

December 2021



# 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

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***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.***

We live in a fast paced, somewhat instant world. We turn on our TVs, smart phones and tablets and watch the movies we want – on demand. We order from Amazon and have things delivered to us on the same day. We expect service and want what we want, for when we want it.

Waiting, especially patient waiting, is not something we do well. We complain when a business is short-staffed and has to put us on hold. We short-change our server when our service at a restaurant is much slower than we expect, even though we can see that there is only one person waiting on tables. We blame the government, doctors, antivaxxers or those who rushed to get a booster shot because this pandemic has been going for twenty months. We want to get back to “normal” now!

In this fast paced, somewhat instant world, Advent is extremely radical and different. These four weeks call us to focus on waiting – patiently – for the Lord. Instead of instant results and rapid fulfillment, we are called to yearn and have a pregnant expectation for the Lord. We need Advent, and we need the Lord. I encourage you to use these Advent days to look at how you can strengthen your patience and develop a real sense of expectation. Ponder how you can mark out these four weeks by seeking what is most important in our lives – the Lord. Enter into these radical days that call us to a better, holier way – patience...peace...expectation – yearning for the Lord. There are many opportunities at Resurrection to help each of us use these days well in prayer and service to the Lord, including:

- Midday Service, Wednesdays, 1:00 PM (in person and via Facebook and YouTube). The focus during Advent is “*Preparing in Christ Presence*” with each week having a theme to help in that preparation.
- Bible Study, Wednesday, 2:00 PM (in person and via Zoom and YouTube). Each week will look at the gospel text for the upcoming Sunday in Advent.
- Evening Prayer Service, Wednesdays, 7:00 PM (Facebook and YouTube only).

I hope you will use one or more of these opportunities during this Advent season. While our country is focusing on the best sales/deals to get the most Christmas presents, our prayer and focus this season is simple: Lord, we WAIT for you.

*-Darryl Thompson Powell, pastor*

## **Church Council Meeting November 8, 2021**

Alan started our November meeting with a prayer and the reading of the mission statement.

Devotion by Pastor Darryl - Children and Youth (Deuteronomy 6:4-9 and Mark 10:13-16).

The future of faith and church is the children. The children are a part of a congregation. A healthy church includes the youth in all aspects of the church family. Children make a joyful noise. We need to welcome the joyful noise (even during the quiet times of our service). The ELCA is starting a program called “Growing Young”. If the church doesn’t start growing younger it will die. Children and young adults are the church. We should not despair about our aging church because are still doing so much good for our church family and community.

Comments after the devotion included: Church seems to have taken a backseat to so many other activities. We need to reach out. More prayer is needed. We all need to keep our eyes open for more opportunities to include the youth. Maybe we can have a Christ based activity for guests / children of the food pantry.

Pastor’s Prayer: Let us all enter the kingdom of heaven no matter our age.

Vision and Mission – Lauren, Barb Miralgio and Wayne Molley met with Pastor Cece virtually on October 18th. They discussed ways to celebrate RLC. What is God saying about “Who We Are”? Our focus will be “Food Pantry”. The work should be spread thin to get more people involved. It should be a grass roots / organic unfolding of the timeline.

Choir Masks – the masks are used for rehearsals and for the video recording that was used during the service recently. Alan suggested the choir could record additional music/hymns to be used on more Sundays.

Motion to allow the choir to sing at church (with masks) if they choose. MSC

Stewardship – every month should include stewardship. Pastor Darryl will start researching stewardship programs.

Nominating Committee – Sue and Alan will be completing their terms this year. We will need to elect two members plus the council can appoint a member to fill the last year of Ron's term. Per the annual meeting minutes, the members are Pat Flanagan, Jeff Peterson and Beth Silenzi. Beth will reach out to the committee members before the next council meeting.

Hospitality Committee – Motion made to transfer \$200 to the Coffee Hour Fund from undesignated memorials MSC. Motion made to approve the purchase of a new coffee maker and hot water warmer with funds from undesignated gifts and memorials MSC. Council agrees that moving the November and December coffee hour to the 3rd week makes sense.

Year End Planning Issues – All year end reports should be given to Linda by December 31st. Budget / Final Financials will be available and approved at the January 10th meeting.

Memorial for Ron Ziemer – the council purchased 5 trees to be planted in Ron's memory.



### Financial Summary October 2021

October Income:	\$6,788.96
<u>October Expenses:</u>	<u>(\$10,104.95)</u>
October Shortfall:	(\$3,315.99)
<u>Gains on Investments:</u>	<u>\$8,691.16</u>
Total Oct. Shortage with Investments	\$5,375.17
YTD Income:	\$58,581.32
<u>YTD Expenses:</u>	<u>(\$100,519.55)</u>
YTD Income Shortfall	(\$41,938.23)
<u>YTD Investment Gain:</u>	<u>\$29,061.55</u>
YTD Total Shortfall:	(\$12,876.68)

*October* results reflect a monthly overage in envelope income of \$1,021.00 compared to 2021 budget and an Investment gain of \$8,691.16. With Plate and Interest Income our total for the month was a positive \$15,408.12. Expenses came in at (\$10,104.95) over budget for the month, leaving us with an overall gain of \$5,375.17 for the month.

Our cash position as of 10/31/21 is \$371,139.91 in total cash assets, spread across our investment, Money Market, Operating Accounts and other investments. Our monthly expenses are averaging around \$10,052.00 a month and our average income is only around \$5,858.00 a month. If this continues, we will use \$50,328.00 of our investments to cover our short fall in our income for this year. So far year to date we have had good gains on our investments to help offset these shortfalls.

God Bless. Be Healthy and Safe.

**Wayne Molley, Treasurer**

## Outreach Food4Life Food Pantry/Clothing Closet News



In October we served 49 families consisting of 102 adults and 33 children.

Our monthly numbers are increasing which means there are so many people in need in the Franklin Park area. We are blessed to be able to help them.

We are forever grateful to those who donate food to meet the needs of our guests. Food Rescue US has been one of God's many blessings. It has been amazing that God knows when we are getting close to being out of meat. Meat always shows up when we need it. 38 different donations were received in October. Our much-appreciated dedicated volunteers worked 109 hours in October. Thank you so much to Pastor for picking up the Panera Bread and Costco items. Thank you also to Wayne and Donna Molley, Lindsay Vega, and Jeff Davis for picking up at Costco on Saturday mornings. We are still looking for some volunteers to pick up food from Costco on Saturday mornings. Please call the office if you can help out with this.

Our clothing closet continues to be a blessing to our guests. Thanks to all who donate clothing items. We can always use winter coats, sweatshirts and sweatpants.

During the month of December, we will be giving out gift cards to our guests to brighten their holiday.

The Outreach committee voted to participate in Lutheran Social Services of Illinois's holiday program again this year. We are asking our members to contribute to this program. Outreach will donate \$250.00.



### Church Calendar

December 6	Council Meeting	6:00 pm
December 7	Finance Meeting	6:00 pm
December 19	Coffee Hour	11:00 am
Mondays	Food Pantry/Clothing Closet	
		12:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Wednesdays	Advent Worship Service	1:00 pm
	Bible Study	2:00 pm
	Evening Prayer Service	7:00 pm
	Choir Rehearsal	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.**

#### Christmas Eve Worship Service

Friday 10:30 PM Christmas Eve Concert.

Worship service at 4:00 PM & 11:00 PM

#### Christmas Day

Pre-recorded service at 9:30 AM