sacraments to us each week. They are always available to make sure each and everyone one of us feel loved and cared for, bringing God's light to us all. Pastor Greg Wenhold helped us come together and complete a call process to bring Pastor Tim to us as our new Senior Pastor. There are simply not enough words to say THANK YOU to each and every one of them.

This Congregation has come together in ways we could have never dreamed during the continuing pandemic. You have been so generous with your time, talents and gifts. It's you who makes RLC the welcoming and warm place it is. To say I am humbled and grateful to serve with you is an understatement. Your prayers and support are unmatched and so incredibly appreciated.

As we continue to move forward in our faith journey, we will be calling an Associate Pastor to walk alongside Pastor Tim. As before – the call process is not something that can be rushed. We have an amazing Call Committee in place who will prayerfully interview and discern who will be our candidate for Associate Pastor. Please continue to hold them close in prayer and support them as they move through this process.

The simplest part in this all is GOD FIRST. As I have said before, it's as simple and as difficult as it seems. With God – all things are possible. In this journey we will continue to keep our eyes up to God, our hearts forward toward Jesus and let the Holy Spirit move.

Yours in Christ –  
Stephanie Thompson  
President

## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

Council has had an incredibly busy but fruitful year. Each and every member of the council has been involved in every aspect of our daily church lives. For this – I am forever grateful.

With the help of Pastor Greg Wenhold – we worked though where we are and where we need to go, always continuing to keep God first. He helped us put together the Call Committee and guide us through the process of calling a Senior Pastor as well as how to lead us through healing.

A Call Committee was established for the Senior Pastor role. The Chairperson, John Martin, was elected by the members of this committee. Also serving on this Call Committee were – Jordyn Carter, Patty Elliott, Gena Luecke, Debbie Ohlrich, Melinda Wetherby , Curtiss Prickett and Susanne Hustek. This committee worked closely with Pastor Pat Reed from the Grand Canyon Synod serving as our transition coach. Many hours were put into the interview process. The Call Committee recommended Pastor Timothy Nybrotten to be put forward for this position, the Council approved and the Congregation overwhelmingly voted to extend the call. We are absolutely thrilled that Pastor Tim accepted the call and is now serving as our Senior Pastor.

A second call Committee has been formed. This Committee is chaired by Melinda Wetherby members on this committee are David Franz, Matt Malone, Brooke McNytre, Jerry Olson, Gary Zellinger, Connie Burda and Lyn Pariseau. This committee will be working with Pastor Pat Reed as our transition coach. We ask that you continue to keep this committee in your prayers as they begin this call process.

Services have all moved inside – COVID protocols are followed with masks recommended, but not required. Communion has resumed service at the front of the sanctuary. Communion packets are still available for those who prefer to commune themselves at their seats. All services are available live streamed as well as being uploaded to view at your convenience.

Saturday Services have been resumed and are well attended. It has been a huge blessing to return to all of our regular services.

Pledge cards as well as Time and Talent sheets have been mailed out. Additional copies are available at the office or in the Narthex. Please consider serving alongside us. We are always in need of ushers/communion servers/lectors and the list goes on! The pledge cards and time and talent sheets can be filled out and either mailed/returned to the office or be brought forward and put in the manger the weekend of Nov. 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>.

Council has been working closely with Pastors and staff to help in anyway possible. We are all a team in ministry. Only when we are working together can we serve the Kingdom of God.

Council meets regularly at 7pm on the third Tuesday of the month in Luther's Lair. We are your voice and welcome anyone who would like to attend.

Thank you so much for all of your support and prayers as we continue to navigate the future.

Stephanie Thompson  
President

## MINISTER OF MUSIC AND THE ARTS ANNUAL REPORT, 2021

**CLOSING OUT 2020** In November 2020, we were maintaining the production of four distinct weekly worship services with a prerecorded Virtual Worship, the 7:45 AM Arise & Shine in the Memorial Plaza, an in-person Traditional Worship Service in the Sanctuary at 9:15 AM, and a contemporary Drive-In service in the parking lots at 10:45 AM. Unfortunately, as COVID once again surged, we came to the decision to suspend our 9:15 indoor service and return to having only outdoor in-person services. Worship highlights included a recorded Thanksgiving Eve service, a series of Advent services for which I created the service openings, the Lighting of the Advent Wreath. Plans to produce an Advent drama series was placed on hold when the director had an unexpected surgery. The worship Sanctuary was adorned with Poinsettias as a group of 15 singers and two instrumentalists recorded a Christmas choral cantata, God's Promise, which was made available online. This was my first attempt at creating the visual media for a large work at Resurrection.

We had a number of staff gather and decorate the south parking lot in preparation for Christmas Eve worship services outdoors. The services were COLD!!!...but wonderful. AJ Lepore helped to lead the 3 & 5 PM services with a family service and contemporary worship. For the 7 & 9 PM services, guest classical guitarist, Dr. Eduardo Costa, joined Larry Kuipers on instrumental leadership. Dr. Costa was a wonderful addition. Joshua Elias assisted me on vocal leadership for the services.

At this time, among regular duties, tasks included creating the Virtual, Traditional and Arise & Shine worship service formats as well as select hymns and ensure special music was provided. I prepared and printed the weekly worship bulletins for the Arise & Shine services, and proofed all printed materials for worship services, worship slides, and publications.

**WELCOMING IN 2021** As January entered, we continued to hold all in-person worship services outdoors. Wednesday Lenten services were held at 12 PM in the Memorial Plaza in February. The theme was called, Encounters with Christ. We used the meditative musical stylings of the Taizé community. A healing blessing was also offered each week. A small group of approximately 15 singers began work on a Holy Week cantata entitled, Tenebrae - A Service of Darkness, by Hal H. Hopson.

**SPRING** In March, the 9:15 service returned to the Sanctuary while the Arise & Shine and drive-in services continued outdoors. April brought the return of the contemporary service to the Sanctuary. We held a one-time Saturday worship service for the Easter Vigil. The handbells began rehearsals under the direction of newcomer, Jane Anderson.

Holy Week included services for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, Easter Sunrise, and Easter services. Throughout the pandemic, Resurrection continued to find ways to provide creative worship. A second virtual choral cantata was produced, leading Resurrection into Holy Week. Tenebrae – A Service of Darkness, composed by Hal Hopson, was presented by 16 singers, accompanied by Larry Kuipers on organ and Devin Gardner on oboe, and was my second creation of visual media at RLC. Easter Sunday saw the return of the handbells in worship, six ringers directed by Jane Anderson. May brought the return of the 10:45 AM service into the Sanctuary, and the 7:45 AM returned on Pentecost Sunday. Weekly virtual worship recordings continued. Pentecost Sunday included a dramatic reader's theater presentation of the first two scripture lessons involving seven readers. The readings were accompanied by a series of visual and audio effects, including the sounds of wind played by Larry on the organ!

**SUMMER** While the bell ministry was on hiatus, the handbells and chimes were packed up and

shipped off to Pennsylvania for an in depth refurbishment and necessary repairs. My online Music and Arts survey received over 115 responses, which gave me insight to the future of several ministries and provided new names for the drama team, handbells, Art by Heart, and others. I led a five-week voice lesson class during the summer months. It was well received by those in attendance with a total of about 16 total participants. I participated in an online music ministry conference entitled, Tuning at Tahoe.

**FALL** Jane Anderson was approved as the new handbell director and the ministry is thriving. The Saturday evening worship service returned in September, and with that, we were able to discontinue the virtual worship recordings. I created a new worship format for the healing services this year. This continues with the Taizé (pronounced: Teh-zay) style of music and ensemble leadership on the first Saturday of each month. The Holden Evening Prayer liturgy takes place on the fourth Saturday of each month, and alternating liturgies and worship styles on remaining Saturdays.

**CURRENTLY** The two main Resurrection choirs, Chancel Choir and Spirit Singers, have been rehearsing since September. Spirit Singers are doing well with approximately 18-20 singers, but the Chancel Choir struggles with 10-11 singers. The Friends men's vocal ensemble, and the Soul Swingers jazz and gospel ensemble have not yet returned due to lack of enough voices at this time. Current tasks include selections and preparation of worship liturgies, creating the calls to worship, selecting prayers, confessions, videos, benedictions, hymns, special music, editing printed materials and visual media, and preparing, providing, and assigning scriptures for all services. I have taken on role as choir librarian for both choirs. I recently had the unexpected joy of leading the 10:45 worship music recently in AJ's absence. Many memorial services have been taking place.

As I finish my 2021 report, I am in planning stages for Reformation, in which we will have a brass quintet joining us for Sunday worship services, All Saints', Pastor Tim's Installation, and beginning plans for the Advent and Christmas seasons, including holiday decorations, a drama series for worship, and a choral Christmas musical with orchestral accompaniment.

The Drama Ministry/Life Group continues under leadership by Julie Sieger and John Rowe and is in the planning stages of a drama series for the season of Advent.

The Banner Committee is meeting regularly to select the banners for the Sanctuary. A special thank you for the recent completion of the new trio of banners with singing birds on music staves, which are now hanging in the choir loft.

Art by Heart continues their regular ministries and I continue to be a staff liaison for this ministry.

**MUSIC AND ARTS** is fully staffed: AJ Lepore, Contemporary Band Director; Jane Anderson, Director of Handbells and Chimes; Larry Kuipers, Organist/Accompanist; Jamee Haddorff, Pianist/Accompanist; Pam Batten, Organist/Pianist/Accompanist; Charles Riddell, SaddleBrooke Choir Director; Susan Tjossem, Pianist/Accompanist; Julie Sieger and John Rowe, Drama Ministry.

**THANK YOU** Much gratitude to the music staff for their commitment to excellence, and consistency in striving to make worship as meaningful as possible, and for their reliability and flexibility. And thank you to the many people on the tech team who make worship happen every week. Lastly, a special thank you also to the Resurrection Church Council, Pastors, and fellow staff members who have worked diligently and tirelessly another year.

Respectfully submitted,

Tanya Elias

Minister of Music and the Arts to Adults

## God Squad – Family ministries Annual Report 2021

Over the last five and a half years, the three of us have worked closely with Pastor Tim to enhance our youth programs by redefining them, renaming them, and implementing strategies to bring the 3 groups closer together, along with a connection to the CDC and the families involved there. This has proven to work well, and all ministries are working more closely together.

### **GOD SQUAD**

**The program for 3 years – 5<sup>th</sup> graders is called SPARK (aka: Sunday School).** This is when we have the opportunity to plant seeds, and support our little ones as they begin to learn about God's awesome love for them!

**The program for our 6<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> graders is called B.L.A.S.T. (Bible Learning and Spiritual Training-aka: Confirmation)** this opportunity allows our middle school youth to dig into the details of our Lutheran Faith, and assist them as they find their own Faith. Classes are led by Janitzzy Spencer.

**The program for 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders is called LAUNCH (aka: Youth Group)** this ministry is led by Jason Benedict, more details about their program will be outlined in Jason's report.

**WORSHIP:** Families are encouraged to participate in Worship together such as attend the 9:15am Service where the children leave to go to God Squad about 10 minutes into the Service after the children's message, or begin with GOD SQUAD at 9:30am and then attend the 10:45am, Service together as a family.

**SPARK: SUNDAY SCHOOL:** We are using a new curriculum from Group Publishing called Simply Loved. This curriculum is meant to have a big impact with minimal planning and supplies. It is very user friendly, and is much like VBS put into a Sunday School format. We use 6 to 7 volunteers to teach and be crew guides (helpers) to help the children through fun, exciting, and age appropriate Bible stories and activities. Some of our teachers have taken it upon themselves to create teaching teams, working together. The children are split into the following age groups: 3yrs & 4yr olds & K, 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> grades.

**B.L.A.S.T. -CONFIRMATION:** For the 2021-2022 school year, confirmation is being led by Janitzzy Spencer. This instruction includes study, service, and fellowship. We are creating our Confirmation curriculum as we go using Spark digital house. This year we hope to continue our mentorship program, which thus far has been a huge success. We have heard wonderful reviews from both mentors and mentees. Students meet on Sunday mornings from 9:30 – 10:45am weekly. In addition to Sundays, we have a monthly fellowship event where our focus is fun and getting to know each other better. The monthly service projects have included fall festival, making blankets for foster children, feeding the hungry at Santa Rita Park, making veterans packages, sending care packages to our college freshman and the New Year will have even more service opportunities.

**FAMILY FELLOWSHIP EVENTS:** Every month during the school year, we offer a family fellowship event to bring people closer in relationship together

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL:** In 2021 we had a limited capacity VBS in person. It went VERY well. It was nice to have a more intimate setting. We had 88 school age, 38 preschoolers and 13 middle school (6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>) 8<sup>th</sup> graders were crew leaders. It was a very impactful year, the kids really understood the messages and were applying them to real life situations weeks after the program was over.

**SUMMER BLAST CAMP:** For 2021, we combined this program with VBS due to raising the age limit for crew leaders for VBS. Janitzy had 13 children participate in this event. They did many fun activities as well as participate in some of the VBS program.

**FALL FESTIVAL:** For 2021 the FF will consist of a walk-thru trunk-or-treat with candy & toys handed out from each car. We will have emergency vehicles – police & fire, tacos & Sonoran dogs. We will have a local HS mariachi band playing. We will also offer a sit-in movie - Coco and popcorn and water.

**BIBLES:** In the fall, we celebrated placing the word into 3 year olds, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and 6<sup>th</sup> graders hands. We are always pleased to place God's Word in children's hands.

Thank you for your support of Children & Family Ministries Respectfully submitted,

Brenda O'Connor, Janitzy Spencer  
God Squad Staff

## Resurrection Lutheran Child Development Center

While 2021 has continued to be a challenge, we are happily moving forward one day at a time at your Child Development Center! We have been able to maintain 75-80% of our typical enrollment, which is to say we have 75-80 children enrolled. This is such a great testament to this community's grit and determination 😊

We continued with all of our Covid -19 mitigation strategies through the end of May. As we went into summer we began to ease some of our protocols and were all finally unmasked at the beginning of August. It was a joy to see everyone's face again!! Unfortunately, as we have progressed through the fall, we have had to return to some of our earlier strategies to try to keep everyone safe, but we are just so happy to be engaged in "*in-person learning*" that we are willing to do whatever it takes.

Some of this year's highlights have included a visit from our local fire and police community helpers, a special lego (in school) field trip where our Kindergarten kids were able to create several super cool machines out of legos, an end of year picnic at Naranja's Riverfront Park, a Desert Critter day, a special VBS week, and water play days all summer!! There is never a dull moment at the CDC!

When we were awarded a \$10k grant through Pima County we were very excited to do a mini facelift on our playground. We were able to install some artificial grass on the upper portion of our playground as well as to add a new climber and a 4 person swing. As you may imagine, all the changes and additions were a big hit with children and staff! We are loving the inviting play space that it created as it has made spending time outside even more exciting!

With regard to staffing, we are pleased to have welcomed several new faces to our RLDC team. We are all learning and growing together in this crazy time with several on site teacher trainings. Our staff continues to be dedicated to making our school a great option for children and families to learn and grow in their love of God and the world. We are all incredibly grateful for each day we are able to work and play in a safe and healthy space.

Thank you all for your continued support of this vibrant and vital ministry!

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Justesen - Director

# Life Group Annual Report 2021

Romans 15: 5-6

May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

God continues to work with and through this ministry in 2021:

- Participated in the RLC Calling Tree organized by Jane Stash
- Worked with Kate to update the LG web page and brochure
- Updated the bulletin board in the outreach center
- Participated in New Member Classes in January, June & October
- Launched 9 Sermon Discussion Groups in September, 50 participants
- Purchased some new studies for Life Group Library located in Luther's Lair

Presently we have active:

- 8 Sermon Discussion Groups
- 5 Bible/Book Study Groups
- 5 Activity groups

We have approximately 135 people currently participating in RLC Life Groups Ministry.

Your Life Group team is committed to facilitating the growth of this ministry through the leading of the Holy Spirit. We are open to new ideas so please reach out to anyone on the team. For this ministry to grow we need you, connecting one another and growing in our faith walk is our passion, hope you will join us.

Your RLC Life Group Team: Connie Burda, Tim Bauer, Rob Hartmann, Diane Prickett, Jan Robertson, Paula Throntveit and Lorene Faulkner.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Connie Burda  
Life Group Team Chairman

## **Twelve Month Summary of RLC Property and Maintenance Staff Listed in Chronological Order**

CDC – alarm key pad repaired by alarm company

CDC – various interior plumbing repairs done by RLC Maintenance staff.

New batteries, tires and a complete service was done on the Maintenance staff golf carts by our personnel.

Repaired Infant Room refrigerator by replacing the fan.

COVID sanitation performed after every use of in all buildings including doors, restrooms whenever a room is used.

Repaired double door locking mechanism on South gym doors near the kitchen.

Electrical switches and plug in outlets were installed in the bases of the parking lot lights to provide power for events held on the South parking lot.

Assembled 6 new propane outdoor heaters to be used and stored in the Memorial Plaza.

Collected and removed Fall leaves that dropped and blanketed the entire campus.

Replaced 70 heating/air conditioner filters on all campus buildings.

CDC – Installed new toilet float valves that reduce water consumption and new garbage disposal in the kitchen.

Lower Storage Building – removed two trailer loads of stage materials that were no longer needed (props, framing, stage flooring, and large sheets of Styrofoam)

Art by Heart Boutique Room – repainted several walls, stripped the old yellow floor wax and applied new clear wax.

Steel Safety Railing- has not been painted for 15-20 years and was badly rusted. Our maintenance staff scraped and ground off the rust, coated it with primer paint and then applied a final coat to all 120 feet of railing.

Electric Sign Board on First Ave – replaced burned out light tubes that had to be special ordered.

Sanctuary Roof Leak Phase One, found source of leak that was dripping through the ceiling near the organ. The roofing contractor took care of it at no cost.

Spring rain created fields of green weeds over the entire campus. Our staff with our tanker trailer sprayed and turned them brown.

Kitchen Steam Expansion Chamber – was leaking hot steam. Our staff installed a new one.

Broken Irrigation Valve- valve by the covered patio broke and leaked water over the patio. It was replaced.

CDC Bathroom Sinks – old ones were removed and new ones installed by our staff.

Bright yellow tree flowers coated the walks and parking lots and created a mess and took several repeated cleanings to finally clean up.

Golder Ranch Fire Department performed their annual inspection. Everything passed and no corrections were needed.

Fire Extinguishers- were serviced and certified by a licensed service company.

All Campus Restrooms were washed down with bleach, all walls, floors, sinks and toilets.

Monsoon Storm- tree limbs were broken, bushes uprooted, a 15ft saguaro was clown over and could not be saved, washes and drain pipes filled with debris. All of this was cleaned up by our staff.

Monsoon Electrical Damage- due to the storm, an electrical surge went through the entire campus and damaged many of our computers along with destroying the Sanctuary projectors.

CDC Playground Gate Latches- we had a welder come out and rework the wrought iron playground gates and latches so they can't be opened from the outside to stop any illegal entry.

Gym/AC Unit – repaired unit and replaced a blower cage.

CDC Outdoor Security Lights have been installed with a timer that illuminate the entire walled playground and front office area.

The patio and Columbarium water fountains were serviced and now have new filters and chlorinators.

Outreach High School Room – holes in walls were repaired and prepped for painting.

Sanctuary Roof Leak Phase 2 – After the Monsoon, more leaks were found throughout the Sanctuary roof. The roof contractor the red roof tiles and with our staff found leaks in many low roof corners behind the parapet and found the stucco missing from a lot of the back side of the parapet which allowed water to come down the inside of the interior walls. Our staff has troweled on a commercial coating that will fill in and seal the low spots and missing stucco.

CDC Playground Terrace Wall – the wall separates the upper and lower playgrounds. It has not been painted in over 20 years. Our Staff has pressure washed, scraped and prepped the wall for painting, which will be done when the Sanctuary roof is completed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Don Thurmond

## **Summary of RLC Safer Campus Committee**

In the past couple of years, the Safer Campus Committee has done the following:

Large identification letters attached to the exterior of each building.

Identification signage above room entry door indicating building and room number.

Emergency 911 labels on every church phone to help the caller identify where they are calling from.

Created “Shelter In Place” rooms around the campus that are identified by a symbol over the door and the doors are equipped with fast locking devices that don’t require keys.

First Aid Emergency Kits with bleeding control packets are in all the buildings except Administration.

Several training sessions for staff, ushers, greeters and church leaders have been held on what to do in various types of emergencies.

Another important Safer Campus Committee plan had been developed but due to COVID was delayed until recently to be implemented. It is based in the Neighborhood Watch program concept but developed for churches. Our church insurance company provided us with information from other churches around the country that are operating this type of program. We are calling our program ChurchWatch. It is made up of a group of RLC volunteers who want to provide a safe environment for everyone attending church or other events. Team members will contact 911 in the event of any type of emergency. We have already had some team training sessions and will have more before we begin the program. Our goal is to have the team in place before the upcoming season events.

Respectfully Submitted,

Don Thurmond

## **The Quilting Bee @ RLC**

Members are meeting once again on the first and third Fridays of the month from 10am – 2pm. Individuals have worked at home during the pandemic recess and produced small quilts that will, again, be deistributed to the Gospel Rescue Mission, Sister Jose, Tucson Veterans Administration Hospital and Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest.

The group is always open to anyone interested, regardless of skill-level. We learn together! Bring a lunch; the coffeepot is always on. Enjoy good fellowship.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marguerite Hepner

## Social Ministry Annual Report 2021

*“It is our vision to encourage youth and adults to put their faith into action by reaching out to the hungry, the poor and the needy in our congregation, our community, and the world.”*

In 2021, financial support was provided out of the Resurrection Lutheran Church General Fund budget for the organizations listed below. Outreach efforts for a variety of causes, listed on following pages, are not included in the amounts below. These amounts are budgeted giving by RLC and comes out of the General Fund:

1. Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest - \$5,400
2. LSS of the Southwest (Refugee Ministry) - \$1,008
3. LSS of the Southwest (Foster Care) - \$1,008
4. UArizona Campus Ministries - \$2,508
5. Youth On Their Own (YOTO) - \$1,800
6. Sister Jose Women’s Center - \$1,500
7. Anna Lawrence School Pantry - \$8,400
8. Interfaith Community Service - \$3,504
9. God Answers Prayers (GAP) Ministry - \$4,800
10. Wycliffe Bible Translators - \$3,000
11. Berlin Church - \$1,500
12. Impact of So. Arizona (Catalina) - \$1,500
13. Grand Canyon Synod of the ELCA - \$70,000
14. FLIM (Funds for Leaders in Mission) - \$5,004
15. Primavera Men’s Shelter - \$2,508

In 2021, members and friends of RLC have contributed financially and volunteered many hours of time in support of many organizations:

**1. Anna E. Lawrence School Pantry:** This ministry is made possible by a joint effort between the Community Food Bank (provides a variety of food products), Anna Lawrence School staff (provides the space needed to house the pantry and distribute information about each pantry to the parents and surrounding community) and many RLC volunteers (providing the coordination, leadership, and volunteers for each distribution). This ministry requires many volunteers and we have been blessed with so many RLC members who are dedicated to distributing food to those in need. Before the pandemic we were also blessed with 8th graders who would volunteer as part of a school leadership program. This has not been possible during the pandemic, but we look forward to starting up again in the hopefully near future. The 2020/21 school year marked the 6th year for this ministry. There are a total of 14 distribution days scheduled. Due to the pandemic, distributions during the spring of 2020 were limited to a drive thru format only. With the beginning of the fall semester in 2021 we were able to move to a hybrid format, whereby we allow students to shop in the pantry, with assistance from volunteers, and then we move outside to continue with our drive thru format for parents and others in the community. With our new hybrid format serving students in the pantry and families through the drive thru, our numbers of families served has been increasing and are now approaching those that we helped on average prior to the pandemic.

In late 2020, we applied for, and were approved, for a \$4,600 grant from money made available through the Community Food Bank of So. AZ. This grant has been used to upgrade the shelving in the pantry room and continues to be used to purchase additional food items to supplement what is received from the Food Bank. Additional food items include, but is not limited to, chili, juice boxes, mac ‘n cheese, fruit cups, and granola bars.

- 2. Coronado K-8 and Prince School Head Start Shoe Drive:** This event seeks financial donations only. Through the generosity of many RLC members, a total of \$7,582.15 was received. These funds were used to purchase 50 \$30.00 Walmart gift cards, one for each student at Prince School Head Start. The gift cards are provided to the parents to purchase a pair of shoes and socks for their child. Additionally, donated funds were used to purchase shoes, in a variety of sizes and styles for boys and girls, to stock the shoe pantry at Coronado K-8 School in Catalina. Remaining funds are held in reserve to continue purchasing shoes throughout the school year, particularly over the Christmas season.
- 3. Coronado K-8 School Supply Drive:** As in 2020, this year's annual school supply drive supported the students at Coronado K-8 School in Catalina and the students in refugee families being sponsored/supported by LSS-SW. RLC members donated a huge amount of all kinds of school supplies. Using some of the cash from financial donations we were able to purchase additional school supplies at a big discount. Remaining cash donations allowed us to also provide Coronado K-8 School with a check for \$3,000 and LSS-SW with a check for \$1,500. Our stipulation to both organizations was that the cash donations be used to purchase additional school supplies to supplement physical product that was donated.
- 4. Diaper Drive:** The 6th annual diaper drive was held during October. RLC members were asked to donate infant and adult diapers in support of this outreach. Diapers were collected through the month of October including at the fall Craft Fair. In total, 2,336 infant & adult diapers and 44 bed protectors were collected. All donated items go to The Diaper Bank of Southern Arizona. We were also able to provide The Diaper Bank with a check \$1,855.00 from cash/check donations. The Diaper Bank uses the cash to purchase diapers in bulk to fill in where their inventory is lacking.
- 5. Dental Brigade:** The annual Dental Brigade drive was held between February 7th and February 22nd. This drive supports the efforts of the UArizona Global Dental Brigade. The UA Global Dental Brigade combines their efforts with other brigades around the country to provide supplies and dental services to poor countries, typically in Central America. Product donated is distributed to needy families and financial donations help pay for needed dental services for these needy families. Travel has been restricted during the pandemic but hopefully will be able to resume again in 2022. In our 2021 drive, RLC members donated 295 toothbrushes, 195 tubes of toothpaste, 86 packs of dental floss and \$265 in cash.
- 6. ELCA Grand Canyon Synod:** A portion of giving to RLC by its members is sent to the Grand Canyon Synod of the ELCA. These funds are used, in part, for outreach to a variety of ministries and charitable organizations in Arizona, the U.S.A. and throughout the world.
- 7. Feed My Starving Children:** On February 8, 2020, approximately 285 volunteers from Resurrection and five other area Lutheran churches gathered at Oro Valley Church of the Nazarene for 2 hours of packing meals. The volunteers packed over 72,000 meals, enough to feed 297 children for an entire year! Resurrection also provided \$7,000 in financial support so that all the food packed and the cost of delivering the food was covered. This information is listed here as a reminder of how much good this outreach generates. Sadly, we were not able to gather for a packing event in 2021 due to the pandemic. Feed My Starving Children has had to switch to virtual events to raise funds to purchase the ingredients needed for the meals. This event may or may not be back on our schedule in 2022 as these decisions are driven by Feed My Starving Children staff and OV Church of the Nazarene. As soon as possible RLC will be back on board.
- 8. FLIM (Funds for Leaders in Mission):** An annual FLIM golf tournament is held to raise funds to provide scholarships for seminary students. These scholarships help recipients reduce the amount of student loans that they might otherwise incur.

**9. Food Drives:** As in 2020, our Spring food drive was moved to after Easter this year. This was done in part to avoid conflict with the SaddleBrooke community food drive that takes place once a year prior to Easter, and to better align our Spring and Fall food drives to be approximately 6 months apart. A total of 2,760 pounds of food was received from RLC members, plus financial donations that totaled \$1,976.69. The food and financial donations were split into fourths and delivered to Interfaith Community Services (ICS) Food Bank, IMPACT Catalina Food Bank, Marana Food Bank, and Gospel Rescue Mission.

The Fall food drive was held leading up to Thanksgiving as usual. The dates for handing out bags, asking members to return bags containing groceries, and sorting/dividing all donations is geared to having all donations in the hands of the four recipients we support at least a week before Thanksgiving Day. All grocery donations are divided into food types; protein (peanut butter, canned meat, chili, soups with meat), vegetables, fruit, pasta, cereal, other miscellaneous items, and paper products. The food and financial donations are then divided into fourths and delivered to Interfaith Community Services (ICS) Food Bank, IMPACT Catalina Food Bank, Marana Food Bank, and Gospel Rescue Mission. As of this writing the amount of food and financial donations received are not finalized. However, food donations are totaling over 2,500 pounds and financial donations are at \$5,500.00 and growing.

**10. Just Coffee:** Fair trade coffee is sold to support improving the lives of Mexican farmers by helping them get fair wages as well as medical care and retirement. Just Coffee was usually sold on the RLC patio on the first and third weekends each month. However, Just Coffee has had to stop selling on the patio since March 2020 due to COVID-19. Until patio sales can resume, coffee is still available in the church office or online.

**11. Lutheran Social Services - Refugee Ministry:** The RLC Refugee Ministry team is a group of volunteers who work in partnership with LSS-SW (Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest) to provide support for refugees coming to Tucson. These refugees are fully vetted by the U.S. Government and are here legally. LSS-SW is the liaison/partner with U.S. and local government agencies and has the primary responsibility for resettlement, but we aid them with some financial support, furnishing their apartment, stocking the pantry, and providing on-going emotional support with English conversations and visits with the new refugee family. The RLC Refugee Ministry team has been very active over the last 3 years and those efforts are currently accelerating. As 2021 draws to a close, multiple families are being assisted by RLC in support of the many relocations to the Tucson area from Afghanistan. Some new families will be staying in the Tucson area and others may only be here for a short time until they are able to move to an area in the U.S. where family and/or friends reside.

**12. Lutheran Social Services – Queen Sheets Drive (Cozy Nights for Older Adults):** RLC is supporting an LSS-SW outreach to provide a set of new queen sheets and pillowcases to over 1,100 older adults and individuals with disabilities. Any abundance of donated sheets will be distributed to people in need across other LSS-SW programs, including people exiting homelessness, new refugee arrivals, and children in foster care. Donations (sheets and/or financial) are being accepted up until December 12th.

**13. Military Group:** Resurrection Quilters make and distribute quilts, throughout the year, to organizations such as Southern AZ Veterans Hospital, Primavera Men's Shelter, and Sister Jose Women's Center.

**14. Narthex Grocery Cart:** RLC members are asked to consider picking up an extra item or two when they go grocery shopping, and to bring these items to church and place them in the grocery cart in the Narthex. Each week a volunteer picks up what is in the cart and makes a delivery to IMPACT Catalina Food Bank. This outreach has been curtailed during the pandemic but will start again when conditions permit.

- 15. Primavera Men's Shelter:** Normally, four times a year volunteers from RLC prepare lunches and dinners for the men at the Primavera Men's Shelter. Dinners are provided in months when there are 5 Tuesdays, on the 5th Tuesday. Food is purchased, prepared, delivered, and served to between 60 and 90 men at the shelter. Lunches are prepared and delivered on the 4th Friday in months following a month with five Tuesdays (honest). Lunches are also provided for between 60 and 90 men. Unfortunately, RLC volunteer participation in this ministry had to be curtailed due to the pandemic. However, the first dinner since this curtailment is happening on November 30th and we will hopefully be back on our routine schedule going forward.
- 16. Sister Jose Women's Center:** RLC provides financial support to Sister Jose, an organization in Tucson that supports women in many ways, including food, clothing, counseling, and temporary shelter.
- 17. Tucson Veterans Serving Veterans:** A clothing drive to benefit Veterans, in conjunction with DAV (Disabled American Vets) is held on going at RLC. Thanks to generous donations from many supporters, a large amount of toiletries, stacks of new and used clothing, as well as cash contributions, are received. Members of RLC also support the annual Veterans Stand Down Event that provides support to Veterans in many ways.
- 18. World Vision:** In 2020 RLC members were not able to gather in person for the annual Global 6K Walk for Water due to COVID-19. However, in 2021, members were able to walk as a group starting and finishing at church or walk 6k in and around their own neighborhood. All walkers, at church in a group or virtually at home were asked to make a financial contribution. Money raised goes to providing poor communities in various countries of the world with clean safe drinking water.
- 19. Wycliffe Bible Translator:** Provide financial support to help translators in Mexico, translating the New Testament into the Mixtec language. This lengthy effort was completed in 2019. The translators are now working to translate certain books of the Old Testament into Mixtec.
- 20. Youth On Their Own (YOTO):** This is a community non-profit organization that is dedicated to support the high school graduation and continued success of homeless youth by providing financial assistance, basic human needs, and guidance. Resurrection supports this organization financially.

Prepared 11/18/21 – Jerry Olson

## Art by Heart Visual Arts Ministry

Art by Heart continues to be a fellowship and outreach ministry working through all forms of visual art. We are a completely volunteer-run ministry with seven members. The Steering Committee includes chairperson Judy Elmquist, Donna Esposito, Tim Bauer, Kathy Dunn, Sue Make, Council Representative ? and the Ministry of Music and the Arts to adults, Tanya Elias-Graf, are represented at our meetings where operational decisions are made.

We are self-funded and our boutiques sales fund our supplies needs. We are also grateful for the many donations we receive. Everyone is welcome to participate our church family, friends, and neighbors. We work at all levels and are there to help and teach anyone with projects. Art room is in the Outreach Building for gathering of small groups to participate in project in clay, glass, metal, painting, knitting, card making and jewelry just to name a few. Our current schedule can be found in the weekly Vision and the calendar outside of the Art room.

The knitting group meets every Wednesday under the leadership of Ann Blizzard to work on projects and learn new techniques. They meet at the table in Luther's Lair to help each other to enjoy fellowship.

Art by Heart continues to make clay crosses for new members. We welcome new ideas and designs. It takes about six weeks lead time.

The New Banner Group meets under the leadership of Sandy Seppula. They repair and create new banners for the church.

Our glass kiln is working well making Sun catchers, beads, earrings, pendants coasters, have been made.

We have a pottery wheel for wheel work and learning new skills. If you would like to try the new wheel, please let a committee member know so they can meet you and set you up for working.

The Artful hour on Thursday is open to all adults from 1:00 to 4:30. Other days can be scheduled according to the project interests,

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Elmquist

**Resurrection Lutheran Church  
Total Wellness Committee (TWC)  
2021 Annual Report**

The impact of Covid-19 has continued to impact how and what we do as the community of RLC, including the work of the TWC. The prevention restrictions related to Covid virtually stopped activities that include personal interactions and thus impact our mental health and well-being.

At the end of 2019, TWC had goals to revive our membership and update our charter; neither of those were done. Reviving the membership includes congregation members as well as participation of a Council member who can advise and support this work.

The charter needs to emphasize the importance of the integration of body, mind, and spirit. It also needs to focus on Advance Care Planning (ACP), including the revised Arizona repository for filing and retrieving the documents. Co-chair, Janyce Lundstedt, has actively participated on Interfaith Community Services (ICS) “Full Circle”, which is a group of local faith leaders who gather periodically to talk about end-of-life issues. ICS provides workshops and advice on ACP.

Other goals for 2022 will be based on council, Pastoral, and congregation member recommendations.

Janyce Lundstedt, BSN, MS, TWC Co-chair