



Resurrection Lutheran Church

December 2025

The Messenger

9777 Grand Avenue • Franklin Park, IL 60131

Phone: 847.455.7013

E-mail: office@rlcfp.org. - www.rlcfp.org

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!

Moving Into the Fog: An Advent Word of Hope

As we finish our time with Pr. Kathy Nolte, looking at The Three Pathways, and turn the page into Advent, I can't help but think about how often life feels like stepping into the fog. Personally, I love walking (and driving) in the fog. For many, it's a fearful time. The road ahead isn't always clear. We wonder what's coming next – whether in our families, our work, our church, our community, or even the wider world. And let's be honest: the unknown can feel unsettling. But Advent is the perfect season to remind us that God's people have always lived with a sense of holy uncertainty. Think of: Mary, who said "yes" to God without knowing how it would all unfold; of the shepherds, startled awake by angels announcing good news they never expected; of the Magi, following a star without a map, trusting it would lead them somewhere important.

Advent is about waiting, watching, and trusting. It's about leaning into the mystery of what God is doing – even when we can't see the whole pathway. While we may have some fear about the future, Advent is when we long for God to break in. We want to know that God is at work. Each candle we light during Advent reminds us that we are called out of fear and into hope. We're reminded that Christ's light of good news is louder than fear, stronger than despair, brighter than the foggy future. And whichever pathway we choose for RLC, we don't walk this road alone. We walk it together, as a community of faith. When one of us feels uncertain, another can offer encouragement. When one of us feels weary, another can carry the load for a while. Church is a place where we remind each other that God is faithful, even when tomorrow feels hazy.

I love the image of the star guiding the Magi. They didn't know the destination, but they trusted the light they had. That's what faith looks like. We may not see the whole road ahead, but God gives us enough light for the next step. And step by step, we discover that Christ is already there, waiting to meet us.

As we move through Advent and our Advent theme "*What Do You Fear? Insisting on hope this Advent,*" let's embrace the foggy future with courage and hope. Let's keep watch together, looking for signs of Christ's presence in our midst. And let's remember that the One who came as a child in Bethlehem will come again to make all things new. The future may be unknown, but it is never empty. It is filled with the presence of Christ – who walks with us, who goes before us, and who will never leave us. May this Advent season be for you a time of hope, courage, and joy as we step forward together into God's unfolding story.

- Darryl Thompson Powell

Council Meeting Highlights:

November 10, 2025

Heavenly Father, as we step into this new month of December, we come before You with gratitude and anticipation. Thank You for bringing us through another year, for Your steadfast love, mercy, and faithfulness that sustain us daily.

Our next **Fellowship Hour will be held on Sunday, December 7**, while folks help decorate the building for Christmas. Please plan on decorating the tree, hanging wreaths, putting out our Nativity set and adding lights.

Bingo & Christmas Party, Tuesday, December 16, 2025. Doors Open 6:30 pm. Bingo Starts at 7:00 pm. Join us for an evening of fun, fellowship, and friendly competition! Whether you're a bingo regular or new to the game, everyone is welcome. There will be light refreshments and prizes. Bring your family and friends—see you there.

Resurrection Lutheran Church's (RLC) e-bike raffle supports its mission and ministries, including a food pantry that helps the community. The church's mission is centered on helping people know Jesus and sharing His message through actions and words, serving the community with outreach activities like feeding the hungry and supporting new Americans. The raffle offers a chance to win a like-new Jetson OTG Elite Electric Bike, with tickets sold online, contributing directly to RLC's impactful ministries. **The raffle drawing is scheduled for December 16, 2025, at 8:30 pm.** Ticket prices and purchase details can be found online.

Next Council Meeting: December 8, 2025, at 6:00 pm Submitted by Jan Ramsson, Council Secretary

Outreach Food4Life
Food Pantry/Clothing Closet News



We take pride in bringing food and hope to our neighbors in need.

In the Sunday bulletin we list a food item that the food pantry needs. The item changes each month. The item for December will be canned soup.

In October the food pantry served 111 families, which consisted of 237 adults and 81 children. We welcomed 14 new guests.

We received 61 donations from members, neighbors, companies and another food pantry.

We are so grateful to our volunteers. We have 26 volunteers of which 5 are not members of Resurrection. Our volunteers gave 220 hours of their time working very hard to make this ministry successful. Everyone is invited to stop in on a Monday morning to see hard our volunteers work.

We have received an enormous amount of clothing donations and need volunteers to help sort through all the approximately 30 bags and eliminate the ones that are not suitable to offer to our guests. Please contact Linda in the office or Sue Koevenig if you can help. Thank you to those who have stepped up to help already.

Financial Summary

October 2025

	October	Year to Date
Income:	\$8,203.96	\$80,425.66
Expenses:	(\$14,211.23)	(\$124,690.30)
Income Shortfall:	(\$6,007.27)	(\$44,264.64)

Oct results show a gain in our investments of \$199.41. Envelope income was under budget by (\$4,648.42) for the month & under budget (\$41,846.17) for the year. Expenses were over budget by \$1,300.90 for the month & under budget by (\$4,413.03) for the year. Our cash position as of 10/31/25 is \$73,472.33 in total cash assets, spread across our Money Market Fund, CD and Checking Account. Year to date we have taken \$50,000.00 out of the Money Market fund. We probably have 10 months before our cash reserves run out. So far, we have made \$927.00 on seven nights of Bingo, \$597.50 on carwash fundraiser and \$1,730.00 on our GoFundMe page in eleven months and \$2,425.00 on group income. This is a total of \$5,679.50 in additional income. Our envelope income, given year to date, is well under budget, but we have two more months to make up some of the shortfall. If you are behind in your giving this would be a great time to catch up. Continue to watch for ways to give to our ministries!

God Bless. Be Health and Safe.

Wayne Molley, Treasurer



Judi Ferri's daughter Haley would like to thank everyone for their thoughts, prayers, kindness and compassion during her surgery and recovery.



Advent is here, which means it is time for our new devotional theme: **What Do You Fear? Insisting on hope this Advent.** Devotional booklets are available now. An email will be sent soon (if not already) with an online version. If you are financially able, please consider a donation to RLC to help cover the cost of the materials.

Here are some important dates to remember for Advent through Epiphany.

Dec. 7 – Decorating the church/fellowship. We postponed our Nov. fellowship hour one week so that we can do it while preparing the church for Christmas.

Dec. 28 – Breakfast church with justice. Join us for a unique worship experience that will include breakfast and a time for assembling “blessing bags” to hand out to those who are “unhoused” (aka “homeless”).

Jan. 4 – Epiphany celebration/Star Words. Even though it is 2 days later, we’ll celebrate the Epiphany and hand out new Star Words.

Mark your calendar and plan to attend!



Church Calendar

December 7	Fellowship/Decorate	11:00 am
December 8	Council Meeting	6:00 pm
December 16	Bingo	6:30 pm
Mondays	Food Pantry/Clothing Closet	12:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Wednesdays	Advent Services	1:00 pm & 7:30 pm
	Bible Study	2:00 pm
	Choir	6:00 pm
Thursdays	Al-Anon Meetings	6:30 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 Services

4:00 PM Christmas Eve service
10:30 PM Christmas Eve Concert followed
by service at 11:00 PM