



March 2020

# 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

---

***Resurrection Lutheran Church is called by God to reach beyond our walls and share the Good News, bringing Christ to the world, through Prayer, Love and Action.***

"Stewardship" has become a dirty word in the church. People have difficulty with it because they don't truly understand it. "Stewardship" is one way of talking about ministry. Our ministry would be revolutionized if people could think of it in terms of stewardship. We are accountable to God for what we do and with what God has trusted to us.

A "steward" in Jesus' time was somebody who managed a home they didn't own. Stewards in the ancient world were trusted with everything from seeing that the floors were clean, to the finances, to the public face of that household. As stewards of God, understand that we don't own anything. We have been trusted with resources and the care of everything: Creation, gifts and talents, money, time, the gospel. All for the sake of God's purposes in the world.

"Stewardship" is ministry. Ministry isn't just what the pastor does. "Ministry" in Greek and Hebrew means servant. Servants are at the disposal of another. Replace the word "ministry" with the word "servant" and we see that stewardship is ministry that makes us accountable to God and to the world simultaneously. So, the word ministry points to the source and the ultimate goal, and the word stewardship implies the care of people, resources, gifts and talents, and the grace of God.

We need to look at the idea of stewardship much more holistically than we do. We think of stewardship as fundraising to pay off the building and to cover salaries for the pastor, musicians and staff. We need to understand that we're trustees of talents, gifts, time, treasure, and the people around us, whether they are members or not. Stewardship isn't a word to dread. It's a ministry that we should be excited to participate in.

And if any of the above sound familiar, good! It means you read and remember my newsletter articles. A variation of this article was in the Nov. 2017 newsletter. I'm not resubmitting it because I'm lazy. You're reading it again because sometimes we need to hear a message multiple times before it fully sinks in. Read this article again, and this time, instead of thinking about stewardship as money, think about it in terms of justice (stewards of our neighbors), or environmental advocacy (stewards of creation), or evangelism (stewards of the Gospel). As we continue to move through 2020 and beyond, I encourage you to keep this Bible text in your mind and heart: *"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms"* (1 Peter 4:10, NIV).

-Darryl Thompson Powell

## Council Meeting Minutes February 10, 2020

The Council meeting opened at 6:03 p.m.

Those in attendance were: Pastor Darryl Thompson Powell, Alan Miralgio, Sue Flanagan (remote from Florida) Sue Sprenger, Lauren Obrzut, Ron Ziemer and Janet Campbell.

Devotions: Lauren led the Council in discussion of personal views regarding contemplation and silence in making decisions, based on the book by Richard Rohr: Silent Compassion: Finding God in Contemplation, and also, Joy Unspeakable: Contemplative Practices of the Black Church, by Barbara A. Holmes. Each member was allowed time of personal opinions on how silence is part of their lives, reflecting on how the good or the danger of silence functions in their lives. The statements were not questioned or commented on by the others present, just accepted as given, without criticism. The session ended in a prayer for our community, asking for sharing "the burden of knowing you are hearing us better than we are speaking." The devotion and prayer ended at 7:05 p.m.

Alan Miralgio, Vice President, presided while Sue Flanagan was in Florida, opened the business portion of the meeting.

Motion for the approval of the agenda and January's Minutes was seconded and motion carried.

Motion to approve all Committee Reports, seconded and carried. On hold for the March meeting are: the TV for photo display and fixing the basement stairs.

Midweek Lenten services begin on February 26, 2020. The times are Wednesdays, 1:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Pastor has selected to study The Agile Church: Spirit-Led Innovation in an Uncertain Age, by Dwight J. Zscheile. Studies commence March 4<sup>th</sup> and continue to April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Pastor indicated new Easter season window banners are needed, because the 2020 times listed are different than the 2019 times now shown. Also, Linda will order the palms for Palm Sunday.

Ron suggested that we have the times for legally parking in front of church be changed for Sundays. They now indicate 30-minute parking only. New parking signs would show 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 am, available on Sundays only. Ron has offered to look into that with Mr. Johnson.

A new Mission Statement for Resurrection was brought up, whether to create a new one with ways to implement meaningful changes; and whether it could be based on the established statement, but growing into a smaller, more viable statement as to what is going on at Resurrection now in 2020. Alan offered that a new one "would reflect the community now, making connections to help those in need." Our current Mission Statement is. "Resurrection is called by God to reach out beyond our walls and share the Good News, bringing Christ to the world through Prayer, Love and Action." We must examine what we are doing and factor it into what we've already done. It was said that some churches hold onto their first or prime mission statement forever, while the world changes around them. We are happy to acknowledge the changes, and work with them. Pastor advised that when God gives a new vision, it generally is not given to a group. This matter will be fully discussed at the March meeting.

The March newsletter: items for submission are due to Linda on February 20th.

Janet Campbell served refreshments for the February meeting. Sue Flanagan will provide refreshments for the March meeting.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The next Council meeting is March 9, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Janet Campbell, Secretary of Church Council

## 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**.

## Financial Summary

### January 2020

January Income:	\$5,375.18
<u>January Expenses:</u>	(\$9,376.93)
Income:	(\$4,001.75)

YTD Income:	\$5,375.18
<u>YTD Expenses:</u>	(\$9,376.93)
Surplus / Deficit:	(\$4,001.75)

**J**anuary results reflect a short fall in envelope income of \$1,488.00 compared to 2020 budget. Investment gains of \$430.54 plus Plate, Initial Offering and Interest Income giving us a total net income of \$5,375.18. Expenses came in at (\$9,376.93) slightly under budget, leaving us with an overall loss of (\$4,001.75) for the month.

Our cash position as of 1/31/20 is \$380,284.13 in total cash assets, spread across our investment, Money Market, Operating Accounts and other investments.

**Wayne Molley, Treasurer**

## Interfaith Outreach Committee

It's not the luck of the Irish that has been on our side, but blessings received from individuals and local organizations offering their help! Hester Middle School students and their teacher assisted one Monday at our Grand Ave. site in February. Leyden, SABAH & other Youth continue to help each Saturday at the Hawthorne St. site.

Socks, toiletries, etc. have been purchased in bulk thanks to an earlier Kiwanis cash donation. St. Paul is hosting a brunch & concert this month with free will donation benefiting our pantries. And through it all, RLC and SABAH members, as well as friends and neighbors, continue to make regular donations in the form of food, clothing, etc.

Our volunteers are steadfast and amazing, yet we cannot serve the increasing need in our neighborhoods without sponsors, partners & donors. We are indeed lucky to have so many!

We thank those who have helped us in any way and ask that those who cannot help in a tangible way, pray for our ministry and for all the people who we strive to help. May your days be many and your troubles be few and may God's blessings descend upon you!

Our Pantry & Clothing Closet hours are:

**Mondays from 12:00 PM until 3:00 PM—Grand**

**Saturdays from 10:00 AM until 1:00 PM—Hawthorne**



### Church Calendar

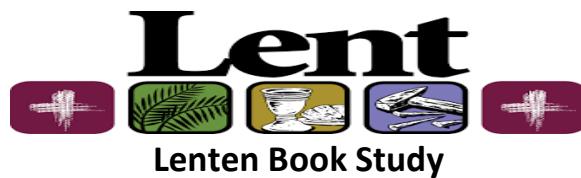
March 3	Finance Meeting	6:30 pm
March 9	Council Meeting	6:00 pm
March 17	Outreach Meeting	6:30 pm
Mondays	Food Pantry/Clothing Closet	
		12:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Wednesdays	Craft Club	9:30 am
	Bible Study	2:00 pm
	Choir Rehearsal	7:30 pm
Thursdays	Al-Anon	7:30 pm
Saturdays	Food Pantry/Clothing Closet	
		10:00 am – 1:00 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 847-258-5580.**



### The Agile Church: Spirit-Led Innovation in an Uncertain Age

Wednesdays at 1:00 and 6:30 pm.

All are invited & encouraged to attend.