

**MARCH 2023** 

#### From the Pastor

## Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

(John 1:16-17)

It's a cruel irony that Girl Scout cookie sales and March Madness always seem to coincide with the season of Lent. Just when I've convinced myself I'm a person of modest self-discipline, it all goes out the window. There's no resisting a small box (do they get smaller every year?) of Thin Mints or Do-Si-Dos. And no matter how much or how little I have time to tune in to the NCAA basketball tournament each year, watching the Final Four is a tradition that supersedes most everything else on the calendar. Lent is supposed to be a season for discipline. Lent is supposed to be all about self-control. But there seems to be this strange arithmetic resulting in the equation that the more I try to stay focused and disciplined, the more temptations I encounter. C. S. Lewis once said that most people associate temptation with the desires of the flesh (appetites like lust and greed) when in truth the most deadly temptations have to do with attitudes of the heart: pride, fear, and despair. There are distractions and temptations aplenty. Cookies and too much television are the least



of our concerns! But Jesus' time of trial in the wilderness, Jesus' miraculous signs and His conversations with people in need of a Savior repeatedly point the way to His cross... the place where He took away the sins of the world. Through Jesus, God tests our faith in times of trial... making it

STRONGER. The obedient Son of God, our shield and Defender, stood up to temptation in a way that we do not. In Christ, our time of trial is no longer just an exercise of self-discipline in the face of the demonic effort to tempt and to frustrate faith. In Christ, trials bring the

# Worship Schedule

Saturday 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Sunday

8:00 am in the Sanctuary\*

9:30 am in the Sanctuary

11:00 am
Praise Worship
in the Family Life Center\*

\*Live Stream

#### **Dates of Interest:**

Lenten Midweek	Mar 1
New Adult SS Class	Mar 5
Lutheran Schools	Mar 5-12
RLP Mom's Day	Mar 8/9
Life for Uganda	Mar 12
VBS Registration	Mar 15
RLP Dad's Day	Mar 15/16
K.I.C.K.S. Event	Mar 17
New Members	Mar 18/19
Lake Country Luther	anMar 22
Easter Egg Hunt	Mar 26

# Sunday Morning Adult Ed

## Poetry and Our Christian Faith

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 Scriptures have to say on 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, March 5-May 14!

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

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



opportunity for us to once again encounter Jesus, the faithful Son of God, and to be brought into an even deeper relationship with Him.

Thanks to your prayers and support, the Life for Uganda team had a safe and productive visit to the Amudat region of Uganda... and the Lutheran Church Uganda seminary Jinja, Uganda last month! The group will be available for a time of information sharing and updating on March 12 during the Sunday School hour (9:30 AM) in the Fellowship Hall. I invite you to join us as we share some of the amazing things God is doing among our partners in ministry.

For Lent, 2023 we stay focused on the grace of God throughout our midweek Lenten services. It's the 250th anniversary of the first singing of the hymn "Amazing Grace," so what better time to see the grace of God overflowing in the Scriptures? Services convene every Wednesday night at 6 PM. This year we are pleased to welcome Lake Country High School and Band from Hartland, Wisconsin as they join us for worship on the evening of March 22. You are all invited to a dinner that evening, starting between 4:30 and 5 PM. Save the date! An opportunity to sign up for the dinner will be made available in the coming week.

The story is told of an elaborate trestle bridge being built across a large canyon during the construction of the Union Pacific Railroad. Wanting to test his bridge, the builder loaded a train with enough extra cars and equipment to double its normal payload. The train was then driven to the middle of the bridge where it stayed an entire day. One worker asked, "Are you trying to break this bridge?" "No," the builder replied, "I'm trying to prove that the bridge won't break." The One who created us DOES allow us to face trials at times. But the goal is not to break our faith... it is to draw us even more completely into the sufficient strength of our loving Savior. No matter what challenge we might face this year during Lent, the grace of God is always amazing... always sweeter... always more abundant than we expect.

With eyes on the gift of Jesus' cross, Pastor Jonathan



### **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.

Wednesdays, 6:00 pm in the Sanctuary\*
March 1-29

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

# Holy Week Observances and Easter Sunday Celebrations

#### **Palm Sunday**

Saturday, April 1

6:00 pm Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary

Sunday, April 2

8:00 am\*, 9:30 am Sanctuary Festival Worship with Holy Communion

11:00 am\* Praise Worship led by *Reign!* with Holy Communion, Family Life Center

#### **Maundy Thursday**

Thursday, April 6

4:00 pm Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary
7:00 pm\* Worship with Holy Communion, Sanctuary
(First Communion for 5th Grade Students)

#### **Good Friday**

Friday, April 7

12:00 pm Worship, Sanctuary

7:00 pm\* Tenebrae Service, Sanctuary

**Easter** 

Saturday, April 8 No Worship Service

Sunday, April 9

6:30 am Sunrise Easter Worship

8:00 am\*, 9:30 am Sanctuary Easter Festival Worship with Holy Communion

11:00 am\* Praise Worship led by *Reign!* with Holy Communion, Family Life Center

\*Live Stream Services Indicated with Asterisk

# Gifts & Memorials

#### For Resurrection Lutheran Preschool

In Memory of Doug Spitz
Robert and Joyce Hirt

#### For the Love Fund

In Memory of Don Schautteet Robert and Joyce Hirt

#### For The Coffeehouse

Steven and Connie Washburn

#### For Gift & Memorials

In Memory of Juli McKinney
Farrell and Brenda McKinney
In Memory of Polly McKendry
Scott McKendry

#### For the Music Ministry

In Memory of Polly McKendry
Scott McKendry



#### Neighborhood Small Groups

## **Zone 9 Update**

I often schedule a planning meeting with co-workers over lunch hour or for right after lunch and say, "come early and let's eat lunch together." Whenever I do that, I always say, "After all, all good things happen over food." I have yet to have anyone disagree with that statement.

I kept thinking about that on the afternoon of February 19th as members of "RLC Zone 9" got together for food and fellowship. What an awesome

opportunity to learn more about the church neighbors that live closest to you. I know other zones meet for fellowship or bible studies and so I started thinking that we should share some of our ideas and pictures of what we're all up to.

So, what is your zone doing? What is one thing you would like to see your zone do? Which zone can have the largest or most creative event? Maybe about now you're actually thinking, "Pastor Alan, I



don't know what zone I'm in or what a zone is." Well, OK. Good point. Click on this Google Maps hyperlink and find where you live. (Note: this may not be the latest version of the map that includes recent new member classes or moves in/out of the area, but it's is a good starting point even if there is some updating we need to do on our end).

Find your address on the map and take a moment to see who your Zone facilitator is and who lives around you. If your address is not on the map... well... we've got some updating to do. Email me at <a href="mailto:alan.shaw@rlcary.org">alan.shaw@rlcary.org</a> and I'll see that you're added.

Zones Facilitators, if your Zone is doing something, take a few pictures and forward them to me and I'll include them in upcoming newsletters. Let's



share what we're doing and get some ideas that we can use in other zones. And if you say, "we're not doing anything right now," that's OK too. Let's encourage one another to roll into spring and summer with building connection within the body of Christ. Anyone is free to contact your

Zone Facilitator and say, "I've got an idea," then help them plan and organize it so we share the load. Just remember, "the best things happen over food" so I hope to see your stories and pictures in upcoming newsletters.

Thanks, Zone 9. I don't want to brag... but I think we have the best Zone. I'm looking forward to our next event.

Pastor Alan Shaw

#### **RLC Church Council News**

## February 2023

Your 2023 Church Council met for the second time with its new officers on 14 February 2023. The Council agreed to re-start these monthly updates to the Congregation.

- Pastor Blanke provided a report prior to leaving for Uganda. In this report, he summarized the status
  of the staff goals and his personal goals for the coming year. All are centered around strategic plan
  presented to the congregation at the December Voter's Assembly.
- The Treasurer, Mike Hahne, reported on the financials and provided a review of the Endowments. Bottom line, RLC financials are on track.
- The Council was updated on the Principal Call, basically the same information was provided to the Congregation on 11 and 12 February and in the weekly announcements.
- The DCE call was also discussed; the DCE Call Committee is working on finalizing their work with
  three of an original five candidates. It appears two of the remaining three are not accepting calls
  at this time, so that leaves the committee with one candidate. The Council is waiting for the
  committee's recommendation on how to proceed.
- We started the Budgeting process for next year which will go to the Voters in June 2023.
- We are reviewing the RLC Governance Document (an annual requirement for the Council).
- We voted to select Barry Needle and Pastor Blanke as designated voters and nominators in preparation for the 68<sup>th</sup> Regular LCMS Convention.
- The Resurrection Lutheran School (RLS) Student Scholarship Funding is a commitment Resurrection Lutheran Church (RLC) has historically made to RLS children of Called Workers at RLC. The tuition for these students is split evenly between RLS and RLC. Between 2008 and 2018, RLC provided \$127,937 in such scholarships. There were no students in this category until this year, so the Council agreed to provide the required funding for the 2022-2023 school year (\$8800) from unused funds within the current approved budget. Future budgets will have a line item to cover these scholarships.
- The Council began the discussion of how best to distribute the remaining mission funds from the Next 40 Campaign (currently a little over \$110,000). To start things off, we are sending \$1000 to Lutheran World Relief Turkey Disaster and \$1000 to LCMS Short Term Missions, which supports LCMS workers that travel abroad for outreach mission activities. The Council is open to suggestions for other mission areas that could use our financial support.

Your Council members are listed below and are willing to take questions and suggestions as we move forward together to engage the nations, serve our community, and support our school.

Mike Haertling, President (505) 690-9929	Mark Dirks, Council Member (919) 345-5348
Erika Hulse, Vice-President (678) 849-3233	Charles Miller, Council Member (919) 534-5649
Mike Hahne, Treasurer (919) 749-7666	Aaron Newcomb, Council Member (919) 645-8005
Mike Heffner, Secretary (469) 644-2049	
Barry Needle, Council Member (919) 345-5088	Ex Officio: Margaret Hyatt, Operations Director (919) 851-7248
Lori Jannings, Council Member (919) 523-6619	Ex Officio: Pastor Jonathan Blanke, Sr. Pastor (301) 997-6687

### **Engage the Nations**

## **Uganda Mission Trip**

This is a picture of the group (with Mark and Megan Mantey, of course!). We arrived safely in Jinja, Uganda and travel to Amudat today.
- Pastor Jonathan

Hello! The team arrived in Uganda! Upon leaving the airport, we drove a few hours to Jinja. We checked into our hotel about 3:00 am and got a few hours of sleep. Here's the view we woke up to this morning — that's the Nile River looking so peaceful. We're hitting the road today, driving to Amudat where we'll spend the next several days. - Cheryl Fike



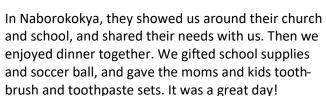






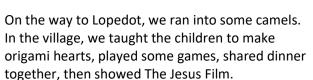
Hello from Amudat Town! Today we celebrated the dedication of the new church building and what a celebration it was!















Today we visited Ryantum and spent the afternoon with many from the congregation and community. We sat under the shade of a beautiful tree, listened to their needs, and shared encouragement and prayers together. We did a craft with the ladies and gifted the children an indestructible soccer ball - both were a big hit!







We give praise and thanksgiving for all the lives they have touched, as they traveled around Amudat. We ask the Lord's blessing on all the seeds of faith that have been planted through the fellowship, activities, sharing the "Jesus Film," and meals prepared and eaten together with the people of the villages that were visited. May the friendships that were begun continue to grow through the grace of God.

- Resurrection Lutheran Prayer Community

We have 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. The Uganda Crafts Market will be open with beautiful new items for sale. *Mark your calendar!*- Life for Uganda Team

## **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. (<u>lutheranchurchcharities.org</u>)

#### **Heifer International**

Strives to end hunger and poverty in sustainable way by supporting and investing alongside local farmers and their communities. (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!

#### **Adult Christian Education**

## **Weekly Bible Study Opportunities**

#### **Monday Evening**

#### Monday Night Women's Bible Study ~ Life Lessons from Revelation

Join us for Max Lucado's Life Lessons from Revelation, a 12-session study on the book of Revelation. 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. We meet **Mondays, 7:00-8:00 pm** from January 9-March 27, in-person and via Zoom. Books, including a digital version, are available through Contact Jamee Thieme through RCB or the church office (919-851-7248, office@rlcary.org).

#### Men's Ministry Weekly Study and Fellowship

Meet on Mondays, 7:00-8:15 pm in Room 240, Family Life Center. Contact mens-ministry@rlcary.org.

#### **Tuesday Morning**

#### **Tuesday Morning Bible Study and Fellowship**

We study the coming Sunday Scripture lessons from **10:30-11:30 am** in Fellowship Hall with Pastor Jonathan Blanke and Pastor Zach Sarrault. God gives His Word to instruct, guide, and bless our lives. Scripture lessons in worship offer a menu every week to build up the people of God in faith and hope.

#### **Wednesday Evening**

#### 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.

#### Men With Kids

Meet on **Wednesdays**, **6:45-7:30 pm\*** in Room 247, Family Life Center. We follow the Confirmation schedule. Contact Tom Gebbia at <a href="mens-ministry@rlcary.org">mens-ministry@rlcary.org</a>.

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

#### **Saturday Morning**

#### 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 <u>jonathan.blanke@rlcary.org</u>.

#### In Service

## **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 (919-851-7248, office@rlcary.org).

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.

We encourage you to find areas of interest that best suit your natural gifts, and join us as we reach out with the love of Christ, by grace, through faith, for service.

## Happy Anniversary!

#### March 5

Ed and Ginny Koren 58 years

#### March 8

Alberto and Tammi Baldisserotto 20 years

#### March 12

Lutz and Robin Kube 30 years

#### March 27

Ron and Carol Bostick 52 years

## **Event for Veterans**

Veterans and their families from Wake County and across the region will have a face-to-face opportunity to ask questions and get answers about their benefits, plus learn about other valuable services. This is a three-day single-stop open house with programming designed to help veterans and their families navigate the many services available to them. VA representatives and other partners will help attendees one-on-one with their benefits, claims, appeals and other concerns.

Who: All veterans and family members of veterans

Where: Herbert Young Community Center, 101 Wilkinson Avenue, Cary

When:

• Thursday, March 23: 9:00 am-3:00 pm

Friday, March 24: 9:00 am-3:00 pm

Saturday, March 25: 8:00 am-2:00 pm



With one stop, veterans and their dependents can receive services including veterans' benefits (on-site claims assistance), VA healthcare (eligibility and enrollment), legal assistance, peer-to-peer connection, and more.

Veterans and their dependents should bring their DD214, medical and service records, and dependency documents. Wait times may be long, please be patient. Complimentary coffee, water, and snacks provided.

For more information, contact <a href="mailto:CaryVEAC@gmail.com">CaryVEAC@gmail.com</a>. (Wake County Veterans Services)

#### Outreach Service to the Community

## **Habitat for Humanity, Lutheran Coalition**

The Lutheran Coalition brings 11 Lutheran churches together to strengthen relationships while serving families in need of affordable housing. In 2023, we begin building in our newest neighborhood, Old Poole Place in Southeast Raleigh.

From Rebecca Hix, Director of Faith Relations:

What a wonderful morning we had building walls and a great kick-off ceremony! Thanks to all who came out – ya'll did amazing work! You can see all of the photos from Saturday (February 11) <a href="here">here</a>. We'll keep it updated with how the building is progressing!







We just got word that we got a few permits for Old Poole Place, so that means the Lutheran coalition can start building the Lutheran house on March 11! In order to finish the house by the end of the fiscal year, we have a 9-week build schedule, so we are going to be moving fast.

RLC Build Days are March 25 and May 13, 15 volunteers each day (ages 16+).

Also please note that we are holding two slots on Thursday and Friday each week for Lutherans, if you have folks that can come out during the week.

Please use this link to sign up: <a href="http://vhub.at/lutheranbuild">http://vhub.at/lutheranbuild</a>.



We have an exciting summer ahead of us, so make sure to claim your spot for fun, friends, adventures, and more!

For information on our programs and to register, visit <a href="mailto:camp-agape.org">camp-agape.org</a> or reach out to David at adventure@agapekurebeach.org.

We can't wait to see you this summer!



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.



## Student Ministry

## Adult Leaders NEEDED!

The Youth at RLC have some amazing things happening this summer. Both the Middle School and High School have Mission Trips! The High School's Mission trip is the first one they have done in 5 years. The Middle School will be traveling to the Blue Ridge Mountains and the High School will be traveling to Savannah, Georgia. We can only do these amazing trips with the help of adult volunteers. These are the memories and the moments that help youth shape and define their faith journey. I can assure you that these trips can shape your faith walk as well. We especially need **MALE ADULT leaders** for both of these trips!



What does it take to be an adult leader?

- 21 years of age or older (you do NOT need to be a parent or parent of a youth on the trip). College Crew, if you are at least 21, you can come and serve!
- Pass a background check.
- Be available either June 18-23, 2023 (Middle School) and/or July 16-21, 2023 (High School)
- Have a heart to serve, a positive attitude about the great work God can do, and be willing to build relationships with youth and help keep them safe.

Convinced? Need more information? I would LOVE to have a conversation with you! Both groups of Youth going are seriously some of my favorite people! Call me, text me, or reach out by email! Come see why I have the best job in the world!



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



#### Resurrection Lutheran Preschool

Diane Hooper, Director

rlpcary.org 919-851-7270 office@rlpcary.org





#### **2023-2024 ADMISSIONS**

Thank you for your commitment to RLS as we look to 2023-2024! Admissions is now officially open to community members as we welcome new students and their families to round out our classes where there is space. Turning in your tuition agreement guarantees placement for the coming school year.

#### **LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK**

Spirit Days Themes are Monday - Dress Like a Tourist, Tuesday - Mismatch, Wednesday - Spirit Wear, Thursday - Wacky Hair/Hat, Friday - Hippie Day. If your child prefers not to participate, no worries. They should simply follow regular dress code guidelines.

#### MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March 5-12 Lutheran Schools Week

March 12 RLS Choirs Sing at 11:00 am Worship Service

March 17 National Junior Honor Society Induction Ceremony

Early Release, 11:30 am

March 22/23 Lake Country Lutheran High School Band and Choir

March 31 Early Release, 11:30 am

#### Looking Ahead...

**April 3-10** Easter Break — No School

May 5 Talent Show

May 16 Fine Arts Program

May 24-26 8th Grade Trip to Washington, DC



## Resurrection Lutheran School

Robert Unger Interim Principal

Rosie Creasy Director of Admissions/ School Growth

> rlscary.org 919-851-7271 contact@rlscary.org

#### **Soaring to New Heights**

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

(Isaiah 40:31 NIV)



#### **LIVE STREAM**

### Join us online for worship <u>live</u> Sundays at 8:00 am and 11:00 am!

Connect through our YouTube channel at youtube.com/ResurrectionLutheranChurchCaryNC

or through our website at rlcary.org/about-us/online-worship.

#### Missed the live service?

Watch the worship services on our YouTube channel at any time.



#### **LEARN MORE**

rlcary.org | office@rlcary.org | 919-851-7248

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Blanke, Senior Pastor Rev. Zachery Sarrault, Associate Pastor Rev. Alan Shaw, Assistant Pastor

#### **GIVING**

We appreciate your contributions to our congregation. Here are the different ways to make your offering:

- Place in offering plate as you exit the worship service
- Mail to 100 Lochmere Drive West, Cary NC 27518
- Online through our church website at <u>rlcary.org/</u> <u>ministries/online-giving</u>
- Download the Vanco Mobile app to transfer funds from your account

Questions? Contact finance@rlcary.org.

#### **SOCIAL MEDIA**



facebook.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary



instagram.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary



youtube.com/ResurrectionLutheranChurchCaryNC

Newsletter deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month. Please send submissions to <a href="mailto:susan.moore@rlcary.org">susan.moore@rlcary.org</a>.

100 LOCHMERE DRIVE WEST, CARY NC 27518