## Sixth Sunday After the Epiphany February 12, 2023



Pastor's Corner for February 12-18

The Law's "S.O.S" (Matthew 5:21-37)

There are two ways you can think about the Law in light of the Christian faith. Is God's Law a kind of check list with rules to be followed... or is it more like a mirror that shows us where we've gone wrong?

To discover Jesus' answer to that question this week, just listen as He says this: "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.' But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment." Or this: "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart." Checklist or mirror? The "S.O.S" the Law brings, Jesus is saying, is that it

shows our sins. Many people of His day saw God's Law as a list of rules that a practically perfect person could check off, one by one. According to that way of thinking, the Law was less an instrument of God to elicit an "SOS" in us and more of a way to maintain appearances and give oneself a good old pat on the back.

Jesus' Word to us today is discomforting. It would be easier for us to explain away our anger with our neighbor as "righteous indignation." It would be easier to explain away the "second look" (cf. Billy Graham's definition of looking at another person with lustful intent: "You cannot help the first look... but the second is a sin") as little more than a "natural urge." Jesus won't let us get away with either of those. According to Him, right and wrong is not merely a matter of outward, criminal actions. It is also reflected in what we say. It is manifested even in the thoughts of the heart that lead to actions we regret later.

All of which is to say that the "SOS" of God's Law leads us to desire and pursue the "SOS" of God's promises in Christ... promises "showing our Savior," which Jesus has already delivered in His sermon: "Blessed are those who mourn... blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness... blessed are you" (5:4-11). When we know our need for a Savior and truly see our Savior with the eyes of faith— that is where true blessing is found! We are forgiven sinners!

Thank heaven that even though Jesus doesn't let us get away with thinking we are "practically perfect in every way," He nevertheless leads us to life with the promises that no one but our loving God can make. Today we hear the SOS of our hearts as we not only see our sins... but more importantly see our Savior!

# This Is the Church: Conversations around the Basics of the Christian Faith, Begin February 25

Three 90-minute gatherings on Saturday mornings (9:30 AM to 11 AM, February 25, March 4, and March 11) will focus on the basics of what Christians believe and how the Christian faith can be understood in distinction from other world religions. If you're interested in signing up, please click here. Our group will meet in Room 151 of the Family Life Center.

Epiphany peace and joy, Pastor Jonathan

## **Prayers of the Church**

## **Prayer Requests for Uganda Mission Team**

- For the safety and well-being of individuals and congregations of the Lutheran Church of Uganda (LCU), and for all the people of Uganda
- That the Christian message of hope and salvation will continue to spread throughout Uganda
- For the eradication of the Ebola virus in Uganda
- For energy and wisdom for Pastor Jonathan as he leads instruction at Magamaga Seminary in Jinja, Uganda
- For the safe travel, health, and well-being of this team, and for all short and long-term missionaries
- For energy, wisdom, and discernment for the Life For Uganda Board of Directors
- That Life For Uganda can broaden its committed volunteers and supporters and find resources with the expertise and skills needed to expand our message to a wider audience

Mission team members are Pastor Jonathan and Juli Blanke, Ron Bostick, Jeff and Cheryl Fike, as well as Bruce Brodhagen and Debra Werner from St. James Lutheran Church in Shawano, Wisconsin. Team travel dates are February 2-13; they will spend most of the time in the Amudat region in northeast Uganda. Pastor Jonathan will lead a week-long course at the Seminary.

Check our <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Instagram</u> for updates and pictures from the mission team!

## **Resurrection Lutheran School Principal Call Update**

Dear RLS Family,

I want to share the latest update as it relates to the recent Call that was extended to Heather Lowing. I have provided her response below as it speaks for itself. While we are disappointed in Heather's decision, it was not unforeseen.

Thank you for your prayers as I prayed over the calls from Resurrection Lutheran and Trinity Lutheran in Delray Beach, Florida. One specific Bible verse kept appearing during this process, which also happens to be one of my favorite verses, "For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." Jeremiah 29:11. This verse was one I really clung to during the process of listening to God's plan for me.

After several weeks of prayer and consideration, I have made the difficult decision to decline the call to Resurrection Lutheran School in Cary, North Carolina. This decision is the most difficult decision I have made in my professional career.

As I sought discernment, I wanted to make sure that I was truly listening to God's plan for me and my family. Resurrection Lutheran checked so many boxes on my personal list and there is always excitement partnering with new people for the Lord's work. As I prayed for clarity, God continued to show me that His plans pointed me back to my unfinished projects at Trinity.

As much as I am disappointed in not becoming part of the Resurrection Lutheran faculty, I have peace knowing God's plan for Resurrection is a great one.

Thank you for all the prayers, calls, emails and text messages for not only the call, but also for my husband's healing. Your love and concern made it that much harder to decline. I will be praying that God's plans for Resurrection are clear in the upcoming months as you continue to seek a principal.

In Christ, Heather Lowing

Resurrection Lutheran will now assemble the necessary documents to issue a Divine Call to our other candidate, Mr. Jonathan Fraker, Principal at Epiphany Lutheran Church and School, Houston, Texas, to become the new Principal of Resurrection Lutheran School. Your continued prayers and support are appreciated as we confidently continue our search for a full time Principal.

Peace and Joy in Christ, Robert Unger, Interim Principal

## MEN'S BREAKFAST



Saturday, February 11 at 8:00 am Fellowship Hall

Come gather for fellowship, food, and message.
All men welcome.

Contact Tom Gebbia or mens-ministry@rlcary.org.



## Sunday Morning Adult Christian Ed Class

Join us for the study, *Blessed are the Peacemakers*, on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:30 am with Pastor Alan Shaw in the Fellowship Hall!

This 6-week Bible study on personal peacemaking will run through February 19. Our study leads us to understand the basic truths about personal peacemaking from Scripture. We are each given the responsibility to serve as peacemakers. This study will focus on understanding conflict, our responses to conflict, and a simple model we can follow as ambassadors for reconciliation.





Baptized on Sunday, February 12 at 11:00 am

## Greta Naomi Freeman

born January 13, 2022, daughter of Alexander Powell Freeman and Katelyn June Strube. Godparents are Matthew Collvard and April Moore.

May God's blessing be upon Greta Naomi as she grows in her baptismal grace.

## Sanctity of Life

A prayer from Portals of Prayer:

"Creator God, thank you for the gift of life. Comfort those who feel as if their life doesn't matter. Bring to repentance those who believe some lives are not worth protecting. Bless all organizations that help people choose life for their unborn children. Forgive those who are grieved by their past sins against life. In the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who died on the cross to give us new life. Amen.

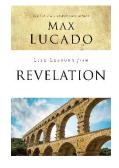
**Sunday, February 12** is approaching; that is the last day to turn in your baby bottle, which is overflowing with your love for life. If you are returning a bottle, place it in the box with a hole in its cover. Also remember, if you are paying by check, the check should be payable to Gateway Women's Care.

Above all, keep the unborn and their parents in your prayers.

## **Weekly Bible Study Opportunities**

## Monday Night Women's Bible Study

Join us for Max Lucado's *Life Lessons from Revelation*, a 12-session study on the book of Revelation. We meet on **Mondays**, 7:00-8:00 pm (in-person and via Zoom). Class will run January 9 through March 27. The apostle John writes about an amazing vision he saw while in exile that gave him a glimpse into heaven.



Key Themes are God has a plan and a future for the world, God will be ultimately victorious over evil, there will be a final accounting for our faith and our lives, and there is a better world in store. Books are available through Amazon and <a href="mailto:christianbook.com">christianbook.com</a>. A digital version is also available through Amazon. For more information, contact Jamee Thieme through RCB.

- Men's Ministry Weekly Study and Fellowship
   Meet on Mondays, 7:00-8:15 pm in Room 240, Family Life Center.
- Tuesday Morning Bible Study and Fellowship
  We study the coming Sunday Scripture lessons from 10:30-11:30 am in the
  Fellowship Hall with Pastor Jonathan Blanke and Pastor Zach Sarrault.
- Wednesday Night Adult Christian Ed
   Please see new class description below.
- Men With Kids

Meet on **Wednesdays**, **6:30-7:30 pm** in Room 247, Family Life Center. We will follow the Confirmation schedule.

## New Wednesday Night Adult Christian Ed Class

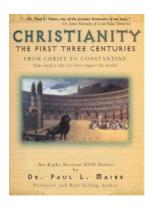
Christianity: The First 3 Centuries
From Christ to Constantine

How could a tiny sect ever conquer the world? This video-based class has teachings from Dr. Paul Maier, a retired Professor of Ancient History from Western Michigan University. Each class will have a video led by Dr. Maier, and then time for questions and answers.

## The class topics include:

- Our Sources of Information
- Jesus of Nazareth: What else do we know?
- Apostles and Emperors
- Persecutions and Bishops
- Defenders of the Faith
- Martyrs for the Faith
- Torments of the 3rd Century
- The Great Deliverance

Class will meet on Wednesdays, 6:30-7:45 pm in Room 151, Family Life Center starting February 15. Class time will adjust during Lent. There is no cost for the class; all materials will be provided. Led by Mindy Stephani. *Hope you will join us!* 



Former RLC members, Tom and Else Travers, will be celebrating their **50th Wedding Anniversary** on February 17th.

Greetings can be sent to them at Tom and Else Travers, 3006 Arran Thistle, Williamsburg VA 23188.

## Yard Sale!

We want to bring back the RLC Yard Sale, but we need some help! Pastor Zach is hosting a short introduction meeting on **Sunday**, **February 19 at 12:30 pm** in Room 151, Family Life Center. The goal of the meeting is to learn what we need to do to get started for a Yard Sale in the late spring/early summer time.

If you've helped in the past but don't want to help anymore, still come! We need to learn from you. New folks are welcome! Contact Pastor Zach at zach.sarrault@rlcary.org.

# Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 21, 5:30-7:00 pm Family Life Center Gym

Join us for an All You Can Eat pancakes, sausage, ham, applesauce, and the best fellowship around!

It's BACK! We need lots of volunteers to make it successful. We are looking for helpers to cook, prepare, serve, and clean up the pancake dinner.

If you can help, please sign up here.

Free will offering with proceeds going to Warmth for Wake, Lutheran Church Charities, and Heifer International. *Thank you to all whom give generously!* 

# ASH WEDNESDAY February 22

8:45 am in the Sanctuary
Imposition of Ashes
with Resurrection Lutheran School

7:00 pm in the Sanctuary
Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

Both Services Available via Live Stream

## Food & Fellowship for the Blind



Resurrection's Ministry for the Visually Impaired meets

Friday, February 24

5:30-7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Contact Annette Langefeld-Kennedy to learn more and for volunteer needs or the church office (919-851-7248, office@rlcary.org).

## Men's Softball

Attention Men: Spring is just around the corner. Time to grab your glove and cleats and join your fellow church members in representing RLC in the Town of Cary's Church League. Games will be played Tuesday and Thursday nights late March through June.

If you are interested in joining us for some exercise, fun and fellowship, please see Adam Brake or send an email to <a href="mailto:mens-softball@rlcary.org">mens-softball@rlcary.org</a>. Practices will start the week of March 12. All sign-ups must be made by March 19.

## **Room for Rent**

We have a church member who is looking for a room for rent. If you have space available and would like to speak with them, please reach out to the church office at 919-851-7248 or office@rlcary.org.



## FEBRUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

### **READY TO VOLUNTEER?**

The Children's Ministry Team is in need of volunteers! It is easy and fun! Contact erika.hulse@rlcary.org

#### **KICKS**

KICKS - Kids in Christ Keep Shining is for 3rd - 5th graders. Please look for emails with details about monthly events. We look forward to seeing your child(ren) there!

## **CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

Children's Church is during the 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Service. Children are dismissed after the Children's Message for crafts, games and Bible stories.

### SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

We have had great attendance at Children's Sunday School classes. We'd love for your children to join us!

Classes are from 9:30 to 10:30 am.
Classrooms can be found in the
Resurrection Lutheran School
building in the following rooms:
Pre-K: room 132
K & 1st grade: room 134

2nd & 3rd grade: room 131 4th & 5th grade: room 133 Children engage in stories, games, crafts, music and more!



## K.I.C.K.S. (Kids In Christ Keep Shining)

K.I.C.K.S. provides fun and fellowship for kids in 3rd-5th grade.

Mark your calendar for our next event on **Wednesday**, **February 15 from 6:30-7:30**pm in the Family Life Center Gym.

## **Student Ministry**

Middle School and High School

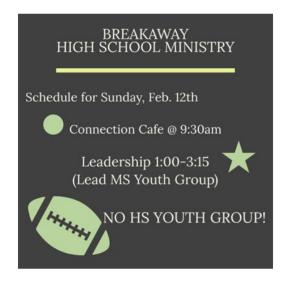
There are so many opportunities coming up, especially regarding service projects and events. If you are needing service hours, this is a great time to get those hours done. And if you are already done with hours, just come and have fun serving with your friends!

## Here's what is coming up:

- Sundays, 9:30-10:30 am
   Connection Cafe, Sunday School for Middle and High School
- Ignite ~ Middle School Youth Group Sunday, February 12, 1:30-3:00 pm
- Sundays, 6:30-8:00 pm
   Breakaway ~ High School Youth Group
   \*No Youth Group on February 12 or 26.
- Service Project ~ Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper February 21, Family Life Center Gym
- Wednesdays, 6:00-6:30 pm
   Open Warehouse
   \*No Open Warehouse during Lent, starting with Ash Wednesday on February 22.
- Breakaway ~ High School Youth Group Lock In February 24-25
- Save the date! Service Project ~ Easter Egg Hunt
   March 26, 2:00-4:30 pm









Ms. Jenny, Youth Director jenny.piontek@rlcary.org

## **Resurrection Lutheran Preschool**



Resurrection Lutheran Preschool | 919-851-7270 | rlpcary.org

## **Resurrection Lutheran School**



Resurrection Lutheran School | 919-851-7271 | rlscary.org

Latest Lion's Tale

## + Rev. Teklu Ketema + June 28, 1974 - February 4, 2023

The Rev. Teklu Ketema, entered eternal glory with Jesus and the saints that went before him on Saturday, February 4, 2023, after a valiant battle with cancer. Teklu was born on June 28, 1974. He was born in Bekabora Goglae, Ethiopia in the central highlands of Ethiopia. Teklu received Jesus' gift of salvation in High School and then joined a Lutheran congregation in Ethiopia.

Teklu received a Bachelor of Theology from Evangelical Theological College, Addis

Ababa, Ethiopia, in 2001, and a bachelor's in business administration from Unity University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 2005. When Teklu graduated from Theology College, he started a holistic ministry in one of the slums of Ethiopia's capital, Addis Ababa. In 2007, he met Tsion Kidanewold Endalkachew, who was one of the volunteers from the United States on a project.

After they were engaged, they moved to the United States and married on May 10, 2008. God blessed them with two children: Jonah and Selah. The family joined Mekane Yesus Lutheran Church in Cary, North Carolina.

Teklu enrolled in Concordia Seminary in 2016. He was a member and Seminarian fieldworker at Timothy Lutheran Church in Saint Louis, Missouri from 2018-2020. His vicarage was at Salem Lutheran Church, Affton. Teklu graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis Missouri with a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) on June 24, 2020. Teklu was called to serve St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Gambrills/Crofton, Maryland. Rev. Ketema was ordained and installed at St. Paul's on July 12, 2020.

The memorial service will be held on Thursday, February 9, 2023, at 10:30 am at St. Paul's Lutheran Church,1370 Defense Highway, Gambrills, Maryland 21054. The service will be streamed live; <a href="https://www.stpaulscrofton.com">www.stpaulscrofton.com</a>. The Interment will be at Lakemont Memorial Gardens.

We pray the Lord's comfort on his wife, Tsion, and their children, Jonah and Selah, and his family and their church and school family.



## **Online Worship Bulletins**

For online services, connect through our YouTube channel at <a href="https://www.youtube.com/ResurrectionLutheranChurchCaryNC">woutube.com/ResurrectionLutheranChurchCaryNC</a> or through our website at <a href="mailto:rlcary.org/about-us/online-worship">rlcary.org/about-us/online-worship</a>.

**Attendance and Giving** 

**Visual Faith** 

**Church Calendar** 



100 Lochmere Drive West, Cary NC 27518 rlcary.org 919-851-7248 | office@rlcary.org

## Prayers of the Church – February 12, 2023

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4:16

### We lift the following prayer requests this week:

### **Ongoing Prayers**

\*Diane Cuper, \*Eve Sommers, \*Anne Altieri, \*Charlotte Raines, \*Eric Hammergren, \*Anita Moore, \*John Shaeffer, \*Vern Ebert, \*Aaron, Marcus, \*Malcolm, \*Sandy Nigg, Henry Otten, Michael Flannery, \*Helen Campbell, \*Lena Licciardi, Paul Batt, Peter and Esther Kuo, \*Geoffrey Wiggins, Marc & Elizabeth Langefeld's Baby Adoption, Caitlyn, Mark Zimmerman, Justus Nicolai, Beverly Kunitsky, Alex Fernandez

### **Ongoing Cancer Treatments**

\*Mike Allen, Anne Price, \*Gary Ferro, Angie Price, Alison Zieglmeier, Carol Diliberto, Roseanne Candiello, Jackie, Linda H., Kathy Siemon, Scott Brinkley, \*Bill Xenakis, Linda, Jimmy Ketner, Hope Mackelprang, Melissa Huntsman, Sue, Kathy, Glenn Wagner, Pamm Haley, Judy Dean, Bob, Dennis, Cheryl Schlage, Michael Murphy

## **For Expectant Moms**

Laura, Amy Lambert

## Those Prayed for on February 5, 2023

### **Thanking God Today**

- Our RLC Family
- Family Celebrations and Time Together, Anniversaries, Birthdays, Weddings
- Our Many Blessings
- Caring Organizations Within Our Local Communities
- Development of Boost.Uno Foundation
- \*Marty Stephani, Home from Rehab
- Marlene Kibler, Good Test Results
- Jason, Grandson of \*Glenda Moser, Full Scholarship
- \*Lyle Malotky, Successful Surgery
- Dennis Leister, Brother of \*Keith Leister, Successful Surgery

## **For Healing**

- \*Becky Berger
- \*Kim Goss
- All Those Exposed to COVID, with COVID, and Recovering from COVID
- Blind Ministry Guests Maria Barker, Judy Dean, Sheila McNair, Linda Jones, Desiree, James

- \*Brendan Nigg
- \*Marty Stephani, Continued Recovery, and \*Mindy
- Cheryl Schlage, Mother of \*Danielle Altieri
- Roger Robbins; Jerry Crueger; Bruce Klevenow, Brother of \*Ralph Klevenow
- \*Ellen Richter, Recovery
- Susan and David, In Rehab Together Following Auto Accident
- Nancy Waggoner
- \*Lyle Malotky, Recovery
- David and Lynda Kramer
- Roy, Randi, Alex, Patti, Tim, Justin, Red, Brian, Keith, Mark, Weston, Timmy, Carlton, Carol, Anne, Anna, Skylar, Brendan, Marty, Alice, Glenn, Stuart, Dennis, Lyle, Sally, Amanda, Jill, Ken, Donald, Eric, Mara, Karen, Connie, Sue, Pastor Teklu, Gertrude, Judy, Doug, Jaime, Garrett

### **For Comfort**

- Friends and Family of Polly McKendry
- Friends and Family of Anthony Michael Maerten, Son of Chairman, St. Paul in Whispering Pines
- Friends and Family of Doug Jeffcoat, Father-In-Law of \*Taylor Jones

## For Provision, Peace, Strength, and Patient Endurance

- People of Ukraine, And All Those Who Serve to Support Them
- Persecuted Christians
- Uganda Lutheran Church
- Resurrection Lutheran School Principal Candidate Heather Lowing and Her Family as She Considers the Call to RLS
- All Those Supporting Family Members with Caregiving Needs
- Call Committee for DCE
- Safe Travels/Travel Mercies
- \*Randi and Barry Munns
- Annie Ruth Ford, \*Dennis Ford's Mother
- \*Eric and \*Jill Hammergren
- \*Pam Dickson
- \*Jan and Paul Wozniak
- Jan and Rich Bloom
- Stuart and Sue Sanders, and the \*Boyer Family
- Our RLC Uganda Mission Team, Departure on February 2
- Jordan Lutheran Church Discernment and Decisions Regarding Location
- Jeri, Mother of \*Sue Campau, and \*Sue
- Healthy Pregnancy
- Grandson Jackson Working in Africa

## For the Lord's Wisdom, Guidance, Strength for the Health and Well-Being of the People They Serve

- Pastor Jonathan and Juli, Associate Pastor Zack and Kelsey, Assistant Pastor Alan and Faith, and Their Families
- Resurrection Lutheran Church and Schools Staff
- Area Pastors and School Staff
- Our Stephen Ministers

#### For Our Missionaries

- \*Mark and \*Megan Mantey, Uganda
- JP and Aimee Cima, Cambodia
- Shauen and Krista Trump, Kenya

Lord Jesus, thank You for Your abiding Presence and saving grace. All is in Your Hands.

We trust You are working all things according to Your good plan and purposes,
and with that trust and confidence, we release these prayers to You. In Your Holy Name, Amen.

\*RLC Members Updated 2/10/23

## Attendance and Giving – February 12, 2023

**In-Person Worship Attendance** 

Saturday, February 4

6:00 pm - 60

Sunday, February 5

8:00 am - 90; 9:30 am - 166; 11:00 am - 88

**Total In-Person Worship: 404** 

Views of Online Worship at RLC's YouTube Channel

Sunday, February 5

8:00 am - 87; 11:00 am - 45

**Total Online Views: 132 views** 

## **General Fund Giving and Spending - December 2022 (Revised)**

	Current Month	Year to Date
General Receipts	\$ 180,894.24	\$ 699,979.03
<u>Total Disbursements</u>	<u>\$ 124,807.79</u>	\$ 641,406.69
Receipts Less Disbursements	\$ 56,086.45	\$ 58,572.34

Last Week's Offerings: \$25,339.88

Average Weekly Giving for 2022/23: \$26,922.27

Average Weekly Giving Budgeted for 2022/23: \$26,908.65

We are grateful for all who are able to maintain financial contributions to our congregation!

There are four ways to make your offering:

- Place in offering plate as you exit the in-person worship service
- Mail to Resurrection Lutheran Church, 100 Lochmere Drive West, Cary, NC 27518
- Online Giving through our church website at <a href="relative:rlcary.org/ministries/online-giving">rlcary.org/ministries/online-giving</a>
- Download the Vanco Mobile app, search for Resurrection Lutheran Church, transfer funds from your checking or savings account to RLC

Questions? Contact <a href="mailto:finance@rlcary.org">finance@rlcary.org</a>.

Updated 2/10/23