

## Second Sunday After the Epiphany

January 14, 2024

---



*Pastor's Corner for January 14-20, 2024*

### **Your Right Hand Holds Me (Psalm 139:1-10)**

Every day as I used to go to work in Tokyo, Japan I would pass an unusual work of art. It was a statue of Jesus with no arms. It stood at the top of the second-floor row of faculty offices at my school. Students and faculty would pass it all the time. Why would such an unconventional depiction of Jesus be placed there? You can imagine that the question would be easily formed in the minds of many students, some of whom were learning about Christianity but did not yet know a lot about Jesus. I myself used to wonder, when I first started working there, if the statue had at one time fallen to the ground and lost its arms in an unfortunate tumble. Jesus did many things with His hands: healed the sick, touched the untouchable, broke bread and prayed to the God of heaven. So... Jesus with no arms? It didn't make sense. Then one day I heard the college president explain: "The statue of Christ

with no arms speaks to our hearts in a voice that can be heard only quietly and almost imperceptibly: 'You are my hands. With those hands you can join hands with the neighbor who is by your side. You can put your arms around the shoulder of the person who is trembling in solitude and give them a hug.... You can put those hands together and pray for whatever you need.'" I never saw that statue in the same light ever again!

In this weekend's psalm, the psalmist who is speaking to God writes, "If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, your right hand shall hold me fast." Hands are a symbol of action and rescue. There is no place so far away from God that His guiding and protecting hands cannot reach us and bring us safely home! A faith community like ours is a place where we are gifted by God to be the hands and arms of Jesus. As we begin a new year, with a newly installed leadership team (our 2024 Church Council), I invite you to consider the One who holds all of us in His arms as we serve together. We take this opportunity to think about and celebrate how our own hands are a place for God's hands to be at work in the world.

### **Thank You**

A couple of weeks ago, Resurrection Lutheran Church staff were on the receiving end of congregational gifts that reflect the love of our church for every one of us. We are so grateful! On behalf of the entire staff, I would like to offer a heartfelt "thank you." Though ministry has its own rewards, each of us is blessed to be serving a generous congregation!

Hope and joy in Christ,  
Pastor Jonathan

Please note, there will be no Sunday School for Children and Youth this week.

And the church office will be closed on Monday, January 15 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

## Prayers of the Church

---



**MEN'S BREAKFAST**

**Saturday,  
January 13  
8:00 am  
Fellowship Hall**

Come gather for fellowship, food, and message.  
All men welcome.

Contact Tom Gebbia or [mens-ministry@rlcary.org](mailto:mens-ministry@rlcary.org)

---

### Sunday Morning Adult Christian Education Class

#### **Isaiah - Herald of the Messiah**

9:30-10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall

January 7-February 11

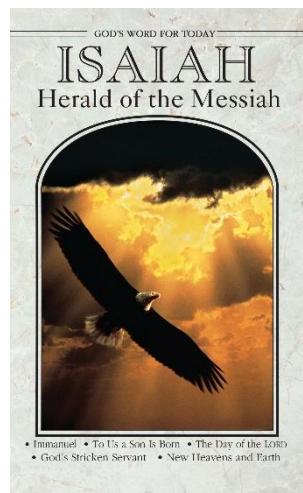
Led by Bob and Barb Shimmel, this 6-week study is from the Concordia Publishing House series: *God's Word for Today*. Each session will combine a presentation of the scriptural focus in Isaiah, followed by opportunities to explore relevant applications for life today.

Isaiah was called by God to speak His Word to a people who were committing spiritual adultery. Through Isaiah, God warned them to repent before the coming

day of His wrath. And He gave them wonderful promises of the Messiah to Come and of the glorious future of God's restored people. In all, 33 prophecies of the Messiah are found in Isaiah – we will look at the prophecy and the fulfillment in the New Testament.

This study seeks to help God's people today in the following ways:

- Develop an appreciation for how the Lord revealed parts of His plan of salvation in Jesus centuries before Jesus birth;
- live out their calling to reflect the light of God's salvation to people from all nations;
- look forward to a peaceful, joyous, and righteous life in the new heavens and new earth.





For more information or to sign up, contact Sandy Wuori or Ben Wuori through RCB or the church office at 919-851-7248 or [office@rlcary.org](mailto:office@rlcary.org).

---

## Weekly Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday

### ***Isaiah - Herald of the Messiah***

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall

January 7-February 11

Contacts: Bob and Barb Shimmel

This 6-week study is from the Concordia Publishing House series: God's Word for Today. Each session will combine a presentation of the scriptural focus in Isaiah, followed by opportunities to explore relevant applications for life today.

### **Monday**

Monday Night Women's Bible Study

***Measured by Grace: How God Defines Success by Sharla Fritz***

Mondays, 7:00-8:00 pm in Room 151, Family Life Center

January 8-May 20

Contact: Jamee Thieme

In the Bible, you'll find no lack of sinfulness, shortcomings, rejections, and broken people. People like Joseph, Rahab, David, Jeremiah, John the Baptist, The Samaritan Woman, Peter, and Paul. We see them as people God transformed, turning their lack into faithfulness for His good. Study these eight biblical figures to see that God does the same for you.

Men's Weekly

***A Study of Heroes of the Faith***

Mondays, 7:00-8:15 pm in Room 240, Family Life Center

January 8-May 20

Contact: Tom Gebbia

We will study and discuss the Heroes of the Faith series published by Concordia Publishing House - starting with *Intrepid Heroes of the Faith*, which includes Joshua, Gideon, Sampson, and Daniel.

### **Tuesday**

### ***Tuesday Morning Bible Study and Fellowship***

Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall

January 2-May 21

Contacts: Pastor Jonathan Blanke, Pastor Zach Sarrault

We will look at the appointed readings from each week that are used in the weekend sermons.

### ***Mama Bear Apologetics... Also for Papa Bears***

Tuesdays, 2:00-3:00 pm in Room 240, Family Life Center

January 2-February 6

Contacts: Pastor Zach Sarrault, Erika Hulse

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.

### **Wednesday**

### ***Mama Bear Apologetics... Also for Papa Bears***

Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00 pm in Room 240, Family Life Center

January 3-February 7

Contacts: Pastor Zach Sarrault, Erika Hulse

See listing above, identical classes.

### ***Help Is Here: Finding Fresh Strength and Purpose in the Power of the Holy Spirit***

Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

January 3-February 7

Contacts: Tim Kearby, Mindy Stephani

We will use Max Lucado's five-session study to learn more about this “helper” whom we know as the Holy Spirit. *Help Is Here* reminds us that our Good Shepherd doesn't just feed us; he leads us. He does more than correct us; he directs us. God keeps us on track – he's commissioned the Holy Spirit to guide us down the

winding roads of life, wherever they may lead us.

### ***Men with Kids***

Wednesdays, 6:30-7:45 pm in Room 247, Family Life Center

January 3-April 24

Contact: Tom Gebbia

This group is designed to bring men in a similar season with similar life experiences and goals together.

### ***Grace-Full Women***

Wednesdays, 6:30-7:45 pm in Room 251, Family Life Center

January 3-February 7

Contact: Shane Jarvis

As we read through the in-depth Bible study of *Ruth: More Than a Love Story* by Elizabeth Ahlman, we will come to see how God watches carefully over every little detail so His grace may come to fruition and fully abound.

### **Saturday**

#### ***This Is the Church***

Saturdays, January 20, January 27, February 3 Only

9:30-11:00 am in Room 151, Family Life Center

Contact: Pastor Jonathan Blanke

Three 90-minute gatherings, Conversations around the Basics of the Christian Faith, will focus on what Christians believe and how the Christian faith can be understood in distinction from other world religions.

Christian education information, including detailed class descriptions, can be found [here](#).

To download the Christian Education Winter 2024, Block 1 Sheet, [click here](#). 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](mailto:office@rlcary.org) or 919-851-7248.

---

## Wednesday Night Workshop Schedule

<b>5:00-6:00 pm</b> Dinner, FLC Gym	<b>6:30-7:30 pm</b> Heavenly Handbells, Sanctuary
<b>5:00-5:30 pm</b> Jubilee Bells, Sanctuary	<b>6:30-8:00 pm</b> Adult Christian Ed <i>Help Is Here</i> , Fellowship Hall <i>Men with Kids</i> , RM 247 <i>Grace-Full Women</i> , RM 251
<b>5:30-6:00 pm</b> Rainbow Choir, Sanctuary Sonshine Singers, Choir Room	<b>7:00-8:00 pm</b> 1st Communion Instruction, RM 244
<b>6:00-7:00 pm</b> Kidz Live, RM 151 Ignite, The Warehouse <i>Mama Bear Apologetics</i> , RM 240	<b>7:00-8:15 pm</b> Confirmation, RM 240 <b>7:30-8:45 pm</b> 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.

[Please register by Sunday evening here.](#)

**Menu for January 17:**

Baked Potato Bar with Salad, Fruit, and Pie

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](mailto:office@rlcary.org)).

---



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

Our prayers are with her family, especially her son and daughter-in-law, Nelson Kuo and Rebecca Melland-Kuo, and her grandchildren, Ethan, Ilea, and Garrett, at this time.

Funeral will be held on Saturday, January 20 at Apex Funeral Home, 550 W. Williams Street, Apex. Visitation will be at 1:00 pm and the service at 2:00 pm, followed by burial at Holly Springs Cemetery, 451 Earp Street, Holly Springs.

---

## Food & Fellowship for the Blind



Resurrection's Ministry for  
the Visually Impaired meets

**Friday, January 26**

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

This outreach to the blind community provides a monthly fellowship dinner for those who are blind or visually impaired on the last Friday of each month from 5:30-7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Volunteers provide transportation, prepare and serve food to guests, and help set up and clean up.

Contact Annette Langefeld-Kennedy to learn more and to become a volunteer through RCB, or the church office (919-851-7248, [office@rlcary.org](mailto:office@rlcary.org)).

---

## RLC Worship Servants and Training

### **Ushering and Greeting at the Praise Worship Service**

Sundays, 11:00 am in the Family Life Center

For those who will be Greeting and/or Ushering in our Praise Worship service, please plan to attend one of the three brief training sessions scheduled in January. Meet in the Family Life Center Lobby.

**Sunday, January 14 at 10:00 am**

**Sunday, January 28 at 10:00 am**

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

---

## Finance Updates

### Offering Envelopes and 2023 Statement of Giving

New giving envelopes for 2024 have been placed in your RLC mailbox. If you don't see yours, please contact the Finance Team. Likewise, financial statements for 2023 will soon appear in mailboxes. Please review and contact the Finance Team with any questions at [finance@rlcary.org](mailto:finance@rlcary.org). Thanks!

### Stock and Securities

We are appreciative of the many ways our congregation donates to RLC. If you have donated stock in the last 2 months of 2023, please contact [finance@rlcary.org](mailto:finance@rlcary.org) or 919-270-7914 to finish processing.

### Electronic Giving

Vanco - that provides the platform for our electronic and mobile donations - is changing the design for both online and mobile use. Our RLC Council has customized and will soon release the link to the new version (current version remains active). Thanks for your patience!



## Moms Together

Moms, you are invited to join other moms for daytime get togethers to socialize, share tips, make new friends, and work on crafts/projects.

Childcare is available for a small fee.

We also meet for evening activities occasionally.

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



# First Responder Family Service Project



Date: February 3, 2024

Time: 10:00-11:30

Where: Fellowship Hall



Details: Families will contribute items to build snack baskets for local first responders, then deliver them.

contact: [erika.hulse@rlcary.org](mailto:erika.hulse@rlcary.org)

Sign up here:



[Sign Up to Donate Basket Items!](#)

## VBS at Resurrection Lutheran Church

Summer 2024

Save the Dates:  
June 24-28, 2024

A volunteer information meeting will be held Sunday, January 21st, at 12:00 in room 151 in the Family Life Center.

Questions? Contact Erika Hulse, Children and Family Ministry Director  
[erika.hulse@rlcary.org](mailto:erika.hulse@rlcary.org).

---

## Youth Ministry

Middle School and High School

Happy New Year! A brand new year for new adventures, new games, a clean slate to fill with memories! I am so excited for the remainder of our school year. The calendar is set with so much to do and ways to experience God's word.

**Interested in becoming an Adult Leader?** It is never too late to jump on board. It takes a lot of hands to make sure our youth are safe on campus. Just reach out!

\*There has been a calendar adjustment to our summer schedule. We will be focusing our efforts here at home this year during the week of Vacation Bible School. I will be working with our High School Leadership Team to dream what this might look like, but we will be doing our Mission Trip at Home (no Kentucky this year). I am excited what adventures might unfold right here in our own community! So mark your calendars for VBS and on-site Mission work right here at home  
- **June 24-28, 2024!**

**Here's what is coming up...**

- No Connection Cafe (Sunday School for Middle and High School)  
This Week Only!
- Middle School: Ignite Youth Group  
Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00 pm
- High School: Breakaway Youth Group  
Sundays, 6:30-8:00 pm

*January Youth Schedule*

**Middle School**

Youth Group:  
Wednesdays  
6 - 7pm  
Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Hebrews 12:1  
Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us...

**High School**

Youth Group:  
Sundays  
6:30 - 8:00pm  
Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28

**Connection Cafe**

All youth  
Sundays 9:30 - 10:30am  
January 7, 21, 28

*Welcome back*

Questions? Contact Ms. Jenny, Youth Director  
[jenny.piontek@rlcary.org](mailto:jenny.piontek@rlcary.org) or 919-851-7248, ext. 24

---

## Resurrection Lutheran Preschool

**Enroll NOW for the 2024-25 preschool year!**

We offer 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.



### Schedule a tour!

Wednesday, January 17 at 9:45 am

Thursday, January 18 at 11:00 am

Monday, January 22 at 12:45 pm

Class openings are also available for the current preschool year, 2023-24.



[rlpcary.org](http://rlpcary.org) | 919-851-7270 | [office@rlpcary.org](mailto:office@rlpcary.org)

---

### It's time to vote for the 2024 Maggy Awards!

This is the time of year that we have the opportunity to lift up our schools in the community! Please take a moment to vote for Resurrection Lutheran schools in the following categories:

**BEST PRIVATE SCHOOL - Resurrection Lutheran School**

**BEST PRESCHOOL - Resurrection Lutheran Preschool**

**BEST ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL - Robin Hester**

**BEST MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL - Robin Hester**

[CLICK HERE TO VOTE!](#)

---

Resurrection Lutheran School



MIDDLE SCHOOL  
VISIT DAY  
JANUARY 24 9:15  
AM-11:45 AM

RSVP [ADMISSIONS@RLSCARY.ORG](mailto:ADMISSIONS@RLSCARY.ORG)

[rlscary.org](http://rlscary.org) | 919-851-7271 | [contact@rlscary.org](mailto:contact@rlscary.org)

Latest Lion's Tale

---



For online services, connect through our YouTube channel at [youtube.com/ResurrectionLutheranChurchCaryNC](https://youtube.com/ResurrectionLutheranChurchCaryNC) or through our website at [rlcary.org/about-us/online-worship](http://rlcary.org/about-us/online-worship).

---

## This Week's Visual Faith Sheet

---

### Attendance and Giving

#### In-Person Worship Attendance

Saturday, January 6  
6:00 pm - 56

Sunday, January 7  
8:00 am - 98

9:30 am - 113  
11:00 am - 106

**Total In-Person Worship: 373**

### **Views of Online Worship at RLC's YouTube Channel**

Sunday, January 7  
8:00 am - 137  
11:00 am - 47

**Total Online Views: 184 views**

### **General Fund Giving and Spending - November 2023**

	Current Month	Year to Date
General Receipts	\$ 123,763.02	\$ 540,400.52
Total Disbursements	<u>\$ 125,538.89</u>	<u>\$ 577,213.69</u>
Receipts Less Disbursements	\$ -1,775.87	\$ -36,813.17

**This Week's Offerings: \$20,680.82**

**Average Weekly Giving for 2023/24: \$24,563.66**

**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](http://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](mailto:finance@rlcary.org).

---

## Church Calendar



100 Lochmere Drive West, Cary NC 27518

[rlcary.org](http://rlcary.org)

919-851-7248 | [office@rlcary.org](mailto:office@rlcary.org)

## Prayers of the Church – January 14, 2024

*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 Kuo, \*Geoffrey Wiggins, 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, Sara Phillips

#### **Those Prayed for on January 7, 2024**

#### **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
- Lois Haertling, Discharged from Hospital
- Judy Lonseth

#### **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
- Patricia Wellington, Chemo Treatments

- Miriam Beyer, Daughter-In-Law of \*Charlotte Beyer
- \*Bill Xenakis, Radiation Therapy
- Jan Bloom
- Evelyn Bloom
- Pastor William Otto, Cancer Treatment and Surgery
- Bruce, Brother of \*Ralph Klevenow
- \*Meredith A.
- Michael
- \*Pam Dickson
- \*Stephanie Ford
- Jimmy, Cancer Treatment
- Myrna, Recovery From Car Accident
- Good Test Results for Sister
- Vern Ebert
- Danny, Pam, Jan, Betty, Eve, Imma, Alice, Noah, Paul, Joe, Beth, Stuart, Mindy, Eric, Mara, Marti, Corey, Debbie, Eileen, Connie

### **For Comfort**

- Friends and Family of Pam Harrell
- Friends and Family of Violet Easterly
- Friends and Family of Ted Dumas, Father of \*Michele Brake
- Friends and Family of Doug Enfinger, Brother of \*Kathi Carlson
- Friends and Family of Joann Otten, Mother of \*Mark Otten, Grandmother of \*Leah Robison
- Friends and Family of Esther Kuo, Mother of \*Nelson Kuo and \*Rebecca Melland-Kuo, Grandmother of \*Ethan, \*Ilea, and \*Garett Kuo
- Friends and Family of Becky Lantz, Aunt of \*Terri Nance
- Friends and Family of Bob Wiley, Father of \*Bob Wiley

### **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
- RLC Financial Health and Stewardship
- \*Mike Persson, Next Steps in Employment Process

**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
- Pastor Jon Richter, Serving St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Norlina NC
- Resurrection Lutheran Church and Schools Staff
- Area Pastors and Schools Staff
- Our Stephen Ministers

**For Our Missionaries**

- \*Mark and \*Megan Mantey, Kenya  
[Click here for the Mantey's Newsletter!](#)
- JP and Aimee Cima, Cambodia  
[Click here for the Cima Family Newsletter!](#)
- Shauen and Krista Trump, Kenya  
[Click here for the Trump's Newsletter!](#)

*Lord Jesus, thank You for Your abiding Presence and saving grace. All is in Your Hands.  
We trust You are working all things according to Your good plan and purposes,  
and with that trust and confidence, we release these prayers to You. In Your Holy Name, Amen.*

**\*RLC Members**

*Updated 1/12/24*