

June 2026



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!

A Community That Speaks the Truth in Love

or to put it bluntly: Disagreement, not Disfunction

Someone recently said to me I wasn't speaking clearly to some of the issues arising at Resurrection. So let's see if I can make this one plain for everyone.

Every congregation – no matter its size, history, or personality – faces moments of tension. We are, after all, a community of real people with real feelings, real convictions, and real differences. Disagreements are not a sign that something is wrong with the church. In fact, they're often a sign that people care deeply. What *does* become a problem is how we handle those disagreements.

One of the quietest – but most dysfunctional and destructive – habits in any community is the tendency to talk *about* someone instead of talking *to* them. It usually starts small: a comment to a friend, a frustrated sigh to a fellow member, a passing remark that “*someone should really do something about...*” Before long, the concern becomes a complaint, the complaint becomes a story, and the story becomes a wedge between people who are supposed to be walking together in Christ.

Jesus gives us a better way.

In Matthew 18:15, he says, “**If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you.**” Notice the simplicity and the dignity of that instruction. Jesus doesn't say, “*Tell your friends.*” He doesn't say, “*Let it simmer.*” He doesn't say, “*Complain until someone else fixes it.*” That's dysfunction. He says, “**Go to them.**” Speak directly. Speak honestly. Speak with love.

This isn't easy. It requires courage, humility, and a willingness to assume the best about the other person. It means believing that the person you disagree with is still your sibling in Christ, still someone God loves, still someone worth approaching with grace. It means trusting that the Holy Spirit can work through honest conversation in ways that gossip and triangulation* never can.

When you talk to everyone *except* the person involved, you unintentionally create division. You invite misunderstanding. You allow resentment to grow in the shadows. But when you speak directly – with kindness, clarity, and respect – you create the possibility of healing. You open the door for reconciliation. You honor the relationship instead of eroding it.

A healthy congregation isn't one where everyone agrees. A healthy congregation is one where people can disagree faithfully. It's one where members trust each other enough to speak the truth in love. It's one where concerns are brought to the right place, not the nearest or most sympathetic ear. It's one where you choose conversation over complaint, courage over avoidance, and unity over quiet resentment.

Disagreement, not Disfunction

Imagine what our church could look like if you all practiced this. Imagine the strength of our relationships. Imagine the depth of our trust. Imagine the witness you would offer to a world that often settles for division instead of reconciliation. I urge you, siblings in Christ, to commit yourselves to the way of Christ: direct, loving, honest conversation. Not because it's easy, but because it's faithful. Not because it avoids conflict, but because it transforms it. And not because you always get it right, but because God is always working to make you whole.

May our words build up the body of Christ – and may our conversations lead us toward deeper grace.

- Darryl Thompson Powell, pastor

**Triangulation happens when someone involves a third person in a conflict to manipulate others, maintain control, or create division.*

Forum video with pre-identified pastors for bishop now available

A forum with the six MCS pastors who have participated in the Bishop Election pre-identification process was Saturday afternoon at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Elmhurst. Because of a technological glitch, the first half of the forum had to be recreated via Zoom on Monday. That was combined with the second half of the live forum and is ready for viewing.

Thanks to the pastors for their gracious participation not just once but twice, the Bishop Election Committee for their work and persistence in making this available, and to Epiphany in Elmhurst for hosting. The panelists are Pastors Larry Clark, Christina Garrett Klein, Carla Thompson Powell, Kathy Nolte, Heidi Torgerson and Katie Hines-Shah.

A reminder that all pre-identification information now posted on the synod’s website (<https://mcselca.org/bishop-election/>) will be removed prior to the Synod Assembly. It will no longer be accessible after **June 3**.

A New Rhythm for Our Fifth Sundays

Beginning this past 5th Sunday (May 31), every **5th Sunday** will be a **lay-led service** at Resurrection Lutheran Church – a chance for our congregation to lean more fully into the gifts God has already placed among us. These Sundays will highlight the voices, stories, prayers, and leadership of the people who make up our church family.

This shift isn’t simply about filling a date on the calendar. It’s about living into the truth Paul names in 1 Corinthians 12:4-7: *“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit... To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”*

Our 5th Sunday services will be a space where those gifts can shine – whether through reading Scripture, offering reflections, leading prayers, sharing music, or guiding us in acts of service. Each lay-led Sunday will look a little different, shaped by the creativity and faith of those who step forward.

We hope these services will deepen our sense of shared ministry, strengthen our community, and remind us that the Holy Spirit works powerfully through all of God’s people. If you feel a nudge to participate in a future 5th Sunday, let us know. There is room for your voice and your gifts.

The Spirit is moving among us! Let’s keep making space for that good news to grow.



Financial Summary
April 2026

	April	Year to Date
Income:	\$9,321.79	\$41,421.87
Expenses:	(\$12,749.08)	(\$51,019.71)
Income Shortfall:	(\$3,427.29)	(\$9,597.84)

April results show a gain in our investments of \$112.77. Envelope income was over budget by \$792.67 for the month & under budget (\$1,071.33) for the year. Expenses were over budget by \$117.50 for the month & over budget by 493.38 for the year. Our cash position as of 4/30/26 is \$57,188.58 in total cash assets, spread across our Money Market Fund, CD and Checking Account. Of this cash, we have \$45,667.99 to pay church expenses and \$11,520.59 for dedicated accounts. Year to date we have taken \$20,000.00 out of the Money Market fund and transferred \$11,633.28 to RLCFood4Life (New 501c3) and \$8,366.72 was used to pay expenses. If nothing changes, we probably have 9 months before our cash reserves run out. So far, we have made \$195.50 on Bingo and \$1,150.00 on group income this year. This is a total of \$1,345.50 in additional income. Our envelope income year to date is under budget. Continue to watch for ways to give to our ministries!

God Bless. Be Healthy and Safe.

Wayne Molley, Treasurer

A Summer Tradition of Joy & Generosity

There’s something special about gathering around good food, good laughter, and good neighbors – and this June, RLC is thrilled to host our **5th Annual Free Community BBQ**. On **Saturday, June 20, 2026, from Noon to 3 PM**, our parking lot will come alive with friendship, fun, and celebration. This event has become one of our favorite ways to live out our calling to serve our neighbors by sharing our blessings. Everyone is invited – families, friends, longtime residents, and newcomers alike. Come enjoy **prize bingo, raffles, games, and plenty of family-friendly activities**, all offered freely as a gift to our community. Parking will be available at **Villa Bella, two doors down at 9755 W. Grand**. As we fire up the grill and welcome one another with open arms, we celebrate not just a summer afternoon but the spirit of connection that makes Franklin Park feel like home. We can’t wait to see you there.



Church Calendar

June 3	Outreach Meeting	3:15 pm
June 8	Council Meeting	6:00 pm
June 16	Bingo	6:30 pm
June 28	Fellowship Hour	11:00 am
Mondays	Food Pantry/Clothing Closet	12:00 pm – 3:00 pm
	Bible Study	2:00 pm
Thursdays	Al-Anon Meetings	6:30 pm



‘Friend’ us or ‘Like’ us at Resurrection Lutheran Church.

In an Emergency

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

