March 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!

"joy & sacrifice"

I doubt many who are reading this have thought about the joy in sacrifice that Lent provides. Most of us don't delight in sacrifice; in fact, in our daily lives, we often do our best to avoid challenges and practices that push us outside of our comfort zones.

As followers of Christ, there is a beautiful irony between joy and sacrifice. During Lent – and especially with our devotional theme for Lent, "everything [in] between" – we are presented with a wonderful opportunity to embrace this uniquely. In one of his Lenten messages, Pope Francis shared, "*Lent is a fitting time for self-denial; we would do well to ask ourselves what we can give up in order to help and enrich others by our own poverty*."

While giving up sweets in favor of healthy snacks for Lent is a common and noble endeavor, the goal of Lent should be just a spiritual excuse to lose weight! In choosing acts of self-denial, we are saying "no" to things to get into the practice of saying "no" when inclined towards sin. This ultimately deepens our faith and our relationship with the Lord. Victory can be found when we deny ourselves and pick up our crosses and hardships in order to grow closer to Jesus!

And therein lies the joy. When we grow closer to God by denying our will, we say "yes" to a life of abundance with God. Our God is a benevolent God who will not hold back divine grace from those who honor their creator and choose challenging ways to grow and give God the glory. Jesus even tells us himself, "*Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*"

Without question, Lent is a time for conscious penitence and spiritual preparation for Easter. And it is important to remember that God loves us whether we make Lenten changes or not. At the same time, Lent provides us an opportunity to make God a greater part of our life, and to take our faith to new levels. Stewardship – and especially tithing – is a God-centered way of life. It's also a spiritual way of living that, above all, acknowledges God's presence in all we do.

Lent is a time for every one of us to do more than simply deny ourselves. We need to welcome God into our lives in greater ways so that when we get to Holy Week and Easter, we have an even greater appreciation for the sacrifice the Lord made for us. Talk about pure joy!

As we work through the weekly themes of our Lenten devotional, may you and your loved ones enjoy a holy and joyous Lenten journey.

-Darryl Thompson Powell

Council Meeting Highlights 2/10/25

Pastor Darryl led devotions. How can we make Resurrection a healthy church? In Acts 2:42-47: 42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43 Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. 44 All the believers were together and had everything in common. 45 They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. 46 Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Welcome New Council Members: New Council Members are as follows: Sue Koevenig, Sue Lambert, and Judi Ferrari. The Council also selected Lauren Obrzut as new Council President. The Council also wants to thank the outgoing president Alan Miralgio for a job well done as Council President for the past two years.

Metropolitan Chicago Synod Lay Leadership Day March 29, 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Participants can use this teaching reflection by Bishop Curry to inform a wide variety of areas of life where they wish to find abundant life. This year Lauren Obrzut and Judi Ferrari agreed to go.

2025 Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly – May 30-31. This year Sue Lambert and Walter Johnson agreed to go.

Ministry Structure: Work in process. 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.

Bingo Night - We continued the discussion about Bingo Night and food drive A motion was passed to give Vision and mission the authority for oversight of the whole process and report back to council as needed.

Next Council Meeting: March 10, 2025, 6:00 PM. We ended with our Mission Statement and the Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Jan Ramsson, Council Secretary

Present Ponderings: Leadership

When you think back on all of the bosses, managers, or supervisors you may have had over the years, which ones have stood out? For me, the best bosses I had were the ones who would jump in and help out with whatever needed to be done, no matter how "lowly" the task might have been.

Jesus was that kind of leader, literally stooping down to wash his disciples' feet- a very lowly task back then. He was letting them know that leaders should serve others, put others first, and lead with humility and compassion. That wasn't how the leaders of Jesus' day acted, but Jesus knew that serving others meant serving God- it's what God wanted Jesus to do, and it's what Jesus wants us to do. In Mark 10:45, Jesus says, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Today, there are studies showing that serving others can ease symptoms of depression and stress and even strengthen our immune system. It seems clear that in serving others we also help ourselves. Everyone benefits! This year, as your Council President,

I will do my best to follow Jesus' example of leadership by putting the needs of our congregation first, meaning, what do we need in order to do God's will? One of the ways I plan on doing that is by listening to what your needs are and working with the Council so that all of us together can plan for our future and continue our mission of Serving Our Neighbors by Sharing Our Blessings.

In Christ, Lauren Obrzut

Church Council 2025

Resurrection 2025 Church Council and Officers are as follows:
Lauren Obrzut, President
Susan Lambert, Vice President
Wayne Molley, Treasurer
Jan Ramsson, Secretary
Sue Koevenig Financial Secretary and
Council Member
Judi Ferrari, Council Member
Walter Johnson, Council Member
Alan Miralgio, Council Member

Thank you to Jeff Davis and Wayne Molley for serving on Council. And thank you to our 2025 Council Members and Officers for stepping forward in faith to serve RLC in this capacity. May God guide you through the months to come to always do HIS will.

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30 Pieces of Silver

For 30 pieces of silver, Judas betrayed Jesus to the authorities. We betray Jesus each day when we don't follow his commandments to love God and our neighbor. To remind ourselves of this betrayal during each day of Lent, we place a coin in the enclosed bag. On **Good Friday**, bring your
offering as a sign of thanksgiving to the Lord for his sacrifice on our behalf. If you can't attend the Good Friday service, please bring your Lenten offering on **Easter Sunday.**

Outreach Food4Life
Food Pantry/Clothing Closet News

We started out the new year a little slow due to the frigid weather. We were very busy the last week of January. Those that walk to the pantry waited for the temperature to rise. The food pantry served 125 families, which consisted of 265 adults and 107 children. We welcomed 25 new guests.

We received 67 donations from our members, companies and others in January.
Inviting our guests to pray with us has been well received.

We are so grateful for our volunteers. We have 24 volunteers of which 4 are not members of Resurrection. Our volunteers gave 160 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 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.

Let's Celebrate a Milestone!

April 3, 2025, is June Knapp's 100th birthday! Even if you don't know her, please take a moment and send her a card to the address below. Let's all make her day extra special!

Mrs. June Knapp
Alexian Village
975 Martha Street, Room 330
Elk Grove Village, IL 60007

Church Calendar

March 4	Finance Meeting	6:30 pm
March 10	Council Meeting	6:00 pm
March 12	Outreach Meeting	3:30 pm
March 30	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

facebook '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).

Ash Wednesday March 5
1:00 pm & 7:30 pm
(in-person, 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