

Welcome All. Tell The Story. Grow As Disciples.

November 2022

www.RELC.org
3500 Main St., Hilliard, OH 43026

"Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples;³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."³³ They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin.³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever.³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."
John 8:31-36

We read John 8:31-36 every Reformation Sunday. I don't usually preach it because I like to preach the Old Testament lesson. However, I think spending a little more time with this reading could be helpful. Specifically, what does it mean when Jesus says "you will be free indeed" ?

Our question starts in the same place that the people who are around Jesus start with: what do you mean we aren't free? We are Americans after all. We have rights and freedoms we use every day. There are choices we make with our free will. Of course we are free.

But the simple truth is that while yes we make choices every day, the choices we make usually lead us toward less freedom and not more. Let's just take free speech as an example. Yes, you have the freedom to say what you want, but often we use it to get into fights and say nasty things to strangers on the internet. Does that really make us free? Jesus' answer to that question is a resounding no. Again and again our choices don't make us free, but lead to slavery, as he says in the reading. Our choices lead us to less and less freedom.

So what's the answer? Jesus says the only way out is him. The irony is that the way to true freedom is through less choice. We are to surrender our choices and follow Jesus because he is the only one who knows the way out. Following Jesus will mean a little less choice, but a lot more new life.

So the only question then is what choice is Jesus taking away from you? Following Jesus will mean that some choices are no longer possible for us. Maybe it means you don't post that cruel response to someone online or maybe it means you don't try and guilt someone for not living like you want them too. Whatever it is for you, it will feel like a loss of choice, but I promise you will be more free in the end.

Peace,
Pastor Dave



Bible Study with Pastor Dave

Tuesday at 11 am at RELC & Thursday at 7 pm via ZOOM
(Email pastordave@relc.org for the ZOOM link)
All are invited—join when you can!



PRAYER REQUESTS

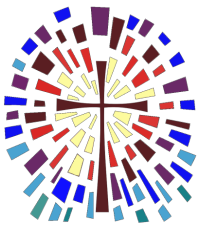


Please send any requests to
prayerteam@relc.org

or contact the office at
614-876-7926,
or by email office@relc.org



Finnegan Biggert Baptized



Welcome All. Tell The Story. Grow As Disciples.



Self-Study: Each week there is a worksheet with a Bible reading available with questions to explore more of the story. Please grab one from the bulletin table Sunday mornings, the binders in the narthex, read it online {[RELc.org](https://www.relc.org) under the Grow tab} or reach out to the office at office@relc.org



Church in Space, RELC's innovative podcast exploring the fertile ground between science fiction and religion. No matter how spaced-out Drew Nelsen and Dan Mushalko get, Pastor Dave Kamphuis sees the seeds of a Bible lesson. Sometimes Dave delivers hard-hitting theology; other times, it's an excuse to share a Martin Luther quote about beer. Find out why **Church in Space** has a growing worldwide audience -- tune in on your favorite podcast platform, on Podbean at <https://bit.ly/ChurchInSpace> , or on the RELC website at www.relc.org/podcast-2/ .



Q & A with The Pastor and the Recovering Heretic

If you've ever had questions about your faith, or questioned if you should even *have* faith, join us for **The Pastor and the Recovering Heretic** every Sunday after service. It's an open discussion about anything you've ever wondered about religion. As a recovering heretic, Dan Mushalko takes no Church teaching at face value...while Pastor Dave Kamphuis taps his vast knowledge of Church history and theology to fill in the gaps of our doubt. Most importantly, they take *your* questions, too. Join us around 11:15am live in the Worship & Life Center, or on our live YouTube stream at <https://bit.ly/RELc-QA> .

Q & A will take a break most of Nov. starting back up Nov. 27th.
Please enjoy any you have previously missed on our YouTube channel.

Nurses Notes - Fall is a time to get the flu vaccinations.

Updated booster vaccines targeting the latest COVID-19 variants are now recommended for those eligible under CDC guidelines. A Pfizer-BioNTech booster for ages 12 and older and a Moderna booster for ages 18 and older. It doesn't matter which vaccines you have had in the past; you can stay with the same company or mix and match. As always if you have questions talk to your primary care physicians.



November Worship Assistants

	<u>Assisting Minister</u>	<u>Lector</u>	<u>2 Ushers</u>	<u>2 Greeters</u>
11/6	Barb Emmets	Janet Poulson	????	????
11/13	Tricia Ohler	Donna Suain	????	????
11/20	Renee Mushalko	????	????	????
11/27	Andy Ohler	Karen Harvey	????	????

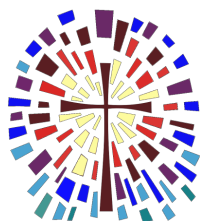
WANTED Happy Smiling Welcoming People to serve as GREETERS & USHERS ON SUNDAY MORNING



We know that we are a Friendly and Welcoming community, just notice how long we "Share the Peace" every Sunday. So why is it so hard to get volunteers to be Greeters or Ushers on Sunday morning? There are a few folks who do the job every week, but there are LOTS MORE of us who would be GREAT at meeting and greeting those who come through the doors on Sunday or handing our bulletins and directing guest. Whether it's someone we've known for years, or someone we recognize but don't know their name, or someone who is visiting for the 1st time, being welcomed by a smiling face, a handshake, or maybe a hug is a perfect way to begin Sunday worship. **So why not give it a try, sign up for one Sunday morning maybe once a month, or every other month. Ideally it would be best to have at least 2 - 3 people each week so that both sets of doors can be covered; and it would also be best to be at the doors by 9:30am to catch those early arrivers.**

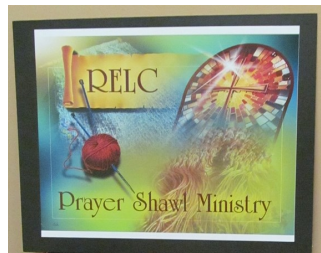


Congratulations to Saydi Tumeo, Pierce Kountz, and Benjamin Baker on their confirmation.

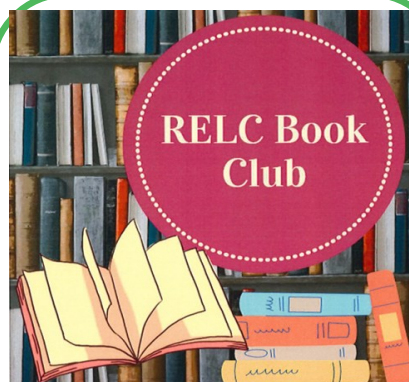


Welcome All. Tell The Story. Grow As Disciples.

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY



The Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to work on shawls and patches at home. WooHoo! Thank you to all the knitters and crocheters that made patches for Operation Christmas Child. 450 of them! You rock! If you knit or crochet and are willing to make some patches, we would really appreciate that. Yarn is available in the cabinets in the sacristy. Any questions call Barb Emmets.



REL C Book Club will meet Tuesday, November 15 at 7:00 pm

This month's book is *Seven Perfect Things* by Catherine Ryan Hyde

- Jan. 17th *The Book Club* by Mary Alice Monroe
- Feb. 21st *The Goodbye Quilt* by Susan Wiggs



No Theology on Tap in Nov. or Dec., but it looks like everyone who came out in October had fun!



Theology on Tap meets once a month usually on the 4th Tuesday of the month for fellowship and discussion on how faith influences what we think about current events and the world around us. October's discussion was around

Acts 2:42-47 and disciples.



REL C Lunch Ladies

Saturday, December 10th at 12pm. We will have our holiday meal at Heritage Golf Club

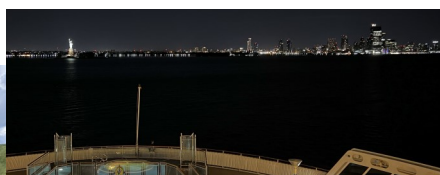
in Hilliard. {3525 Heritage Club Dr, Hilliard, OH 43026}

Please bring either hats & gloves to donate or items specifically requested by LSS - Body wash, lotion & deodorant [gender-neutral]; baby bottles & sippy cups; or baby wipes. Please RSVP to the office for an accurate head count. office@relc.org or 614-876-7926

Our October lunch was great fun seeing all of Kathy's amazing photos from her trip to Ireland. Thanks to Sue, Kathy and Carol for an amazing Ladies Lunch.



HERITAGE
GOLF CLUB



NYC skyline from the ship



Cliffs of Moher



St Colman's Cathedral



Dark Hedges



Jerpoint Abbey

Men's Fella-ship Breakfast

Saturday, November 12th @ 8:30am



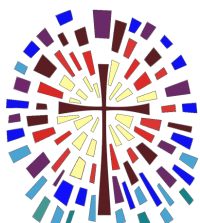
All Men Welcome!

Thanks to the guys for creating new compost bins after their last breakfast in October.



Annual Meeting Sunday, Nov 20th

Please plan to stick around after service for the meeting, or stay logged in online. There will be no Q & A.



Welcome All. Tell The Story. Grow As Disciples.

1st English Meals Ministry – The next breakfast will be Sunday, November 13, with prep on Saturday, November 12. *If anyone is interested in helping with prep or service please see Kathy Rotolo (email kathy.rotolo@relc.org or phone 380-212-7052.)*

Do you know.....



Angela Bontz is a member of council, and helps run Property and BOLD. Angela has been at RELC since 1986, a coworker of her mom's invited the family to attend. Some of Angela's hobbies include sewing, reading and spending time with family. When Angela first came to Columbus/Hilliard as a preteen, she wanted to make friends and fit in. So she became a Buckeye Fan!! She will admit "I was raised right" - even if it was by those crazy Xichigan people. Angela had a 12 year career in Preschool and is currently now in her 12th year as a school bus driver. The Longevity of RELC is something she loves. "RELC has always been a home to me, even after an absence."



The BOLD crew having a little fun on Halloween!! Thanks for all your hard work to our very own 7 Dwarfs!!

Thrivent Action Teams

Many members of our congregation have Insurance, Investments, or other accounts with Thrivent. What you may not know is that Thrivent uses Action Teams to help their members give back to their communities.

Last month, volunteers worked on an Action Team project to expand and improve our Compost bins for the Giving Garden. Thrivent provided \$250 towards the cost of the project as well as some swag (wonderfully comfortable t-shirts!). The new setup is already hard at work creating soil amendment for next year's garden.



Next month, Melanie Anderson is going to be putting together Shelter Hygiene Kits for Lutheran Social Services. These kits are distributed to many who frequent the LSS Shelters. You can help by dropping off some of the following items by December 1st. The kits will be assembled and taken to the shelter in early December--look for more info or contact Melanie Anderson for more info.

LSS Hygiene Kit Needs (Full Size bottles, please) :

Shampoo, Lotion, Deodorant, Toothbrushes, Conditioner, Body Wash



Do you have a small project in mind that could make a big impact on someone in our community? Are you a Thrivent account holder who would like more information on Action teams? Bridget Daniels is working to match Action Team ideas and Thrivent account holders. She would love to walk you through making your idea (or someone else's) a reality.



Together, we can save a life



We ended up collecting 42 units of blood on our 27 unit goal drive. Those 42 units of blood have the potential to save 126 lives!!!



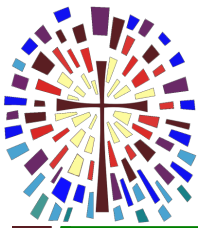
Red Cross Blood Drive @ RELC 11-5pm

Tuesday, November 29, 2022

To schedule an appointment visit

RedCrossBlood.org

or call 1-800-RED CROSS or scan the QR code to the left.



Welcome All. Tell The Story. Grow As Disciples.



Giving Garden Update November 2022

November is here and this is the month set aside for giving thanks especially on Thanksgiving Day which was first celebrated in 1621. After the Pilgrims' first corn harvest proved successful, the Plymouth colonists and the Wampanoag wanted to celebrate, so they shared an autumn harvest feast which lasted 3 days. Not much is known about what they ate but one can only hope that some of the foods that we enjoy in the 21st century is similar to the foods they shared on that special day.

Seems appropriate that we celebrate the 2022 Giving Garden harvest total this month. This year we donated to BOLD 842# of fresh vegetables, an impressive increase of 140% over last year's harvest. We too are like the pilgrims, as we learned new ways to garden and then shared our harvest bounty with our BOLD community. Each Monday is definitely a Thanksgiving Day for our church.

Here is a big THANK YOU for all your support and prayers for the Giving Garden ministry. May you continue to be thankful in all that God provides.

Serving Him who gives me more than I can imagine,

~Carol Williams



How Are We Doing? October Stewardship Update

It's been a while since I wrote one of these, primarily because nothing was changing except for the numbers. In the three years since we called Pastor Dave, "Year To Date Giving" exceeded "Year To Date Expenses" every month. What does that mean? The simple answer is that God has blessed us through your giving such that we were able to pay our expenses from the current year's giving instead of having to dip into our reserves.

This summer, we had to make a decision about repairing or replacing the Heat and Air Conditioning unit in the Narthex. FESTA was in full swing, making the decision all the more important. Everyone involved in the decision making process felt that it was more financially responsible to pay for replacing the unit than to pay for a repair that would likely lead to another bill down the road. The total cost was about \$18,000, which meant that our expenses through September exceeded giving to that point by \$14,000.

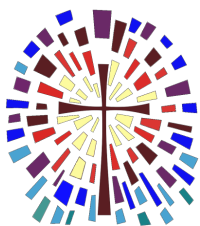
To be clear, this not a declaration of financial emergency or even an ask for additional giving. It is to answer the question that we so often ask...how are we doing? This expense will not cause us to spend over our approved budget for the year.

Our yearly giving has exceeded yearly expenses...except for that pesky HVAC unit. Our giving has not fulfilled our budget though...we just haven't spent to our budget. I'm proud of this church for being responsible stewards of God's blessing. I'm also realistic enough to know that we have been fortunate.

As you no doubt know, the proposed Ministry Plan for 2023 requires an additional \$461 per week. As I write this, we're half way there (\$234 in increased giving based on 31 Statement of Intent cards.) If you have not already returned a card, I would ask you to prayerfully consider increasing your giving by \$10 per week; knowing that God does wonderful things with what may not seem like very much. If you have questions about the goals of this year's campaign, please feel free to reach out to Pastor Dave or Charlie Anderson for more information.

~Charlie Anderson





Welcome All. Tell The Story. Grow As Disciples.

CHOICES AND FAITH MISSION - Lutheran Social Services has just posted their Christmas Wish List for these facilities. There will be two boxes, marked Faith Mission and CHOICES in the narthex for you to place any donations you bring in. All items need to be brought into the church by December 11th. The following items are needed:



Choose one day, or all twelve, to support children of all ages in shelter this holiday season!
Please avoid toys with weapons or violent themes

1	DIY ARTS AND CRAFTS SETS	7	ANIMAL/DINOSAUR PLAYSETS
2	DIVERSE BABY AND BARBIE DOLLS	8	STEM/SENSORY TOYS
3	TODDLER AND PRESCHOOL TOYS	9	BLUETOOTH SPEAKER
4	MR. AND MRS. POTATO HEAD	10	COLOGNE AND PERFUME
5	LEAPFROG/ VTech WORD BOOKS	11	SPORTS WATER BOTTLE AND DUFFEL BAG
6	TOY STEERING WHEELS	12	PURSES AND WALLETS



Choose one day, or all twelve, to support residents in shelter this holiday season!

1	MEN'S SWEATPANTS (SIZES M - 3XL)	7	BODY WASH, LOTION, & DEODORANT (GENDER-NEUTRAL)
2	ADULT SWEATSHIRTS (SIZES M - 3XL)	8	EARBUDS (WITH MICROPHONES)
3	ADULT UNDERWEAR (SIZES M - 3XL)	9	BABY BOTTLES & SIPPY CUPS
4	SPORTS BRAS (SIZES L - 3XL)	10	BABY WIPES
5	MEN'S HATS & INSULATED GLOVES	11	PULL-UP DIAPERS (SIZES 4T+)
6	ADULT ATHLETIC SHOES AND WINTER BOOTS	12	INDIVIDUAL SNACKS & JUICE

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

The big day is finally here! **The Packing Party for Operation Christmas Child is Sunday, November 5th at 5:30 pm in the Worship and Life Center.** Everyone is welcome to help with this ministry by coming to pack the boxes, enjoy Christmas music and fellowship, pray for the children who will receive the boxes and have hot chocolate and cookies. If you have not participated in this ministry before - NOW is the time to experience it! Many hands will get the boxes all packed.

We also need some assistance on Saturday morning (November 5th) around 11 am to load up all the supplies and boxes and bring them up to the narthex- and some assistance Sunday morning, November 6th after church, to set up the tables and bring the supplies into the Life Center. Any questions - see Barb Emmets or Pam Davis



CHRISTMAS CARDS - Thanks to everyone who took a pack of cards to be put in the shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. This time of year, you may get new Christmas cards in the mail from various organizations - if you are not going to use them please bring them to the church and put them in the Christmas wrapped box in the narthex so we can use them next year. Questions - see Barb Emmets

Daylight Saving Time Ends

Sunday, November 6, 2 AM

November / December

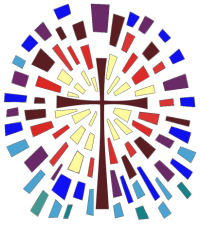
- Advent Season starts Sunday, Nov. 27th.
- Mid-Week Advent Services start Wed. Nov. 30th w/ a meal at 6:15pm followed by service @ 6:45pm
- Wed. Choir rehearsals will start a bit later at 7:15pm starting Wed. Nov. 30th after Mid-Week Service.
- Christmas Music Rehearsals start Sunday, Nov. 13th after service.

- Children's Christmas Program—Sun. Dec. 18th
- Blue Christmas Service Wed. Dec. 21st
- Christmas Eve Service Sat. Dec. 24th
- Christmas Day Service Sun. Dec. 25th
- More info coming, please check your weekly bulletin.

It's that time of the year...

Thanksgiving dinner will be over and you've finished your black Friday shopping ...so it's time to get the Christmas decorations out! If you would like to come and help decorate the church for this joyous season, we will be "decking the halls of RELC" on **Saturday, November 26, starting at 9am.** All are welcome, just let Kathy Rotolo know if you are interested in helping – email at kathy.rotolo@relc.org (or see me on Sunday morning)-- or leave a note with Katherine in the church office.



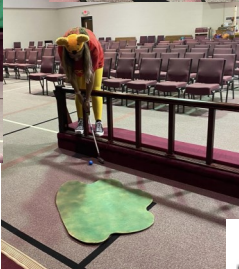


Welcome All. Tell The Story. Grow As Disciples.

**Godly Play
Sunday Dates!**
11/6, 11/13, & 12/4



Sunday Schools Sundays at 9am
(check bulletins for actual dates and cancellations)
~Godly Play (preschool –3rd grade)
~Youth Sunday School w/ PD (grades 4-7)
~High School Group (grades 8-12) usually
meets a few times a month

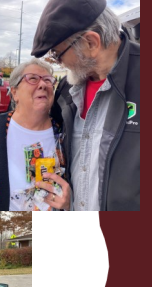


Youth Group Fall Party 2022!
Pumpkin putt-putt (some
holes proved to be quite
challenging), Murder Trivia
Party, and, of course, snacks!



A bunch of happy kids
filled their buckets with
candy thanks to all the
festive trunks participating
in Trunk or Treat this year!

**Trunk
or
Treat**



11/3 Amy Johnson
11/3 Ryleigh Tumeo
11/4 Amelia Jones

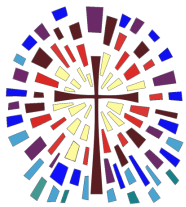
November Birthdays

11/10 Jill Rill
11/13 Roger Rill
11/17 Amber Spohn
11/17 John VanVleet
11/19 Phyllis Reynolds
11/19 Abby Dillon

11/20 William Bletz
11/28 Karen Harvey
11/29 Doug Heath
11/30 Mara Dillon
11/30 Lynette Unger
11/30 Pierce Kountz



**BIRTHDAYS
THIS MONTH**



November Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1) All Saints Day 11:00am Bible Study (narthex) 7:00pm Financial Stewardship Meeting (office) 7:00pm Cub Scout 672 Den Meeting	2) All Soul's Day 7:00pm Boy Scouts 672 Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room) 	3) 10:30am Worship Planning Meeting 7:00pm Bible Study (Zoom) 7:00pm Boy Scout Leader Meeting	4)	5) 11:00am OCC set-up 9:30am BOLD Prep (Room 6 & 7) 
6) All Saints Sunday Daylight Saving Time 8:30am Choir Rehearsal (WLC/Choir Room) 9:00am Sunday School (Adult, Godly Play and Youth) 10:00am Worship (WLC) 5:30 OCC Packing Party (WLC) 	7) 4:30pm BOLD (Parking Lot) 7:00pm Cub Scout Committee Meeting (narthex) 	8) Election Day 11:00am Bible Study (narthex) 7:00pm Council Meeting (office) 	9) 11:00am Staff Meeting (office) 7:00pm Boy Scouts 672 Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room) 	10) 7:00pm Bible Study (Zoom) 	11) Veterans Day 	12) 8:30am Men's Fella-ship (kitchen/narthex) 9:30am BOLD Prep (Room 6 & 7) 9:30am FELC Breakfast Prep (kitchen) Boy Scout Event (WLC/narthex) 
13) 8:00am Breakfast FELC (First English Columbus, OH) 8:30am Choir Rehearsal (WLC/Choir Room) 9:00am Sunday School (Adult, Godly Play and Youth) 10:00am Worship w/ OCC Blessing (WLC) 11:30am Choir Christmas Rehearsal (WLC)	14) Katherine out of office 4:30pm BOLD (Parking Lot) 	15) Katherine out of office 11:00am Bible Study (narthex) 7:00pm Book Club (Room 7C) 7:00pm Cub Scout 672 Pack Meeting (WLC) 	16) Katherine out of office 7:00pm Boy Scouts 672 Meeting 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room) 	17) 7:00pm Bible Study (Zoom) Cub Scout Set-up (WLC) 	18) 5-8pm Cub Scout 672 Pack Meeting / Popcorn Pickup (parking lot/ WLC/ kitchen/narthex) 	19) 9:30am BOLD Prep (Room 6 & 7)
20) Annual Meeting 8:30am Choir Rehearsal (WLC/Choir Room) 9:00am Sunday School (Adult, and Youth) 10:00am Worship (WLC) 11:15am Annual Meeting (WLC and online)	21) 4:30pm BOLD (Parking Lot) 	22) 11:00am Bible Study (narthex)	23) 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room) 7:00pm Boy Scouts 672 Meeting	24) Thanksgiving Day Office Closed 	25) Black Friday Office Closed	26)  9:00am Deck Halls Church Decorating 9:30am BOLD Prep (Room 6 & 7)
27) 1st Sun. of Advent 8:30am Choir Rehearsal (WLC/Choir Room) 9:00am Sunday School (Adult & Youth) 10:00am Worship (WLC) 11:10am Q & A (WLC) 11:30am Choir Christmas Rehearsal (WLC)	28) Cyber Monday Newsletter Deadline 4:30pm BOLD (Parking Lot) 	29) Giving Tuesday 11:00am Bible Study (office) 11-5pm Red Cross Blood Drive (WLC) 7:00pm Cub Scout 672 Pack Meeting	30) 6:15pm Advent Mid-Week Meal 6:45pm Advent Mid-Week Service (WLC) 7:00pm Boy Scouts 672 Meeting 7:15pm Choir Rehearsal (Choir Room)			

CONTACT INFORMATION

>Rev. David Kamphuis, Pastor
pastordave@relc.org
Office: 614-876-7926
Cell: 616-745-7788 (call or text)

>Media Team
Email: media@relc.org

>We are Hiring a Media Director
Please send resumes to office
Email: office@relc.org

>Church Office, Katherine Hunt
Email: office@relc.org
Phone: 614-876-7926

>Director of Music, Jae Hyeong Park
Email: office@relc.org
Phone: 614-876-7926

>Altar Guild, Kathy Rotolo
Email: kathy.rotolo@relc.org
Cell: 614-607-4180 (call or text)

>Current Church Council
-Renee Mushalko - Council President
Email: president@relc.org
-Michelle Docter—Vice President
-Charlie Anderson—Treasurer
-Kathy Rotolo—Secretary
-Michael Biggert
-Michael Boring
-Angela Bontz

>Prayer Team
Email: prayerteam@relc.org