

October 2025



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

Serving Our Neighbors  Sharing Our Blessings!

Filled with the Holy Spirit.

I was honored when asked to write the reflection for October and was led to share about the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is the animating principle of the church in every age. Before there was an official New Testament, the apostles had to make decisions led and guided by the Holy Spirit. Of course, they also had as touchstones the experience of their three years with Jesus, the Old Testament scriptures, and their sense of discernment, prayer, and personal revelation. It's truly amazing to me how the Holy Spirit grew this small band of believers into the worldwide church that exists today. Every church council and leadership team relies upon the Holy Spirit today when making decisions. I listened to Bishop Robert Barron on YouTube who said there are six signs the Spirit is infilling your life. (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PbMGNb_0PDM)

1. Bold speech proclaiming Jesus. The apostles and early church were filled with the Spirit as they spread the Good News. I learned through experience, while asking to pray for strangers, that the Spirit is always waiting on the other side of taking this risk. Jesus is our pioneer (Heb 12:2); He goes ahead of us, ready to protect and heal us from any sort of perceived rejection. Therefore, there is nothing to fear about asking people to church or proclaiming your faith.
2. Unclean Spirits leave. This includes anxiety, depression, addictions, and more, which are replaced by the Lord's peace.
3. Signs, Wonders and Miracles. Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit, proclaimed his messiahship and the Kingdom of God. He proved his authority to forgive sins with miraculous healings and the expulsion of demons. I believe that all Christians have signs and wonders in their daily lives. You find them in those small coincidences that show up, and also answered prayer. God is constantly working through us and for us.
4. Joy is the principal sign of the Holy Spirit. Who or what do you come away from feeling more alive? Be attentive and watch for it. Personally, I have noticed that joy in people working in the food pantry. No matter how much there is to do, it always seems to get done in a spirit of joy.
5. Intellectual curiosity about the faith. You want to know as much as you can about Jesus. You're in love with him, and hunger for the Word, Christian music, lectio divina, worship, or testimonies from other Christians. You may read the monthly devotional, attend Bible study, study on your own, or watch Youtube videos.
6. The most important sign of the Holy Spirit working in your life is love for God and others. "Whoever loves me is loved by my Father; I will love him and reveal myself to him." (Jn 14: 21). The Holy Spirit is the spirit of Jesus and the spirit of love. There are many definitions of love; Thomas Aquinas said love is "to will the good of the other." Jesus said, "Greater love has no man than this: that he lay down his life for a friend."

- Henrietta Atkin, Director of Music

Council Update

There was no Council meeting in September. The Council will meet in October.

Gratitude For the Harvest.

It's harvest time, and what spiritual lessons from Jesus have I harvested this year? One that sticks out for me is allowing the world to be as it is- the good and the bad- not how I wish it to be. Jesus knew the trajectory of where his life would end up- on a Roman cross. He says it three times in the Gospels- yet he had hope that his life's work and mission would not end with him. "Go and make disciples of all nations," he commanded in Matthew. He saw and then experienced the cruelty of the Roman Empire and the lack of awareness in the Pharisees and in so many of the Jewish people around what God wanted them to do, but he continued on, allowing the world to be as it was, and being what God wanted him to be. Matthew 9:35-38 says: "Then Jesus made a circuit of all the towns and villages. He taught in their meeting places, reported kingdom news, and healed their diseased bodies, healed their bruised and hurt lives. When he looked out over the crowds, his heart broke. So confused and aimless they were, like sheep with no shepherd. 'What a huge harvest!' he said to his disciples. 'How few workers! On your knees and pray for harvest hands!'" He knew he couldn't control people; he could only do God's will and hope others would wake up and do the same.

It's October and the harvest has been gathered. What will we do with it? Keep it stored up in our barns or share it with the world? Will we do what we want or do what God wants? We may not be able to change anyone but ourselves, but we can show people our commitment to God by remembering the mission Jesus accepted and doing the same.

In Christ, Lauren Obrzut

God's Work, Our Hands

September 7th was God's Work, Our Hands Day in the Lutheran Church. On Saturday, September 6th several ladies from RLC participated in a project with Acacia Park Lutheran Church, United in Faith Lutheran Church, and Shepherd's Heart Lutheran Church. Acacia Park Lutheran Church hosted the event. We made 24 fleece blankets to be donated to cancer patients.

It was a wonderful experience for a good cause. We shared fellowship and fun with ladies we did not know. It was fun getting to know people from other churches. They were all very friendly and a lot of fun. A rewarding and good time was had by all. After all the blankets were completed they were placed on the pews in the sanctuary and blessed by the pastor.

Pictures were taken to show all the smiling faces of the ladies who were doing God's work.

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 is in need of. The item changes each month. The items for September are salt, pepper and condiments. The item for October will be cereal.

In September the food pantry served 108 families, which consisted of 238 adults and 87 children. We welcomed 12 new guests.

We received 71 donations from members, neighbors, companies and another food pantry.

We are so grateful for our volunteers. We have 26 volunteers of which 5 are not members of Resurrection. Our volunteers gave 200 hours of their time working very hard to make this ministry successful. Everyone is invited to stop in on a Monday morning to see how hard our volunteers work.



WHAT DO YOU FEAR? Insisting on hope this Advent

Luke's Gospel begins the story of Jesus with this opening line: "In the time of Herod..." This detail may seem minor to modern readers; however, it reveals layers of information about the fearful world Jesus entered, one filled with rampant oppression, economic disparity, uncertainty, and instability. A world not so unlike our own. And yet, throughout the stories of Christ's birth, we hear the whispers of angels delivering a surprising message: "Do not fear." When Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, and the magi are each called into God's redemptive story, they do not deny their fears—they move through them. They ask questions, hold fast to courage, trust in good news, and say, "Here I am, Lord." When we find ourselves in fearful times, can we acknowledge our fears while also insisting on hope?

This Advent series takes seriously the angels' message and trusts that Christ's birth truly is good news of great joy for all people. The resources look closely at the fear and terror looming in the background during the time of King Herod and invite us to consider the fears we hold now. Fear can divide and paralyze us and even be used as a tool for oppression. But what if we formed a different relationship with fear? Can we acknowledge fear without letting it rule us? Might we catalyze our fears into love and action? What if naming our fears helps us see more clearly how God is breaking in and where God is at work?

Advent booklets will be available in November. As we have done recently, if you can make a monetary gift to cover the cost of the devotional materials, it is greatly appreciated.



Church Calendar

October 5	Fall Fest Parade	12:00 pm
October 6	Council Meeting	6:00 pm
October 7	Finance Meeting	6:00 pm
October 26	Reformation Sunday	9:30 am
October 26	Fellowship Hour	11:00 am
Mondays	Food Pantry/Clothing Closet	12:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Wednesdays	Bible Study	2:00 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.**

