Third Sunday of Easter April 23, 2023



Pastor's Corner for April 23-29

A "Quieter" Easter Story (John 20:19-32)

I don't know about you, but when I think about encountering Jesus risen from the dead I usually think of peals of thunder and a full orchestral soundtrack in the background. Think earthquakes rumbling and angels rolling back stones... that sort of stuff. Today we have a different, quieter take on Easter. We find two disciples of Jesus, walking downcast and somber, wondering what the death of the One they followed could possibly mean. Church tradition tells us that one of these disciples (Cleopas) might have been the brother of Jesus' own adopted father Joseph. The torture and crucifixion of Jesus might have been, for him, an event inflicted on a

dear family member and friend. Could Cleopas and this other unnamed disciple be leaving Jerusalem because they have just attended Jesus' funeral? We do not know. We DO know that— unbeknownst to them— Jesus has risen from the dead. There just are no angels and trumpets around to announce the fact. In their case, the risen Jesus just sort of shows up. He walks along with them on their journey, unrecognized, as they process their grief.

When I was a child, I remember a print of the painting telling the story of Jesus' resurrection appearance to two downcast friends ("Gang nach Emmaus," now in the public domain), hung on my grandparents' living room wall. I somehow never knew then that the two men walking along and talking with Jesus were grieving. The painting is full of light. The green growth of spring is everywhere! But you have to wonder, as you read about Cleopas and the other disciple in our text, if the spectacular spring foliage and promise of new life depicted in the painting might be lost on the two of them. Similarly, in the middle of real-world pain today, the Easter celebration might sound a little bit like noise and "happy talk," to some. Yet the crucified and risen Jesus can and does show up, even (especially!) where people are a bit deaf to the news that He lives. He might go unrecognized for a while. And it might be in His visible DISAPPEARANCE that folks stop looking for Him and start listening more closely, instead. After all, that's what happened to Cleopas and that other disciple. No longer seeing Jesus, but witnessing His blessing and breaking of bread, they remembered His teaching. Did they also call to mind His Words spoken over ordinary bread and wine with the 12, a few days prior: "Given for you... shed for you, for the forgiveness of your sins"? Even those who are weary with life and heartbroken by the losses life brings might just stop and say: "Wait a minute! Weren't our hearts burning when... He opened to us the Scriptures?" This quiet and patient Jesus lives. This unrecognized Lord of the journey is also the risen and victorious Savior who has defeated death and hell. Forever.

Easter, of course, isn't just a day on the calendar. It is a new reality that makes the journey for us and those we know an opportunity to listen to Jesus, even when we don't immediately experience Him as the victorious Lord He is. This week, we invite Him again to stay with us. We listen to Him. We enjoy fellowship with Him. And we receive His comfort in the face of life's losses and disappointments. Jesus is risen! He is with us... always!

In-Person Offering Submissions

At RLC, we are so grateful for the offerings and tithes offered up to God from RLC friends and family, week after week! For several weeks now, we've been asking that worshippers desiring to submit an offering in person do so before the service begins, in the offering plates/baskets positioned just inside the door (main sanctuary) or outside the door (Family Life Center) of our worship spaces. That's because last weekend we started presenting these offerings at the altar in our worship services as a reminder that all we have is a gift from God's hand. It is our hope and prayer that once we have adequate coverage for ushers, we might eventually resume traditional offering collections before the Prayer of the Church in all services. In the meantime, we invite everyone submitting in-person offerings to do so before the service begins. If you forget, or arrive late, you are, of course, free to leave your offering in the offering plates/baskets that remain at the entrance to the sanctuary or Family Life Center. Thank you for all you do as stewards of God's good gifts.

Church Pulse Survey Feedback Response, Part 2

Several weeks ago, I responded to two of the insights raised by RLC members who took the Church Pulse survey. This week I'd like to revisit a few more comments and let you know what we are doing either in anticipation of, or in response to, your suggestions:

The need to get the word out about being a church that is "in the Word." While two respondents shared gratitude that the 9:30 worship service now overlaps with Sunday School, two other respondents expressed dissatisfaction with the Sunday-morning schedule approved by the congregation in 2021 that called for Sunday School and Adult Bible class to overlap with the 9:30 worship service. No longer having a "stand alone" slot for Sunday School has presented a challenge for folks accustomed to enjoying fellowship on Sunday mornings during the Bible Study hour. This was made more difficult during COVID, when we were no longer able to meet for Wednesday Night Workshop dinners. And worship volunteers (especially musicians) are often penalized from attending Sunday morning Bible class when their responsibilities for worship are for both 8 AND 9:30 AM. All of that said, I am committed to ensuring that...

- Our options for Adult Bible class offerings continue to be robust (we currently have five weekly studies underway, not including our Sunday morning class) once programming gears up in the fall of 2023;
- We have increased opportunities for fellowship once a week, outside of Sunday mornings, in 2023-2024, compared to what we were able to do from 2022-2023;
- The possibility for either livestream or recorded video captured from Fellowship Hall events (including the weekly 9:30 Adult Bible Class) be a part of our conversation on long-term planning for facility use, moving forward.
- Simplification of church bulletin in both print and virtual formats. Several respondents suggested doing something to alleviate the need for two devices (one for the livestream and one for the bulletin) for viewing church services remotely. Our goal is to ensure that worship content is added to the livestream, alleviating the need for a separate bulletin for those viewing online. An abbreviated bulletin would still be made available for in-person worshippers. The transition should occur sometime before summer, 2023.
- Monthly calendar for church events is available on our church website (click here to view). Responses on the Church Pulse survey and conversations I've had with several of you indicate some confusion about where the church calendar is located. You need not log into the church to view the calendar. It is available in the upper right corner of our church home page when viewed from a desktop computer. It is also the third item listed in the pop up viewed by clicking the three lines in the upper corner of the church home page (rlcary.org) of your smartphone. The other calendar you sometimes see inside of RCB is populated by specific events from groups you belong to, so may often appear to be blank.

We are all so grateful for your honest feedback and comments. Please feel free to share them at any time... even without a churchwide survey underway!

Prayers of the Church

CLI Prison Alliance

Anyone can have an impact for Christ in the prisons by giving financially to Christian Library Int'l Prison Alliance. Your gifts help disciple inmates with Bible studies and Christian books. Shipping and postage are major expenses. Last year, financial gifts from partners allowed CLI to ship more than 400,000 books and Bibles, and also provided 23,000 Bible study lessons. Stop at the table in the Narthex to become a partner.

Paul Jimenez from CLI will be at the Saturday 6:00 pm and Sunday 8:00 am services this week to tell us more about the ministry, and a video will be shown at the 9:30 am and 11:00 am Sunday services.

See firsthand how you can make a difference by signing up to volunteer at the CLI office on April 29 for Operation InAsMuch. Our church bus will be used to transport the group.





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.

Mites for Missions

We will be collecting Mites for Missions at all services this weekend, **April 22 and 23**. Please place your gifts in the large purple Mite Box in the Narthex near Sanctuary Worship. Gifts can also be made by check, payable to RLC, and mailed directly to Donna Krupcale, % Resurrection Lutheran Church, 100 Lochmere Drive West, Cary NC 27518. The large Mite Box is always available at the Welcome table in the Narthex for gifts anytime during the month.



Thank you for supporting the mission grants of Lutheran Women in Mission!



*weather permitting

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.

Donations Needed

One of the service teams for RLC's Operation InAsMuch will be packing school supplies for **Lutheran World Relief** on Saturday, April 29.

Items needed:

- rulers with centimeters on one side and inches on the other (plastic or wood)
- pencil sharpeners, small hand-held
- blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- packages of black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink)

Barrels for the supplies will be available in the Narthex and the FLC Lobby. Supplies are needed by Sunday, April 23.



For questions, please contact Jamee Thieme through RCB or the church office (office@rlcary.org, 919-851-7248).

Game Night 2

Looking for a night of fun and fellowship? Like to play board/card games?

Join us on **Sunday, April 23** from 5:00-8:30 pm for Adult Game Night 2 in Room 240, Family Life Center! We'll bring a variety of games, but feel free to bring your favorite.

We will have a simple potluck. Bring something to share and join us!

Contact Sandy Wuori or Ben Wuori through RCB or the church office at 919-851-7248 or office@rlcary.org.

Weekly Bible Study Opportunities

Monday Night Women's Bible Study
 Join us for Heroes of Faith, based on Hebrews 11, Mondays, 7:00-8:00

Hebrews 11 gives us a list of role models: ordinary people who trusted God in radical ways. This eight-session LifeGuide® Bible Study by Douglas Connelly on the heroes of faith will encourage you and help deepen your own trust in our great God who still keeps all his promises, so that you might live out your faith in radical ways today. 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.

Food & Fellowship for the Blind



pm from April 17-May 22.

Resurrection's Ministry for the Visually Impaired meets

Friday, April 28

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

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



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).

THANK YOU!

Marty and Mindy Stephani wish to extend a heart-felt "thank you" to everyone within the hearing of this announcement. From all the people who visited him at Wake Med where all 4 surgeries were conducted, to those who visited him at the hospital and at Rex Rehab in Apex, to those who brought him various snacks including spicy peanuts, homemade chocolate chip cookies, fruitcake, and cheeseburgers to those who came and were with him waiting for physical therapy

to be over, to Tim Hiteshew's construction team who came and brought materials and constructed the other half of the ramp so that he could be pushed inside the house on the wheelchair and walker to the MANY people who phoned their greetings to the many people who visited him in person, to those who continue to send "get well" and greeting cards, to the men who have picked him up for Monday night men's study, Bagel Bunch, Saturday morning men's breakfast to those who brought homemade vegetable beef soup WE THANK YOU.

It's been wonderful to be at the receiving end of your love and support. To thank you INDIVIDUALLY would have been very difficult so we hope that this message of thankfulness will find all of you. He still is getting physical therapy and nurse visits at home. The most recent doctor visits (surgeon/orthopedist and GP) have told us that he is healing very well. He is very anxious to be able to drive his truck once more and ride his lawn mower in a couple weeks! Thank you! We love you all.

Save the Date!



Saturday, May 6 at 2:00 pm Sanctuary

The Coffeehouse for Special Needs Adults Friday, May 12

We thank all our volunteers who helped us to have a wonderful Coffeehouse in April! We couldn't do it without our faithful volunteers. Please come be a volunteer. Our special needs guests love to come 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.

The next Coffeehouse is Friday, May 12 from 7:00-8:30 pm in the Family Life Center Gym. We will have the *Every Voice Choir* entertain us, as well as Don Helmey! The *Every Voice Choir* is made up of many of our honored guests.

Sign Up: https://bit.ly/3kqoHGN

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



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.



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

Here's what is coming up...

• Sunday, April 23

9:30 am - Connection Cafe (Sunday School for Middle and High School)

5:30 pm - Breakaway Leadership

6:30-8:00 pm - Breakaway (High School Youth Group)

Wednesday, April 26

Confirmation Banquet and Rehearsal, 6:00 pm Fellowship Hall

Saturday, April 29

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.

Sunday, April 30

Confirmation Sunday, 9:30 am, Sanctuary





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

Resurrection Lutheran Preschool



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

Resurrection Lutheran School



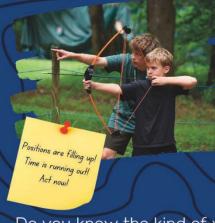
RSVP Today! evite.me/JF4VNEDXDw

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

Latest Lion's Tale



We're looking for a few good counselors!





Do you know the kind of young adult you'd like as a role model for your child or grandchild? Connect them with Camp Agapé for the summer of their life!

HERE'S YOUR CHALLENGE:

Scan & Share. Right Now!

- 1. Think of one young adult you know who would be a great camp counselor.
- 2. Call or text them right now and let them know the gifts you see in them.
- 3. Share with them the URL below (or scan the QR code).
- 4. Encourage them to apply. Check-in with them and encourage them along the way.

AGAPEKUREBEACH.ORG/SUMMERJOB

Summer staff counselors must be at least one year out from high school graduation. Summer staff orientation begins on May 3rd, 2023. The last day of the summer is August 4th, 2023. Camp Agapé leadership is open to



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

Prayers of the Church – April 23, 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, 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 April 16, 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
- 8th Grade Confirmation Students Presenting Their Faith Statements
- Operation InAsMuch and Prayers for Lots of Participation!
- Good Test Results
- Thanksgiving and Continued Prayers for Safe and Fun Prom Season for High Schoolers

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, Recovery
- Wendy Wood, Recovery
- Shannon, Friend of *Katy Johnson
- *Eve Sommers
- *Jim Sanvi, Father of *Katie Riccitello
- Maclean Hueske, Niece of *Diane Hoffmeister
- Wendy, Cousin of *Diane Hoffmeister
- Russ Catania, Recovery
- *Ed Altieri, Recovery
- *Pastor Jonathan, Recovery from Surgery
- *Denise Johnson
- Paul Wozniak, Cancer Treatment
- Mary Ann Wozniak, Cancer Treatment
- Randi, James, Shea, Virginia, Bill, Tommy, Janet, Megan, Tim, Justin, Red, Brian, Mark, Timmy, Kevin, Keith, Carlton, Carol, Anna, Anne, Skylar, Brendan, Alice, Paul, Marty, Julian, Lois, Felicia, Ken, Donald, Harold

For Comfort

- Family and Friends of Mary Herion, Mother of *Carol Buckner
- Family and Friends of Cheryl Schlage, Mother of *Danielle Altieri
- Family of Friends of Ray Anderson, Uncle of *Eric Heise
- Family of Micah Jax Jahnke, Newborn Son of Nathan and Faith Jahnke
- Family and Friends of Kathy Leahy, Mother of *Jeff Leahy
- Family and Friends of Roseanne Candiello, Niece of *Eve Sommers

For Provision, Peace, Strength, and Patient Endurance

- People of Ukraine, And All Those Who Serve to Support Them
- Persecuted Christians
- Uganda Lutheran Church
- 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
- Victims of Gun Violence
- Lord's Will in Career/Job Change
- Successful and Positive Test Results

For the Lord's Wisdom, Guidance, and Strength for the Health 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
 <u>Click here for the Cima Family Newsletter!</u>
- 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 4/21/23

Attendance and Giving – April 23, 2023

In-Person Worship Attendance

Saturday, April 15

6:00 pm - 50

Sunday, April 16

8:00 am - 82; 9:30 am - 111; 11:00 am - n/a

Total In-Person Worship: 243

Views of Online Worship at RLC's YouTube Channel

Sunday, April 16

8:00 am - 118; 11:00 am - 54

Total Online Views: 172 views

General Fund Giving and Spending - March 2023

	Current Month	Year to Date
General Receipts	\$ 91,385.92	\$ 962,570.07
<u>Total Disbursements</u>	\$ 112,168.78	\$ 983,183.70
Receipts Less Disbursements	\$ -20,782.86	\$ -20,613.63

Last Week and This Week's Offerings: \$25,312.64

Average Weekly Giving for 2022/23: \$24,681.28

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 4/21/23