Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost September 24, 2023



Pastor's Corner for September 24-30

The "Fairness" Question (Isaiah 55:6-9)

Once upon a time I administered an informal survey inside the worship service of a church I pastored. There was only one question: "If you could ask the Lord of the cross any question today, what would it be?" There were all kinds of questions recorded on the slips of paper turned in. But to my surprise, the one that appeared repeatedly was the fairness question: "Why does God allow bad stuff to happen to 'good' people?" I've sat and prayed with people who asked that question. I've wondered aloud about that question myself. But what the Scriptures teach is that there's no merit badge in the kingdom of heaven reflecting the number of service hours contributed... no brownie points for piety that earn you immunity from future suffering. It seems positively random —even evil— that a faithful man struggling to tend the needs of his fellow citizens after a devastating earthquake would be shot and killed by a thief, as someone I know once was. It seems equally baffling and

unfair that a computer hacker who hijacks another person's identity and gets rich at the expense of his victim's reputation should profit.

We will never satisfyingly answer the fairness question by looking at the suffering of people we identify as "good" in the world. But there's another way unfairness works. It is this wonderful, blessed UNfairness that Jesus describes in his parable today. Though we tend to identify "us" vs. "them," good vs. bad, old faithful vs. new faithful, it would appear that there is no hierarchy in the kingdom of heaven. There is, in fact, an upside-down rule at work: those who would be "first" are actually last, and those who are last, first. So, what does "fairness" look like, from where God is sitting? Should God reward us according to what we deserve? Isaiah writes, "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are [God's] ways higher than your ways and [God's] thoughts than your thoughts." God's fairness looks different. For our heavenly Father, justice meant his own dear Son, Jesus Christ, taking the fall for what we deserved. In the kingdom of heaven, justice means you and me and all who are outside the nation of Israel, are welcomed in, even though we are latecomers to the salvation story! God's strange and perplexing calculus of grace has already been applied. We've come out on the other side as its beneficiaries! Far from deserving of heavenly reward, we are undeserving. The good news is that God puts us... undeserving though we may be... to work in his vineyard. Let's get going. There's a harvest waiting!

Wanted and Needed: Your Assistance

If you've taken part in the Wednesday evening dinners, you know just how richly we've been blessed by RLC's Fellowship Committee volunteers! Last Wednesday they set the table for us to enjoy a meal from Danny's BBQ, in Cary... and it was great! If you would like to volunteer as a helper in the kitchen, there is always a need for more hands. <u>Just click here.</u>

Also, we are constantly in need of volunteers to assist in our various worship services: slide techs, ushers, and greeters, especially. Chair teams to prepare our worship space at 11 AM would be a huge blessing to our worshippers. No experience is needed, and we will assist you in knowing what you need to know ahead of time. If you've never stepped up to help before, now is the time! <u>I invite</u> you to let us know your interest by clicking here.

Prayers of the Church

Mission and Ministry Presentation

Sunday, September 24



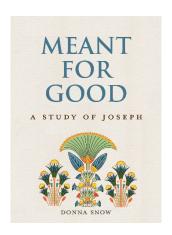
No class this week, September 24, for Erika's Mission Presentation, or next week, October 1, for the Outdoor Worship in Ritter Park.

Sunday Adult Christian Education

Join us on **Sunday mornings, 9:30-10:30 am** in the Fellowship Hall from September 10-November 12!

Meant for Good: A Study of Joseph

A devotional journey through the life of Joseph, Genesis 30-50.



Everyone remembers Joseph from Sunday School days! But how often have you stopped to think about Joseph's life as a kind of "spiritual boot camp" that parallels your own? As author Donna Snow writes, "The amazing truth about God's spiritual boot camp (basically, our whole life) is that He never leaves us. Ever. ... In Joseph, we see Christlike qualities and parallels to apply to our Christian walk. We can choose to become victims of our circumstances, or we can trust God to bring beauty from ashes every single time. Joseph's biography occupies more space in Genesis than those of Adam, Noah, Abraham, or even Joseph's own father, Jacob. Even though that should be reason enough to study Joseph's incredible journey, he also experiences family conflict and unfair treatment, which many of us can relate to today. ... Perhaps you and I can relate to waterless pits and unfairness in our lives. By the end of the story, God uses Joseph to provide invaluable insights regarding how to live out wise, bold journeys of faith in our everyday Christian walk."

This study is accompanied by an optional daily devotion throughout the week that builds on the conversations we have on Sundays. If you're looking for an opportunity to be immersed in God's Word and enjoy conversation on important topics with your faith family at Resurrection, now is your chance!

This book is published by Concordia Publishing House and written by Donna Snow. 10 books have been purchased for \$15/book. You may either buy your book at

church or purchase your own from the CPH website for \$17/each (not including shipping). Caution: This study is different from the book of a similar title authored by Megan Marshman on Amazon.

Team led by Pastor Jonathan Blanke and Pastor Zach Sarrault. Questions? Contact the church office (919-851-7248, office@rlcary.org).

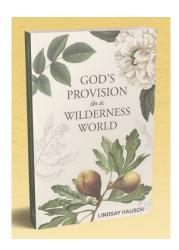
Monday Night Women's Bible Study

September 11-October 30

God's Provision in a Wilderness World by Lindsay Hausch

Join us in person at church on **Mondays**, **7:00-8:00 pm** in Room 151, Family Life Center. We will also have a Zoom group available at the same time on Monday evenings.

An eight-week Bible study, *God's Provision in a Wilderness World* explores sections of the Book of Exodus and applies them to the here and now, for readers on their own journey through their own wilderness. Readers are left with the message that despite life circumstances, despite the readers' own wildernesses that are out of their control and difficult, *God* will deliver them from their wilderness.



Books are available through christianbook.com, cph.org, or Amazon. Amazon also has the book available in the Kindle store.

Questions? Contact Jamee Thieme through RCB or the church office (919-851-7248, office@rlcary.org).

Men's Weekly

Nurturing Your Faith: Identity

September 11-October 2 (Initial Study)

Join us for the Men's Weekly on **Mondays**, **7:00-8:15 pm** in Room 240, Family Life Center, for fellowship and study.



Our identity as forgiven children of God is explored in Nurturing Your Faith: Identity. This four-part Video Bible study is hosted by Rev. Dr. John Nunes. He examines how as Christians — forgiven for Jesus' sake — we are reconciled to God. Reborn to fellowship and active community, we are inspired to praise God for His great love.

Questions? Contact Tom Gebbia at mens-ministry@rlcary.org.

Wednesday Night Workshop

Start with a delightful dinner, then stay for a variety of activities, including adult Christian ed classes, confirmation, youth events, and music ministry rehearsals. The schedule is as follows:

5:00-6:00 pm

Dinner in Family Life Center Gym (Click to RSVP)

5:00-5:30 pm

Jubilee Bells (2nd-6th Grade) in Sanctuary

5:30-6:00 pm

Rainbow Choir (4 years-1st Grade) in Sanctuary Sonshine Singers (2nd-6th Grade) in Choir Room

6:00-7:00 pm

Kidz Live (Kindergarten-5th Grade) in Room 151, Family Life Center Ignite, Middle School Youth Group (6th-8th Grade) in The Warehouse *Mama Bear Apologetics* in Room 240, Family Life Center

6:30-7:30 pm

Heavenly Handbells in Sanctuary

6:30-8:00 pm

Adult Christian Education Classes:

Anxious for Nothing, Finding Calm in a Chaotic World in Fellowship Hall Grace-full Women in Room 251, Family Life Center Men with Kids, Fatherhood with Joel Biermann, in Room 247, Family Life Center

7:00-8:15 pm

Confirmation in Room 240, Family Life Center

7:30-8:45 pm

Sanctuary Choir in Sanctuary

Christian education information, including class descriptions, can be found here.

Click here to download the Christian Education Fall 2023, Block 1 Sheet.

Paper copies are available at the Information Centers in the Narthex and Family Life Center Lobby.

Any questions can be directed to the church office at office@rlcary.org or 919-851-7248.

Wednesday Night Dinners

We are thrilled to announce the return of Wednesday Night Dinners from 5:00-6:00 pm in the Family Life Center Gym!

Our dinners are thoughtfully prepared, catering to all ages with a kid friendly, buffet-style setup. We will have a fantastic vegetarian option available upon request. Plus, a delectable dessert to satisfy your sweet tooth. An excellent opportunity to bond with family and friends over a sit-down meal!

Menu:

September 27

Taco Bar, Fruit Tray, Brownies

All are welcome!

Suggested donation of \$5 per person or \$20 per family. Cash, check, or card payable at door.

Please register for current week by Sunday evening here.

Interested in volunteering to help with set up, serving, and cleaning? Sign up here.

We also welcome individuals or groups who would like to contribute to preparing the food.

Questions? Contact Kim Simpson through RCB or the church office (919-851-7248, office@rlcary.org). We look forward to seeing you there!

Mama Bear Apologetics... Also for Papa Bears

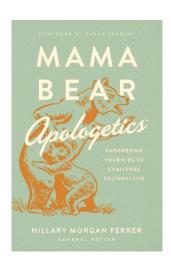
Join us for this ongoing book study!

We will offer two identical sessions each week:

Tuesdays, 2:00-3:00 pm* or Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00 pm
in Room 240, Family Life Center.

*Please note change of location for Tuesday.

Learn how to raise kids who think critically, love Biblically, and stand firm against the cultural tide. This book study will equip you to teach your kids how to affirm Biblical beliefs about what is true and what is false. Through transparent life stories and clear, practical applications —including prayer strategies— these Mama Bears offer you tools to train yourself, so you can turn around and train your kids.



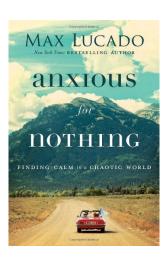
Please purchase the *Mama Bear Apologetics* book. You will want to attend if you have your own children or grandchildren, want to have children one day, or interact with children on a regular basis - anyone that has an intentional relationship with kids is encouraged to join us. Led by Pastor Zach Sarrault and Erika Hulse.

Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World

September 6-October 18

This 7-week study will be based on Max Lucado's Anxious for Nothing: Finding Calm in a Chaotic World. This program is based on Philippians Chapter 4 and provides people with a roadmap for overcoming anxiety and finding lasting peace. While anxiety is a part of life, it doesn't have to dominate our lives. We will explore the biblical prescription for anxiety, which is celebrating God's goodness, asking for His help, leaving your concerns with Him, and meditating on good things.

Led by Mindy Stephani and Tim Kearby. Participant guides will be available for a suggested donation of \$8 each.



Come and discover a life of calm and develop tools for combating the onslaught of worry in this chaotic age in which we live. Join us on **Wednesdays**, **6:30-7:45 pm**, in the Fellowship Hall during Wednesday Night Workshop!

Grace-full Women

September 6-October 18

Grace-full Women is a course meant to reassure us each week of all that Christ has done, is doing, and will do for us. Studying the Law and Gospel, as seen through the Scriptures, reveals both our dependence on Grace, as well as His promises, and brings us this blessed assurance.

The format of each session will be to watch and discuss selections from the 1517.org video series "Law & Gospel Devotional." Some of these selections are entitled: "Why the Law Cannot Save," "The Cross Alone is Our Theology," "What Can Separate You From the Love of God," and "Psalm 23 - The Means by Which God Takes Care of His Sheep."

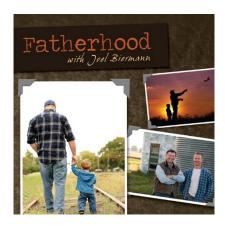
Led by Shane Jarvis. No additional materials or preparation are needed. Simply come ready to receive the Good News and depart full of Grace on **Wednesdays**, **6:30-7:45 pm**, in Room 251, Family Life Center.



Men with Kids

September 6-September 27 (Initial Study)

Men with Kids is held on **Wednesdays at 6:30 pm** in Room 247, Family Life Center, starting off with a study of *Fatherhood with Joel Biermann*.



Fatherhood is more than providing half the genetic material at conception; it's being there for the long haul. In *Fatherhood with Joel Biermann*, the Concordia Seminary professor and dad relates how being a father is a demanding pursuit with a heavenly goal-raising kids who know Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Few things in life can be more intimidating that taking on the role of fatherhood. Whether it's a planned event or one of life's little surprises it demands our full attention and a commitment to put our all into it. This Men's NetWork Bible study addresses the challenges in being loving and Christ-like fathers to our families, especially in a society that frequently portrays dads as buffoons and ill-equipped to care for themselves, much less their kids.

Questions? Contact Tom Gebbia at mens-ministry@rlcary.org.

Music Ministry

Resurrection Lutheran Church's Music Ministry includes people of all ages, and all levels of musical ability and background. Together we give glory to God and serve as a blessing and inspiration to others through the use of our God-given talents in musical offerings. This year is full of exciting, inspirational festivals, and musical events.

Click here for full listing of the Music Ministry opportunities.

We are looking forward to the 2023-24 season! If you wish to participate in the Music Ministry at Resurrection or have any questions regarding the various opportunities, please contact Bob Unger, Director of Worship and Music Ministry, at robert.unger@rlcary.org or 919-851-7248 ext. 25.

Blind Ministry

Food & Fellowship for the Blind



Resurrection's Ministry for the Visually Impaired meets

Friday, September 29

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

Consider joining us for our next event! Reach out to Annette Langefeld-Kennedy through RCB or the church office (office@rlcary.org, 919-851-7248) with questions or to volunteer.



Saturday, September 30

We will use the Taize format of worship for the Saturday, 6:00 pm service.

A darkened setting with candles, singing of short ostinato refrains of Biblical and liturgical phrases, periods of quiet for reflection, the celebration of communion, readings, and sermon.

Plan to have fun in the park!



Sunday School for Kids (preschool-5th grade) will be held from 9:30-10:30 am in Ritter Park.

Outdoor Worship starts at 11:00 am.

Pack a picnic lunch and stay for fellowship and games after worship.

Note, there will be no 9:30 am Worship Service, Adult Christian Ed or Middle/High School Classes. Also, no live stream for the 11:00 am service.

Look forward to worshiping in God's creation!

Blessing of the Quilts and Silent Auction

Blessing of the Quilts will be at all services during the weekend of **October 7/8**. We will also have our Silent Auction Fundraiser, which will include a variety of handmade items. *Mark your calendar!*

The Quilt Ministry is Lutheran World Relief's longest running program. LWR distributed its first quilts in 1945 to families in war-torn Europe following the Second World War. Within a decade, the ministry was reaching around the globe to villages far removed from the world's attention. Today, an average of 300,000 quilts are lovingly given worldwide each year.

LWR Mission Quilts are highly regarded throughout the world because of their quality and consistency. The careful adherence to their quilt-making guidelines will ensure that every quilt is useful, consistent and fair. Quilts can be used as warm bedding, room dividers, simple tents, or floor coverings.



Come and see the hand-tied quilts The Piecemakers, RLC's quilting group, put together this year. The quilts will be blessed, then shipped to Lutheran World Relief. Quilts are valuable tools in LWR's relief work to end poverty, injustice, and human suffering. To recipients, they are a symbol of God's love and compassion.

If you are interested in quilting, or even just sewing a quilt top, feel free to join The Piecemakers every Tuesday at 1:00 pm in Room 151, Family Life Center!

Questions? Contact Linda Merrill (<u>linda.merrill@rlcary.org</u>) or call the church office at 919-851-7248.

The Coffeehouse for Special Needs Adults

Friday, October 13

We thank all our volunteers who helped us to have a wonderful Coffeehouse in September! 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/3kgoHGN

The next Coffeehouse is **Friday**, **October 13** from 7:00-8:30 pm in the Family Life Center Gym. We will have A *Touch of Brass* perform for us - I hear we will be polkaing!

Contact Brenda Peterson through RCB or the church office (office@rlcary.org, 919-851-7248) with questions or to volunteer.



Lutheran Witness Subscription

It is time to renew (or start) your Lutheran Witness subscription. This church magazine has timely, informative articles about the faith life of fellow Missouri Synod Lutherans.

The cost is \$20.50 annually. Make checks payable to RLC and either use the designated offering envelope or note "Lutheran Witness" in memo.

<u>Deadline is October 22</u>. New members to RLC receive a one-year free subscription for the church.

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 (office@rlcary.org, 919-851-7248) for assistance.



Sunday School Registration:

https://forms.gle/7zY9ExYU4vf98N3Z7



Questions? Contact Erika Hulse, Children and Family Ministry Director erika.hulse@rlcary.org

Youth Ministry

Middle School and High School

RLC Youth Ministry focuses on relationships; building a relationship with God first, each other, our church, and our community. We are a group that keeps Christ at the center while having fun in our faith! God has so many great things in store for the youth at RLC.



COLOSSIANS 1: 17

"AND HE IS BEFORE ALL THINGS, AND IN HIM

ALL THINGS HOLD TOGETHER."

lgnite Middle School Youth Group Wednesdays 6:00 - 7:00pm Breakaway High School Youth Group Sundays 6:30pm - 8:00pm

Connection Cafe Sundays 9:30 - 10:30am All 6th - 12th graders

Faith, friends and FUN!

See you soon!

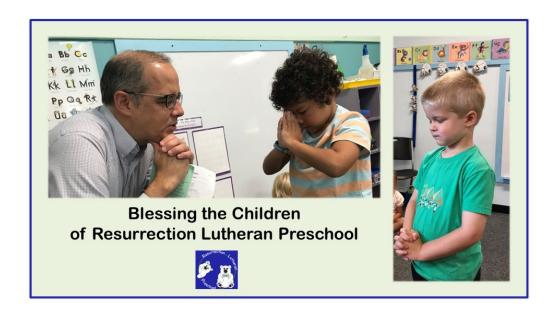
Follow us and find out what we are up to on Instagram: eyouthatrlc



We meet in The Warehouse (Room 253), Family Life Center.

Questions? Contact Ms. Jenny, Youth Director jenny.piontek@rlcary.org or 919-851-7248, ext. 24

Resurrection Lutheran Preschool



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

Resurrection Lutheran School



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

Latest Lion's Tale



Online Worship Bulletins

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

Visual Faith

Attendance and Giving

In-Person Worship Attendance

- Saturday, September 166:00 pm 53
- Sunday, September 17
 8:00 am 89; 9:30 am 128; 11:00 am 98

Total In-Person Worship: 368

Views of Online Worship at RLC's YouTube Channel

Sunday, September 178:00 am - 155; 11:00 am - 55

Total Online Views: 210 views

General Fund Giving and Spending - August 2023

	Current Month	Year to Date
General Receipts	\$ 95,778.00	\$ 198,173.86
Total Disbursements	\$ 117,919.75	\$ 233,874.48
Receipts Less Disbursements	\$ -13,558.87	\$ -35,700.62

This Week's Offerings: \$31,995.14

Average Weekly Giving for 2023/24: \$22,019.31

Average Weekly Giving Budgeted for 2023/24: \$27,761.30

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 during the worship service
- Mail to Resurrection Lutheran Church, 100 Lochmere Drive West, Cary, NC 27518
- Online Giving through 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.

Church Calendar

Prayers of the Church - September 24, 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, Paul Batt, Peter and Esther Kuo, *Geoffrey Wiggins, Marc and Elizabeth Langefeld's Baby Adoption, Caitlyn, Mark Zimmerman, Justus Nicolai, Alex Fernandez, *Cheri Spitz

Ongoing Cancer Treatments

*Mike Allen, Anne Price, Angie Price, Alison Zieglmeier, Carol Diliberto, Jackie, Kathy Siemon, Scott Brinkley, *Bill Xenakis, Linda, Jimmy Ketner, Hope Mackelprang, Melissa Huntsman, Sue, Kathy, Pamm Haley, Judy Dean, Bob, Michael Murphy, Greta Nelson, Marina de Moura Torres, Paul Wozniak

For Expectant Moms

Katie Wozniak, Brittany Young

Those Prayed for on September 17, 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
- For Christian Education Study Opportunities This Fall
- Wednesday Night Dinners
- Diane F., Recovery from Surgery
- Complete Recovery
- Successful Surgery

For Healing

- *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
- *Cheri Spitz
- *Eve Sommers, Recovery/Restoration

- *Marina de Moura Torres, Recovery
- *Greta Nelson
- Shannon, Friend of *Katy Johnson
- Julie Wozniak, Recovery
- *Ginny Koren
- *Mindy Stephani, Recovery
- Joseph McKinney, Recovering from Heart Transplant (Pediatric), Returned home on August 25
- Patricia Wellington
- Caira, Recovery
- Mike, Recovery from Surgery, Brother of *Fran Xenakis
- Lynne, Recovery from Surgery
- Brian, Alice, Karl, Linda, Sam, Sany, Justin, Kandi, Margaret, Marina, Pat, Pam, Eve, Betty, Lynne, Lynn, Julie, Jan, Betty, Mary, Jadis, Barbara, Simona, Ken, Harold, Donald, Greta, Greg, Shannon, Dave

For Comfort

- Friends and Family of *Jim Bowen, Especially Son *Jim, Grandchildren *Ross and *Grace
- Friends and Family of Wilma Amundson, Mother of *Meredith Amundson
- Friends and Family of Penny (7-year-old), Especially Her Parents Hayley and Patrick
- Friends and Family of Bob Bruening, Brother of Barbara Unger, Uncle of *Bob Unger

For Provision, Peace, Strength, and Patient Endurance

- Persecuted Christians
- Uganda Lutheran Church
- People of Ukraine, and All Those Who Serve to Support Them
- People of Maui and Those Affected by the Fires and Deaths of Loved Ones
- People Affected by Hurricanes, Storms, Flooding
- All Those Supporting Family Members with Caregiving Needs
- 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
- Those Enduring Marriage Struggles and Families in Turmoil
- Those Seeking Jobs and Career Changes
- Victims, Families, and Communities Suffering with Gun Violence
- All Students Beginning a New Year of Learning
- Family Transitions, Especially College Students and Their Families
- Morocco Earthquake Victim's Families
- Flood Victim's Families in Libya
- Team and Guests of Via de Cristo Weekend

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
- Area Pastors and School Staff
- Our Stephen Ministers

For Our Missionaries

- *Mark and *Megan Mantey, Kenya
 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 9/22/23