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### Church Calendar

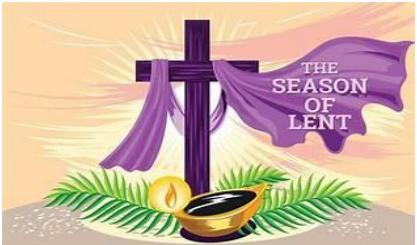
February 9	Council Meeting	6:00 pm
February 11	Outreach Meeting	3:30 pm
February 17	Bingo	6:30 pm
February 21	Labyrinth Walking	2:00-4:00 pm
February 22	Fellowship Hour	11:00 am
Mondays	Food Pantry/Clothing Closet	12:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Wednesday	Midweek Lent Services 2/25 – 3/25	1:00 pm & 7:30 pm
	Bible Study	2:00 pm
	Choir rehearsal	6:00 pm
Thursdays	Al-Anon Meetings	6:30 pm



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Resurrection Lutheran Church.

### In an Emergency

If you have an emergency outside office hours,  
you may reach **Pastor Darryl** at **847-616-0537**.



### Ash Wednesday February 18

1:00 pm & 7:30 PM (in-person, Facebook,  
YouTube)

### Wednesday Lenten Services 2/25-3/25

1:00 pm (in-person, Facebook, YouTube)  
and 7:30 pm (Facebook, YouTube)



Resurrection Lutheran Church

February 2026

# The Messenger

9777 Grand Avenue • Franklin Park, IL 60131

Phone: 847.455.7013

E-mail: office@rlcfp.org. - www.rlcfp.org

Office Hours: 8:30 am - 2:30 pm Monday - Thursday

Sunday Worship: 9:30 am

Pastor Darryl Thompson Powell

*Serving Our Neighbors* *Sharing Our Blessings!*

A labyrinth is a structure similar to a maze that people have been walking for thousands of years and across cultures to promote clarity and self awareness. It is a representation of life's spiritual journey and a path to wholeness, prayer, and meditation and serves as a metaphor for challenges, transformation, and finding inner peace. I have walked labyrinths and can confirm that it is a very peaceful and spiritual experience. Walking in, I am encouraged to remember that I am blessed. As I walk towards the center, I release that which troubles me. In the center I receive the creative Spirit that guides me and as I return back out, I resolve to bring that guidance into my life.

On February 21 from 2-4 PM, we will be welcoming Janice Lewis, a labyrinth guide and facilitator, to Resurrection to host a labyrinth retreat. We will learn about labyrinths, do related crafts and activities, and either walk on her travelling labyrinth that will be set up in the sanctuary, or use a finger labyrinth. The event is free. If you would like to attend, registration is necessary as space is limited. Please let us know that you will come.

*In Christ,  
Lauren Obrzut*



Lent was originally a season for new converts to learn and prepare for their baptism on Easter. During that time, they would study what was central to Christianity. This Lenten devotional began by looking at what was central to Jesus' life and ministry: radical welcome, love for neighbor, care for the vulnerable, nourishment for the hungry, nonviolence in the face of injustice. At the heart of Jesus' teachings, there is liberation, love, mercy, and grace—all of which are meant to be very good news for us all.

Jesus' ministry can be described as "radical" which comes from the Latin word "radicalis," meaning "root" or "ground." Therefore, the good news should bring us back to our roots. Emulating Jesus and embodying his teachings should ground us in who God created us to be. Can we be "good news" people in a world too often burdened by bad news? This Lent, let us remember that the good news really is good news. It is joyful—like fine wine saved for celebration. It grows like a mustard seed and smells like perfume poured from an alabaster jar. It tastes like bread passed endlessly through a hungry crowd. It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy. The good news is alive in the world.

## Council Meeting Highlights: January 12, 2026

The Council recently met with **Pastor Nathan Klein** from the Synod to talk about future possibilities for our congregation. He shared his willingness to continue those conversations and has offered to visit and speak with the congregation. Pastor Darryl has confirmed that Pastor Nathan will be coming on **February 22, 2026**, to speak to the congregation. Please plan to attend.

The Council also discussed ways to help **generate or save revenue**, including potential fundraisers and the sale of items we no longer need. If anyone has ideas for fundraising or cost-saving projects, please share them with a Council member — we'd love to hear from you!

Please remember that our **Annual Meeting** will take place on **Sunday, February 1, 2026**, following the worship service. A luncheon will be served afterward. Please plan to attend as we review the past year and look ahead together.

**Bingo Night** will be held on **Tuesday, February 17, 2026**. Doors open: 6:30 PM. Bingo starts: 7:00 PM. Join us for an evening of fun, fellowship, and friendly competition. Light refreshments and prizes will be provided. All are welcome—bring your family and friends.

The next **Council Meeting** will be held on **Monday, February 9, 2026**, at 6:00 PM. All are welcome to attend. Items under New Business will include an update on our

501(c)(3) status, the Synod Assembly in May, and a discussion about our future direction as a congregation.

Submitted by Jan Ramsson,  
Council Secretary

### FEBRUARY FOOD FUNDRAISER: SWEET TREATS FOR VALENTINE'S DAY!



Enjoy a sweet treat for you and your Valentine and help raise funds for RLC! Indulge in some decadent Caramel Chex & More Mix offered by Lauren's Homestyle Cooking. Delectable bags of Rice, Corn, and Wheat Chex, Cheerios, pretzel sticks, and peanuts covered in rich caramel along with M&Ms, yogurt covered craisins, and white chocolate coated pretzels will be available on Feb 8, 11, and 15. Bags are \$8 each or 2 bags for \$15 with \$5 from the sale of each bag going to RLC's general fund. What a treat! Pre-orders appreciated, so let Lauren know if you are interested in purchasing.



### 30 Pieces of Silver

For 30 pieces of silver, Judas betrayed Jesus to the authorities. We betray Jesus each day when we don't follow his commandments

to love God and our neighbor. To remind ourselves of this betrayal during each day of Lent, we place a coin in the enclosed bag. On **Good Friday**, bring your offering as a sign of thanksgiving to the Lord for his sacrifice on our behalf. If you can't attend the Good Friday service, please bring your Lenten offering on **Easter Sunday**.

## Outreach Food4Life Food Pantry/Clothing Closet News

We take pride in bringing food and hope to our neighbors in need.

In the Sunday bulletin we list a food item that the food pantry needs. The item changes each month. The item for December is canned soup. The item for January will be canned fruit.

In December the food pantry served 107 families, which consisted of 219 adults and 109 children. We welcomed 9 new guests. There were 5 Mondays in December. Our numbers seem to be declining a bit.

We received 54 donations from members, neighbors, companies and another food pantry.

We are so grateful to our volunteers. We have 26 volunteers of which 5 are not members of Resurrection. Our volunteers gave 308 hours of their time working very hard to make this ministry successful. Everyone is invited to stop in on a Monday morning to see hard our volunteers work.

We have received an enormous amount of clothing donations and need volunteers to help sort through all of the approximately 30 bags and eliminate the ones that are not suitable to offer to our guests. Please contact Linda in the office or Sue Koevenig if you can help.

Thank you to those who have stepped up to help.

Our Outreach committee is looking into a possible fundraiser.

## Financial Summary

### December 2025

	December	Year to Date
Income:	\$17,904.54	\$116,219.62
Expenses:	(\$12,096.00)	(\$149,001.69)
Income Shortfall:	\$5,808.54	(\$32,782.07)

*Dec* results show a gain in our investments of \$175.29. Envelope income was under budget by (\$1,071.42) for the month & under budget (\$45,072.00) for the year. Expenses were under budget by (\$814.33) for the month & under budget by (\$5,922.31) for the year. Our cash position as of 12/31/25 is \$81,561.45 in total cash assets, spread across our Money Market Fund, CD and Checking Account. Of this cash, we have \$55,265.83 to pay church expenses and \$26,295.62 for dedicated accounts. Year to date we have taken \$50,000.00 out of the Money Market fund. We probably have 14 months before our cash reserves run out. So far, we have made \$1,095.52 on nine nights of Bingo, \$597.50 on carwash fundraiser, \$1,930.00 on our GoFundMe page in thirteen months, \$2,425.00 on group income and \$1,500.00 on e-bike raffle. This is a total of \$7,548.02 in additional income. Our envelope income year to date was well under budget. Continue to watch for ways to give to our ministries!

God Bless. Be Health and Safe.

**Wayne Molley, Treasurer**

### Sunday, February 22

Pr. Nathan Klein from the synod will be visiting us to preach, then facilitate conversation with us after the service around our future. This will be a good time to bring any concerns, ideas, and dreams to share.