First Sunday in Advent November 26, 2023



Pastor's Corner for November 26-December 2

Sustained to the End (1 Corinthians 1:3-9)

It's that time of year that the boxes from the attic are coming down and the decorations are going up. Our "Christmas-tree-lights-already-attached" tree decided to stop lighting up last year, so this year it will be back to old fashioned strands of lights... either on the old tree or on another one. So far as I know, no one has invented electric lights on trees— either the kind already on, or the kind you hang— that are guaranteed to last a lifetime. So, the ritual of replacing or rejiggering what worked last year continues again. Somehow, one way or another, the tree always starts out looking a bit forlorn. It ends up looking spectacular.

As the busyness of the season sets in, especially in the aftermath of Thanksgiving, it's especially easy to feel a little like the tree in the attic getting ready for a big day to come: a little less than spectacular. Add to all the usual stress of the season the end of autumn, the longer days of darkness, and the traditional Bible readings for this time of year about the End of time... and we can't help realizing again just how important the renewing light of that Bethlehem baby truly is.

Our appointed reading this weekend, from the letters of St. Paul, give us what we need: a restored frame of mind that sees the light Christ brings: "Because of the grace of God given to you in Christ Jesus... you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, who will sustain you to the end, guiltless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor 1:4-8).

"Sustained to the end"! "Guiltless on the day of our Lord"! What beautiful promises we receive from the Holy Spirit through St. Paul this week! By the grace of God, we receive all we need to shine a light that endures today. And because of Jesus, we await a last and final Day when we will truly be spectacular.

Stewardship Weekend 2023 Pledge Results

We had a total of 89 households making pledges during our annual Stewardship Weekend. Every year, these pledges are made anonymously, so we thank those who took part. We all continue to discern God's leading as we trust in His generosity to us and share out of the abundance we have received with others.

Advent 2023 Focus on God's Restoration

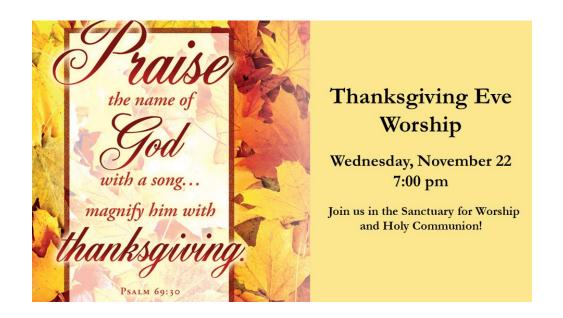
This year, our focus in our weekly worship services will be on the readings from Psalms: Psalm 80 (week 1), Psalm 85 (week 2), and Psalm 126 (week 3). All three have something to say about God's restoring work in the human heart, through Jesus. Are you ready for a fresh start? Please join us as we begin a new season!

In peace and joy, Pastor Jonathan

Wishing you a Happy Thanksgiving! The church office will be closed Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24.

Please note, there will be no youth Sunday School or Sunday Adult Christian Education class this weekend.

Prayers of the Church



We gather for worship on the eve of this national Day of Thanksgiving with joyful hearts, and we raise our hymns and prayers in gratitude to God for an abundance of blessings. God, in His Grace, has given us all that we need for body and soul. We respond with thanksgiving, recognizing that all we have is from His Grace.

Join us in the Sanctuary for Worship and Holy Communion or view service online <u>@ResurrectionLutheranCary</u>!

There will be no other Wednesday night activities held.



"Restore us, O God," cries the Psalmist, in every appointed Psalm for these weeks leading up to Christmas. This year, we center our Advent worship on the theme of God's gift of restoration! We experience together God's turning our hearts back to Him, God's gift of peace and forgiveness, and God's unexpected work in life's wilderness places that can even bring dreamlike joy (Psalm 126:1). Come, Lord Jesus!

November 26 ~ 1st Sunday in Advent

Sanctuary Services - Saturday 6:00 pm, Sunday 8:00 am^{*}, 9:30 am Praise - Sunday 11:00 am^{*} in the Family Life Center

November 29 ~ Wednesday, 6:00 pm*

Hanging of the Greens in the Sanctuary (Children and Family Focused Service)

For full listing of all the Advent services, click here.

Services marked with an asterisk (*) will be live streamed online <u>@ResurrectionLutheranCary</u>.

You can also view services afterward through the Online Worship page.

Reaching Out with the Love of Christ to all People through Advent Offerings

Each Season of Advent, RLC designates a local, regional, and international ministry to support in reaching out with Christ's love to all people. This year, the following organizations were chosen:

Lutheran Services Carolinas / Wake County Ukrainian Refugee Program, a human services organization focusing on seniors, children, families, and refugees. They help new immigrants transition to our life and culture in Wake County through their New Americans Program, with housing, jobs, and other support resources, and have a special fund for Ukrainian refugees in our county.

Learn More

LCMS Maui Disaster Relief, providing food, housing, supplies, school placement, pastoral care, licensed therapeutic care, and other sustaining and ongoing support systems for immediate and long-term assistance since the recent fire in Maui, working through local Lutheran congregations.

<u>Learn More</u>

Holy Land Christian Solidarity Cooperative (via Dr. George Ghanem who visits RLC each year with his olive wood carvings fundraiser), helps Christian families survive and remain in their homeland in Bethlehem and the surrounding area, providing basic necessities for housing and everyday needs, especially now with the war in the middle east.

Learn More

Please use the Advent Offering envelopes or indicate 'Advent Offering' on memo of checks.

From The Church Council

Dear RLC Voting Members,

One of the responsibilities of the Church Council is to maintain an active council membership composed of nine (9) elected members of the congregation.

Per the RLC ByLaws,

- The normal term of office as a member of the Church Council is two years.
- The Nominating Committee is instructed to seek candidates from RLC's membership.
- Any member of the congregation may propose a candidate for Church Council membership to the Nominating Committee (Officers of the Church Council + Senior Pastor, ex-officio).

The names of the nominees (with bios) will be published to the members of the congregation at least twice before the Election Meeting of the Congregation. Currently, six Council members are coming to the end of their terms; they are all eligible to run again if they so choose, but we are always looking for others who are interested in serving on the Council.

Presently, the Nominating Committee of the Church Council is requesting any member of the RLC Congregation to nominate candidates for the Church Council. Please send your candidate(s) nominations to a member of the Nominating Committee: Mike Haertling, Lori Jannings, Mike Hahne, Mike Heffner, or Pastor Jonathan Blanke **by Sunday, December 3.**

Thank you very much for considering service as a Council Member.

Yours in Christ, Michael Haertling, Council President

Voter's Meeting

Sunday, December 10

The next Voter's Meeting will be held on **Sunday**, **December 10** at 12:45 pm in the Family Life Center.

The agenda will include election of 6 Council Members, Pastor's Report, Treasurer's Report, Resurrection Lutheran School Report, Resurrection Lutheran Preschool Report, and an update from the Endowment Committee.

Weekly Bible Study Opportunities

Monday Night Women's Bible Study

Join us in person on **Mondays**, **7:00-8:00 pm** in Room 151, Family Life Center. We will be using a variety of single session Advent studies from November 20-December 11. For more information, please contact Jamee Thieme through RCB.

Men's Weekly

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

This eight-week study of *The Chosen, Season 3*, runs from October 16-December 4 and led by Ron Bostick. Discover what it means to belong to and be blessed by God. We all have to choose: the wide road that leads to destruction or the narrow path that leads to life. The third season of the groundbreaking television show, *The Chosen*, picks up with how Jesus' followers apply His teaching to their lives.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study and Fellowship

This ongoing study meets **Tuesdays**, **10:30-11:30 am** in the Fellowship Hall and is led by Pastors Jonathan and Zach.

God gives His Word to instruct, guide, and bless our lives. The Scripture lessons in worship offer a menu every week to build up the people of God in faith and hope. We will study the lessons for the following Sunday, and as we do, we expect that this Word will enrich and edify our community prayer, faith, and servant life in Christ.

Mama Bear Apologetics... Also for Papa Bears

Both Tuesday and Wednesday Mama Bear sessions will pause during Advent. They will resume on Tuesday, January 2 and Wednesday, January 3.

Christ and Culture

Join us for a study of *Christ and Culture* on **Wednesdays**, **7:00-8:00 pm** from October 25-December 13 in the Fellowship Hall. Contact: Pastor Jonathan Blanke

This 7-week guided conversation on the relationship between Christ and Culture, introduced by Dr. Jon Diefenthaler, former LCMS Southeastern District President and Concordia Seminary scholar, of H. Richard Niebuhr and his classic book. We will discuss: How has the Christian church understood the relationship between Christ and culture historically? How do we understand that relationship today? What does all of this mean as we strive to live out the Gospel of Christ and serve our God who is King of both the "secular" realm as well as the realm of the Church? We will probe these questions using the context of current events.

Men with Kids

Join us for a study of *The Book of Romans*: *Part 2* on Wednesdays, 7:00 pm in Room 247, Family Life Center. Contact: Tom Gebbia

The Book of Romans is considered by many to be one of the most important books ever written on the Christian faith. Writing to Christians, the apostle Paul defines the gospel, explores its depths, and discusses its significance and implications for the Christian life.

<u>Christian education information, including detailed class descriptions, can be found</u> <u>here.</u>

Wednesday Night Workshop Advent Schedule

5:00-6:00 pm Dinner, FLC Gym

5:00-5:30 pm Jubilee Bells, Sanctuary

5:30-6:00 pm Rainbow Choir, Sanctuary Sonshine Singers, Choir Room

6:00-7:00 pm Advent Worship Service 7:00-8:00 pm Adult Christian Ed Christ and Culture, Fellowship Hall Men with Kids, RM 247, FLC

7:00-8:15 pm Confirmation, RM 240, FLC

7:00-8:00 pm Heavenly Handbells, Sanctuary

8:00-9:00 pm Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary

Wednesday Night Dinners

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!

Wednesday Night Dinner 5:00-6:00 pm in the Family Life Center Gym

All are welcome!

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

No Wednesday night activities will be held Thanksgiving week, November 22, except for the 7:00 pm Worship Service.

Please register by Sunday evening here.

Menu for November 29:

Quiche, Salad, Fruit, and Dessert

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

Sign up here.

If there are any individuals or groups that would like to contribute to preparing a WNW dinner, we would love to have you!

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



Congratulations to Grant and Katie Wozniak upon the birth of their daughter! Ella Mae Wozniak was born on November 9, 2023.

Proud great-grandparents are Paul and Jan Wozniak.

Our prayers of joy and gratitude are with them as they celebrate this blessing!

The Christmas Store Toys for Children

We are excited again to partner with The Christmas Store Toys For Children and our trees are up!

The Christmas Store exists to provide the gift of new toys at Christmas to children in low-income families by engaging volunteers in meaningful community service. Following the instructions of Jesus, The Christmas Store is designed to help families in the towns and cities of southern Wake County who are in need during the holidays.

Please take a tag (or 2!), purchase your item(s), and return them unwrapped with their tags **by December 3**. Gifts can be placed under the trees in the Narthex and Family Life Center.

For gift idea lists by age and gender, visit <u>The Christmas Store's Amazon page</u>. Gifts can also be purchased through Amazon and sent directly to the store.

You can volunteer to assist on the days of the store (December 8, 9, and 11). To volunteer, sign up through their website.

For more information, visit The Christmas Store - christmasstorenc.com.





Join us for the next Young Families Gathering on **Sunday, December 3 at 4:00 pm** at the home of Ian and Derica Justice.

Please bring a wrapped Christmas present for the White Elephant Gift Exchange (one per family) and an appetizer and/or dessert to share. RSVP to Pastor Zach, Derica or Ian Justice.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawl Participants: Rebecca Melland-Kuo will be dropping off hats and scarves for the Neighbor to Neighbor group in mid-December. Please have your donations turned in **by Sunday, December 10**.

Have you thought about joining the Prayer Shawl Ministry? Did you know that we make more than just prayer shawls? We also make hats from preemie to adult sized, scarves for kids to adults, and blankets!

Interested, but don't know how to knit or crochet? We will teach you! We even have supplies you can borrow to learn on. We meet the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month from 4:00-5:30 pm in Room 240, Family Life Center.

Do you know someone who needs a prayer shawl? Contact Betsy Moll to arrange a time to meet.

The Coffeehouse - Thank You!

Thank you to all of our volunteers who made our Coffeehouses so special this year! We were able to have all of them and were so happy to do so. Our special needs guests love to attend, and we need lots of volunteers to make them feel special and loved.

This picture is of Kathy Rasmussen who we feted for her 22 years of faithful service to this ministry.



Our next Coffeehouse will be on Friday, January 12, 2024! Please mark your calendars for this date.

Have a Joyous Christmas! Thanks again. Brenda Peterson

Car Donation

At Resurrection, there are many families that we help behind the scenes for a variety of reasons. Through the Love Fund, we are blessed with opportunities to serve with God's love, giving aid to those in need. We have been walking alongside

a particular family who continues to make progress in their situation, but now find themselves in need of a vehicle to travel to work, bring kids to school, etc.

Our RLC funds do not allow us to purchase a car for this family, so we reach out to the body of Christ at RLC asking if anyone has a car that they could donate to a family in need. If the Spirit is leading you to make such a donation or if you have questions about the situation, please contact the church office at office@rlcary.org or 919-851-7248.

RLC Men's Pick-Up Basketball

Are you interested in joining a pick-up game? Come by the Family Life Center Gym on **Saturdays**, **9:00-11:00 am**. Men, 18 or older, are invited to play.

Contact Eugene Yamamura through RCB or the church office (office@rlcary.org, 919-851-7248).

Dining Room Furniture

If anyone is in need of furniture, there is a dining room table and two end chairs that are available for a family in need. Please contact Greg Jarvis through RCB or the church office (office@rlcary.org, 919-851-7248).

RLC Worship Servants

There is always a need for more volunteers to assist in all of our worship services. Please consider being a greeter or usher, a worship assistant or lay reader, a slide tech or live stream team member. Feel free to reach out directly 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.



Children and Family Ministry



Moms. you are invited to join other moms for a get together to socialize, share tips, make new friends & work on crafts/projects. Childcare will be available for a small fee.

For dates and to sign up: <u>https://bit.ly/3ZVhyB8</u>

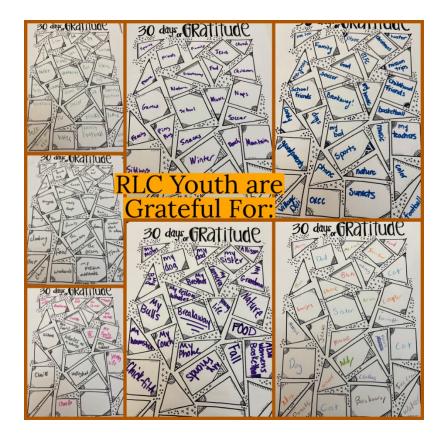


Register here: <u>http://bit.ly/3Q1SweN</u>

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

Youth Ministry

Middle School and High School



All Youth:

- No Sunday School on November 26.
- Service Project Decorate the Church for Christmas November 26 from 12:30-3:00 pm
- Advent Hanging of the Greens Mid-Week Service
 Wednesday, November 29 at 6:00 pm
 It is family friendly and just a great way to embrace all the joy of the Christmas season.
- Service Project Parents Night Out (Fundraiser for Youth Missions)
 Friday, December 1 from 5:00-9:00 pm
 We will be running games, serving dinner, helping with crafts, and taking

care of 3-year-olds through 5th grade, so their parents can have a night out. We need all of you!

I would love to have one extra adult leader as well, if you can spare a Friday night.

All events are located in The Warehouse (Room 253), Family Life Center, unless noted.

Have a very blessed Thanksgiving! Questions? Contact Ms. Jenny, Youth Director jenny.piontek@rlcary.org or 919-851-7248, ext. 24

Resurrection Lutheran Preschool

Deciding between TRANSITION (TK) or KINDERGARTEN? PERSPECTIVE from PARENTS and a Wake Co. Kindergarten TEACHER

What: Informational Meeting For Parents, By Parents:

- Wanting to ask questions of parents "who have been there"
- Who are "on-the-fence" whether to send a child to Transition or Kindergarten
- Wanting information about RLP's Transitional-Kindergarten (T-K) class
- Wanting to know expectations of children in a kindergarten class
- Wanting to know benefits down the road (3rd grade, middle, high school years, even college)

Where: RLP T-K Classroom, Room 112

When: Tuesday, November 28 at 7:00 pm

Why: To discuss benefits and reasons to send a child to Transitional-Kindergarten vs. Kindergarten

How: Open dialog offered by parents



Enrollment for 2024-25 at Resurrection Lutheran PRESCHOOL starts after Thanksgiving + Classes for children 2-years-old through 5-years-old +

Our program provides a balance of social and academic opportunities by means of 'learning through play' in a loving Christian atmosphere.

Class openings are currently available for the 2023-24 preschool year.

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

Resurrection Lutheran School

Now is the time to order RLS spirit wear, extra PE uniforms, and Friday theme shirts and sweatshirts. This will benefit the PSO and help continue to provide cultural arts events, family fun, and school community events.

Click here to order: School Spirit Wear Store

Please place your order **by Monday, November 27**. Share with family and friends! Thank you for your continued support!



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

Thanksgiving Visual Faith

Visual Faith

Attendance and Giving

In-Person Worship Attendance

- Saturday, November 186:00 pm 51
- Sunday, November 19
 8:00 am 88; 9:30 am 110; 11:00 am 135

Total In-Person Worship: 384

Views of Online Worship at RLC's YouTube Channel

Sunday, November 19
9:30 am - 130; 11:00 am - 70

Total Online Views: 200 views

General Fund Giving and Spending - October 2023

	Current Month	Year to Date
General Receipts	\$ 113,095.12	\$ 416,637.50
Total Disbursements	<u>\$ 112,207.51</u>	<u>\$ 451,674.80</u>
Receipts Less Disbursements	\$ 887.61	\$ -35,037.30

This Week's Offerings: \$26,982.97 Average Weekly Giving for 2023/24: \$23,146.52 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 <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 finance@rlcary.org.

Church Calendar



100 Lochmere Drive West, Cary NC 27518 rlcary.org 919-851-7248 | office@rlcary.org

Prayers of the Church – November 26, 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, Bob, Michael Murphy, Greta Nelson, Marina de Moura Torres, Paul Wozniak, Carol Stano

For Expectant Moms

Carolyn St. Laurent, Hannah Peterson, Analissa Vasquez

Those Prayed for on November 19, 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
- Another Successful Year of The Coffeehouse Ministry
- For Kathy Rasmussen's 22 Years of Faithful Service to The Coffeehouse Ministry
- Kids Against Hunger Service Project on November 18 and All Who Volunteered

For Healing

- *Kim Goss
- All Those Exposed to COVID, with COVID, and Recovering from COVID
- Blind Ministry Guests Maria Barker, Sheila McNair, Linda Jones, Desiree, James
- *Eve Sommers, Continued Recovery
- *Greta Nelson
- Paul Wozniak, Recovery at Home
- Julie Wozniak, Recovery

- *Mindy Stephani, Physical Therapy for Right Leg
- Patricia Wellington, Chemo Treatments
- Miriam Beyer, Daughter-In-Law of *Charlotte Beyer
- *Bill Xenakis, New Treatment Plan
- *Kim Simpson, Recovery
- Jan Bloom, Recovery in Rehab
- *Pam Dickson
- William, Bruce, Susan, Brian, Karl, Linda, Charles, Sara, Nancy, Susan, Patti, Alex, Lindsay, Amy, Christine, Alice, Bill, Marina, Paul, Amanda, Lee, Glen, Lynne, Patricia, Mary, Jan, Julie, Steve and Wife, David, Don, Ken, Donald, Harold, Anne, Shannon, Lucy, Dave, Eric, Mara, Karen, Marti, Connie

For Comfort

- Friends and Family of *Lucas Kube, Son of *Lutz and *Robin Kube
- Friends and Family of Isaiah Anderson

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, Morocco, Libya, Afghanistan, and All Affected by Natural Disasters
- People of Israel and the People of Gaza, Peace in the Middle East
- 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
- *Ginny and *Ed Koren
- Those Enduring Marriage Struggles and Families in Turmoil
- Those Seeking Jobs and Career Changes
- Victims, Families, and Communities Suffering with Gun Violence
- *Eve Sommers, Adjustment to New Living Situation
- For Katie and Miguel Traveling to Funeral

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 Schools Staff
- Our Stephen Ministers

For Our Missionaries

- *Mark and *Megan Mantey, Kenya <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 11/22/23