

First Sunday in Lent

February 26, 2023



Pastor's Corner for February 26-March 4

Forty Days Of "Receiving" Has Begun (Matthew 4:1-11)

The season of Lent has begun. Lent is a period of 40 days (46 days from Ash Wednesday to Easter, minus the Sundays) that calls to our minds the 40 days of Jesus' being tempted in the wilderness (Matt 4:1-11), a text traditionally associated with the beginning of Lent. The custom of fasting or self-denial among Christians is associated with Jesus' own time of fasting prior to his temptation. Today we hear the occasional "breaking in" of ancient Lenten observances with phrases like, "I'm giving up chocolate for Lent." Such practices can be beneficial. Martin Luther himself observed that the practice of giving up stuff could be "fine outward

training.” But if the practice begins— and ends— with a focus on what we give up, something is obviously missing. Why not start Lent not only with a focus on what you are giving up, but on what you are RECEIVING? Why not take part in an observance of Lent that allows you to carve out a quiet place each day so that God can fill you up again with awe and joy and humility? In keeping the silence of Lent, in turning down the volume of the world and in slowing down the pace of a frantic schedule, you are not just giving something up. You are adding margin to your life. You are allowing God the opportunity to create greater relational, emotional, and spiritual wholeness in you. This year let’s not just give something up for Lent. Let’s “get” Jesus... the Lord of the cross... for Lent. I invite you to keep the silence of Lent with the new Lenten devotional “Amazing Grace” which you can pick up at church the next time we see you there. You can also set aside time for quiet by joining us at our Wednesday evening Lenten services, where you will experience brief meditations on the hymn “Amazing Grace” on this 250th anniversary year of the hymn. Of course you can always meditate on the suffering and death of Jesus in your alone time... wherever and whenever you make that happen. Whatever you do, know that Jesus, the One tested in the wilderness, crucified and risen again, is with you. Don’t just give something up... receive. Receive all that Jesus brings you during Lent again this year!

My Rescheduled Procedure Now Set for April 14

Many of you heard during worship announcements last weekend that my surgery for a cochlear implant originally scheduled for February 27 has been postponed. Since last Sunday, I’ve received word that the procedure is now scheduled to take place on April 14. Because of the two-week window of my recovery, I will be relatively unavailable for the latter part of the month of April. Thank you again for your concern and prayers for me! I give thanks to God for the possibilities that modern medicine makes available.

Pulse of the Church Survey Answers Collected

Many thanks to RLC Communications Specialist Susan Moore for preparing the results of the “Pulse of the Church” survey for us! Be on the lookout next week for information about where you can access the data from the survey and better understand the RLC church family to which we all belong.

Blessed to be living by the cross of Christ with all of you...
Pastor Jonathan

Prayers of the Church



Saturday, February 25

We will use the Taize format of worship for
the Saturday, 6:00 pm service.

A darkened setting with candles, singing of short ostinato
refrains of Biblical and liturgical phrases, periods of
quiet for reflection, the celebration of communion,
readings, and sermon.

Mission and Ministry Presentation

Join us on Sunday from 9:30-10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall!



Over the past twelve months, millions of Ukrainians have fled their homes without any knowledge of what the future holds for them and their loved ones. One thing is certain, the Porter Family are grateful that God has led them to be joined with the Dudars in this time of war.

This weekend, hear about the story of how God has led the Porter and Dudar families to join together at this time of tumult for so many. Thank you to those who have supported Ukrainians, while hoping to inspire those of you who would consider getting involved if you haven't yet and wish to do so. There are many ways to make a difference.

Lenten Midweek Worship

Amazing Grace

God interacts with the most broken people with His Amazing Grace. Throughout Lent, we will be focusing on some familiar or not so familiar characters in Scripture that had life-changing experiences with God's Amazing Grace. Grace that causes

the blind to see, gives water to the thirsty, welcomes the broken, and raises the dead.

Join us on Wednesdays, 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary starting March 1!

May His Amazing Grace continue to change you this Lenten season.

Live stream available on our [YouTube channel](#).

Note: Wednesday evening classes will begin at 6:45 pm after service.

Lent Offerings

Offerings received during the Lenten Midweek Worship Services this year will go to support the following:

Warmth for Wake

Seasonal energy assistance outreach program to provide fuel to low-income residents of Wake County during winter months. Sponsored by [Wake Co. Health & Human Services](#).

Lutheran Church Charities

LCC's mission is to share the mercy, compassion, presence and proclamation of Jesus Christ to those who are suffering and in need through disaster and crisis relief and K-9 ministries. For more information, lutheranchurchcharities.org.

Heifer International

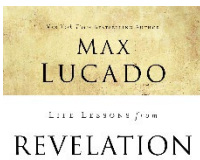
Strives to end hunger and poverty in sustainable way by supporting and investing alongside local farmers and their communities. Learn more: heifer.org

Please place your offerings in the specially marked offering envelopes or denote "Lenten Offerings" on your check. Thank you for your generosity in supporting these important charities and ministries!

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 christianbook.com. 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.

- **Men With Kids**

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

- **Wednesday Night Adult Christian Ed**

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. 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. Led by Mindy Stephani.

- **This Is the Church: Conversations around the Basics of the Christian Faith**
Three 90-minute gatherings on **Saturdays, 9:30-11:00 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. Meet in Room 151, Family Life Center.
Contact jonathan.blanke@rlcary.org.

New Adult Sunday School Class ***Poetry and Our Christian Faith, Begins March 5***

Poets have often addressed the key issues of life, such as love, faith, hope, grief, and death. This series of lessons will examine some of the world's greatest poems and will use them as springboards to examine what the Scriptures have to say on the same topics. Included in this study will be poems by Emily Dickinson, William Shakespeare, Elizabeth Barrett Browning, Dylan Thomas, T.S. Eliot, and William Butler Yeats.

Join us on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall!

You will want to bring your Bibles to each class. Copies of the poems will be distributed at each session. Led by Larry Cameron.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Thank you to ALL the many helpers and staff that helped us pull off the fun and delicious Pancake Supper!

We had 40 helpers, about half were youth and many helpers who had not helped previous years. We used 40 lbs. of ham, 40 lbs. of sausage, and 25 lbs. of pancake mix. We fed 100 people and raised \$552 for Warmth for Wake, Heifer International, and Lutheran Church Charities.

Please join us next year for fun and pancakes!



Ladies Fellowship Luncheon

Wednesday, March 1
at 11:30 am

O'Charley's
101 Ashville Avenue, Cary

RSVP
through RCB Group
or church office

The Coffeehouse for Special Needs Adults Friday, March 10

We thank all our volunteers who helped us to have a wonderful Coffeehouse in February! We couldn't do it without our faithful volunteers. Please come join us! Our special needs guests love to attend and we need lots of volunteers to make them feel special and loved. We need setter uppers at **5:30 pm** (both food and room), servers at 6:30 pm, and cleaner uppers at 8:30 pm. **Sign Up:** <https://bit.ly/3kqoHGN>

The next Coffeehouse is Friday, March 10 from 7:00-8:30 pm in the Family Life Center gym. *The Real Housewives of Room 3121* will be our band.

Questions? Contact Brenda Peterson or the church office at 919-851-7248 or office@rlcary.org.



Easter Flowers

Easter flowers will be used for the Easter services. Choose from 6" Lily (\$20), 6" Hydrangea (\$25), and 8" Azalea (\$30). Order forms are available in the Narthex and Family Life Center.

All orders and payment need to be received **by Sunday, March 12**. Place in Linda Merrill/Office mailbox, make checks payable to RLC.

You may pick up your plants to take home after the last Easter Service on April 9. The plants are provided by Fairview Garden Center.

Questions? Contact the church office at 919-851-7248 or office@rlcary.org.

Life for Uganda



Life For Uganda has returned from a sensational visit to Uganda. We traveled many, many kilometers throughout northeast Uganda, reunited with old friends, made new connections, celebrated a new church building, enjoyed meals and games with several congregations, and learned a great many things.

We can't wait to tell you about it! Join us on **Sunday, March 12** in the Fellowship Hall during the Sunday School hour. We'll share stories and pictures from our travels and describe some of the most urgent needs we encountered. And the Uganda Crafts Market will be open with beautiful new items for sale. Mark your calendar!

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 mens-softball@rlcary.org. 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!



Questions?
Contact:
Erika Hulse at
erika.hulse@rlcary.org



Vacation Bible School (VBS)

Shine a light on Jesus' love!

Let's launch on a cosmic quest where we will have a blast shining Jesus' light to the world. *Stellar* rockets kids on an out-of-this-world adventure that's light years of faith-building fun!

Mark your calendar for June 26-30!

Registration opening soon.

Student Ministry

Middle School and High School

Here's what is coming up:

- This Sunday only, no Connection Cafe (Sunday School for Middle and High School).
- Breakaway ~ High School Youth Group Lock In
February 24-25
*No Youth Group on February 26.
- **No** Open Warehouse on Wednesday Nights During Lent!
- *Save the date!* Service Project ~ Easter Egg Hunt
March 26, 2:00-4:30 pm

RLC Youth
Breakaway and Ignite

Sunday, Feb. 26th
NO Connection Cafe
NO Breakaway

There is a presentation in the Fellowship Hall @ 9:30am that would be great for you to attend!



Questions? Contact Ms. Jenny, Youth Director
jenny.piontek@rlcary.org

Resurrection Lutheran Preschool



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**Resurrection Lutheran
Preschool**

**3-year-olds
to rising kindergarteners**
(children currently in our 2's classes are eligible)
(ALL Ages **MUST** be toilet-trained)

June 5 – 8 (9:15–12:30)
June 12 – 15 (9:15–12:30)
June 19 – 22 (9:15–12:30)

Neighbors, friends, & family welcome!
EMAIL FOR BROCHURE & REGISTRATION FORMS!

Mark Your Calendars!

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email- **office@rlpcary.org**
call- **919-851-7270**

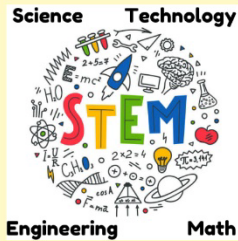
Resurrection Lutheran School

STEM/Coding Camp

Camp Leader: Mrs. Pam Barnette

Week 1: June 5th-8th

Week 2: June 19th-22nd

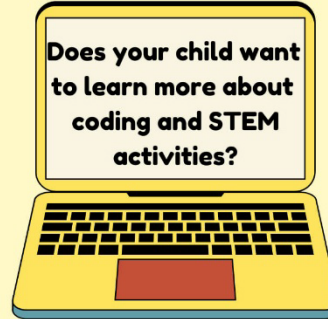


Days/Time: Mon.-Thurs @

1:00pm-4:00pm

Cost: \$150 (per week)

Camp limit: 12 students



This camp is for rising
3rd-5th graders.

Substitute Teachers Needed!



We need you!

- No experience needed
- \$100 for a full day substitute
- \$50 per half day day substitute

Contact: robinhester@rlscary.org

Substitute Teaching

Take an opportunity to get involved with your child's learning experience.

Resurrection Lutheran School is committed to educating generations of children in the training and instruction of the Lord. We would love for you to consider joining us to be a part the experience.



rlscary.org

Junior Kindergarten-8th Grade

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

Latest Lion's Tale

WORSHIP SERVICES

Traditional Worship
in Sanctuary
Saturday, 6:00 pm
Sunday, *8:00 & 9:30 am

Praise Worship
in Family Life Center
Sunday, *11:00 am

**Services Live Streamed to YouTube*

Online Worship Bulletins

For online services, connect through our YouTube channel at
youtube.com/ResurrectionLutheranChurchCaryNC
or through our website at
rlcary.org/about-us/online-worship.

Attendance and Giving

Visual Faith

Church Calendar

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

Prayers of the Church – February 26, 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,
*Cheri Spitz

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, Cheryl Schlage,
Michael Murphy

For Expectant Moms

Laura, Amy Lambert

Those Prayed for on February 19, 2023

Thanking God Today

- Our RLC Family
- Family Celebrations and Time Together, Anniversaries, Birthdays, Weddings, Baptisms
- Our Many Blessings
- Safe Travels
- Caring Organizations Within Our Local Communities
- Jordan Lutheran Church, Continuing Their Ministry in New Location
- Our Uganda Mission Team, Safe Travel and Their Service in Uganda
- Via de Cristo Team Weekend, February 16-19
- Gateway Baby Bottle Campaign
- Dennis Leister, Recovery
- Grandson Oliver's Baptism

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
- *Lyle Malotky, Recovery
- David and Lynda Kramer
- *Mike Lucien
- *Sally Cotton
- *Vern Ebert
- *Virginia Heilman
- *Dennis Ford
- *Eve Sommers, Recovery
- *Phil Gresens' Wife Recovering from Surgery
- Randi, Bill, Tim, Justin, Red, Brian, Timmy, Keith, Mark, Carlton, Carol, Anna, Anne, Skylar, Jill, Mary, Wendy, Christy, Stuart, Amanda, Angela, Kim, Jarrod, Shannon, Ken, Donald, Eric, Mara, Connie, Karen, Sue

For Comfort

- Friends and Family of Juli McKinney
- Friends and Family of Dennis Reilly, Son of *Gail Reilly and Nephew of *Meta Linde

For Provision, Peace, Strength, and Patient Endurance

- People of Ukraine, And All Those Who Serve to Support Them
- Persecuted Christians
- Uganda Lutheran Church
- People of Turkey and Syria After Recent Earthquakes
- All Those Supporting Family Members with Caregiving Needs
- Resurrection Lutheran School Principal Candidate Jon Fraker and His Family
as He Considers the Call to RLS
- Call Committee and DCE Call Process
- Safe Travels/Travel Mercies
- *Randi and Barry Munns
- Annie Ruth Ford, *Dennis Ford's Mother
- *Eric and *Jill Hammergren
- *Pam Dickson
- *Bruce and *Annette Kennedy
- *Jan and Paul Wozniak
- Jan and Rich Bloom
- Stuart and Sue Sanders, and the *Boyer Family
- Susan and David, Continued Recovery
- Healthy Pregnancy

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
- *Bob Unger and Robin Hester's Leadership of RLS During This Interim Period
- 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 2/24/23

Attendance and Giving – February 26, 2023

In-Person Worship Attendance

Saturday, February 18

6:00 pm - 54

Sunday, February 19

8:00 am - 93; 9:30 am - 153; 11:00 am - 111

Ash Wednesday, February 22

8:45 am with Resurrection Lutheran School - 245; 7:00 pm - 147

Total In-Person Worship: 803

Views of Online Worship at RLC's YouTube Channel

Sunday, February 19

8:00 am - 136; 11:00 am - 56

Ash Wednesday, February 22

8:45 am with Resurrection Lutheran School - 35; 7:00 pm - 47

Total Online Views: 274 views

General Fund Giving and Spending - January 2023

	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Receipts	\$ 88,801.77	\$ 788,780.80
<u>Total Disbursements</u>	<u>\$ 116,278.26</u>	<u>\$ 757,684.95</u>
Receipts Less Disbursements	\$ -27,476.49	\$ 31,095.85

Last Week's Offerings: \$16,240.77

Average Weekly Giving for 2022/23: \$25,444.54

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 rlcary.org/ministries/online-giving
- Download the Vanco Mobile app, search for Resurrection Lutheran Church, transfer funds from your checking or savings account to RLC

Questions? Contact finance@rlcary.org.

Updated 2/24/23