

April 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!

Easter is later than usual, but almost here (April 20th). Chances are you've seen lots of bunnies, chicks, eggs, and baskets as people get ready for the day. None of these symbols are part of the important Christian story of Easter. As our daughter – Maya – shared with me recently, *"The stores are aware the dude's got to die first, right before the bunny can hide all the eggs."* OK, that's not quite right. We do have our own story that we follow: the women found the tomb empty, the sign that God raised Jesus from the dead to topple all the forces of death and destruction and bring new life to all of us.

Every year, we celebrate the Resurrection. Every year, we shout our praise to God for the complete defeat of death. Every year, we tell the story of Jesus – alive after his brutal crucifixion and bringing new life to each of us. It's easy to center all our Easter resurrection hopes on Easter Sunday – seeing it as an annual celebration of the original event almost 2000 years ago. The Resurrection is powerful, which is why the Resurrection must be lived in the everyday lives of followers of Jesus Christ. Then our faith becomes truly alive and active. And that alive and active faith is lived out in

Wendell Berry's poem, **"Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front"** says in part:

So, friends, every day do something

that won't compute. Love the Lord.

Love the world. Work for nothing.

Take all that you have and be poor.

Love someone who does not deserve it.

Living into the Resurrection promise means that we will extend ourselves on behalf of a neighbor, that we will give without question, that we will serve God through our relationships. Christ is risen, and we are invited to rise to new life as well. That's an important message for Resurrection Lutheran Church, a congregation once given up for dead yet has been experiencing new life in a new place.

On Easter, we will witness new life. We'll see for ourselves the creative love of God that always gets the last word. We'll taste for ourselves Christ's own redemptive life, given in love for all. We've heard for ourselves the Spirit preaching peace to sustain the world. My challenge for you is to go forth as witnesses of that love. Let the joy of the Resurrection and the joy of Resurrection Lutheran Church's new life make you bold – like the women on that first Easter – to share the story of that first resurrection and of our Resurrection. –Darryl Thompson Powell

Council Meeting Highlights 3/10/25

Lauren led devotions. The topic of the devotions is the book "Life Together" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. He was a Lutheran pastor during the 1930s and 40s in Germany. He stood up to the Nazi regime and unfortunately, he lost his life because of that. He was executed. He's a very well known, very insightful Christian pastor.

Ministry Structure: We continued our discussion on changing the newsletter. We want to see more ministries contributing articles, especially around what they do, what their goals are for this year, and how members can support them.

Cook County mandated Personal Leave (aka Paid Time Off) is one hour for every 40 hours worked. It has been in effect since January 1, 2024. You don't have to work a 40-hour work week to be eligible. Everyone who works at Resurrection is part-time, but they still get PTO. It should be based on how many hours they actually do work. So doing a quick example: Linda's now working 25 hours a week and she would have about 48 hours for 2024 that she can use however she wants, whenever she wants. And it can roll over. Henrietta works roughly 10 hours/week. For Pr. Darryl it would be 27 hours. We need to develop a way to track the accumulation of PTO and when it is used.

Next Council Meeting: April 14, 2025, 6:00 PM. We ended with our Mission Statement and the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Jan Ramsson, Council Secretary

Present Ponderings: Courage

The dictionary defines courage as “the quality of mind or spirit that enables a person to face difficulty, danger, pain, etc, without fear,” but I believe we can show courage *and* fear at the same time. We can be courageous in spite of our fear because we know it’s what we must do.

I wonder if Jesus felt fearful as “he gathered up his courage and steeled himself for Jerusalem.” (Luke 9:51b) He knew what was going to happen to him, yet he also knew that it was God’s will- and that God would be with him through it all.

Have you had to show courage? Once I left a job that I enjoyed, because the workplace culture was toxic and my mental health was suffering. I thought I could handle it, but I was leaving the office feeling depressed almost every day and I brought that home to my family. I knew things had to change but I was fearful- how would I maintain my lifestyle without an income? I prayed on it and God showed me that I didn’t have to fear because God would take care of me if I put my trust in God by following Jesus’ example. One day I gathered my courage, went to work, and did the difficult task of putting in my notice. It was hard but I could feel God’s presence with me the whole time. When I left that day, I felt so grateful that God had sent Jesus to live with us to be our Guide.

That was almost a year ago, and I know I made the right choice. I chose courage and overcame my fear of change and lived. During Lent, as I reflect on Jesus’ mission of showing us how to live so we may not fear death or change, I remember his courage and trust in God. And I know that God will take care of us because we trust and believe in God and try our best to do God’s will. May you trust God and find strength in Jesus’ example and courage when you experience difficulties as well. In Christ, Lauren Obrzut

Outreach Food4Life Food Pantry/Clothing Closet News

We were very busy the last 2 weeks of February. Those that walk to the pantry waited for the temperature to rise. The food pantry served 110 families, which consisted of 232 adults and 96 children. We welcomed 12 new guests.

We received 51 donations from our members, companies and others in January.

We continue to invite our guests to pray with us. We ask them if they have any prayer concerns. Pastor includes them in his prayer.

We are so grateful for our volunteers. We have 24 volunteers of which 4 are not members of Resurrection. Our volunteers gave 168 hours of their time working very hard to make this ministry successful.

We were able to hire an interpreter to help with our Spanish-speaking guests. This is possible because of a grant we received.

We are still in need of additional people to pick up donations from Costco on Sunday morning.

Thanks be to God.



Financial Summary February 2025

| | February | Year to Date |
|-------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Income: | \$6,638.20 | \$16,506.02 |
| <u>Expenses:</u> | <u>(\$13,208.67)</u> | <u>(\$25,057.24)</u> |
| Income Shortfall: | (\$6,570.47) | (\$8,551.22) |

February results show a gain in our investments of \$300.66. Envelope income was under budget by (\$5,409.42) for the month & under budget (\$9,023.83) for the year. Expenses were over budget by \$298.34 for the month & under budget by (\$763.43) for the year. Our cash position as of 2/28/25 is \$111,218.68 in total cash assets, spread across our Money Market Fund, CD and Checking Account. Our envelope giving year to date is well under budget, but we have 10 more months to make up for the shortfall. Year to date we took \$10,000.00 out of the Money Market fund. Continue to watch for ways to give to our ministries!

God Bless. Be Healthy and Safe.
Wayne Molley, Treasurer



Church Calendar

| | | |
|------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| April 8 | Finance Meeting | 6:30 pm |
| April 14 | Council Meeting | 6:00 pm |
| April 15 | Outreach Meeting | 3:30 pm |
| April 27 | Fellowship Hour | 11:00 am |
| Mondays | Food Pantry/Clothing Closet | 12:00 pm – 3:00 pm |
| Wednesdays | Bible Study | 2:00 pm |
| | Choir rehearsal | 6:00 pm |
| Thursdays | Al-Anon Meetings | 7:30 pm |

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'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.**

Wednesday Lenten Services

1:00 pm (in-person, Facebook, YouTube)
and 7:30 pm (Facebook, YouTube).

Palm Sunday April 13

9:30 am (in-person, Facebook, YouTube)

Maundy Thursday April 17

1:00 pm & 7:30 pm
(in-person, Facebook, YouTube)

Good Friday April 18

1:00 pm & 7:30 pm
(in-person, Facebook, YouTube)

Easter Vigil Saturday April 19

7:30 pm (in-person, Facebook, YouTube)

Easter Sunday April 20

9:30 am (in-person, Facebook, YouTube)