

May 2021



Resurrection Lutheran Church

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

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.

♪*It only takes a spark / To get a fire going / And soon all those around / Can warm up in its glowing / That's how it is with God's love / Once you've experienced it / You spread His love to ev'ryone / You want to pass it on. ♪*

"Pass It On" – written by Kurt Kaiser in 1969 – has been a favorite around campfire for decades. Very simple lyrics and a an easy to learn (and play) melody combine to make one powerful song. And singing it around a fire just makes it all seem perfect. It also reminds us that if we've truly experienced God's love, we should be excited to spread God's love to everyone.

Recently I purchased a tabletop firepit to use during the Easter Vigil service (since we can't do a full-size firepit indoors). My initial plan was to light it during worship through Pentecost (May 23). Hearing many worshippers' positive response to it, I started pondering the significance of having flames on the altar. Then I started thinking about the Pentecost text. Acts 2:3-4 says that the disciples "...saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other Languages as the Spirit enabled them." Before these tongues of fire settled on them, the disciples were hiding behind locked doors. Once it did – once they truly experienced God's love – the fire started burning inside them. They burst from behind lock doors and started shouting to anyone who was near about our wonderful God. They couldn't help but pass it on.

After pondering this and praying, I've decided that the firepit will continue to be a part of our worship for the foreseeable future. It is a powerful symbol of God's love and presence in our church and in our lives. As you look at the flames flickering, let it remind you of the power of the Holy Spirit that burns inside of you. Let it remind you of God's love that wraps you in divine care. And let it remind you that we are called to share that fire and that love with everyone.

♪*I wish for you my friend / This happiness that I've found / You can depend on Him / It matters not where you're bound / I'll shout it from the mountain top / I want my world to know / The Lord of love has come to me / I want to pass it on. ♪*

-Darryl Thompson Powell, pastor

Church Council Meeting April 12, 2021

Special Council Meeting March 25th (via ZOOM) – Discussion regarding applying for a grant from the synod to fund a series of workshops with CeCee Mills on the development of a mission plan. The congregation will be provided more information if the grant is approved.

April Council Meeting April 12th (via ZOOM)
Lauren started our meeting with a prayer for guidance.

Virginia read Psalm 95 in preparation for Pastor's devotion.

Devotion by Pastor Darryl – Transforming Worship.

Pastor explained that worship is an act of reverence but there should be more. We need to open our hearts, celebrate the joy of our gifts and how the word of Jesus is within us. The NRS version of Psalm 95 says: O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

Pastor's question for the council is: Does our worship service engage all ages and levels of spiritual awareness? Each council member shared their thoughts regarding our worship services. The general consensus is we are reaching our existing members but we need to consider how changes can be made due to the online presence of others from different age groups. How can we help nurture a relationship to those who are seeking a new relationship with God? We discussed bringing back a children's message monthly to help engage younger families who could be watching online. We need to break out of the "strictly reverent" and celebrate the joy of the message and music. Consider using the international sign language motion of fluttering fingers or CLAP during the worship service!

Devotion Prayer: Help us to worship you in spirit and truth.

General business of approving minutes, reviewing remodeling plans for ladder to food storage area, contacting contractor for basement stairway, updating bank signatures and approval of committee reports.

Discussion regarding the need to get the congregation involved in either attending the Virtual Synod Assembly on June 5th or help planning a project for God's Work Our Hands on September 12th.

Moving forward each meeting will start and end with the reading of the Mission Statement.

The meeting closed with the updated version of the Lord's Prayer.



Spring cleaning, volunteers needed!
Saturday May 22, from 9:00 am till?
Come if you can, stay as long as you can.
Your help will be appreciated!

Financial Summary March 2021

March Income:	\$6,735.01
<u>March Expenses:</u>	<u>(\$10,162.33)</u>
March Shortfall:	(\$3,427.32)
<u>Gain on Investments:</u>	<u>\$1,647.05</u>
Total March Loss with Investments:	(\$1,780.27)
YTD Income:	\$18,091.34
<u>YTD Expenses:</u>	<u>(\$31,475.76)</u>
YTD Income Shortfall	(\$13,384.42)
<u>YTD Investment Gain:</u>	<u>\$4,598.55</u>
YTD Total Shortfall:	(\$8,785.87)

March results reflect a monthly overage in envelope income of \$448.00 compared to 2021 budget and an Investment gain of \$1,647.05. With Plate and Interest Income our total income for the month was a positive \$8,382.06. Expenses came in at (\$10,162.33) under budget for the month, leaving us with an overall loss of (\$1,780.27) for the month.

Our cash position as of 3/31/21 is \$377,533.62 in total cash assets, spread across our investment, Money Market, Operating Accounts and other investments. Our monthly expenses are averaging around \$10,500.00 a month and our average income is only around \$6,000.00 a month. If this continues, we will use \$54,000.00 of our investments to cover our short fall in our income for this year. Some good news was that we received a second PPP Loan of \$13,475.00 this year to help offset these shortfalls. And also this month we were forgiven for our first PPP loan of \$13,421.00, so we will not have to pay it back.

God Bless. Be Healthy and Safe.

Wayne Molley, Treasurer

Outreach Food4Life Food Pantry/Clothing Closet News

March was a busy month. We served 58 families consisting of 122 adults and 50 children.

We are forever grateful to those who donate food to keep our food pantry open. Thank you to Don from Pepperidge Farm for supplying us bread, St. Paul's Church, St. Williams Church, The Unity in Community Foundation, one of our pantry guests for donating meat, Starbucks, Pet Paradise and all our generous members and local members of the community. God keeps directing people to our food pantry needs. So far this month over 30 donations have been received. We are truly thankful for our many blessings. We have been able to give out extra food because of the generosity of all. Thank you so much to Pastor Darryl for picking up a car load of food from Holy Corinthian Church in Maywood that had an overabundance of food. We had to buy more shelving units to store all the food.

Our clothing closet continues to be a blessing to our guests. Thanks to all who donate clothing items. We have had many donations for our guests to choose from. Items that are received soiled or torn are donated to St. Paul's Church for one of their ministries. The snow has melted and we are now able to bring soiled and torn items to St. Paul. Thank you to Beth Silenzi, Lindsay Vega and Jettie Leverett for taking time to bring the many stored up bags to the bins at St. Paul's.

We received a very nice thank you letter from St. Paul's Church for supporting their ministries.

We are so thankful for our dedicated volunteers who make our mission such a success.

Thank you so much to Pastor's wife Pastor Carla and daughter Maya for filling in on a Monday in March when several of us were on lockdown. It was really appreciated. Pastor does a great job making everything run smoothly every week.

Memorial Day, May 31, 2021



Church Calendar

May 9	Contactless Curbside Communion	11:30 am
May 10	Council Meeting	6:00 pm
May 22	Spring Clean the Church	9:00 am
May 23	Virtual Coffee Hour	11:00 am
Mondays	Food Pantry/Clothing Closet	12:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Wednesdays	Midweek Worship Service	1:00 pm
	Bible Study	2:00 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.**