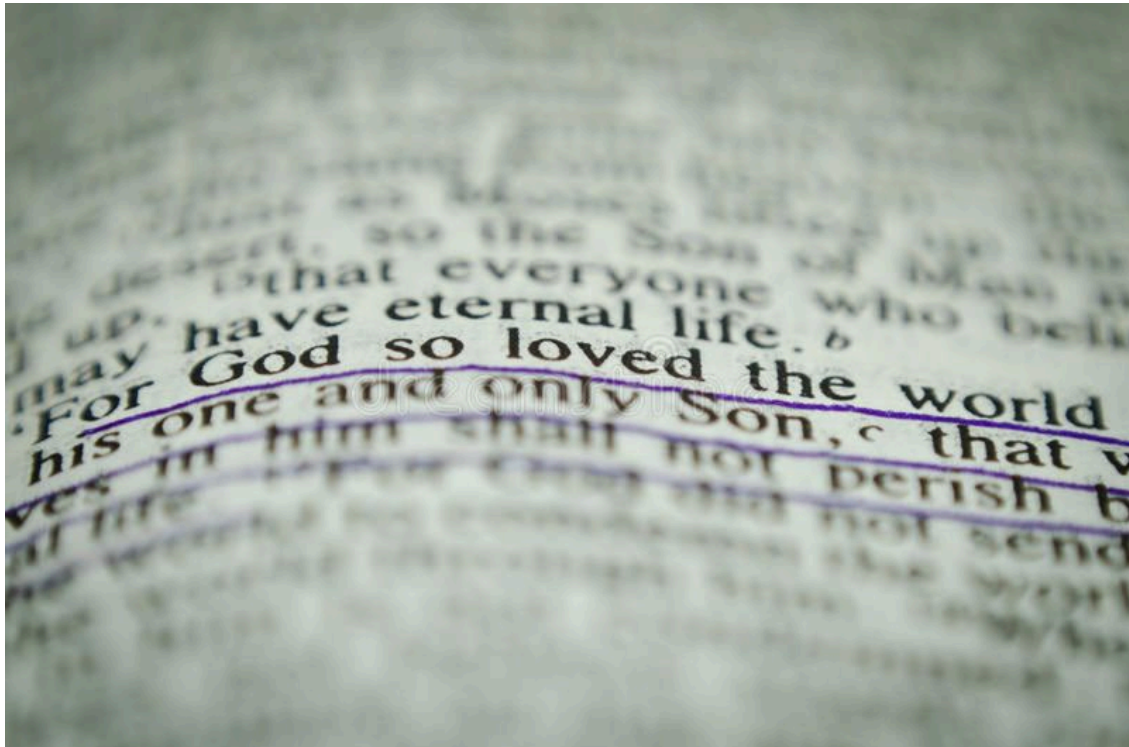


Second Sunday in Lent

March 5, 2023



Pastor's Corner for March 5-11

No Resume Required
(Gen. 12:1-9; John 3:16)

Even back in the old days when job applications were submitted in person with a face-to-face interview, putting oneself forward for a job was never easy. Today, now that applicants must polish resumes and submit them electronically to potential employers without the benefit of the in-person interview, the stakes are even higher. Personal references must be carefully considered. Past job history must be presented that highlights the applicant's achievements and successes. And everyone knows that the resume is only a first step. Any organization serious about taking on a new hire will scour the internet for information that might raise the

proverbial red flag.

So, we might be forgiven if we assume that when God took the important first step of building a nation through whom all the world would be blessed, there would have been a more rigorous interview process in place. Or assuming that God didn't need all that (God being God and all), we might think a more auspicious candidate for patriarch might have been appropriate. Instead, God chose Abram. Abram, former idol-worshipper (Joshua 24:2)... Abram, senior citizen (Gen 12:4)... Abram and wife Sarai, childless due to advanced years and sterility (Gen 11:29). Hardly the sorts you would expect to birth a new nation! But that's the point. No resume was required. In fact, there might have been more than one reason why God "shouldn't" have chosen Abram and Sarai... yet choose them He did. The result? Their successes and their calling to faithfulness ultimately did not rest in themselves. It was all God's doing. Read the summary of "Abraham's" life (his name had changed from "Abram" [exalted father] to "Abraham" [father of a multitude] in Joshua. The subject of the story is not Abraham at all— but God ("I took your father Abraham... and led him through all the land of Canaan... I gave him Isaac," etc.)

I mention all of this because, journeying through Lent, it is easy to put the cart before the horse and think that Abraham's /our performance is what's at stake. It isn't. Like Abraham we receive the promise that life begins with GOD... and results in GOD's blessing for all the world (Gen 12:3; John 3:16). That's not to say that God can't or doesn't accomplish great things with us. God might indeed use us to accomplish some amazing, neat stuff along the way. But it is by faith in God's promise, not by performing good works, that we live out our calling as God's people. We are freed from the need to produce the perfect resume. We've already got the job. We therefore live— and allow others to live— not as people with something to prove, but as people who have been proven capable, for Christ's sake.

Pulse of the Church Survey Answers Available to View

As announced last week, the results of the "Pulse of the Church" survey are ready to view. I invite you to take a look at the final results [by clicking on this link and logging into your account with Resurrection Church Builder](#). (Go to Groups, select Entire Church Group, under Files, click *2023 Survey Results*.)

Here are a few takeaways from the survey I noted: Of the 192 people who took the survey....

- Those saying they attend the 9:30 AM Sunday currently make up the largest grouping of RLC in-person worshippers, by worship time (32%);
- Most are currently either Baby Boomers (44%) or Generation X (31%);
- A sizeable number worry “very often” about being able to meet normal monthly living expenses (10%, the third highest ranking of responses);
- 82% agreed strongly that the Bible is true and, as such, “impacts how I live my life”;
- 66% said they were “currently leading in some way” at RLC;
- 95% said they were either currently tithing (giving 10% of finances), were working toward giving a tithe, or were giving as they were able to RLC;
- 45% said they were retired;
- Identified the following topics as possible growth areas for RLC:
 - * “I feel fully equipped to share my faith with people who do not attend church” (only 14% agreed strongly)
 - * “The church has helped me embrace my calling in life” (only 20% agreed strongly)
 - * “This church helps me develop relationships that encourage accountability” (only 16% agreed strongly)

The RLC Church Council and RLC staff will be discussing these outcomes and considering possible updates in programming that we feel will better enable us to

be faithful to our church's mission. Once again, thanks to all of you who took the time to complete the Pulse of the Church survey in January!

Life for Uganda Presentation Following Uganda Visit 2023 on Sunday March 12 at 9:30 AM

I invite you to join the members of the 2023 Life for Uganda mission team (Cheryl & Jeff Fike, Ron Bostick, and Juli & myself) as we offer a brief presentation and answer all your questions next weekend at 9:30 AM in the Fellowship Hall. Join us as we demonstrate the outcome of your donations and support to our partners in ministry in the Lutheran Church of Uganda.

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

Prayers of the Church

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!

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

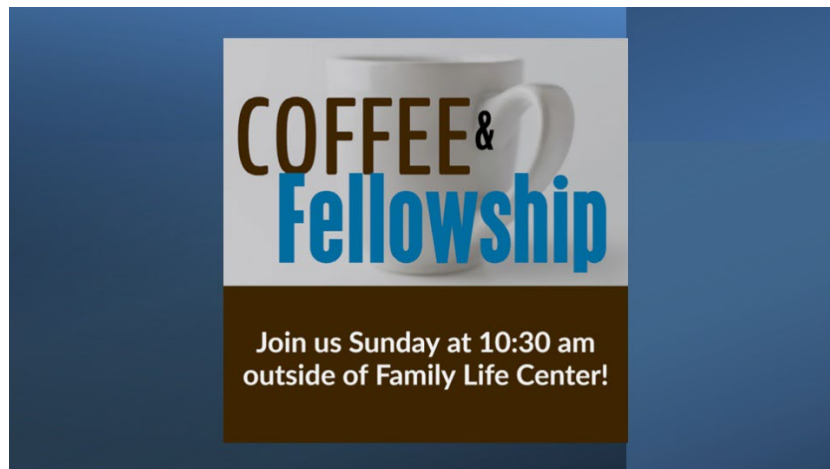
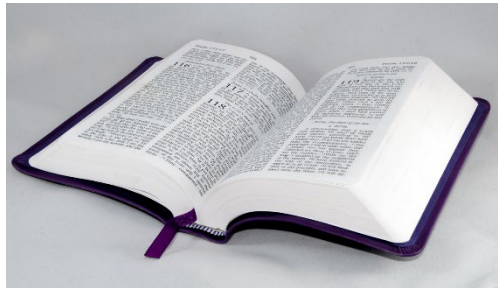
Please place your offerings in the specially marked offering envelopes or denote "Lenten Offerings" on your check. Thank you for your generosity in supporting these important charities and ministries!

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.



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.



LIFE LESSONS FROM
REVELATION



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, 6:45-7:30 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, 6:45-7:45 pm*** in Room 151, Family Life Center. Led by Mindy Stephani.

Note: Wednesday evening classes will begin at 6:45 pm after midweek worship during Lent.

- **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.

Uniting for Ukraine



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.

Last weekend during a Mission and Ministry Presentation some of you heard about the story of how God has led the Porter and Dudar families to join together at this time of tumult for so many. In case you missed it, [you can view their Temple Talk at the beginning of the 8:00 am service here.](#)

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. [Click here for a listing of ways to help or get involved.](#)

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.



MEN'S BREAKFAST



Saturday, March 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.



**ANNUAL MEN'S RETREAT
& SERVICE DAY**

APRIL 14-16

CAMP AGAPE

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - ALL ARE WELCOME!

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. 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.

RLC Worship Servants

There is a need for volunteers to help out in all of our worship services. If you have ever watched an usher, worship assistant, or lay reader and thought “I could do that”, we would love to have you! Reach out to the following for more information:

- Saturday, 6:00 pm - Lori Jannings
- Sunday, 8:00 am - Brenda Peterson
- Sunday, 9:30 am - Dara Linn
- Sunday, 11:00 am - Suzi Heffner

You may also contact the church office at 919-851-7248 or office@rlcary.org for assistance.

There is especially the need for ushers at all services and with that in mind, we are having an **Usher Training/Refresher Session on Tuesday, March 21 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary.** Everyone is welcome and it shouldn't take more than 45 minutes. RSVP to Lori Jannings through RCB or the church office, so we can have a headcount for handouts.

Food and Fellowship for the Blind

We spent an amazing evening on February 24th with our visually impaired guests again. We had a full house and would like to thank all of the volunteers who make these evenings possible.

Special thanks to Enrigo Italian Bistro in Waverly Place who donated a super delicious dinner! When you want to dine out next time, try their food. It's so good! And mention to them that you are from our church.

Our next fellowship dinner for the blind will be **Friday, March 31**. We can always use more volunteers. If interested, please contact Annette Langefeld-Kennedy or the church office at 919-851-7248 or office@rlcary.org.

Children's Ministry at RLC

Exciting things are happening in Children's Ministry at RLC. Sunday School is in full swing, please feel free to send your child(ren) any Sunday! Children's Church is available during the 11 am worship service. Children grades 3-5 have monthly events through our KICKS (Kids In Christ Keep Shining) program.

Contact erika.hulse@rlcary.org for details!



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 **Friday, March 17 from 6:30-7:30 pm** in the Family Life Center Gym.



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

Can you believe it's already March? Spring is in the air for sure. Please take a moment to review the March schedules. I am excited about all the work God will do this month. Our last big, organized service project is going to be on March 26 (the Easter Egg Hunt). Mark your calendars!

Here's what is coming up:

- **Sundays, 9:30-10:30 am**
Connection Cafe in The Warehouse (Sunday School for Middle and High School)
- **Breakaway ~ High School Youth Group**
Sundays, 6:30-8:00 pm
- **No Open Warehouse on Wednesday Nights During Lent!**
- **Service Project ~ Easter Egg Hunt**
March 26, 2:00-4:30 pm

IGNITE
Middle School Youth Ministry

March

Connection Cafe/
Sunday School
Sundays @ 9:30am

.....

NO
Wednesday
Warehouse!

.....

Youth Group:
March 12th
1:30pm - 3:00pm

.....

Service Opportunity
Easter Egg Hunt
March 26th
2:00pm - 4:30pm

BREAKAWAY
High School Youth Ministry

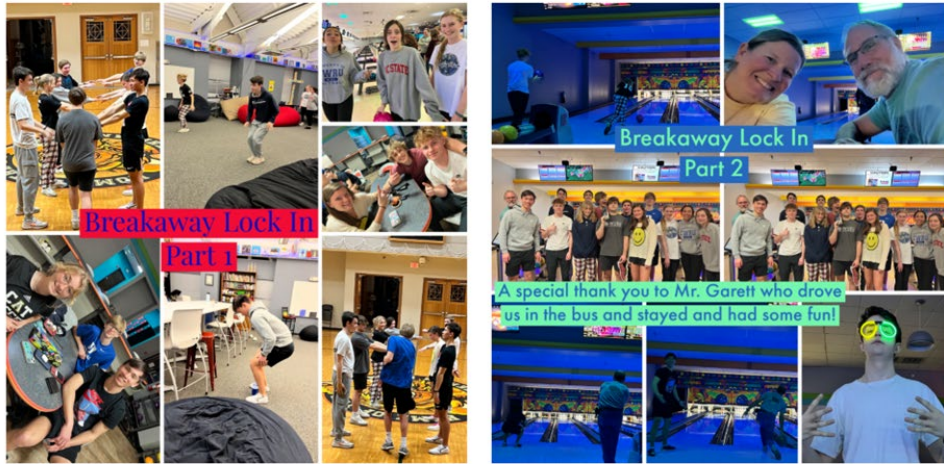
MARCH

Youth Group:
March 5, 12, 19, 26
@ 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Connection Cafe
@ 9:30am
Sundays in the
Warehouse

..... **Service Opportunity: March 26th**

2:00pm - 4:30pm



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

Resurrection Lutheran Preschool



**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!

email- **office@rlpcary.org**

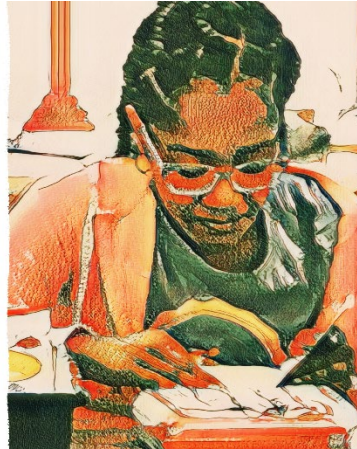
call- **919-851-7270**

Resurrection Lutheran School

**Making
Disciples
for Life** 

**NATIONAL LUTHERAN
SCHOOLS WEEK 2023**

MATTHEW 28:18-20



Join us as we celebrate Lutheran Schools Week - March 5-12!

More exciting events...

- Mrs. Powell's 5th Graders will lead Chapel on **Wednesday, March 8** at 8:40 am. Check out the live stream on the [church's YouTube channel](#).
- The RLS Choirs will sing at the 11:00 am praise worship service on **Sunday, March 12** in the Family Life Center (gym).
- We will welcome the Lake Country Lutheran High School Band & Choir during the Lenten Midweek Service on **Wednesday, March 22** and for a School Assembly on **Thursday, March 23**.

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 – March 5, 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, Brianne Kibler, *Janet Lucien

Those Prayed for on February 26, 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
- *Eve Sommers, Recovery
- The Season of Lent and Our Lenten Worship Opportunities
- Anita's Birthday

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
- *Lyle Malotky, Recovery
- *Sally Cotton
- *Vern Ebert
- *Virginia Heilman
- *Dennis Ford
- Shannon, Friend of *Katy Johnson
- Paul Undergoing Nuclear Treatment for His Cancer
- Those Recovering from Chemo
- Indraj, Patti, Alex, Randi, Ken, Donald, Marilyn, Bobbie, Mark D.'s Brother, Sharon, Bill, Stuart, Cheryl, Victor, Robin's Mom, Jon, Eric, Karen, Maram, Connie, Sue, Ted, Rose

For Comfort

- Friends and Family of Dennis Reilly, Son of *Gail Reilly and Nephew of *Meta Linde
- Friends and Family of Stan, Cousin of *Trudy Haertling

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
- Residents of New Palestine, Ohio
- 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
- Linda H., In Hospice Care
- Healthy Pregnancy and Delivery
- Those Suffering from Mental Illness
- Job Concerns and Following God's Will for Our Lives

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
[Click here for the Mantey's Newsletter!](#)
- JP and Aimee Cima, Cambodia
[Click here for the Cima Family Newsletter!](#)
- Shauen and Krista Trump, Kenya
[Click here for the Trump's Newsletter!](#)

*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 3/3/23

Attendance and Giving – March 5, 2023

In-Person Worship Attendance

Saturday, February 25

6:00 pm - 50

Sunday, February 26

8:00 am - 90; 9:30 am - 81; 11:00 am - 108

Lenten Midweek Service - Wednesday, March 1

6:00 pm - n/a

Total In-Person Worship: 329

Views of Online Worship at RLC's YouTube Channel

Sunday, February 26

8:00 am - 146; 11:00 am - 44

Lenten Midweek Service - Wednesday, March 1

6:00 pm - 41

Total Online Views: 231 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 3/3/23