

## **THE HISTORY OF RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH**

Resurrection began its journey of faith in 1978 with the purchase of the land for our original worship and service facility thanks to the vision, thank offerings, prayers, and long-range planning of many. On November 18, 1979, 69 spirit-filled individuals gathered for the first time as a mission congregation at Paradise Valley High School with Pastor William Biederman officiating, and the journey's pace increased. Resurrection Lutheran Church was officially organized as a congregation with 99 baptized members in May of 1980. December 1981 brought another milestone, as we broke ground for our worship and fellowship facility. On June 13, 1982, the dedication of our Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall announced to the community that Resurrection had arrived in body and spirit. A solid church home was ready to welcome everyone to share God's word with music, praise, prayer, and a desire to serve. His mission complete at Resurrection, Pastor Biederman took leave in 1986 to continue his ministry as a Mission Developer.

Pastor Perry Toso was called to RLC in 1987. The balance of the 6.7 acres of property was purchased in 1987 in anticipation of future growth. The Holy Spirit's presence was evident as the congregation reached out and expanded the circle of love to the unchurched and hurting community, inviting their participation in the various ministry programs at Resurrection.

1996 brought about a change in leadership when Pastor Toso announced his resignation to pursue a doctoral degree. Pastor John Geske answered the call to pastor Resurrection and was installed on September 19, 1996.

Resurrection's Pre-School/Day Care opened on March 1, 1999, providing Christ-centered care and teaching in a loving and safe environment for infants to 5-year-olds. In April 2003, ground was broken for our new sanctuary and September 19, 2004 marked its dedication.

2007 welcomed Pastor Matt Wiswall as Associate Pastor and Pastor Dick Hamlin leading our Pastoral Ministries.

In 2015, Pastor Matt Robards answered the call as our Family Pastor. The Encounter Worship Service began and ran for over three years.

In March of 2017, Pastor Dick Hamlin retired from ministry, after decades of faithful shepherding and care to countless people.

In 2020, after serving RLC for over 24 years, Pastor Geske resigned June 1<sup>st</sup> and Pastor Matt Wiswall became RLC's Lead Pastor.

Resurrection celebrated becoming Debt Free in April 2023.

In 2023, Pastor Matt Wiswall resigned April 30<sup>th</sup> and Pastor Matt Robards accepted the position as Interim Lead Pastor.

We continue to be a Christian family as we worship and serve together. Our facility, which we dedicate to the Glory of God and to serve people, is not a monument. It is a functioning tool to carry out that purpose. The activities bursting from our buildings are to inspire and enliven people with a meaningful life now and a full life eternally.

We give thanks and glory to God for the ways He has, and continues to, bless the mission and vision of Resurrection to build disciples by living out God's word, reaching out to our community and bringing people to Christ!