

OUR HISTORY 1983-2013

RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH



WELS

Christ's Love, Our Calling.

LETTER FROM PASTOR

Thirty years ago, a group of Christians gathered to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. The date was Easter Sunday, April 3, 1983, and it marked the founding of a new WELS congregation in Maumee, Ohio — Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church. During the past 30 years, God has allowed our membership to grow and our facilities to expand. Most importantly, for 30 years the Holy Spirit has been at work in the hearts of God's people through the Means of Grace.

Resurrection is a place where God's Word is preached, where precious souls are brought into God's family through baptism, where Jesus assures us of forgiveness with his own body and blood. Resurrection is a place where we've shared our greatest joys and our deepest sorrows. It's a place where God's people come together to encourage each other all the way to heaven. As we look back over the past 30 years, we thank God for his grace to us here at Resurrection and pray that he would continue to guide and bless our future.

To him be the glory!

Pastor Timothy Nass
April 2013

Compiled by Resurrection member Brandi Barhite with help from Pastor Timothy Nass and Pastor Jeff Mittelstadt.

Special thanks to the late Pastor Howard Festerling who kept detailed notes of his time at Resurrection. His beautiful prose is sprinkled throughout this history.

FOUNDING MEMBERS

Michael and Karen Barhite & family
Steve and Kathy Everhart & family
Jim and Brenda Keller & family
Sue Velliquete & family
Steve and Cathy Walker & family
Karen Adkins

Bill and Martha Blumenshien
Joe and Teena Good & family
Randy and Donna Rue & family
Don and Marilyn Walker
Linda and James Zell & family

OUR HISTORY

1983-2013

God put the idea of Resurrection Evangelical Lutheran Church on the hearts of local believers long before the building would come into existence. While the founding members from 1983 are certainly to be credited for the momentum that would result in a new church, the push to establish an additional Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) church began years before the first families met in the Sylvania Township Hall. As early as the 1960s, local pastors were exploring the possibility of an additional WELS church. While nothing came to fruition at that time, an informational meeting was eventually hosted in 1977 to reopen the discussion. Those people met for services during the course of the year. When the group disbanded, the next effort wouldn't resurface until 1983. When that gathering took place Easter Sunday, the previous attempts became the group's fuel to succeed. The journey would be hard; it would be financially difficult; it would be frustrating. But it would also be joyous, glorifying and fulfilling. God's plan would test that small group of 20, but this time the determined souls would grow in number and persevere. This is Resurrection's story: a story of faith, trust and determination. This is a story that will, God-willing, continue for years to come.

*Mark 16:15 Go into all the world and
preach the good news to all creation.*

Late 1960s

The first attempts to establish an additional WELS congregation in West Toledo took place in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Pastor Arno Wolfgram (St. Andrew) and Pastor Reinhart Kom (Apostles) surveyed the area bounded by Secor and Douglas and Laskey and Central. Little is known about the results of these efforts or why nothing materialized.

Late 1970s

An informational meeting was hosted to determine the potential for starting a WELS mission in Bedford Township in Michigan. There was sufficient response to warrant the beginning of worship services. The Oddfellows Hall on Summerfield Road in Lambertville was rented and Sunday evening services of Resurrection Lutheran Church began in January 1978. Fifteen to 20 people attended. An outdoor Vacation Bible School (VBS) was hosted in a nearby park that summer. Pastor Thomas Bartz conducted worship service in Lambertville until December when the group disbanded. It would be almost five and half years until the next effort would be made.

April 3, 1983

Pastor Elton Bickel of Apostles Lutheran began to explore if there was an interest in starting a new mission in the Sylvania area because of the many members moving to the west side of Toledo. On Easter Sunday, April 3, 1983, 20 people attended the first worship service at the Sylvania Township Hall, 4927 Holland-Sylvania Road, where Bickel preached, and his wife, Donna Marie, served as organist. The offering yielded \$54.50, which was more than three times what was needed to cover the \$15 weekly rental fee.

March 7, 1984

Members Randy and Donna Rue opened their home for mid-week Lenten services.

May 1984

After 12 months, attendance averaged 17 per Sunday and offerings averaged \$339 per month. With \$4,000 in the bank and trust in their heart, the group decided to ask permission from the Mission Board to call a pastor. The group also made a three-year commitment to a storefront meeting place in the old Holly Farms Shopping Center, 2105 N. McCord Road.

Joshua 1:9 Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.

June 24, 1984

The last service was hosted at township hall.

July 1, 1984

The first service was held at the storefront church.

Luke 12:32 Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.



This was the worship area at Holly Farms Shopping Center.

FESTERLING YEARS

PASSION ~ MOMENTUM ~ PERSISTENCE



Missionary Howard Festerling accepted the call to serve May 10, 1984, and indicated he would return to the United States for installation in August. Energetic, extremely intelligent and full of passion, Pastor and his wife, Judi, and their three daughters, Lori, Jennifer and Kim, had been living in Indonesia for the previous six years. Earlier they had taught in Hong Kong for eight years. The family's new home would be at 5713 Hunting Creek Road, Toledo. "There are so many good memories of Resurrection," said Judi Festerling. Pastor died Jan. 8, 2013, and was too sick to speak before his death from cancer. Judi remembers how they both felt coming to help start a new church. "After being overseas for 13-plus years, the church was not only a place to worship, but also our family. Starting a church gave us a chance to know each one of the members personally," she said. The Festerlings' time at Resurrection would be busy as the family laid the foundation for the future.

MEMORIES

30 YEARS OF GOD'S GRACE

As a child of one of the "founding families" of Resurrection Lutheran Church, I have had many great memories throughout the years. You might expect me to mention the Christmas tree bonfires at the Thompsons, or the shenanigans of our Catechism class with Pastor Festerling. My family probably expects me to write about passing the bulletin to mom, Barry Sanders statistics or any other number of inside jokes. But I would have to say my favorite memory was when Bob Bunce called me up to the front of the church during a Festival of Friendship service many years ago. Prior to the service he explained to me that he wanted me to help him illustrate how helpless we are without God in our lives. When I got up there in front of the especially large congregation that day, I played along, thinking I knew what was going to happen. Mr. Bunce, a local police chief, then proceeded to handcuff me to the railing, much to the delight of everyone in attendance. You see, I was unable to move without his help, much like we need God in our life to truly unlock our chains. I will never forget that moment, or that man. And all these years later, I still remember that message. I am sure that I am not the only one.

Andy Good

Aug. 1, 1984

Bickel wrote to the congregation informing them that "this will probably be the last letter that you will receive from me on behalf of Resurrection Church, and next Sunday will be the last Sunday that I will be preaching for Resurrection. Other area pastors will be filling in the next two Sundays."

Aug. 19, 1984

Festerling was installed as pastor of Resurrection. The ceremony was hosted at Apostles Lutheran Church.

December 1984

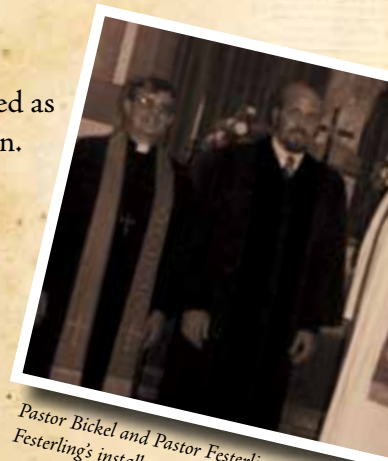
Attendance averaged 38 per Sunday.

January 1985

Plans were laid and committees were appointed for an ambitious outdoor VBS.

April 7, 1985

The first outdoor Easter worship service was held. This service was hosted at Crosby Gardens on Elmer Road.



Pastor Bickel and Pastor Festerling at Festerling's installation on Aug. 19, 1984.

1 Thessalonians 4:14 We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

May 19, 1985

Pastor's daughter, Jennifer Festerling, became the first confirmand of Resurrection.

June 23, 1985

A float was entered into the Holland Strawberry Festival Parade to advertise the upcoming VBS. Forty children attended VBS in a rented 40-by-60 tent erected on the empty lot south of Holly Farms Shopping Center. Eventually, Resurrection would become known for its innovative outdoor VBS program.

December 1985

Attendance averaged 39 per Sunday.

April 4, 1986

The first marriage at Resurrection, uniting Ralph Fuehr and Matilda Koschalk, was performed.

April 16, 1986

The congregation was upgraded from "exploratory mission" to full "mission status."



Ralph Fuehr and Matilda Koschalk getting married April 4, 1986. This was the first marriage at Resurrection.

MEMORIES

It was Easter 1986. Brandi was 7; Brit was not quite 3. There was an Easter egg hunt at Holly Farms on McCord where we were renting our space for our church during Pastor Festerling's tenure. Moping, Brandi went up to her dad and told him she couldn't find one egg. Then here comes her baby sister running up with a basket spilling over with eggs.

Karen Barhite

My favorite memories would have to be all the scavenger hunts. For example, when Tom Phipps was driving like a mad man trying to beat Pastor Festerling to the dinner spot, and I was thinking, "Pastor has God on his side." Another "favorite memory" was when me and Brandi Barhite led the youth group up to the YMCA with all the other church kids and had a lock-in. I loved my time at Resurrection and have never felt the "family" environment I had there. Also, I loved the geography lessons we had during Sunday School with Mr. Emil Stender, especially since I have been deployed to most of them. Every time I set foot in one of the countries, I remember the historical/Biblical events that took place so many years ago.

Jason Kraemer

MEMORIES

I remember when we were in the Strawberry Festival Parade and my husband Bob Bunce got hit by another float and started swearing. Another time when we were involved in Vacation Bible School, we were visited by a young mom with a small child and he recognized Bob as being his teacher at VBS years ago. Wonderful memories!

Shelley Bunce Yost

Epiphany at the Thompson's house was always a memorable time. Each family would bring their dried-up Christmas tree and make a big pile in the backyard. We would light the trees on fire, and then Pastor Festerling would lead us in a simple service with candles and hymns. Afterward we would head inside for food and fellowship. We enjoyed it whether it was too cold, too windy, hair catching on fire or trees sprayed with flame retardant. That's one of my fond memories of Resurrection.

Teena Good

Aug. 4-9, 1986

Sixty-six children attended VBS.

November 1986

First discussions about the plans for permanent facilities occurred because of the pending expiration of the rental contract on the storefront June 30, 1987.

Jan. 20, 1987

The first meeting of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society was hosted. Elected were: Betty Thompson, president; Shelley Bunce, vice president; Marilyn Conner, secretary.

Easter 1987

The outdoor service was moved to Wildwood Metropark because of city prohibition of religious services at Crosby Gardens.

June 19, 1987

Resurrection was legally incorporated in Ohio.

October 1987

The parsonage at 2425 Carriage Drive was purchased in June for \$84,000 with a loan from the WELS Church Extension Fund. It was dedicated Oct. 18.

December 1987

Attendance averaged 49 per Sunday.



Keith and Betty Thompson opened their backyard to an Epiphany tradition of burning Christmas trees. This signaled the end of the Christmas season and the revelation of Him who is the Light of the World.

January 1988

An Epiphany tradition was started at the home of Keith and Betty Thompson. Members brought their Christmas trees to be burnt. This signaled the end of the Christmas season and the revelation of Him who is the Light of the World.

Jan., 26, 1988

The WELS Board for Home Missions approved a loan of \$360,000 for a 3,700-square-foot chapel.

March 31, 1988

Resurrection members attended the funeral of Matilda Koschalk, the first of the church family to pass away.

June 28, 1988

The last service at Holly Farms storefront was hosted and the following Sunday, the congregation began meeting at the Southwest YMCA on South Holland-Sylvania Road, just several doors north of the property being acquired for building a chapel.

MEMORIES

I remember attending catechism on Saturday mornings with Jason Kraemer. His mom, Pam Kraemer, would pick me up, and Jason and I would finish our homework in the car. Catechism was always hosted in Pastor Festerling's office at our old church on McCord. The building would never warm up in the winter, so we would shiver in our winter coats as we recited Bible verses. Afterward, my mom would pick us up. I had baton lessons and sometimes Jason would come along to watch. Then my mom would buy us lunch. Jason was my best church buddy.

Brandi Barbite

I remember the times that Bob Bunce and I were on church council together, and we and the other councilmen were responsible for making Easter breakfast. It was such a joy to see the anticipation and excitement on the faces of the children waiting to be served pancakes.

Tom Phipps

I have fond memories of meeting at the Y next door. I was looking for a church to go to when I saw the sign at the YMCA. Then I forgot where I had seen it as I never went down that street. It took me four months to see it again and I am happy I transferred to this church.

Ruth Ann Barkhimer

MEMORIES

My memory is of 2-year-old Sarah sitting in the front left of the room at the YMCA. She was perfectly quiet to sit and listen in the front corner of the room. I also remember the boys staining the knees of their white slacks the day of the ground-breaking. I never could get rid of that stain.

Joe Rupp

My daughter Erin and I attended Resurrection for the first time on Easter 1991 at the YMCA. The classroom where the service was held had an egg incubator, and Pastor Festerling pointed out how the chickens were all hatching that Easter morning! I will always remember my first time attending because of that. Another memory I have is of Pastor Mittelstadt's son Jed's baptism. My husband Jeff was a witness for the baptism and there was a huge snowstorm that Sunday; it was mistakenly put on TV that the church was closed so the only people at church were the Mittelstadts and us! There was also supposed to be a chili cook-off that day so there was a whole lot of chili left over!

Laura Gschwind Stone

Pastor Festerling, Bob Bunce and Mike Barhite stood on the newly purchased church property.



July 1988

VBS was hosted on the new church property even though Resurrection did not yet own it. Fifty children attended. The outdoor closing service July 24 included the baptism of Tyler Babione, and Steven, Shawn and Seth Cook.

August 1988

The purchase of 3.8 acres of land at the corner of Holland-Sylvania and Perrysburg-Holland roads was finalized at a cost of \$90,000 with a loan from the WELS Church Extension Fund.

December 1988

Attendance averaged 49 per Sunday.

April 1989

The building committee was formed: Mike Barhite, Robert Bunce, Jim Hays, Rex Yarger, Glenn Yarger, Ralph Fuehr, Ron Scharer, Rolland Davis, Keith Thompson and Pastor Festerling.

May 1989

A breakfast Bible study was started at White Tower on Airport Highway.

November 1989

Interviews with architects began.

December 1989

A "Future Home of Resurrection Church" sign was completed by Jim and Lillian Hays; and attendance averaged 44 per Sunday at Resurrection.



Luke 18:16,17 Jesus called the children to him and said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."



The big tent was a signature of Vacation Bible School at Resurrection.

MEMORIES

My family and I first came to Resurrection for the dedication of the original building. I remember that there was a full house and we were seated in folding chairs at the back of the sanctuary. We transferred our membership about a year later because there were lots of other families with children the same age as my girls. I was always very impressed with Pastor Festerling's memory for names. He made a point of greeting all of the visitors before the service. Then he would introduce them to the congregation by name during the announcements at the end of the service.

Scott Wilson

I remember hanging countless door hangers on so many neighbors' front doors for all of our festivals and special activities. It has been great to see so many people grow up at Resurrection like the Good boys and the Barhite girls. It has been sad to see some pass too early like Mr. Bunce and now my father.

Jennifer Festerling

Feb. 11, 1990

First Festival of Friendship was hosted.

March 18, 1990

The treasurer reported that the church was "in the black."

April 15, 1990

Ground was broken for the new church on Easter Sunday. Initial church plans and models were displayed.

May 20, 1990

Master plan was approved by council and sent to the WELS Mission Board for approval.

August 1990

Master plan was approved by Synod. Work proceeded on drawings for the new church.

December 1990

Attendance averaged 57 per Sunday.

March 29, 1991

Bidding began on new church construction. Symbolically, it was Good Friday.

March 31, 1991

The outdoor Easter service was canceled for the first time because of the cold weather. Ninety-one attended the indoor service.

April 24, 1991

Bids from six contractors were opened and reviewed.

May 5, 1991

The congregation signed a contract with Bucher Construction for \$307,000.

June 1, 1991

Construction began! A number of items were deleted from the bid to save money (painting, landscaping, kitchen cabinets and installation). Resurrection members once again stepped up to fill the needs.

June 23, 1991

The first pictorial directory of church members was published.



Construction on Resurrection started in June 1991



Aerial view of the newly built Resurrection in 1992.

Oct. 1, 1991

Church organist and longtime encourager of the building project, Marilyn Conner, died suddenly, five weeks from the church dedication day.

Nov. 10, 1991

Dedication Day! Pastor Peter Kruschel of the WELS Mission Board preached; Pastors Bickel and Festerling served as liturgists; Betty Thompson and Kim Dicks served as organists/pianists. Hilda Shuster directed the area WELS choir, while Thompson directed Resurrection's choir. More than 300 came to worship.

December 1991

Attendance averaged 71 per Sunday.

Nov. 22, 1992

Pastor Festerling received a call to serve as a team leader of an exploratory mission to Vancouver, British Columbia.

December 1992

Attendance averaged 72 per Sunday.

Jan. 10, 1993

Pastor Festerling announced that he accepted the call to serve in Vancouver. He served until a new pastor was named.

Mark 16:15 Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.

MITTELSTADT YEARS

GROWTH ~ OUTREACH ~ GRACE



Pastor Festerling with his wife, Judi, and daughter, Lori, while still at Resurrection.



Pastor Jeff Mittelstadt and his wife, Krista, accepted the call and were assigned to Resurrection on May 17, 1993. Younger than most of Resurrection's members, he had just graduated from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. "It felt extremely humbling when the members of Resurrection, after 10 years of momentum and putting up a brand-new facility, were so willing to take Krista and me in," Pastor Mittelstadt said. "I was so young, so inexperienced, but the church family treated me with respect and honor. It was rather easy to see that the Lord was the one bringing us together and bonding us together for his saving work. We grew in grace together. It was all extremely exciting right from the start, and the thrill continued for over 10 years." One of his best memories was how Resurrection exuded a close-knit family feel. Mittelstadt also appreciated the congregation's willingness to take faith risks at critical times without ignoring the tangible facts and finances. He was also impressed with the "steady consistent persistent determination" to make outreach a priority in the budget, he said. Mittelstadt recalled how the VBS commitment of time and money started long before he arrived, but continued to grow under his tenure. He was also proud of starting a second service during his time at Resurrection. "I remember Don and Marilyn Walker and Don and Pat Burgoon arriving 7:30 a.m. sharp every Sunday to reserve their front-row pew," he said. During Mittelstadt's years, with the new church built, the focus shifted to increasing the number of members and opportunities to share God's word. As the church grew, though, so did the need for a larger facility. Mittelstadt's family grew with the church. When he started at Resurrection, he had no children. When he left he had four. He and Krista now have six children: Alana, Chloe, Josiah, Jed, Jonah and Jerusha.

1995

Attendance averaged 70 per Sunday.

Early 1996

Council discussed the need to move Sunday School classrooms out of the back of the church because of the noise and lack of space; Mittelstadt started hosting children services at the altar, a first for Resurrection.

October 1997

The Expansion Committee officially formed: Jim Lynch, Chuck Iffland, Glenn Yarger, and Pastor Mittelstadt. The committee recommended an expansion plan that included a larger parking lot, a fellowship hall and classroom space.

June 6-7, 1998

All-member meeting called to hear and discuss expansion concept. The initial committee estimated that \$140,000 would be needed before breaking ground.

Aug. 9, 1998

The congregation was jump-started with the return of 12-month pledges that totaled \$69,744. The estimated cost of project was now \$300,000.

December 1998

Attendance averaged 88 per Sunday. The decision was made to remodel garage into classrooms.

MEMORIES

My favorite memories from Resurrection are from before the expansion, when we used to have big tent VBS. The whole week was fun, but the best part was the last day. Being there all day for VBS, then setting up for the evening closing program, then tearing everything down after was so much fun, especially since Pastor Mittelstadt's daughter, Alana, and I just ran around playing games the whole time. Then the best part of that day was after everything was cleaned up and we went over to Joe's Crab Shack and played on the sand playground while all the adults ate. Those years of VBS were the best; everyone was there all the time and we all had so much fun.

Molly Wheeler

One of my fondest memories at Resurrection has to be while I was an elder when Pastor Mittelstadt took the call. He asked me if I would be willing to lead the congregation for services until we called a vacancy pastor. I was able to write my own sermons and it turned out to be an awesome experience! While I was giving one of my sermons, I saw a visitor in the pews, a 20-something lady who I had never seen before. As I delivered the sermon, I watched as she listened and it moved her to tears. Very powerful! Just goes to show you that if God calls you, He will equip you to do His work!

Marc Ripmaster

MEMORIES

Some of my favorite memories from Resurrection include Sunday School and catechism class. Although it was usually chilly out in the barn for Sunday School classes, Mr. Sipes kept us engaged and excited to see each other each Sunday. I remember making a "Go Tell It On The Mountain" banner for church, and talking through many of our high school experiences. My other great memories are with Katie Screptock and Casey Brubaker during our two years of Catechism. We worked our way through each lesson by eating the powder from lemonade mixtures with one ice cube and a spoon. It was funny that Pastor Middelstadt never questioned us for eating pure sugar! It has been a blessing to grow up in the Resurrection family.

Brianne Barbite

Jim Price broke ground on the church expansion in 2005.



September 1999

New parking lot put down with 30-plus new spaces. This was a much-needed improvement and made parking a bit easier on Sundays.

August 2000

Remodeled classrooms were completed.

October 2001

A three-year plan developed and promoted to drop the church's mortgage to \$200,000 by 2004. This was key to starting the expansion.

April 2004

Buehrer Group of Maumee was hired to design the expansion. Church member Jim Price worked for Buehrer and played a key role in designing the expansion. The vision was to build a fellowship hall, full kitchen, education classrooms, offices, balcony and additional bathrooms.

August 2005

Voters gathered to review bids.

October 2005

Groundbreaking on the expansion project took place.

November 2005

Construction began. Trees were removed; the foundation and underground lines were laid. Voters decided the balcony portion of the project would not be completed at this time.

December 2005

Exterior and interior walls were completed.



The newly expanded church included a fellowship hall, Sunday School rooms and offices.

January 2006

Demolition work began in the entryway and bathrooms to prep for remodeling. Decorating committee determined carpet, flooring, paint and wood stain choices.

February 2006

The roof was completed and the windows were installed.

March 2006

The exterior was finished.

April 2006

Appliances, furniture/furnishing were approved and purchased. The church hosted a light Easter breakfast in the brand-new fellowship hall.

May 21, 2006

Expansion dedication; Pastor Mittelstadt wrote: "With all of these changes comes a great challenge. These new rooms will not bring people to Jesus Christ. It is you and I who have the personal privilege to do that. This new space is a tool to help us boldly proclaim the saving message of sins forgiven. We intend to use this new space to better share Jesus with the people of Maumee, Holland and the entire Toledo area."

MEMORIES

My favorite memory at Resurrection is the Christmas Eve children's services. When I was younger, I had so much fun playing various roles, including an angel and a narrator. The music during the Christmas service was also beautiful and I loved singing to my favorite hymns. Of course, I can't forget the best part – the snack bags we got as kids at the conclusion of the service!

Brittany Barbite

As with all memories some become sweeter with age. Some of my favorite memories were made outside in the "big tent" VBS. Regardless of the weather, storms, rain, excessive heat and humidity and the ants and gnats, we all had a lot of fun! We had a reputation for outside fun and it was different from everyone else in the area. My favorite VBS was when Dave and I built the inside of the "whale's body" with PVC piping and large canvases. I was the storyteller for Jonah and the Big Fish. The kids had to crawl into a small hole to get inside the dark belly; some did not like the dark! As they came in they were misted with water while ocean noises were playing. We handed each a small flashlight to be able to see. They saw firsthand how lonely and scared Jonah must have been. As the story ended they were "spit" out onto land again.

Julee Sipes

December 2006

Attendance averaged 115 per Sunday.

October 2006

Pastor received a call to serve at Christ Lutheran Church of N. St. Paul and Hugo, Minn. He accepted the call in November.

Dec., 25, 2006

Pastor Mittelstadt performed his last service at Resurrection.

*1 Peter 3:15 In your hearts set apart Christ as Lord.
Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who
asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.*

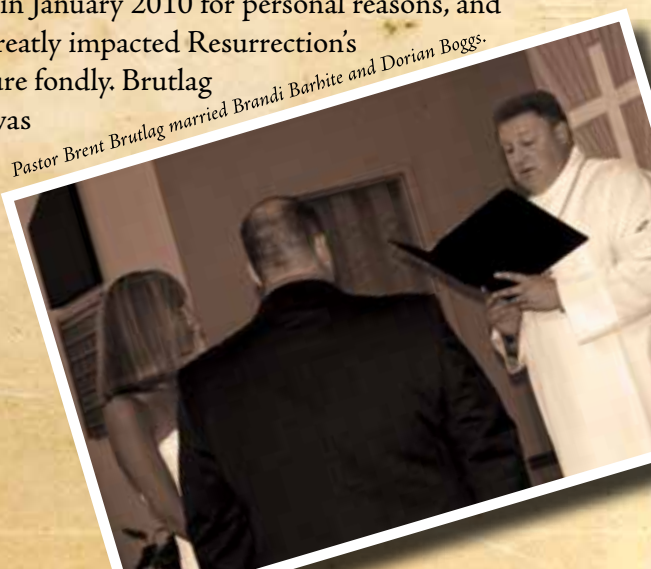
BRUTLAG YEARS

INNOVATION ~ EVANGELISM ~ INTELLECT



Pastor Brent Brutlag became Resurrection's third pastor in early 2007. He came from Crown of Life Evangelical Church in Michigan with his wife, Jessica, daughter, Alyssa and sons, Connor and Collin. Brutlag, a former college football player, brought realness to the pulpit that energized the services. Unfortunately, he only served Resurrection for a short time. He resigned in January 2010 for personal reasons, and died August 2012. This greatly impacted Resurrection's

members who remembered his short tenure fondly. Brutlag was lauded for the Family Fun Fest that was organized to reach out to those without a church home. The Sunday afternoon included inflatables, ice cream, games and a pig roast. He was also complimented for his Taize service. "Experiencing the Taize service was really moving," said member Jackie Wheeler. "It was night and the lighting was set to be dim and there were several pots of sand holding



Pastor Brent Brutlag married Brandi Barbite and Dorian Boggs.

those same skinny beeswax candles, which were lit on the altar. The music was repetitive and the whole service was so much more ritualistic and spiritual than any other worship service that I had ever experienced. During one long repetitive song, we took our candles and put them in the pots on the altar any time during the song that we wanted to. Pastor Brutlag worked very hard to make every service focused completely on glorifying our Lord and Savior.” With his passing, the congregation mourned. His funeral was the largest ever hosted at Resurrection. His obituary outlined his impact on the entire WELS community. “Brent served as District Worship Coordinator for the MI District of WELS and as a regular consultant for WELS School of Worship Enrichment. It was a special joy of his to serve as sacristan for the WELS National Conference on Worship, Music, and the Arts. Brent was widely read in Lutheran history and articulate in Lutheran theology. The Lutheran Church’s German roots were of special interest to him,” the obituary stated.

NASS YEARS

HOPE ~ IMPROVEMENT ~ GENEROSITY



With Brutlag’s resignation, Resurrection was anxious for a new pastor. God’s work still needed to be done. On call day at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Pastor Timothy Nass

received the call to Resurrection and was installed as pastor on

July 11, 2010. His father, Thomas, preached him as his wife, Jessica, and son, Andrew, looked on. His family has now grown to include Joel and twins, Noah and Jacob. Early in his tenure, Nass would be involved with the congregation’s desire to make much-needed improvements to the aging sanctuary. It had always been a simple place of worship, and now with a solid 163 members, it was time to see if they wanted to invest in a renovation. The campaign would be called “Giving God the Glory.”

John 14:27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Matthew 28:18-20 All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

MEMORIES

I visited Resurrection about the same time Pastor Brutlag arrived. He was greeting people pew-by-pew after service and after saying hello, he said he was new and did not remember my name. I told him that was understandable as I was new myself – a first-timer, in fact.

Gary Diesing

We joined Resurrection in 2006. It's difficult to say just one thing is my favorite memory, but if I had to choose something, I would say, seeing so many members volunteer for Vacation Bible School in 2012. It was my first full year being outreach coordinator on council, and people all pitched in to ensure a successful VBS would happen.

Jeff Skebba

My favorite memory of our church occurred on Dec. 5, 2010. We were blessed to have our son Callen baptized on the same day as Airica Benko. What made this day especially memorable for me is having my whole family represented in church for this blessed event. My dad, Jim Zell, was WELS and so he took communion with my husband, TC, and me. Three weeks later he died in a natural gas explosion. Now that both my dad and Airica reside with our Lord, I have great peace during every communion at Resurrection.

Jamie Clements

Sept. 21, 2010

Resurrection's church council discussed the idea of forming a renovation committee and announced an open forum.

November 2010 – January 2011

The Sanctuary Renovation Committee was formed and met several times to discuss goals and to interview consultants. The committee included: Chairman Carl Wheeler, Don Balazs, Crystal Brooks, Roger Cline, Marc Ripmaster, Julee Sipes, Leslee Skebba, Betty Thompson and Pastor Nass.

Feb. 6, 2011

Resurrection voters approved the renovation committee's recommendation to move into the planning stage of the sanctuary renovation and to hire Massmann Studios as the consultant.

May 2011

The committee presented a summary of goals for the renovated sanctuary, along with printed copies of the concepts. Congregation purchased an almost-new Yamaha C2 grand piano.

June 5, 2011

Resurrection voters decided to move into the schematic phase of the renovation project, using the "one room" concept without a balcony. Total funds available for the renovation: \$85,465.63.

Summer 2011

The capital campaign for the project was presented to the congregation using the theme "Giving God the Glory." The committee looked at cross/crucifix options and began designing the altar, pulpit and font.

Nov. 6, 2011

Resurrection's voters decided to continue moving forward with the renovation according to the plans presented. By the end of November, the amount given and pledged was \$180,396.63.

January and February 2012

Although current funds were not sufficient for the whole project, the committee moved forward, finalized all the details and got a bid. If necessary, the seating order through Sauder could be postponed.

Aug. 5, 2012

Resurrection voted to move into construction. The estimated total of \$245,265 included everything necessary for construction, but not the seating order. God's plan was under way, although no one was sure how the congregation would pay for the seating.

Fall 2012

The construction contract was prepared, reviewed and officially signed Oct. 16. The plan was to start construction after Christmas and finish before Easter.

MEMORIES

Every sermon is a chance to bring God's Word home to people's hearts, and every sermon in some way or other points to our Savior, Jesus. But sometimes there's a sermon text that points to Jesus in a way that's just so simple ... so clear ... so beautiful. Combine that with an opportunity to speak to people who don't have the peace that comes from knowing Jesus through faith, and you have one of those moments when being a pastor is such a joy. The candlelight service last Christmas Eve was one of those times. In the darkness of a sanctuary lit with candles, looking out at souls and knowing that many of them were visitors or guests who had little or no regular contact with God's love in Jesus, I had the privilege of preaching the simple gospel recorded in John chapter 1. Jesus is the light who shines in the darkness of this world with the light of forgiveness.

Pastor Tim Nass

So much of the time I think about my daughter Airica while I'm at church and I feel her funeral is my most vivid memory at Resurrection. But I also remember her baptism, and AJ and Alizabeth's baptisms and the promise that God gave to them when they were baptized and gives me comfort.

Angela Benko

MEMORIES

I would have to say my favorite memory at Resurrection would have to be the day my little Zachary became a child of God through the holy sacrament of baptism. Just being a witness to something so powerful is joyous for any child or adult, but when it is your own child it is certainly one of the greatest blessings.

Nichole Westfall

I was thankful that I got to be involved with some of the great ladies through HHFC. But the best memory for me would be our choir. We may be small in number, but boy did we have strong beautiful voices. I am so thankful to have been able to add to the worship with our God-given talents.

Naoko Aminaka

I think my favorite memory was when I had Christmas Eve dinner at Resurrection. We lived about 30 minutes away from church and we needed to stay for both Christmas services so my family just brought our ham dinner along with us. We invited those who needed to stay so Papa Strane, Naoko, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas, and Mrs. Josza joined us. It was a wonderful experience celebrating our Savior's birth with my church family at the Christmas Eve services and around dinner. I felt so blessed! Still at Christmas time, my family talks about that Christmas as our favorite one.

Evelyn Frandle

Dec. 30, 2012

Resurrection worshiped for the final time in the old sanctuary and moved into the fellowship hall.



Pastor Nass with newly confirmed members, Bethany Price, Noah Balazs and Jason Wheeler

Jan. 8, 2013

Construction began! God's grace was evident once again as the project moved on schedule with no major issues. Part-way through construction, a group of Resurrection's members decided to fund the seating order in time for dedication.



The newly renovated church was dedicated April 14, 2013.

March 31, 2013

Easter was celebrated in the new sanctuary.

April 14, 2013

The renovated sanctuary was dedicated to the glory of God and the salvation of souls.

1 Corinthians 15:57,58 Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

John 11:25,26 I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die.

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Christ's Love, Our Calling.

