

July 2020



# 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

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***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.***

*So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. (John 8:36)*

**From Rev. Carla Thompson Powell**

On June 19, 1865, General Order no. 3 was announced to slaves in Galveston, Texas. That day, the freed men and women took to the streets, singing spirituals and rejoicing together. Official Juneteenth celebrations began the following year. Some people explain Juneteenth as the day the last slaves in the U.S. were freed (not quite correct), but most importantly the official statement (Emancipation Proclamation) had been officially made January 1, 1863. So for over two years, slaves could have been freed, but those who knew (those in power) didn't see fit to mention it. And even the end of slavery was not a true emancipation. The slaves were set free, but not welcomed. They were let go, but not trusted. They were set free from shackles with no possessions or money, only to be enslaved by poverty and need. The story of many of the descendants of those freed slaves did not move into a more positive path in the years after Juneteenth. Juneteenth is a day of historic celebration, but also be seen as a day of lament and challenge (especially for us whose lived experience is closer to the slaveowner than the slave). Juneteenth celebrations are held in at least 45 states today. Juneteenth is a notable date, and we have a lot to learn about its history and lessons even today.

The fourth of July is often a day to celebrate our freedoms in the United States. In recent years, some of these rights have been threatened, but we still hold to the importance of those freedoms. As an example, five freedoms are named in the first amendment of our U.S. constitution: freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of the press, freedom to assemble, and the right to petition the government. We celebrate all that it took to get us to the point of having and keeping these freedoms. But even the 4th of July can become a day of lament and challenge as we think of all the people whose color or status makes them unable to feel those freedoms in the same way. Not all "free" people have the same opportunities as other "free" people. Because of ongoing, long-term, systemic discrimination, our society is not a level playing field and different groups can have different experiences with police, voting, family, community, neighborhood, government, etc.

As we go through these days with lament, celebration, challenge, and prayer, may we seek to listen to each other, to hear voices that traditionally have been silenced, and to educate ourselves to the experiences of people outside our immediate circles. As you listen and learn about Juneteenth, may you note with curiosity and hope the obstacles that different communities have overcome to get where they are today. And as you celebrate and reflect on Independence Day, may you note with authenticity the voices of people who do not feel free and their daily experiences of life in the U.S. (sometimes called the Yet-to-be-United-States-of-America). Happy days of freedom; and may we all one day experience real freedom in our country, as we continue to live into sharing.

## ELCA Anti-Racism Pledge

In 2019, at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, voting members adopted a resolution designating June 17 as a commemoration of the martyrdom of the Emanuel 9—the nine people shot and killed on June 17, 2015, during a Bible study at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C. Congregations of the ELCA are encouraged to mark this day of penitence with study and prayer.

As church, we are called to confess the sin of racism, condemn the ideology of white supremacy, and strive for racial justice and peace. Beyond statements and prayers, we are called to also act and respond to injustices. We invite you to commit to one or more of the actions at [elca.org/racialjusticepledge](http://elca.org/racialjusticepledge).



Join us on July 12 immediately following worship for RLC's first Virtual Coffee Hour! Bring your favorite morning beverage and something to snack on as we fellowship virtually through Zoom at [bit.ly/rlcfp-biblestudy](https://bit.ly/rlcfp-biblestudy). We would love to see you (might want to get dressed for church that day!). If you prefer, you can join by phone (1-312-626-6799 / Meeting ID: 230 167 8868 / Password: 9777)

**Share the Gift**

Thank you to everyone that donated to the The Unity in the Community Foundation to help fund their project to provide groceries to local families during this pandemic. \$540.00 was collected from members and matched by the Share the Gift fund for a total donation of \$1,080.00.

*My Dear Resurrection family,*  
*Thank you so much for all of the cards you sent to help me celebrate my birthday. You are all kind to remember me. May God bless you for your kindness.*  
*Love, Barbara Miralgio*

**Stay Connected Virtually!**

*Worship Services:* Facebook ([www.facebook.com/rlcfp](https://www.facebook.com/rlcfp)) or YouTube ([bit.ly/rlcfp\\_YouTube](https://bit.ly/rlcfp_YouTube))  
*Bible Study:* Via Zoom at [bit.ly/rlcfp-biblestudy](https://bit.ly/rlcfp-biblestudy) or dial in at 312-626-6799, Meeting ID: 230 167 8868, Password: 9777  
*Drive-in church:* Park behind the church and watch the service online via your personal device using the church's network (WiFi: RLC\_Guest, password: AllAreWelcome). Communion will be brought to those worshipping outside.  
*Borrow a tablet:* Tablets that can be borrowed from the church for those without internet access at home. They include easy instructions for accessing the service online; no computer knowledge is necessary! Please contact the office if you would like one.

Financial Summary	
May 2020	
May Income:	\$15,600.25
<u>May Expenses:</u>	<u>(\$3,639.74)</u>
May Profit/Gains:	\$11,960.51
YTD Income:	\$25,803.10
<u>YTD Expenses:</u>	<u>(\$42,909.69)</u>
YTD Income Shortfall:	(\$17,106.59)
<u>YTD Funds Losses:</u>	<u>(\$13,888.41)</u>
YTD Total Shortfall:	(\$30,995.00)

*May* results reflect a shortfall in envelope income of \$1,649.00 compared to 2020 budget. Investment gains of \$11,082.27 plus Plate, Initial Offering and Interest Income giving us a total income for the month of \$15,600.25. Expenses came in at (\$3,639.74) way under budget due to PPP loan offsetting payroll and utility expenses, leaving us with an overall gain of \$11,960.51 for the month.

Our cash position as of 5/31/20 is \$356,713.30 in total cash assets, spread across our investment, Money Market, Operating Accounts and other investments. Our monthly expenses are around \$8,600.00 a month and our income is only around \$5,200.00 a month. If this continues, we will use \$53,800.00 of our investments to cover our short fall in our income for this year. The Paycheck Protection Program from the Federal Government has helped us offset our payroll and utilities for the month of May and it will help again in June.

God Bless. Be Healthy and Safe.

**Wayne Molley, Treasurer**

## Interfaith Outreach Committee



We served a total of 226 guest visits in May. As of this writing, our June numbers were not complete, but were trending down. Our hope is that guests are returning to work, therefore needing less assistance. While we pray for our new “normal” to ease the burden that our neighbors have been bearing, we remain ready and willing to assist them thanks to those of you who donate or volunteer your time.

Through our GCFD partnership, we received nearly 7,000 lbs. of meat in June! Thank you to Leyden Township for helping time and again to provide freezer space!! Two Saturdays in a row we received unexpected deliveries which tested our volunteers in a huge way. Guests those weeks received cases of meat, as did neighbors, firefighters and passersby, as freezer space was maxed out.

As always, we continue to be thankful to our SABAH partners & friends, St. Paul, The Unity in Community Foundation, all other donors, partners and our unwavering volunteers.

None of this can be done alone!

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**



### July Church Calendar

July 7	Finance Meeting	6:30 pm
July 12	Virtual Coffee Hour	11:00 am
July 13	Council Meeting	6:00 pm
July 21	Outreach Meeting	6:30 pm
Mondays	Food Pantry/Clothing Closet	
		12:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Wednesdays	Midweek Worship Service	1:00 pm
	Bible Study	2:00 pm
Saturdays	Food Pantry/Clothing Closet	
		10:00 am – 1:00 pm

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### In an Emergency

If you have an emergency outside office hours, you may reach **Pastor Darryl at 847-258-5580.**

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