Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 7, 2023



Pastor's Corner for May 7-13

We Have Everything We Need (Psalm 23)

Last Saturday, many of you took time out of your busy schedules to be involved in "Operation Inasmuch" here at Resurrection Lutheran Church and out in our community. It made this pastor's heart glad to see the joy and enthusiasm of so many of you as you gathered here, and in our wider neighborhood, just to offer a little time and energy to make our community a better place! With so many needs around us, it might seem at times like the work we do is merely a drop in the bucket. But I've found that so often when I take the time to give, I find myself receiving in unexpected ways. I'd be surprised if there weren't many of you who felt that way last Saturday, too. We are hard-wired in life to be GIVERS, not merely receivers.

I mention this because, once again, we are celebrating Good Shepherd Sunday today. It might seem at first like we are talking only about sheep and shepherds. What we are really talking about, however, is the gift of home. What we are talking about is the "abundant life" (John 10:10) lived not in the green pastures of our own longings, but in the unconditional love of the Shepherd who knows what we truly need. In Psalm 23, we discover how the Lord, our Shepherd, provides rest, comfort, safety, food, and relief for us, his sheep. What matters is the Shepherd. Without the Shepherd, the sheep are lost. The Shepherd leads His sheep to true restoration they could never find by themselves. "Home" for the sheep is where their Shepherd is. Even when such sheep lose their way, "goodness and mercy" pursue them all the days of their lives (23:6)!

Allow me to include a paraphrase of Psalm 23 from the devotional book Psalms/Now [1] (p. 38):

The Lord is my constant companion.

There is no need that He cannot fulfill.

Whether His course for me points to the mountaintops of glorious ecstasy

or to the valleys of human suffering,

He is by my side, He is ever present with me.

He is close beside me when I tread the dark streets of danger, and even when I flirt with death itself,

He will not leave me.

When the pain is severe, He is near to comfort.

When the burden is heavy, He is there to lean upon.

When depression darkens my soul, He touches me with eternal joy.

When I feel empty and alone, He fills the aching vacuum with His power.

My security is in His promise to be near to me always, and in the knowledge that He will never let me go.

The Lord is our Shepherd, we shall not want. In our abundant life in Christ, our cup is overflowing. Alleluia! Christ is risen!

Robin Hester to Begin as Full-Time Principal of Resurrection Lutheran School, June 1

It is with great joy indeed that I have the opportunity to announce to our RLC community the hiring of RLS Administrative Dean Robin Hester as Full-Time Principal of Resurrection Lutheran School. Mrs. Hester (Robin) has been serving in the Christian school setting for over 30 years and has been a teacher and school administrator at RLS since 2017. Her commitment not only to the children and families at RLS, but to her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, has made her a dearly loved member of the school community. We are thrilled that she has answered the need to lead and to serve RLS in the future.

As has been announced in these pages, the search for a full-time principal at RLS began almost two years ago with the forming of a Call Committee of the RLS Board. I had the privilege of sitting on this committee as an ex officio member. The committee, first led by David Robison, and then by Mackenzie Sottini (also consecutive chairs of the RLS Board), has been faithful to its task of looking for and recommending an administrator to be head of school at RLS. As the call process unfolded over this two-year period, the limited availability of candidates for the RLS Principal position became clearly evident. This prompted the RLS Board to begin considering a somewhat wider range of options than the call process alone would allow— a practice becoming more and more common place in LCMS schools across the United States. What we found was that God was leading us to consider one of our own for this position! This led to the RLS Board's unanimous decision— and the RLC Church Council's unanimous endorsement- to hire Robin as full-time Principal of RLS beginning June 1. A Rite of Commissioning for her will occur at RLC in all four services the weekend of June 3-4. In the meantime, if you see her in worship, please introduce yourself and greet her warmly!

We are so grateful to Interim Principal Bob Unger and for his faithful service at RLS over these last two years. In thanksgiving to God for Bob and Robin, we look forward to all that God will accomplish at RLS in the years to come.

Personal Intercessory Prayer at Resurrection Lutheran Church This Weekend (5/6 – 5/7)

This past Thursday (May 4) was observed in our country as a "National Day of

Prayer." I believe the national focus affords us an opportunity as Christians to give thanks to God for the opportunity to come to Him with all boldness and confidence "as dear children ask their dear Father" in Christ Jesus. All who are worshipping at RLC this weekend are invited for a time of Personal Intercessory Prayer following the 6 PM Saturday and all Sunday morning worship services. RLC Stephen Ministers and members of the Resurrection Prayer Community will be on hand to offer prayers for anyone requesting them. We hope and pray that this event will lead to more frequent opportunities for personal prayers after services in the future.

Celebration of Life for Pam Brown at Ritter Park This Sunday,

The family of Pam Brown invites you to a time of fellowship and thanksgiving to God for Pam this coming Sunday, following the 11 AM service. The gathering will take place at Ritter Park Shelter. We pray for God's continued comfort and eternal hope in Christ for all who remember Pam and gather with us on Sunday.

Eastertide peace and joy, Pastor Jonathan

[1] Leslie F. Brandt, St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 1973.

Prayers of the Church

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.





Celebration of Life for Pam Phipps Brown

The family of Pam Phipps is gathering to celebrate her life and honor her memory

on **Sunday, May 7 at 1:00 pm** in the Ritter Park picnic area, Cary. Pam has touched many lives as a mother, wife, daughter, sister, and friend. Her legacy is the difference she made. Pam's spirit is memorialized in the many hours spent with her daughter, Izzy Brown, at Ritter Park.

RLS families, RLC members, and the 8th grade graduating class of 2023 are cordially invited to join Pam's family for a service led by Resurrection Lutheran Church. Coming together in good food, love, and play is a tribute to Pam's life. Please join us with joy and peace knowing that our sister in Christ is now in the loving arms of her heavenly Father. We would love to hear your memories.

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
pm from April 17-May 22.

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.

• Men with Kids

Our Wednesday night group is on break for the summer and will start back

after Labor Day.

• This Is the Church

Three 90-minute gatherings on Saturday mornings (9:30-11:00 am on **May 27, June 3, and June 10**) in Room 151, Family Life Center, will focus on the basics of what Christians believe and how the Christian faith can be understood in distinction from other world religions. If interested, contact jonathan.blanke@rlcary.org.

With Gratitude!

We thank you for the generous donations of school supplies for Operation Inasmuch last weekend! With your generosity and a Thrivent Action team grant, we were able to make 50 school kits that will be donated to Lutheran World Relief. Lutheran World Relief will distribute these kits through Mission Partners around the world.





Veterans Lunch Crew

Wednesday, May 10 at 12:00 pm

IHOP 1301 Kildaire Farm Road, Cary

RSVP through RCB

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.

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 are building in our newest neighborhood, Old Poole Place in Southeast Raleigh.

Upcoming RLC Build Day - May 13 (15 volunteers, ages 16+) Additional Lutheran Build Day - May 20 (10 volunteers, ages 16+)

Please note that they hold two slots on Thursday and Friday each week for Lutherans, if you are available during the week.

Please use this link to sign up: http://vhub.at/lutheranbuild



Adult Game Night Sunday, May 14 from 5:00-9:30 pm Room 240, Family Life Center

Looking for a night of fun and fellowship? Like to play board and card games? We will gather the 2nd Sunday of the month from 5:00-9:30 pm in Room 240, Family Life Center.

Games provided. Invite a friend! Bring something to share for a simple potluck, if you can, and join us for all or part of the time.

Contact: Sandy Wuori or Ben Wuori through RCB, or the church office (<u>office@rlcary.org</u>, 919-851-7248).



Food and Fellowship for the Blind Friday, May 26 from 5:30-7:30 pm

We enjoyed another wonderful evening on April 28 with our visually impaired guests! Thank you to all of the volunteers who make these evenings possible.

Our next fellowship dinner for the blind will be Friday, May 26 in the Fellowship Hall. We can always use more volunteers! If interested, please contact Annette Langefeld-Kennedy or the church office at 919-851-7248 or <u>office@rlcary.org</u>.

Graduating?

Please contact the church office with high school and college graduate information by May 28. We will highlight our graduates in the June newsletter.



Please include the graduate's name, school graduating from, and any future plans. Email <u>susan.moore@rlcary.org</u> or call 919-851-7248, ext. 33. Thanks!

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

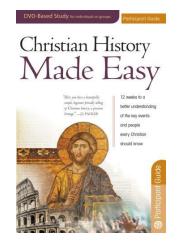
You may also contact the church office at 919-851-7248 or <u>office@rlcary.org</u> for assistance.

Summer Adult Christian Ed Class

Yes, we will again have a summertime Sunday School for adults. The class will be held **Sundays**, **9:30-10:30 am** from June 4-August 20 in the Fellowship Hall. It's a 12-week program titled, *Christian History Made Easy*.

During the class, we will explore the people, places, and rulers who were notable for the Christian faith over the centuries. Starting with the time of Martin Luther, there will be a focus on Protestant Christianity. Scripture will also be featured in each class.

There are two study guides for the class and we ask for a donation of \$10. Mindy Stephani will lead with assistance from Tim Kearby. Put June 4 on your calendar and make plans to attend the Saturday night service or one on Sunday at 8:00 am or 11:00 am. Come and join us!



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY May Newsletter

Sunday School

Children's Sunday School is held in Resurrection Lutheran School classrooms Sundays 9:30-10:30

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 May 7 -Lesson Food from Heaven
 May 14 - Mother's Day -Lesson Waterworks
 May 21 -Last Sunday School - Celebration with attendance awards

Children's Church

Upcoming Events

KICKS Kids in Christ Keep Shining Grades 3-5 Our May event will be May 24th from 6:30-7:30 in the Family Life Center Gym.

> KICKS April Event Sportsmanship

Questions?

Interested in learning more about Children's Ministry at RLC? Contact Erika Hulse at erika.hulse@rlcary.org 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 (exact change) or check accepted, payable to Resurrection Lutheran Church. Mail or drop off to Church Office, 100 W. Lochmere Drive, Cary NC 27518.

Volunteers Needed!

Contact kelseysarrault@rlscary.org.

Student Ministry

Middle School and High School

Wow! It's almost the end of another school year! Our May schedule is a little wonky, but full of lots of our favorite events. Mark your calendar... we will be celebrating our Seniors in the 11:00 am service on June 4.

Congratulations to our Confirmands! It is such an exciting and important step in your faith journey. Just like Pastor Alan said at the Banquet however, this is just one chapter. The next chapter begins and I am so excited to welcome you to Breakaway along with our High School Crew on May 21 for our traditional Glow Night. ALL rising Freshman are welcome and invited! We look forward to welcoming you to the family!

Here's what is coming up...

Sunday, May 7
 9:30-10:30 am - Connection Cafe (Sunday School for Middle and High School)
 1:30-3:00 pm - Ignite (Middle School Youth Group)
 6:30-8:00 pm - Breakaway (High School Youth Group)

• Sunday, May 14 - Mother's Day

9:30-10:30 am - Connection Cafe (Sunday School for Middle and High School) No Breakaway (High School Youth Group)

• Sunday, May 21

9:30-10:30 am - Last Connection Cafe (Sunday School for Middle and High School) Super Fun Bible Jeopardy and Donuts!

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

Glow Night! We will be welcoming our rising Freshman.

• Sunday, May 28

No Breakaway (High School Youth Group)





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

Resurrection Lutheran Preschool



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

Resurrection Lutheran School

Wanted People Who Cherish Christian Education Resurrection Lutheran School is looking for you. This summer, two school board positions will become open and we are looking for replacements. If you have any interest, please contact John Heilman, Bill Xenakis, or the church office at 919-851-7248 or office@rlcary.org.



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





Online Worship Bulletins

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

Attendance and Giving

Visual Faith

Church Calendar

Resurrection Lutheran Church100 Lochmere Drive West, Cary NC 27518rlcary.org919-851-7248office@rlcary.org

Prayers of the Church – May 7, 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 30, 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 Confirmands and Their Families, Confirmation Sunday on April 30
- Operation InAsMuch on April 29, Volunteers and Donations of Time and Goods, and Prayers for Lots of Participation!
- *Marty Stephani, Recovery and Restoration
- *Pastor Jonathan Blanke, Recovery

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, Recovery from Surgery

- *Cheri Spitz
- *Eve Sommers, Continued Recovery at Home
- *Marina de Moura Torres
- Shannon, Friend of *Katy Johnson
- Paul Wozniak, Cancer Treatment
- Mary Ann Wozniak, Cancer Treatment
- *Ed Altieri

For Comfort

• Friends and Family of Warren Harrell

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
- Resurrection Lutheran School Principal Decision
- DCE Call Process and Staffing Decisions
- *Randi and Barry Munns
- Annie Ruth Ford, Mother of *Dennis Ford
- *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
- Those Seeking Jobs and Career Changes
- Victims, Families, and Communities Suffering with Gun Violence
- College Students, Preparing for Exams

For the Lord's Wisdom, Guidance, Strength for the Health and Well-Being of the People They Serve

- Pastor Jonathan and Juli, Associate Pastor Zach 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 <u>Click here for the Mantey's Newsletter!</u>
- JP and Aimee Cima, Cambodia
 <u>Click here for the Cima Family Newsletter!</u>

• Shauen and Krista Trump, Kenya <u>Click here for the Trump's Newsletter!</u>

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 5/7/23

Attendance and Giving – May 7, 2023

In-Person Worship Attendance

Saturday, April 29 6:00 pm - 48

Sunday, April 30 8:00 am - 58; 9:30 am - 226; 11:00 am - 68

Total In-Person Worship: 400

Views of Online Worship at RLC's YouTube Channel

Sunday, April 30 9:30 am - 91 No 8:00 am or 11:00 am live stream this week only.

Total Online Views: 91 views

General Fund Giving and Spending - March 2023

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

This Week's Offerings: \$20,809.69

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

Questions? Contact <u>finance@rlcary.org</u>.

Updated 5/5/23