

October 2022



The Messenger

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

Sunday Worship: 9:30 am

Pastor Darryl Thompson Powell

Resurrection Lutheran Church is called by God to reach beyond our walls and share the Good News, bringing Christ to the world, through Prayer, Love and Action.

Shining a Light on: Care Team

The Care Team maintains a vital connection between our homebound members and the congregation. They do this through cards, phone calls, and visits. They also give the Sacrament of Communion. And everyone on the Care Concerns list receives a birthday card.

The members are: Judy Hajek, Sue Koevenig, Sue Sprenger, Rita Von Ratzka, and Barb Miralgio, who is the Chairperson. Also, Jeff Peterson helps out by delivering the communion kits to people.

I spoke with the C Team at their recent meeting. They were meeting for the first time in a while-the pandemic really changed their ability to get out and do a lot of visiting, but they have revitalized and are ready to get back out there and make sure our homebound members know that they are still a part of Resurrection. Barb really loves the hands-on nature of this ministry. Sue K loves keeping in touch with the homebound and making sure they know they're still a part of Res. Sue S and Rita love knowing they are doing God's work. As Rita puts it, "I like to think that a card would bring a smile to their face. They can't be at church with us and I like the thought of making someone happy." Judy knows how good it made her feel when she wasn't able to come to church for a while and the Care Team sent her get well cards and came to give her Communion. Now she is on the Team helping to spread God's love and care.

I asked them what they would like the congregation to know about the Care Team. The biggest thing by far was how much they care about us and are here for us, but especially for our homebound members. They want you to know that you are not forgotten. One thing that they don't care about is how tidy your house might be. Please don't let that stop you from having them visit.

They also want you to know how important it is to have someone you know contact the church if you go into the hospital or are in ill health and not coming to church for an extended time. The Care Team is committed to serving and wants to know what's going on with our members. They are here for us all.

Would you like to receive Communion? Have a visit? Receive a phone call? Contact the church office and The Care Team will be on it! Thanks, Care Team, for shining God's light on us.

In Christ,

Lauren Obrzut

Summary of September Council Meeting

Lauren led a devotion based on Genesis 3: 1-13 which is the story of the serpent convincing Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit to gain knowledge. Lauren asked the council members to share their thoughts about this story. Comments included: The serpent represents the devil and temptation. Is this the original SIN? Eve said the serpent deceived her. Adam and Eve did not apologize or take responsibility when God spoke to them, they did not ask for God's forgiveness. Was God testing them by giving them limitations on what fruit they could eat? If they asked for forgiveness would the rest of the bible be necessary? What is sin? Can sin be defined as "going against God's will? Can sin be defined as "actions that cause problematic behavior"? How should we address situations when we believe someone has sinned and caused a problem? Consider asking starting questions, listen to the response to understand without judgment.

The business portion of our meeting included reviewing open items and approving committee reports.

The "Time and Talents" form (used during Stewardship Drives in the past) will be updated. The increase in community involvement has created the need for additional support for our staff. All members will be encouraged to pray for guidance of how they can help with some of these tasks.

Anti-Racism - We watched the video "Race in America" by Phil Vischer (creator of the Christian educational series "Veggie Tales"). The video was filled with statistics about how discrimination from the time the slaves were freed up until the present day has created so many of the problems that exist with the Black Americans. Cities perpetuated "racial segregation" by creating large low-income apartment complexes while the factory jobs for laborers moved out to the suburbs due to suburban sprawl. Black households have on the average 10% of the wealth of White households. Statistics show that home ownership has been proven to be the strongest indicator of financial stability for families. Communities used "redlining" tactics to prevent

Black home ownership. The GI Bill helped White soldiers at a much higher rate due to FHA guidelines that discriminated against the Black soldiers. The war on drugs continues to criminalize street drugs at a higher rate than the more expensive drugs used by the more affluent drug users. Convictions for Black offenders are six times higher than White criminals for the same offenses. Under privileged offenders do not have the finances to fund the legal battles required to clear their records. Drug convictions are considered a felon which restricts the person for applying for public housing. Statistics show that unconscious bias by teachers hold Black students back while White students are given opportunities in advanced classes. What should we do? Phil suggests we CARE, LISTEN and LEARN. Discussed what God feels about this mess and how we all need to work to understand and help solve these problems. Pastor suggested the council and our members should watch videos on discrimination including the show "United Shades of America" which is a series by W Kamau Bell.

Submitted by Beth Silenzi,
Church Council Secretary

Clothing Donations

Many of us have an overabundance of clothing ... it is the American way and we are blessed. It is a privilege to have these clothes and the space to store them. It is also a blessing that the excess clothing is shared with "The Clothing Closet" at church.

The Clothing Closet is a real gift to our guests who need clothing. We consider anybody who comes to our church for help our guests so we only want the best for them.

Here is how you can further help with clothing donations:

Sort your donations before bringing all of them to church. Any item that has a stain, missing button, broken zipper or tear should be donated to USAgain. Did you know they recycle clothing and other household items like rugs, curtains and bedding into insulation? The other benefit is USAgain pays St. Paul's Church a premium for each pound of donations they receive.

The drop boxes for USAgain are behind St. Paul's Church at 3342 Calwagner (near East Leyden High School). Please note all donations must be in sealed plastic bags since the drop boxes are outside.

The other "gently" used items can be brought to church on Sunday or during business hours during the week.

Our Guests, Our Staff and Our Planet thanks you for keeping clothing out of landfills.

Outreach Food4Life Food Pantry/Clothing Closet News

In August the Food Pantry served 89 families consisting of 169 adults and 70 children. August had 5 Mondays. We had 15 new guests this month. Our guest list continues to grow each week.

We are forever grateful to those who donate food and toiletries each week.

Our special item Sunday has been very successful and we thank our members for their generosity. We have started peanut butter Sunday. Everyone's help in keeping our food pantry stocked is greatly appreciated. Due to the increase in the number of guests, it is getting harder to keep the shelves stocked.

We are working on a mission project to do around the holidays. And we will partner with The Unity in Community again to provide Thanksgiving food baskets for our guests.

Financial Summary August 2022

| | August | Year to Date |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Income: | \$6,270.51 | \$50,149.08 |
| <u>Expenses:</u> | <u>(\$12,133.40)</u> | <u>(\$99,331.95)</u> |
| Income Shortfall: | (\$58,862.89) | (\$49,182.87) |
| <u>Loss on Investments:</u> | <u>(\$6,848.80)</u> | <u>(\$43,099.22)</u> |
| Total Shortfall: | (\$12,711.69) | (\$92,282.09) |

August results show another large loss in our investments. Envelope income and expenses are on budget for the year. Our cash position as of 8/31/22 is \$261,204.88 in total cash assets, spread across our investment, Money Market, Operating Accounts and other investments. So far this year the stock market is still down and not showing signs of a fast recovery. Our investments are not helping to offset our shortfalls and as this trend continues, we are going to have a huge shortfall this year. Our Income shortfall year to date is concerning.

God Bless. Be Healthy and Safe.

Wayne Molley, Treasurer



Church Calendar

| | | |
|------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| October 2 | Fall Fest Parade | 12:00 pm |
| October 5 | Finance Meeting | 6:00 pm |
| October 17 | Outreach Meeting | 4:30 pm |
| October 17 | Council Meeting | 6:00 pm |
| October 30 | Coffee Hour | 11:00 am |
| Mondays | Food Pantry/Clothing Closet | |
| | | 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm |
| Wednesdays | Midweek Worship Service | 1:00 pm |
| | Bible Study | 2:00 pm |
| | Evening Prayer Service | 7:00 pm |
| | | (online only) |
| | Choir Rehearsal | 7:30 pm |
| Thursdays | Al-Anon Meetings | 7:30 pm |

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In an Emergency

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

