

Welcome All. Tell The Story. Grow As Disciples.

www.RELC.org

3500 Main St., Hilliard, OH 43026

614-876-7926

February 2026

What actually is lent all about?

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of this 40 day long season we call Lent, but what really is that season all about?

Is Lent just about feeling sad? After all the music is all in minor key. It's not quite spring yet and so the leaves have not returned to the trees. We all give up something we like for 40 days, is that just an attempt to make us miserable? Is it just about being sad?

But if that is all Lent is then there is really nothing special about it. I don't need any help feeling miserable. After all, the world is sad enough, desperately sad at the moment. There is a war being waged and we are exposed to every awful moment of it on our televisions. Our relationships with our families are still broken and the treatment of our diseases are still not working like we hoped. I don't need to give up chocolate or beer or whatever in order to be sad.

Or is Lent about feeling guilty. The confession of sin is rather long and we hear a lot about sin and our part in all that is sin. Are we meant to just focus endlessly on all our mistakes and our failures until they threaten to drown us?

But if that is all Lent is, then there really isn't anything all that special about it. I don't need any help feeling guilty. I'm pretty good at waking up at 3 AM and reliving every embarrassing moment of my life. I know all too well the failures and mistakes that I bring to this place, the things left done and undone as our confession and forgiveness says.. I know my addictions, my cruelty I've inflicted on others, and all the other deadly sins along the way. I don't need any help with guilt.

St. Paul writes: *"We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything."*

Paul is saying yes, we speak openly and honestly about all the places where we are treated as imposters, all the places where we feel unknown and forgotten, all the places where we are sad, all the places where we are grieving, all the places where we are dying not to make us feel guilty or miserable or sad,

No, we take an honest look at all those places because we also know that precisely there God is working God's wonders in Jesus Christ of raising from the dead. As having nothing, yet and yet possessing everything. As dying, and see we are alive.

This is what the cross, that moment we will come to on Good Friday is all about. That even in death we find God working. That is how Paul can say "now is the day of salvation" because in all the places where we are dying God is working there through Jesus Christ.

What is Lent about? It's not about being sad or miserable or guilty. No, it's about looking at ourselves and saying "I know Christ will take me by the hand and meet me in all those decaying and dying places and raise me from the dead."

~Pastor Dave

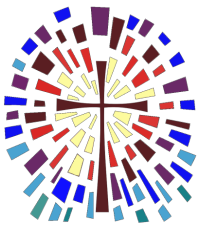


PRAYER REQUESTS Please send any Prayer requests and updates (on treatment or healing regarding people you have placed on the prayer list) to prayerteam@relc.org or contact the office at 614-876-7926, or by email office@relc.org



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 WLC, or on our live YouTube stream at <https://bit.ly/RELQ-QA>.



Welcome All. Tell The Story. Grow As Disciples.



Bible Study with Pastor Dave

~In person Co-Ed Bible Study Tuesdays at 11 am (Room 7)
~Men's Bible Study is February 21 8:30am in (the church office)
~Zoom Co-Ed Bible Study Thursday at 4:30 pm via zoom
(Email pastordave@relc.org or office@relc.org for the ZOOM link)



Adult Education every Sunday

before service at 9am Room 7 on Sunday mornings before 10am worship. Pastor Dave will be going more in depth with the text for that Sunday.



Church in Space Join Pastor Dave, Dan Mushalko, Drew Nelson, and Vicar Keith for Church in Space, a podcast that blends religion with sci-fi, pop culture, and geekery. In our most recent episode, the crew asks some thought-provoking questions about the Star Wars universe, including: Are droids sentient? Can they be baptized? What would have happened if the rebels had captured Darth Vader? And, did the Jedi need a Martin Luther/Reformation? New episodes are released every other Thursday at <https://churchinspace.podbean.com> or wherever you listen to podcasts.



Visiting with the Vicar,

This year, Ash Wednesday falls on February 18th, which also happens to be the day we celebrate and commemorate Martin Luther, Reformer of the Church, in the Lutheran version of the Church Calendar of the Saints. On this day in 1546, he died in Eisleben, the town of his birth and his family's hometown. He was there on business regarding his family's mining rights in the County of Mansfield, which had become an issue among the four Counts of Mansfield.

While there, he preached his last sermon at St. Andreaes Church.

The irony of this day of commemoration falling on Ash Wednesday this year does not escape me, as God reminds us in Genesis 3:19: "you are dust, and to dust you shall return." This phrase has become ingrained in our liturgical rites, especially in funeral services and at the grave site. Ash Wednesday not only marks the start of the season of Lent and the journey of Christ to his death, but also reminds us that we all, including Jesus and Martin Luther, will die. But death is not the last word in our story; our resurrection in Christ is the ultimate victory.

However, this year, for me personally, it is another reminder that we, as Christians, are also called by God and Christ on the Cross to speak the truth, and that this calling sometimes leads to death. We live in a time when great social evils are occurring at the local and national levels. Immigrants and migrants, whether legally resident or not, including people who are citizens and who are not white, are increasingly marginalized and victimized by officials in our executive administration. We are also reminded of the sins of our past, as we just commemorated International Holocaust Day on January 27. Sadly, our own Lutheran heritage is tied to marginalization. Martin Luther's last sermon included instructions for Christians to force people of Jewish heritage out of Germany unless they wanted to become Christian. Germans and theologians would, for the next 400 years, use such writings to expand and justify antisemitism, with the Nazis in the 1920s to 1945 taking it to horrific ends.

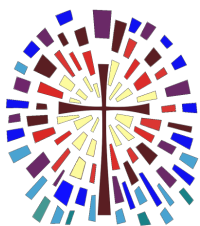
Yet, at the same time, there have been and continue to be Lutherans and Christians who courageously push back against the narratives of empire and marginalization and speak and live out Christ's command to love our neighbor. For example, Lutheran pastor, theologian, and professor Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote, taught, and preached against the sin of Christian Nationalism paired with Nazism, which took over the Church in Germany, ultimately paying with his life in a concentration camp. Conservative Lutheran pastor Martin Niemöller initially agreed with some of the reforms that Hitler and the National Socialist Movement wanted to implement, but shortly after they came to power, he recognized the danger of mixing Christian Nationalism with Empire and the Church, particularly the dangers the Nazi Government began to institute. He began speaking out about corruption within the Church in 1933 and was eventually arrested and put in a concentration camp in 1937, only to be finally released in 1945 as the Allies liberated Germany. He later penned the now-famous "First They Came" poem, speaking about how silence aids the oppressor to the point that they will come for you eventually, and no one will be there to speak for you. Germans, particularly Lutheran Germans who have lived in the shadow of Nazism, have seen what Christian Nationalism can do to the Church, to the point that it almost destroyed it.

Given what we have recently seen in our newsfeeds or on news stations about issues with ICE in Minnesota, we see Lutherans courageously speaking out and defending their marginalized neighbors. Lutheranism is the largest religious group in Minnesota. As Christ teaches us in Luke chapter 10, the keys to eternal life, and thus victory over death, are to love our God and love our neighbor by showing grace and mercy. I give thanks for the life-affirming work they are doing. Sadly, some have lost their lives while caring for neighbors, which reminds us that we too shall return to the earth someday. But we, as Christians, can give thanks that our ending is not the end, that we will be granted that glorious victory in the Resurrection of Christ Jesus.

And let us all give thanks to God and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for that. Amen.

~Vicar Keith





Welcome All. Tell The Story. Grow As Disciples.

CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

>Prayer Team

Email: prayerteam@relc.org



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

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

>Altar Guild, Kathy Rotolo
Email: kathy.rotolo@relc.org
Cell: 380-212-7052 (call or text)

>Vicar Keith Monroe, Pastoral Intern
Email: keith.monroe@relc.org
Office: 614-876-7926 (call)
except Wednesday

>Katherine Hunt,
Office Administrator
Email: office@relc.org
Phone: 614-876-7926
Office Hours: 10:30-2:30pm (M-F)

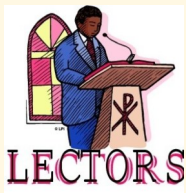
>Church Council
Council President- Drew Nelsen
Council Vice President - Michael Boring
Council Secretary - Elaine Puckett
Council Treasurer - Bridget Daniels
Others- Michael Biggert,
Nick Lungociu, Billy Eymold



February Worship Assistants

If you are interested in volunteering for 2026 positions, please see Pastor Dave or Kathy Rotolo.

Assisting Ministers will be Andy Ohler 2/1, Tricia Ohler 2/8, Barb Emmets 2/15, Vicar Keith Monroe 2/18, and John VanVleet 2/22



Lectors will be Elaine Puckett 2/1, Marty Bretz 2/8, Dan Mushalko 2/15, Michael Boring 2/18, and Renee Mushalko 2/22

Children's Leaders are desperately needed. Patty Eakins 2/1

Currently there is no one leading Children's Church for the following dates , 2/8, 2/15 and 2/22.



Worship Assistants –Thank You to all who volunteer to serve :

NOTE: If you would like to serve as Usher, Greeter, or Children's Church Leader Please use the sign-up sheet that's on the desk in the narthex.



<HELP NEEDED> But Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me

and do not hinder them, for such belongs the kingdom of heaven" Matthew 19:14

RELc offers great Sunday morning classes for children of all ages. However, the regular worship service can be a bit much for some of the younger ones.

During the readings and sermon and prayers they can get a bit fidgety.

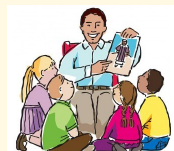
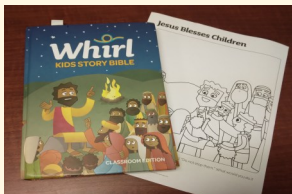
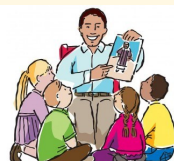
So..."Children's Church" was started. There they can hear a Bible story, color a picture associated with that story and have some time to be kids.

Of course there needs to be a "grown-up" there too, to read that story and help with the coloring and other activities. Adults (ladies or gentlemen) and youth are welcome to sign up.

So...please think about signing up to lead one of these special sessions. Sign up for one Sunday a month (or more if you wish). Materials are provided, they meet in the nursery so after a lesson, there can be some fun time. Sometimes there's only one child, sometimes there may be 3 or 4.

If there are any questions please let me know.

There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex or you can message the office. ~Kathy Rotolo



Upcoming Church Services!

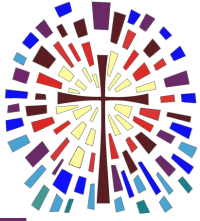
2/17 Shrove Tuesday—we will have our annual pancake dinner provided by Men's Fella-ship (probably around 6pm)

2/18 Ash Wednesday –Pastor will have Ashes to Go during the day at Crooked Can & a regular Ash Wednesday service in the WLC at 7pm.

2/25 Mid-Week Lent Services will start. –These will start with a lite meal at 6:30pm followed by a 7pm service in the WLC. Mid-week dates will continue 3/4, 3/11, 3/18 and 3/25

Holy Week ~3/29 Palm Sunday, 4/2 Maundy Thursday, 4/3 Good Friday, and 4/5 Easter Sunday

Stay tuned for more details in the bulletins.

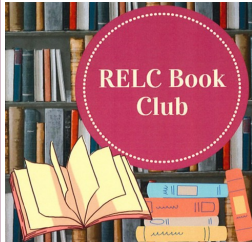


Welcome All. Tell The Story. Grow As Disciples.



Men's Bible Study
will meet at 8:30am,
February 21st

at RELC in the church office. All ages welcome.



REL C Book Club
The February 17th
book club meeting
will discuss
*The Night, We Lost
Him* by
Laura Dave.

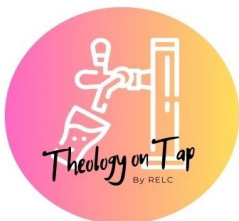
3.17.26- *The Little Old Lady Who Broke All the Rules*
by Catharina Ingelman- Sundberg

4.21.26- *Only Women in the Room*
by Marie Benedict

*This meeting will be at Dragonfly Books, please let
Pam know if you want to pre-order the book.

5.19.26- *An Invisible Thread* by Laura Schroff

Any questions see Pam Davis.



Theology on Tap
February 24th but
location is TBD.

Wilson's will be starting
Trivia on Tuesday nights
so we are looking at
another location. Stay tuned and check the
bulletin and Facebook for updates.
Join us in discussing how our faith influences
the world around us.



Fusion Youth Group will meet
February 8th from 1-2:30pm in
the worship life center.

~Please see
Becky or
Mollie with
questions.



American Red Cross

Give blood. Help save lives.



Blood Drive
**Resurrection Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

3500 Main Street
Hilliard, OH 43026

Thursday, February 19, 2026

12:00pm- 6:00pm

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2787) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and
enter: RELC to schedule an appointment.

Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15 minutes by visiting
RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass to complete your pre-donation reading and health
history questions on the day of your appointment.



Come give blood 1/26-2/28 for a \$20 e-gift card to your
choice of merchant. See redcross.org/heart



1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2787 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

Scan this QR code to
make an appointment.

Sponsor Code: RELC



Please be mindful of Media Team's service prep and sound check
from 9:15-9:40 am on Sundays. **Media Team Meeting 2/1** after service.

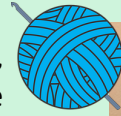


PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

As noted last month, we are very,
very low on prayer shawls. Please
consider making a prayer shawl
to add to our supply. We have a lot of
yarn available in the cabinets in the sac-
risty and in the OCC room
- see Barb Emmets or Judy Miller if you
need assistance.

If you know someone who likes to knit or
crochet but is not familiar with our
ministry - please share with them how
special it is to receive a shawl in times of
need - they just might like to contribute.

At this time we are also starting to make
prayer patches for the shoe boxes - we will need
500 total. *Many thanks.* - Barb and Judy



Prayer written by a person who makes shawls:

*Every lovingly crafted stitch contains a special prayer-
That God will send His peace to you and keep in His
care. As the shawl drapes 'round your shoulders in the
morning or at night, Know that He is with you always to
make your burden light.*

~Linda M. Muldoon - Braintree, Massachusetts

REL C Lunch

Ladies will

meet February
21st at 11:30am

for lunch and fellowship at Bravo!
Italian Kitchen. 3000 Hayden Rd,
Columbus, OH, 43235



Please RSVP to the church office or Sue Owen at office@relc.org.

If you would like to look over the menu,
<https://www.bravoitalian.com/menu/>

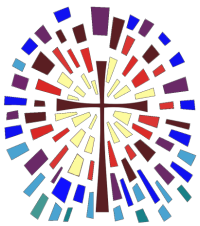


February
8th
after **Neighbors of
Mercy**
+ A ministry of RELC +

We collected **15** units, and
we had **16** presenting
donors on 1/15/26. ♡
To try and accommodate
more folks with daytime
work hours we will be changing
the Blood Drive times from
11-5pm to 12-6pm for February.

Join Giving Garden Friday February 13th
for our annual pot and tray washing. We
will meet at 9am in the church kitchen to
clean and sanitize the plant
pots and seeding trays. We
meet in the church kitchen.
Park in the back lot. ~ Carol





Welcome All. Tell The Story. Grow As Disciples.

Master Work 2

Collegium Musicum of Ohio & Denison Symphony Orchestra

Music of Prokofiev, Brahms, Stravinsky and Strauss



First Community North
3777 Dublin Rd, Columbus,
OH 43221

Feb. 22th 2026 at 5pm

SUPPORTED BY  

Dr. San Sung Aum, Piano
Dr. Jae Park, Music Director/Conductor
Dr. Philip Rudd, Guest Conductor





Homepage
QR Code

Collegium Musicum of Ohio
Orchestra

**GREATER COLUMBUS
ARTS COUNCIL**

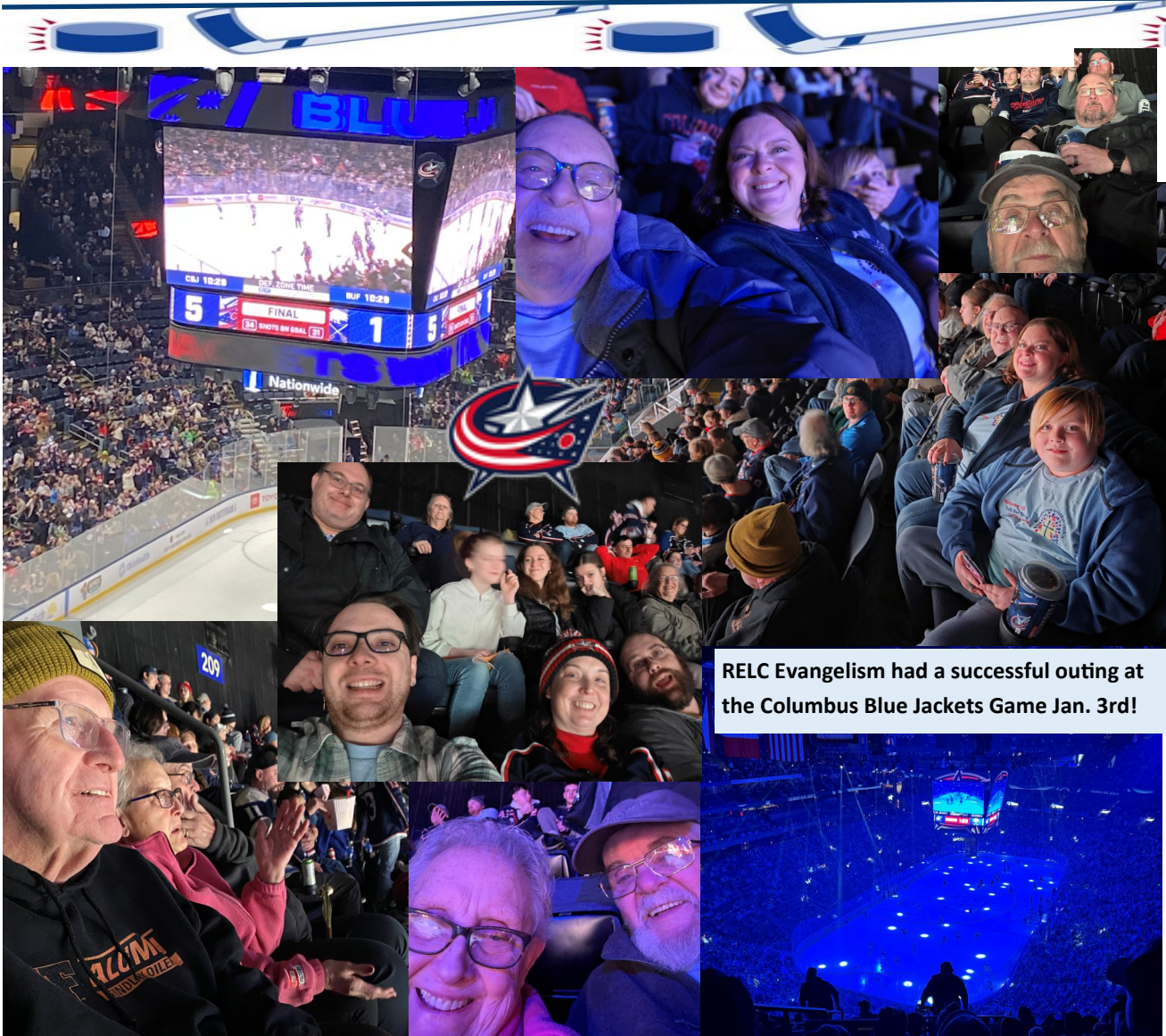
Sponsors:  

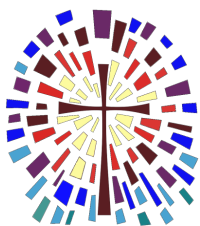
Dr. Jae H. Park would like to invite everyone to come see a concert he will be Directing and Conducting. **Collegium Musicum of Ohio & Denison Symphony Orchestra, February 22nd at 5pm.** This will not be here at RELC but at First Community North in Columbus. Jae has a sign up sheet in the lobby for anyone who would like to attend. I'm sure carpooling can be arranged!



Dear members of the Visitation Teams: Mike, I, and both children are so grateful to have had your prayers and support during these last few years. Contact from members of the church also lifted Mike's spirits. I look forward to getting to know those of the committee I do not know and spending time with everyone of you on the team. Thank you, again.

~Beth Hughes, Larry Hughes, and Haley Hughes





Welcome All. Tell The Story. Grow As Disciples.



Giving Garden News - February 2026



Have you started to plan your 2026 garden? Are you thumbing through seed catalogs to get a glimpse of what your garden produce may look like? What about all those dirty pots and tools that got thrown in the shed or garage at the end of last year's gardening season?

February is the month I get "garden ready". I have already selected and purchased seeds because I do not like the "out of stock" message. I just completed the purchase of two big bags of soil so that the "early bird" discount could be applied and I have selected the date of **Friday February 13th for our annual pot and tray washing.** We will meet at 9am in the church kitchen to clean and sanitize the plant pots and seeding trays.

As the days get longer and we start to "plant" our gardens on paper it is also a good time to get the tools cleaned and sharpened, purchase your seeds, and clean out and organize your growing pots and containers. Your seeds will love you for it!!

Come and join in the fun on Friday 2-13-26 at 9am. We meet in the church kitchen. Park in the back lot and I will have the kitchen door unlocked.

Stay warm and encouraged that Spring is only a few weeks away.

Thank you Jesus for the Giving Garden.

~Carol Williams



LSS - FAITH MISSION/ CHOICES

LSS has updated the list for donations - some of which are

listed below. Please note that all items must be new or unused. Place items in the LSS marked tubs at the Donation Station in the narthex. Since some of the items are more expensive - a good way to obtain these is to get a few people or families to go together to purchase them - just a suggestion. *Any questions - see Barb Emmets*

Adult sweatpants

Adult insulated gloves

Adult winter coats

Men's underwear - all sizes

Men's long-sleeved shirts and sweatshirts

Men's deodorant

Gender neutral lotion and body wash

Baby wipes

Toothpaste

Boys and girls multipack underwear

~Thanks, Barb



Join the First English Coffee Club!
This Christmas, we want more coffee.
Give \$25, \$50 or \$100 directly to help
us share over 5000 cups of coffee with
our neighbors in 2026!



First English Lutheran Church is asking people to help out and join the Coffee Club this year! Scan the QR code or give donations to Katherine in the church office and help make coffee for our partner church downtown. This is the church we will partner with twice this month to serve a meal. Don't hesitate to reach out to Kathy Rotolo if you are interested in helping this ministry. kathy.rotolo@relc.org

FELC English Meal Ministry

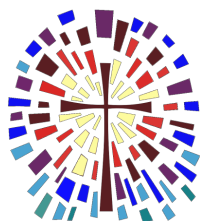


A big thank you to the crew of 6 who prepared and hosted the FELC dinner meal on 1-22-26. We served 100 participants a hearty meal of chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans, fruit cup and dessert. Our church bakers were phenomenal supplying us with an ample number of cookies and brownies.

Thank you to all the bakers! **FELC Breakfast will be Sunday, February 8th before service. Our next FELC dinner will be on Thursday, March 26.**

~If you would like to help with this ministry please contact Carol Williams or Kathy Rotolo.





Welcome All. Tell The Story. Grow As Disciples.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD - 2026

We are now starting our year long journey to the November Packing Party for OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD shoe boxes. See below the list of the items we will be emphasizing for collections each month -but note that you can purchase items anytime during the year, when you are out shopping. We are also in need of shoe boxes - no boot boxes please. Donations of money are also welcome and should be given directly to Barb Emmets or Pam Davis.



If anyone is interested in wrapping shoe boxes, helping in counting supplies that we already have or helping to remove plastic wrapping and tags - please see Barb Emmets

January - washcloths

February - spoons

March - cups

April - coloring books and sharpeners

May - small toys

June - toothbrushes

July - school supplies

August - school supplies

September - socks and sharpeners

October - remaining needs

November - remaining needs

December - Christmas sales

School supplies -notebooks, glue sticks,
crayons, colored pencils, pens,
erasers, sharpeners, scissors,
markers, rulers



A NOTE FROM SAMARITAN'S PURSE -Thank you for partnering with Operation Christmas Child to help take the Gospel of Jesus Christ to millions of boys and girls around the world. The shoebox gifts that you prayerfully packed in 2025 - 12,205,900, praise God - will help open doors for us to reach even more children with God's love in the new year.

You are part of that number RELC -many, many thanks.

We need shoe boxes - no boot boxes please.

Barb and Pam

"Pray that God will put each shoe box gift in the hands of just the right child, so that every boy and girl can experience His love in a special way."



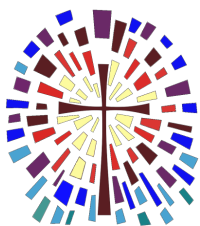
To all members and friends of RELC and great supporters of Operation Christmas Child: I will be making Tic-Tac-Toe bags for 2026.

I will **need FLAT sided gems/marbles to place in the bags.** (Gems is how they are listed at Michael's.) I have a sample with me so I can show you exactly the size that will work. If you would have some unused ones at home that would be great.

I will also be making more bookmarks from **used cards that you no longer want or new that you won't be using** (new Christmas ones will be used for 2026 boxes). Please place items in Christmas Child tubs. *If you have any questions, please see me or Barb. ~Thanks, Pam*



RELC Communication Team would love if each ministry could check out the [RELc.org](https://www.relc.org) website and update the office of any changes needed to the website to better reflect your ministry or update any information. Katherine tries to keep everything up to date but really needs your help keeping the website up to date. Don't forget to inform her of any upcoming events too. office@relc.org



Welcome All. Tell The Story. Grow As Disciples.



One of our frequent RELC visitors **Joan Shearer-Miller** had an art show at Carriage Court Assisted Living. Several members went in support.

"We truly love worshipping with all of you at Resurrection and it fills a beautiful spot in our heart to be able to be in church with mom. Thank you for all the love and kindness you all share with us each Sunday. You are all a blessing."
~Pam



RELC folks out in the community!!!



Congratulations to January's Embrace, Empower & Inspire Award winner, our very own **Karen VanVleet** (Kindergarten Teacher at J.W.R.).

"Mrs. VanVleet has been nothing but great and an amazing role model and instructor for my daughter. She looks forward to school every day because of Mrs. VanVleet. She's done amazing with helping my daughter and also getting her the extra help she needs."

These staff members go above and beyond the expectations of the Hilliard Way and truly make a difference in our district.

Children are always welcome at RELC

and we offer a soft space option for families with littles that wish to keep their kids in church and need a little entertainment.



Are you looking for more for your kid? Are they ready for 1st Communion or maybe Confirmation in the Lutheran Faith? Reach out to Pastor Dave as he puts together groups for 2026. You can reach out to the church office 614-876-7926 or email Pastor Dave directly. office@relc.org or PastorDave@relc.org



Children's Church is open to all children aged 4-10, and takes place during the bible readings and sermon during worship. Pastor Dave releases the kids with an adult leader for a lesson and activity. Everyone comes back during Share the Peace.

Please consider volunteering to help this ministry, we need more volunteers. See Kathy with questions.



Fusion dates for 2026!

Fusion has some fun things planned coming up and will meet in the RELC narthex and or WLC.

~February 8th from 1-2:30pm

~March 15th from 1-2:30pm

~April 19th from 1-2:30pm



Save the date for Vacation Bible School this summer!!

I know it feels far away, but as all Hilliard parents know you have to plan out your summer camps now to get in, so put RELC down for a few free days of fun this summer. **VBS will be June 30th, July 1st and July 2nd from 6-7:30pm.**

More details to come, but

the theme is *I'm Crafted*. So I'm sure your Minecraft loving children are going to want to check it out. ~Questions see Becky Rader or Mollie Kountz.



Children's Sunday School programs are at 9am (check bulletins for actual dates and cancellations)

~**Godly Play** (preschool—3rd grade, meets in Godly Play Room) **every Sunday, except 2/15**

~**Big Bang** (for all kids that have aged out of Godly Play) **meets twice a month, 2/8 & 2/22**



~**Fusion Youth Group** (currently all kids are welcome)

meets about once a month. ~2/8 Fusion will meet 1-2:30pm in the narthex.

~March 15th Fusion will meet 1-2:30pm in the narthex.



2/2 Liam Daniels
2/2 Kathleen Scott
2/5 Albert Fike

February Birthdays

2/6 Abigail VanVleet
2/12 Damion Bontz
2/15 Kristen Jacobs-Biggert
2/17 Susan Rill



2/20 James Magee
2/26 Tricia Ohler
2/27 Benjamin Baker
2/28 Jordan Badenhop



Don't forget to email or call the office to get all events and meetings on the church calendar and website. Please also let the office know if you have any media requests. office@relc.org phone: 614-876-7926
Office Hours: 10:30-2:30pm (M-F)

February 2026