February 2025

The Messenger

Resurrection Lutheran Church

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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!

Recently I preached a message titled "**Rebellious Good**." Some may have had a hard time with this since whenever the Bible talks about being rebellious, it's always in a negative way. Usually, it refers to rebelling against God. Even the dictionary implies that 'rebellious' is negative. It defines the word as "Prone to or participating in a rebellion: *synonym*: **insubordinate**" *(The American Heritage Dictionary)*. When you look up the definition of 'rebellion,' you get this: "Open, armed, and organized resistance to a constituted government." With that in mind, it may have been surprising for some to hear a pastor speak about 'rebellious good.' But that's exactly what Jesus put forth in Luke 4:14-21.

The potential for rebellion has been inherent in Christianity from the beginning, when you consider the fact that rebellion is not merely about violent uprising. Rebellion also means the creation of alternative communities, ones that are in opposition to the prevailing power structures. This is how the Christian church came into being. Throughout history, Christian communities and movements actualized this rebellious potential, even before the time of the Reformation. However, in the medieval period and beyond, the church itself constituted a dominant power. Occasionally this conflicted with secular authorities. More often it was in cooperation with them. 500 years ago, when the Peasant Wars broke out in the South German lands and elsewhere, its participants had significant economic and legal interests, but they also desired a renewed communal Christianity. Similar movements occurred in many towns and cities across Europe. Even a century earlier, the Bohemian Hussite reformers rebelled with comparable goals in mind. Many more examples could be given.

The current crisis facing churches also means an opportunity to remember the rebellious resources of Christian theology as well as the history of alternative communal practice. Thoughtlessly accepting the status quo – whether it is political or religious – has never been what God has called us to do or be. We should not sit idly at home – feeling safe and secure – as politicians devise new executive orders and laws that harm those who are hungry, thirsty, ill, needing clothes, immigrants or incarcerated. We should not sit idly in our church – content to have "a place of worship" – while there are so many outside our walls who are eager to feel God's presence and love but don't know where and how. Judgmental Christians have made it so that these 'seekers' aren't sure if they will be welcomed on accepted in the church just because of who they are. It's time to stand up and proclaim, *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me! God has anointed me to speak up for the poor, the captives, the blind, the oppressed and let them know, 'This is God's time to shine!'"* -Darryl Thompson Powell

Council Meeting Highlights 1/13/24
Submitted by: Lauren Obrzut

We continued our discussion on revamping 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.

Bingo Night Presentation: Madeline Obrzut gave a presentation on an opportunity for RLC to generate income through hosting Bingo with the cannabis community. Madeline is an event planner and community builder in the cannabis industry and sees hosting Bingo at a private event space that allows cannabis consumption as a way for us to raise funds. It would also be a way for us to go out and spread the Gospel. We would sell the Bingo cards, and we can have church info and possibly open the session with prayer. It is an interesting and promising proposal, and we spent time discussing the possibilities and the uniqueness of working with the cannabis community.

Nominating Committee: There are 3 nominees: Sue L (3 yrs), Judi F (3 yrs), and Sue K (1 yr).

Finance Committee Report: Wayne has agreed to continue as Treasurer next year. To date, our GoFundMe campaign has raised $1,300.00 in donations. We are still waiting for the donation from Kerry Group.

2025 Synod Assembly: May 30-31 at Q Center in St Charles. We may send two delegates.

Holiday Craft Event at Denny's Recap:

The event was well planned. One parent with twins showed up and had heard about the event through Facebook posts. 18 RLC members participated, and it was thoroughly enjoyed. There are plans to host again, perhaps in the spring. We need to advertise the next event more to increase community participation.

Wayne installed a new handrail by the back door after a member slipped and fell.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer and Mission Statement

Next Council Meeting is February 10, 2025.

Outreach Food4Life
Food Pantry/Clothing Closet News

In December the food pantry served 118 families which consisted of 270 adults and 95 children. We welcomed 13 new guests. There were 5 Mondays in December.

We received 69 donations from our members, companies and others in December.

Inviting our guests to pray with us has been well received.

We are so grateful to our volunteers. We have 24 volunteers of which 4 are not members of Resurrection. Our volunteers gave 250 hours of their time working very hard to make this ministry successful.

Outreach has been focused mainly on the food pantry but are looking for ways to do more in the community. We raffled off a bike that was donated by Costco. We partnered with our Share the Gift Committee to donate to the VFW's Stand Down for Veterans. They were very appreciative of our donation.

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

Thanks be to God.

Vision & Mission Update

The Vision & Mission Team is enjoying the Winter season by taking time to pause, rest, and reflect. We are so grateful for all of your support of our events last year and are looking forward to bringing more ways for RLC to be the Light of Christ for all to see.

In Christ,
Lauren Obrzut

Financial Summary
December 2024

	December	Year to Date
Income:	$22,700.59	$99,474.63
Expenses:	($12,219.73)	($145,777.77)
Income Shortfall:	($10,480.86)	($46,303.14)

December results show a gain in our investments of $378.34. Envelope income was over budget by $5,912.67 for the month & under budget ($616.45) for the year. Expenses were under budget by $284.69 for the month & under budget by $4,275.23 for the year. Our cash position as of 12/31/24 is $125,314.70 in total cash assets, spread across our Money Market Fund, CD and Checking Account. Our envelope giving year to date was slightly under budget, but we had a great December to almost make our budget. Year to date we took $32,500.00 out of the Money Market fund. Watch for ways to give to our ministries! And let's keep this up for the new year!

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

everything [in] between
Meeting God in the midst of extremes

This year, we're letting the Gospel of Luke guide us through Lent. Beginning with Jesus setting his face toward Jerusalem, our devotional flows through several familiar stories—the Good Samaritan, Mary and Martha, the fruitless fig tree, the Lost Sheep, Zacchaeus, and more. Many of these stories are well-known in both sacred and secular imagination, carrying cultural relevance and lore. For example, have you ever identified yourself as either a "Mary" or a "Martha?" The "Good Samaritan" title alone could reference a hospital, a charitable organization, a type of law, or a good deed. Perhaps you grew up singing "Zacchaeus was a wee little man" in Sunday School. So many of these scriptures hold significance in pop culture, church history, politics, and everything in between.

When you read these scriptures, you may be struck by how Jesus' ministry disrupted the established social, political, and religious divides of his time. Jesus intentionally pointed out cultural and political extremes to emphasize the radical, inclusive, and surprising love of God. When you study these stories in their historical and cultural context, you see how they mirror the divisions many of us experience in our families, churches, and communities today.

The theme invites us to navigate the polarities in our lives with more faith, intention, and openness to be transformed. Each weekly sub-theme explores two supposed binaries, like "faith & works," "rest & growth," or "grief & hope." These ideas are often considered to be opposing. However, as you explore these concepts within the scriptures, you see nuance and complexity. These dichotomies are false. When you understand that, you can see a full spectrum instead of black and white. You might find that God is present in-between.

This Lent, we're trusting that God shows up in shades of gray, rainbow hues, and everywhere in between.

Lent begins on March 5 (Ash Wednesday)! Booklets will be available before then (print and electronic).

Church Calendar

February 4	Finance Meeting	6:30 pm
February 5	Outreach Meeting	3:30 pm
February 10	Council Meeting	6:00 pm
February 23	Fellowship Hour	11:00 am
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

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In an Emergency

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