

Palm Sunday

April 2, 2023



Pastor's Corner for April 2-8

His Blood IS on Us (Matthew 27:1-66)

I remember as a kid being confounded by all the blood mentioned at church in the days leading up to Good Friday. Some of the references in hymns seemed just plain confusing. “We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice and sing His bleeding love” (stanza 5, “Not All the Blood of Beasts”) was one phrase that puzzled me. Another was a little easier, if a little odd out of context: “Lift we, then, our voices, swell the mighty flood; Louder still and louder, Praise the precious blood” (stanza 6, “Glory Be to Jesus”). Some say this talk about blood in the church has no place. Unlike Palestinian Jews in Jesus’ day, the argument goes, the average American in 2023 has had no direct experience with animal sacrifice. No one should assume we all know what “being washed in the blood of Jesus,” signifies, just because we either talk or sing about it.

But before we sanitize the cross of the crucified Lord Jesus, let's admit up front we're hardly immune from encountering blood these days. Our entertainment choices and news headlines feature more of the stuff than we might want to acknowledge. And even in 2023 blood still courses through the human body, carrying the essence of physical life. Blood remains a powerful symbol... the shedding of innocent blood still evokes moral outrage. Plus, you can't read the account of Jesus' death in Matthew's Gospel without encountering blood all over the place. First there is the guilt (or lack of guilt) of people connected to the shedding of Jesus' blood: Judas, who recognizes he sinned "by betraying innocent blood" (v. 4); Pilate, who literally washes his hands of the whole business with the unconvincing line, "I am innocent of this man's blood" (v. 24); the crowds who shout for Jesus' death with the words "His blood be on us and on our children!" (v. 25). Then, there are all the obvious places... never explicit, but always implicit... where the blood of Jesus is found: first at his scourging, then at his mocking, and finally at his crucifixion. You can't avoid the blood. It's there.

Though we might not have betrayed Jesus as Judas did, like him we are "guilty" of Jesus' blood: it was Judas's sins and ours that put Jesus on the cross. But Jesus' death is so significant... it changed the course of history so completely... that it wrings a double entendre out of the self-incriminating words of the crowd "His blood be on us..." Like them, we are both guilty of Jesus' blood... and saved by it. Let's make this the time of year we unapologetically give thanks for the blood of Jesus! By it our sins have been paid for and our salvation has been won. Thank God that Jesus' blood IS on us! It is the blood of Christ, "like that of a lamb without blemish or spot" that we have been set free (1 Peter 1:18-19)!

A very blessed Holy Week, to all of you!
Pastor Jonathan

Gathering in God's name, we give thanks for our God's faithfulness and goodness to us, in Christ. We invite those desiring to submit an offering in person during worship services in the main sanctuary to do so upon entering the sanctuary so that all in person offerings can be presented at the altar during the Offertory or Offering Hymn.

Prayers of the Church

He is not here
HE IS RISEN

MATTHEW 28:6

Holy Week Observances and Easter Sunday Celebration

Palm Sunday | April 1 & 2

6:00 pm

Worship with Holy Communion on Saturday

8:00 am*, 9:30 am

Sanctuary Festival Worship with Holy Communion on Sunday

Led by Sanctuary Choir, Heavenly Handbells, and Resurrection Brass Ensemble

11:00 am*

Praise & Worship with Holy Communion on Sunday

Led by Reign! in the Family Life Center

Maundy Thursday | April 6

4:00 pm

Worship with Holy Communion

7:00 pm*

Worship with Holy Communion

(First Communion for 5th Grade Students)

Good Friday | April 7

12:00 pm

Worship (Preceded and Followed by a Soup and Salad Lunch)

Musical Offerings by Cantus Christe Quartet

7:00 pm*

Tenebrae Service featuring *The Suffering Servant* by K.L. Scott

Led by Sanctuary Choir, Soloists, and String Ensemble

Easter Sunday | April 9

6:30 am

Sunrise Service Begins in Prayer Garden, Processes to Sanctuary

Led by Celebration Singers

8:00 am*, 9:30 am, 11:00 am

Sanctuary Easter Festival Worship with Holy Communion

Music Led by Sanctuary Choir, Heavenly Handbells, and Resurrection Brass Ensemble

11:00 am*

Praise & Worship with Holy Communion

Led by Reign! in the Family Life Center

*Live Stream Services

Connect through our YouTube channel

at youtube.com/ResurrectionLutheranChurchCaryNC.

Please note, there will be no adult Bible study or confirmation classes held during Holy Week. Check with your small group leader for other schedule changes.



Sign up for Altar Flowers in the Sanctuary and Family Life Center.
Click here or call the church office at 919-851-7248.
Flowers are from Cary Florist and cost \$45.

Adult Sunday School Class ***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 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
from March 5-May 14!**

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



Good Friday Soup Lunch

On Friday, April 7 at 11:30 am and following the 12:00 pm worship service, we will be providing a soup lunch. **And we need soup donations!**

If you are able, please contact Kim Simpson or the church office (919-851-7248, office@rlcary.org).

It is with great sadness and in Christian love and hope that we announce that our sister in Christ, **Cheryl Schlage**, was called to rest with Jesus.

Our prayers are with her daughter, Danielle Altieri, and their family at this time.

Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, April 8 at 11:00 am at Resurrection with a reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall.

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.

Lutheran Witness Subscription

Due to a communication issue with Concordia Publishing House, the Lutheran Witness subscriptions for RLC members was not received until this past week. You should receive the May issue in the mail, and the January-April issues will be sent to the church and distributed to your mailboxes. So sorry for the delay – if you have any questions, please contact Margaret in the church office. Thank you!

Coffeehouse for Special Needs Adults Friday, April 14

We thank all our volunteers who helped us to have a wonderful Coffeehouse in March! We had 135 people attend. We would like to thank Travis Taylor and his band, The Real Housewives of Room 3121, who played for us.

We couldn't do it without our faithful volunteers. Please come be a volunteer! Our special needs guests love to come to these events, 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, April 14** from 7:00-8:30 pm in the Family Life Center Gym. *Rooted* will be our band.

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



Men's Retreat & Service Event April 14-16

We are two weeks away from our Men's Retreat and Service Day at Camp Agape! All men are invited.

We kick-off Friday evening, April 14, around 6:00 pm with a cookout/potluck gathering at the Retreat House. Our study is woven in throughout the impactful weekend with sessions Friday night, Saturday morning, Saturday evening, and Sunday morning. Participants have the option to stay overnight at the Retreat Lodge or commute. Our overnight accommodations are optimal at 16 with a max of 24.

Service: Weather permitting, we will spend most of Saturday morning and

afternoon tackling multiple projects throughout the camp utilizing multiple skill sets and capabilities. All men are invited. *Note, you are able to attend Saturday only.*

If interested or have questions, contact Tom Gebbia at mens-ministry@rlcary.org.



Saturday, April 29

8:00 am-12:00 pm

During this annual event, we provide numerous acts of service for our church, community, and country. We begin with breakfast in the Family Life Center at 8:00 am, and most activities will be completed by noon.

There will be many opportunities available for all ages to participate. Nursery care will be provided. Some of the activities will be at RLC and others off site.

This year, some activities include Habitat for Humanity, Lutheran World Relief care packages, card making, quilting and sewing, and much more. You will find the full listing at the link below or on the paper forms.

[Click Here to Sign Up!](#)

You may also sign up using a form located at the information tables. Questions? Contact Jan Boyer or the church office (office@rlcary.org, 919-851-7248).

Children's Ministry News

Easter Eggstravaganza Fun!



Thank you
youth
for your
service!



Children's Sunday School

We look forward to
welcoming your child(ren)
to class Sundays from 9:30-10:30.
There will be no class April 9th (Easter)
and April 30 (Confirmation). Contact
erika.hulse@rlcary.org for more info!



Vacation Bible School (VBS)
Monday, June 26 - Friday, June 30
9:00 am-12:00 pm



Shine a light on Jesus' love!

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

We welcome all children ages 4 through rising 5th grade to join us for this amazing week in God's Word. It will be filled with games, crafts, music, and most importantly, Jesus' learning that'll last for light years to come.

[Click Here to Register Now!](#)

Cost: Early Bird Price from March 15-May 31, \$5 per child or \$15 max per family
June 1-June 26, \$10 per child or \$30 max per family

Cash or check accepted, payable to Resurrection Lutheran Church. Mail or drop off to Church Office, 100 W. Lochmere Drive, Cary NC 27518.

Student Ministry

Middle School and High School

Happy Spring Break! I hope you all have a wonderful upcoming Holy Week. Please check out the April calendar with all of the happenings. Thank you to all of the youth who helped make the Easter Egg Hunt a huge success! On April 29, there is a church-wide service day called Operation InAsMuch. It's a great opportunity to participate in service projects around the church or within the community that is intergenerational. Have fun with it!

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



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

Looking Ahead...

**IGNITE
MS YOUTH MINISTRY**

April Schedule

Connection Cafe @ 9:30am
April 2, 16, 23 only

**Warehouse
Wednesdays
The LAST 2!
April 12 & 19
6:00pm**

**YOUTH
GROUP
April 16
1:30 - 3:00**

**BREAKAWAY
HS YOUTH MINISTRY**

April Schedule

CONNECTION CAFE @ 9:30AM
APRIL 2, 16, 23 ONLY

YOUTH GROUP
6:30PM - 8:00PM
APRIL 2, 16, 23, 30

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

Mrs. Baker's 3rd grade class heads to Moorehead Planetarium for an incredible day of learning about space!



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



100 Lochmere Drive West, Cary NC 27518

rlcary.org

919-851-7248 | office@rlcary.org

Prayers of the Church – April 2, 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, 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, Michael Murphy

For Expectant Moms

Brianne Kibler, *Janet Lucien

Those Prayed for on March 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
- RLC Blind Ministry Helpers and Guests For our New Members
- 8th Grade Confirmation Students Presenting Their Faith Statements
- New Son Born to Amy and Jake Lambert, Grandson of *Susan Richard
- Successful Surgery for *Marty Stephani
- Tom's Birthday
- Jeri in New Apartment

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, Recovery
- Roger Robbins; Jerry Crueger; Bruce Klevenow, Brother of *Ralph Klevenow
- *Vern Ebert
- *Cheri Spitz
- Margaret Ryan, Recovery; Wendy Wood, Recovery
- Shannon, Friend of *Katy Johnson
- *Eve Sommers
- *Jim Sanvi, Father of *Katie Riccitello
- Maclean Hueske, Niece of *Diane Hoffmeister
- Patti, Alex, Chanel, Janet, Tommy, Tim, Justin, Red, Brian, Timmy, Keith, Kevin, Mark, Carlton, Carol, Anna, Marty, Maclean, James, Anne, Skylar, Bill, Alice, Bill, Margaret, Randi, Scott, Carter, Brendan, Amanda, Sheila, Julian, Ken, Donald, Melissa, Faye, Nancy, Eric, Mara, Julie, Connie, Sue, Karen, Wayne, Arpie, Shannon

For Comfort

- Friends and Family of Peter Cassimatis, Father of *Nick Cassimatis
- Friends and Family of Beverly Kunitsky, Aunt of *Dawn Leister

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
- Call Committees for Resurrection Lutheran School Principal and DCE
- *Randi and Barry Munns
- Annie Ruth Ford, *Dennis Ford's Mother
- *Eric and *Jill Hammergren
- *Jan and Paul Wozniak
- Jan and Rich Bloom
- Stuart and Sue Sanders, and the *Boyer Family
- Linda H., In Hospice Care
- Those Enduring Marriage Struggles
- Janice, Daughter of *Eve Sommers
- Those Seeking Jobs
- Eddie, Lost of Spouse

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 3/31/23

Attendance and Giving – April 2, 2023

In-Person Worship Attendance

Saturday, March 25

6:00 pm - 59

Sunday, March 26

8:00 am - 68; 9:30 am - 140; 11:00 am - 106

Lenten Midweek Service - Wednesday, March 29

6:00 pm - 62

Total In-Person Worship: 435

Views of Online Worship at RLC's YouTube Channel

Sunday, March 26

8:00 am - 109; 11:00 am - 56

Lenten Midweek Service - Wednesday, March 29

6:00 pm - 37

Total Online Views: 202 views

General Fund Giving and Spending - February 2023

	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Receipts	\$ 82,402.75	\$ 871,183.55
<u>Total Disbursements</u>	<u>\$ 113,329.97</u>	<u>\$ 871,014.92</u>
Receipts Less Disbursements	\$ -30,927.22	\$ 168.63

Last Week's Offerings: \$20,485.18

Average Weekly Giving for 2022/23: \$24,890.96

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 3/31/23