



Resurrection Lutheran Church

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.

Last month we started thinking about stewardship differently as I asked you to ponder the question, are you living like a bucket or a pipe. Even though our sinful, fallen nature entices us to live life like we are a bucket, it's a cruel fantasy that leads to disappointment, destruction, and death. This month, let's consider an alternative: **The Way of the Pipe.**

We find ourselves living like a pipe **when we understand God created us to pass on, not hold on.** In God's economy, a pipe is more useful to God than a bucket! We were created to be conduits – not receptacles – of divine blessings. When a pipe starts thinking it's a bucket, things get stuck, the pipe gets clogged, and the only solution is for the pipe to be "rodded out." Then it can go back to doing what it was made to do: let things flow *through* it, not just *to* it. Think about what happens when your internal plumbing isn't working (i.e., arteries or the colon get clogged). You'll be greatly hindered in your normal activities. God created us to be high-capacity pipes that pump significant amounts through us to support kingdom causes near and dear to God's heart. Paul tells Timothy to *"Tell those rich in this world's wealth [high-capacity pipes] to quit being so full of themselves and so obsessed with money, which is here today and gone tomorrow. Tell them to go after God, who piles on all the riches we could ever manage—to do good, to be rich in helping others, to be extravagantly generous [let it flow freely]. If they do that, they'll build a treasury that will last, gaining life that is truly life."* (1 Tim. 6:17-19) In other words, God has positioned us to turn on our spigot and let it flow! Inventor and millionaire R. G. LeTourneau reportedly was asked how he gave ninety percent of his income away each year and still got richer. He smiled and confessed, *"I shovel out the money, and God shovels it back — but God has a bigger shovel."*

We'll find ourselves living like a pipe **when we really believe that what's flowing through us today will flow back to us later.** There is an eternal "payback" for being a pipe. The bucket gets what it gets while it's here and that's its reward. But the pipe receives a different payback. What has flowed through is being recorded and will be waiting for us at our permanent residence in glory. Jesus assures us of this eternal "payback" in multiple places. In Matthew 6:20-21, he encourages us to *"Stockpile treasure in heaven, where it's safe from moth and rust and burglars. It's obvious, isn't it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being."* We lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven by what we willingly let flow through us.

We'll find ourselves living like a pipe **when the desires of God's heart become the desires of our heart.** Psalm 37:4 states, *"Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart."* Many incorrectly interpreted this verse to say, "You delight yourself in the Lord and then the Lord will give you what you want." It should be understood as: *"Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you his desires for your heart."* As we delight ourselves in God, God will replace our heart's desires with God's desires. We'll love what God loves and have compassion on those whom God has compassion. Then we'll find ourselves driven to be high-capacity pipes, allowing as much grace and blessing as possible to fall upon those for whom the Lord wants to touch and care.

If God has blessed you to be a high-capacity pipe, I encourage you to freely open your spigot and let God's blessings and provision pour forth on those who need a blessing from God! In so doing, you will have everything to gain and nothing to lose.

-Darryl Thompson Powell, Pastor

Summary of November Council Meeting

Lauren led the group in a bible study on the message version of Luke 21 verses 5-19. We discussed what things in our lives could be considered earthquakes and famines? Comments: deaths, job loss, financial problems, securing enough food. How does Jesus teach us to handle hard times? C: keep the faith, be patience and God will always provide. What is God calling us to do or change? C: continue to learn, be passionate, don't panic, stop worrying continue to believe. We also discussed how some forms of media inflate the bad and twists the truth.

Revitalizing RLC – Lauren led a discussion about the questions that Pastor CeCee asked us to discuss. Who is Resurrection? Comments: struggling congregation, community of believers, committed to helping the needy, place of worship, place to learn and a place to share our gifts. Who are we as a congregation? C: caring, aging, old fashioned/traditional. Who are we as disciples? C: Jesus soldiers, not so good at spreading the word, room for improvement. Who are we as a church? C: a group that is always trying to improve. What are the accomplishments from 2022? C: continued support and growth of food pantry, open house and BBQ. What does 2023 look like? C: possible evening bible study for community, religious education, another BBQ and outreach, better communication on community events, network with other congregations, bring back ecumenical Thanksgiving service, expand fund raising / donations for community events.

Top 3 priorities for growth in 2023? C: increase membership and outreach, bring in younger families, networking with other congregations. Where do we want to put our energy to fulfill our current mission statement? C: education on faith and how that drives our members to help those in need, spreading love. What is the 10-word statement to describe RLC? Wayne's suggestion is: Spreading God's love with our neighbors by sharing our gifts.

Broken Window – One of the front windows on the building was broken mid-day on Friday, November 11th. Wayne was able to come to church and meet with police and the board-up service. There is no evidence of how it happened. Judi said our deductible with the insurance is \$1,000. Judi will contact the insurance company and start the claim process.

Anti-Racism Video and Discussion – The video discussed 5 ways we can increase our compassion for those that are different from us. 1) Understand your privilege – this is not about money but about complications that never even enter into a privileged person's mind. 2) Listen and do your homework. 3) Speak-up but NOT over – stay in your lane – do not discuss what you do not understand. 4) Apologize when your well-intentioned comment causes someone discomfort. 5) Ally is a VERB – do something to support the underrepresented.

Submitted by Beth Silenzi,
Church Council Secretary

Outreach Food4Life Food Pantry/Clothing Closet News



In October the Food Pantry served 82 families consisting of 159 adults and 72 children. We had 28 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 cereal 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 so fortunate to have a wonderful and dedicated team of volunteers to make Mondays at the Food Pantry work. Our team worked a total of 126 hours in October. Thank you, God, for blessing us with so many people wanting to do your work.

Our partnership with The Unity in Community to provide Thanksgiving food baskets for our guests is well under way. We will now start planning to make the Christmas holidays special for our guests.

Financial Summary October 2022

	October	Year to Date
Income:	\$5,241.02	\$59,835.17
<u>Expenses:</u>	<u>(\$12,766.79)</u>	<u>(\$125,964.67)</u>
Income Shortfall:	(\$7,525.77)	(\$66,129.50)
<u>Loss on Investments:</u>	<u>(\$6,037.96)</u>	<u>(\$52,459.54)</u>
Total Shortfall:	(\$1,487.81)	(\$118,589.04)

October results show a gain in our investments (first time in several months). Envelope income was short of budget by (\$1,705.98) for the year. Expenses were under budget by \$848.66 for the year. Our cash position as of 10/31/22 is \$234,483.04 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 starting to show signs of recovery, but not enough to help us this year. 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



Anyone that would like to help decorate the church for Christmas, please plan on staying after worship service on Sunday, December 4. Thank you!



Church Calendar

December 5	Finance Meeting	6:00 pm
December 12	Council Meeting	6:00 pm
December 18	Coffee Hour	11:00 pm
Mondays	Food Pantry/Clothing Closet	12:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Wednesdays	Advent Service	1:00 pm & 7:00 pm
	Bible Study	2:00 pm
	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.**



Saturday Christmas Eve

Worship services at 4:00 PM & 11:00 PM
10:30 PM Concert.

Sunday Christmas Day

9:30 AM worship service