



# 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  Sharing Our Blessings!*

After two months of wonderful articles from Alan and Lauren, it's back to me! And in case you forgot, I'm still talking about how to help neighbors feel welcome the first time they visit the church. So far, I've talked about figuring out where we are right now (not many took the time to respond), building a great website (thanks to all who have put time into redesigning it!), having a welcome center (still working on that), pointing people in the right direction, and everyone being a part of the Welcome Team. This week I want us to look at **giving our guest a gift**.

Let's be honest: Nothing says "You are welcome!" like a welcome gift. Some churches go all out and hand out mugs, shirts and other church-branded merchandise. I know, we don't have the money for those types of things (yet). We can at least have a welcome pamphlet explaining the vision of the church, introducing the pastor, and maybe a \$5 Dunkin or Starbucks gift card. The welcome gift doesn't have to be expensive; the gesture goes a long way.

As you know, I worshipped at a lot of churches over the summer. The two that are the most memorable for me helped me feel welcomed when I walked in. At one, Carla and I were greeted at the door and given a cloth gift bag with simple things: a can cozy, pencil, and a notepad, all with the church's name on them (including the bag). With the other, as I walked out the door the pastor (who didn't know I was coming) handed me a pen with the church's name on it plus a bag of microwave popcorn. The popcorn had a label on it that said, "Things are popping at [church name]!" The label also had contact info on it. I gave the gift bag back at the first church but kept the gifts from the second one (they're in my office if you want to see them). Both churches had simple, inexpensive items that helped me feel like I was indeed welcome in their church.

There are so many ways we can give guests a gift depending on our budget. Giving our guests a gift as they walk in has the added benefit of identifying who the first-time guests are to our members. If you see anyone walking around with a gift bag or bag of popcorn, you know they are a visitor. Now you can go and introduce yourself.

Not one church I visited got it right on everything that I've talked about thus far. Some didn't do any of the things. But the ones I felt most welcomed at did do several of them. I do hope that Resurrection can fall into the latter group.

-Darryl Thompson Powell

\* Next month is the last piece in this series, and possibly the hardest one to implement: *Designing Our Service Around New People*.

In case you haven't heard (i.e., you haven't listened to any of my sermons in September), my time away opened my eyes to some changes that God is calling us to make at RLC. You'll now hear me say regularly that, after decades of focusing on money and members, we need to focus on **message, mission, and ministry**. To break that down, that's: sharing the message that God loves all of us; living out the mission that God has called us to; and doing ministry beyond our walls with help from people beyond our walls. That last one will be crucial to the expanding witness of Resurrection to the community.

A few new things were tried at RLC this summer. I'm so thankful for folks taking the lead and trying new ministries without waiting around for me. Unfortunately, the busyness of the summer almost burned out some of the members. Some might think that means we need to not try new things since we don't have a lot of people. Jesus ran into a similar problem. But he didn't say, "OK, I need to cut back on what the disciples are doing." Instead, he said to the disciples, "*The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.*" (Matthew 9:37b-38) There are plenty of people you know or who are living in Franklin Park who might not want to come for worship, but they want to be a part of a ministry. Let's keep praying for God to send more laborers to us. And let's actively ask/seek those who want to be coworkers with us. **-DTP**

## Council Update

There was no Council meeting in September. The Council will meet in October.

Outreach Food4Life  
Food Pantry/Clothing Closet News



In August the food pantry served 108 families which consisted of 235 adults and 84 children. We welcomed 17 new guests.

We continue to be blessed with food, clothing and miscellaneous donations from our usual sources. God continues to send donations our way. We are very grateful to those who donated items this month. We are in need of men's T-shirts, casual shirts, jeans and casual pants.

We received 53 donations from our members, companies and others in August.

It is so nice to see how many guests want to pray with us before we open.

Several Outreach committee members helped at the barbeque.

We are so grateful for our volunteers. We have 23 volunteers of which 3 are not members of Resurrection. Our volunteers gave 186 hours of their time working very hard to make this ministry successful. Everyone should feel free to stop by on a Monday morning to see how hard our volunteers work to package up donations to serve to our guests.

We are still in need of additional people to pick up donations from Costco on Sunday morning.

Thanks be to God.

**Financial Summary**  
**August 2024**

	August	Year to Date
Income:	\$6,485.34	\$57,108.55
Expenses:	(\$11,861.28)	(\$96,417.14)
Income Shortfall:	(\$5,375.94)	(\$39,308.59)

*August* results show a gain in our investments of \$454.82. Envelope income was under budget by \$888.33 for the month & under budget \$3,815.17 for the year. Expenses were under budget by \$643.14 for the month, & under budget by \$3,618.22 for the year. Our cash position as of 8/31/24 is \$138,105.19 in total cash assets, spread across our Money Market Fund, CD, Checking Account and ELCA investment. Our envelope giving year to date is behind budget and hopefully we can make up for this shortfall in the last Quarter of the year. We had to take another \$10,000.00 from our Thrivent Money Market Fund this month to meet our expenses. Year to date we have taken \$32,500.00 out of this fund. If this continues, we will have no more money in this fund in the next 8 to 10 months. We will have to make some hard decisions very soon.

God Bless. Be Healthy and Safe.

**Wayne Molley, Treasurer**

---



## ADVENT IS COMING!

Advent is a season of endings and beginnings. As the calendar year comes to a close, a new church year begins. Christ's birth ushers us into new ways of living and loving; and yet, the world as we know it spins madly on. In many ways, pregnant Mary was surrounded by endings—large and small, personal and political. But Mary proclaimed hope in a God who was and is making all things new. Christ's birth offered a beautiful new beginning for shepherds and Magi alike—all the while, King Herod tried to bring Christ's story to an end. When we ourselves navigate seasons filled with endings and beginnings, we need reminders. We need words that can feel like steady ground, like a path for our feet to find as we step forward into the unknown.

A Sanctified Art has crafted an Advent series filled with blessings, with the scriptures and reminders we need to hear again and again as we begin a new season. These reminders root us in the fundamental truths of our faith. Many of them are life lessons we teach to children—lessons that adults continue to learn and relearn. They may resemble the blessings we impart to loved ones during special ceremonies like weddings, graduations, or baptisms. You are invited to move through this Advent season as if you are entering a sacred new chapter, holding fast to the reminders that will bolster you for the journey ahead.

As you journey through this season, may you find words for belovedness and hope. May you find words for beginning again. For no matter what you are facing, no matter what this new day brings, love is your beginning.

Advent booklets will be available in November. As we have done recently, if you can make a monetary gift to cover the cost of the devotional materials, it is greatly appreciated.



### Church Calendar

October 2	Outreach Meeting	4:00 pm
October 6	Fall Fest Parade	12:00 pm
October 8	Finance Meeting	6:00 pm
October 14	Council Meeting	6:00 pm
October 27	Reformation Sunday	9:30 am
October 27	Fellowship Hour	11:00 am
Mondays	Food Pantry/Clothing Closet	12:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Wednesdays	Bible Study	2:00 pm
	Midweek Services	1:00 pm & 7:30 pm
Thursdays	Al-Anon Meetings	7:30 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 847-616-0537.**

