



# 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 by Sharing Our Blessings!*

## “A Circle of Friends Holding Hands” (Being a Welcoming Church -part 2 of 2)

“How would you describe your congregation?” Around the turn of the century, researchers surveyed regular churchgoers at specific churches and asked that very question. Participants could answer however they wanted. The three top answers were: 1) friendly; 2) a family; 3) a circle of friends holding hands. When explaining their answer, people talked about how warm and at home they felt in their congregation. The researchers looked at the records for those surveyed and noted the ones that had the most people saying either of those answers were congregations that with declining membership and attendance. That may not make sense on the surface, but – when you go deeper – it makes perfect sense.

Churches see themselves as friendly because they are friendly with each other. It doesn't mean that they are friendly with visitors. I preached at a church that prided itself on how friendly they were. At the beginning of the service, I watched a woman ask a visitor to move because they were in her seat. That's not a very friendly action!

The family image seems pious (we are all siblings in Christ!) but often it's hard to feel comfortable with a new family. Just remember the first time you spent a holiday with the family of a significant other. Even if they were the nicest people in the world, because of the shared history and stories, chances are it took a while before you felt as if you were part of the family. You stayed because of the love you had for your significant other. Visitors don't have that same motivation. If they feel left out or uncomfortable the first time, they won't come back a second time.

Finally, my favorite: a circle of friends holding hands. It sounds beautiful. There are two drawbacks to this, however: 1) when you're standing that way, you're looking inward and at the people already in your circle with your back to the world; 2) when you're holding hands, you make it hard for others to join your circle.

I know RLC is a friendly church and sees itself as a family. Maybe you also see it as a circle of friends holding hands. There's nothing wrong with those things in themselves. Saying “Hi” to visitors is friendly. You just have to move beyond that to being a welcoming church, always open and accepting of strangers in your midst. Then you'll be able to hear the master say, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for...I was a stranger and you welcomed me” (Matthew 25:34b, 35b).

-Darryl Thompson Powell, pastor

## Council Meeting Minutes September 2023

Our last Council meeting was held on 9/11/23.

Devotions focused on the concept of interconnectedness. A farmer's prayer was shared. In the prayer the farmer says how much he hates each ingredient of a biscuit recipe but how much he ends up loving the final result of the biscuits after all the ingredients are combined and baked. The Council pondered these questions: which ingredients Resurrection have, how can we mix them, and do we have enough? We concluded we have a lot to give our community still, we have faith, hope, passion, we have a good foundation but we can always use more ingredients and lots of products can come from our ingredients, God is still stirring our pot. 1 Corinthians 18-31 is a text we can relate.

The insurance policy for our building with Church Mutual has been adjusted from replacement value at \$1.5 MIL to cash value at \$750K. This will lower our annual premium by around \$1K.

Adjustments are continuing to be made to the sound system in the sanctuary.

The installation for the remainder of the security cameras is planned to be completed very soon.

The parking lot will be re-sealed and re-stripped. The same company that resurfaced the lot will complete this work. The cost will be \$1300. This cost along with the cost from the A/C repair will put us over budget for maintenance so Council approved a motion to increase the maintenance budget line to \$2500.

A new part will be added to our service titled, "Straight from the Heart" beginning in October. This will be a few minutes of time towards the beginning of the worship service where a select congregation member for that week will be able to share how GOD is showing up in their life (i.e., a recent event and/or how their involvement at Resurrection has strengthened their faith).

Resurrection has a new Mission statement:

**Serving Our Neighbors by Sharing Our Blessings**

Our next Council meeting will be on November 13, 2023 at 6:00 PM.

God's Peace,  
Lindsay Vega  
2023 Council Secretary



How does a  
weary world  
rejoice?

### **Outreach Food4Life Food Pantry/Clothing Closet News**

In September the Food Pantry served 90 families consisting of 201 adults and 96 children. We had 33 new guests this month.

We are forever grateful to those who donate food each week. We received donations from 50 donators this month.

Our special item Sunday continues to be very successful and we thank our members for their generosity. This month we had canned vegetable Sunday. During the month of October it will be soup 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. Any and all donations are greatly appreciated. We rely on our members, friends and neighbors to keep the food pantry running.

Thank you to our personal shoppers who are helping buy the items that are not donated. Barb and Alan Miralgio and Walter Johnson are the shoppers. We are forever grateful for them.

Our volunteers continue to be dedicated and make our Mondays at the food pantry work. They work very hard in a short period of time to prepare all the donations that we give to our guests. Our team worked a total of 178 total hours in August. Thank you, God, for blessing us with so many people wanting to do your work.

#### **Advent begins December 3!**

Our Advent devotional theme is listed above. Plan on being a part of this time of preparation for Christmas!

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#### **Financial Summary August 2023**

	August	Year to Date
Income:	\$5,971.16	\$56,841.11
<u>Expenses:</u>	<u>(\$12,501.16)</u>	<u>(\$101,684.97)</u>
Income Shortfall:	(\$6,530.00)	(\$44,843.86)
<u>Loss/Gain Investments:</u>	<u>(\$1,424.05)</u>	<u>\$13,001.81</u>
Total Gain/Shortfall:	(\$7,954.05)	(\$31,842.05)

*August* results show a loss in our investments of (\$1,424.05). Envelope income was under budget by (\$219.85) for the month & over budget \$5,428.45 for the year. Expenses were under budget by \$564.67 for the month & under budget by \$2,841.70 for the year. Our cash position as of 08/31/23 is \$183,212.41 in total cash assets, spread across our investment, Money Market, Operating Accounts and other investments. The stock market was down a little in August, hopefully it will up the rest of the year.

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

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## The Ernst Schwidder Project

Ernst Schwidder was a well-known liturgical artist and professor of Art at Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, Indiana. The Schwidder Project seeks to document, preserve, and promote appreciation of the liturgical art of Professor Schwidder. Our pulpit, altar and statue of Jesus were his design. On Sunday, October 15, Rev. James Wetzstein will be joining us at Resurrection to talk with the members about these altar pieces. Rev. Wetzstein is the University Pastor at the Chapel of the Resurrection at Valparaiso University. Coffee and cookies will be served after the service while folks share their feelings and impressions of the beautiful pieces Prof. Schwidder designed for our sanctuary. We hope you will stay and enlighten Rev. Wetzstein.

## Reformation Sunday October 29

With Special Guest Pr. CeCee Mills

Vision & Mission Team is excited to host Pr. CeCee, Assistant to the Bishop of the North Carolina Synod. We have been working with her since October 2021 and it's been with her guidance that our congregation has gotten excited about our ministry and hosted last year's Open House/Food Drive and the Community BBQs. Now she is coming in person to meet with us, to preach, and to share her expertise and joyous spirit of helping congregations understand, explore, and live into shared ministry. There will be a potluck luncheon after the service and a workshop where she plans on inspiring us to dream for 2024, look for opportunities, and be a part of the growth in both faith and numbers. You won't want to miss it!



### Church Calendar

October 1	Fall Fest Parade	1:00 pm
October 8	Fifth Anniversary of new space!	
October 11	Choir Rehearsal begins	6:00 pm
October 15	Ernst Schwidder Project	11:00am
October 29	<b>Reformation Sunday</b>	9:30 am
	Rev. CeCee Mill preaches	
October 29	Mission Planning Event	11:00am
November 5	All Saints Sunday	9:30 am
	Daylight Savings Time ends	
Mondays	Food Pantry/Clothing Closet	
		12:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Wednesdays	Bible Study	2:00 pm
	Midweek Services	
		1:00 pm & 7:30 pm
Thursdays	Al-Anon Meetings	7:30 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.**

## Fifth Anniversary

That's right! October 7th is the 5th Anniversary of our first Worship Service in the 9777 Grand Avenue building. Bishop Wayne Miller joined us in Worship and gave the first sermon here. That service was the kickoff of our 75th year as a congregation. On Sunday, October 8th, 2023, we will celebrate this milestone and the beginning of our ministry in this building at our regularly scheduled service. See you there!