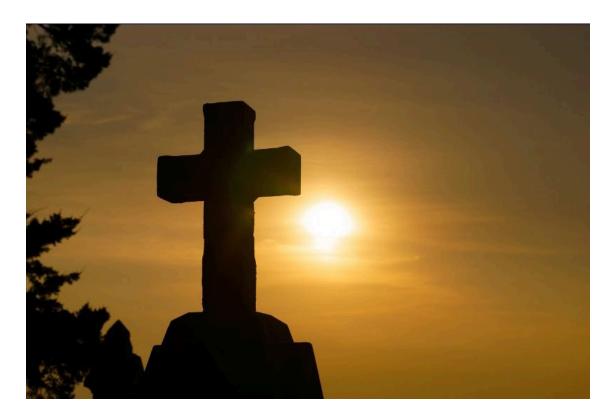
Fourth Sunday After the Epiphany January 28, 2024



Pastor's Corner for January 28-February 3, 2024

Connecting with Purpose (1 Corinthians 8:1-13)

What's my purpose in life? It's a question that we might ask ourselves a lot. We wish we only had to ask the question once, upon graduating high school, entering the real world, we think that question will be our guide through the rest of our lives. We find our purpose and are sent out into the grand world to make a difference! If only. The question keeps popping up through different stages of life and even on random days, going through the motions we may ask, "What's my purpose? What am I called to do in the world? What difference am I making?"

As Christians, we may put even more pressure on the question. We think that, because we belong to God and know the life-saving message He has for the world, we should be doing something extravagant to make a difference or there should be some greater purpose for me in God's grand plan. Stories are often celebrated of those that "know their purpose" and are making big change in the church and the world, and we can judge our place before God by the actions of others. If we aren't making headway in our lives or in the lives of others, or if we have failed somewhere in our faith journey, we may be brought back to the question, "What's my purpose in life?"

The question is addressed all over the place in Scripture, though not in the way that we may expect. In 1 Corinthians 8, Paul is giving some guidance about why the Corinthians should or shouldn't eat food offered to idols. It's kind of an odd chapter, but in there is a message about our purpose and it starts with what God has done for us. That is where it always has to start!

Paul says, "yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist." We exist for God, our purpose is found in Him! In our existing for God the Father we exist as His creation, where God desires to be, a people created in His image to reside and abide with Him alone. Before there is any action on our part, we acknowledge that part of our purpose is to simply be with our Father God and the peace of His embrace, finding comfort in His purpose that brings eternal rest.

Paul continues in the same verse, "and there is one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist." Our very existence comes through the work of Jesus Christ, His work on the cross that brings the life of true existence. We have a purpose in this life because of the life that Christ has won for us in His death and resurrection. The answer to that age old question isn't so much about the actions we live out, it's the life God has accomplished for us, the gifts He gives, and the life we have waiting for us.

Because we exist for God and through God, we are connected with His purpose, which is nothing less and nothing more than loving others. There is no greater joy than knowing that we belong to something greater. We belong to the love of the one God who has brought you into His eternal embrace.

Your brother in Christ, Pastor Zach Sarrault

Prayers of the Church



Saturday, January 27

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.



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.



Mites for Missions

We will be collecting Mites for Missions at all services this weekend, January 27 and 28. Please place your gifts in the large purple Mite Box in the Narthex near Sanctuary Worship.

Gifts can also be made by check, payable to RLC, and mailed directly to Donna Krupcale, % Resurrection Lutheran Church, 100 Lochmere Drive West, Cary NC 27518. The large Mite Box is always available at the Welcome table in the Narthex for gifts anytime during the month.



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

Weekly Bible Study Opportunities

<u>Sunday</u>

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.

<u>Monday</u>

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 <u>here</u>.

To download the Christian Education Winter 2024, Block 1 Sheet, <u>click here</u>. 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 <u>office@rlcary.org</u> or 919-851-7248.

Wednesday Night Workshop 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 Kidz Live, RM 151 Ignite, The Warehouse Mama Bear Apologetics, RM 240	6:30-7:30 pm Heavenly Handbells, Sanctuary 6:30-8:00 pm Adult Christian Ed Help Is Here, Fellowship Hall Men with Kids, RM 247 Grace-Full Women, RM 251 7:00-8:00 pm 1st Communion Instruction, RM 244 7:00-8:15 pm Confirmation, RM 240 7:30-8:45 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.

Please register by Sunday evening here.

Menu for January 31:

Burgers and Dogs, Baked Beans, Potato Salad, Green Salad, Fruit, and Ice Cream

Interested in volunteering to help with set up, serving, and cleaning? <u>Sign up here.</u> 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).

The Coffeehouse for Special Needs Adults Friday, February 9

We thank all our volunteers who help us to have wonderful Coffeehouses! We

couldn't do it without our faithful volunteers. Please come join us! Our special needs guests love to attend these events and we need lots of volunteers to make them feel special and loved. We thank God for this ministry among us. 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/3kqoHGN

The next Coffeehouse is **Friday**, **February 9** from 7:00-8:30 pm in the Family Life Center gym. We will have *Busted Knuckle Blues Syndicate* play for us!

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



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

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 13 5:30-7:00 pm Family Life Center

Join us for the best all you can eat pancake supper, games, and fellowship! Watch for more info.

We need many hands to make this a success! Please sign up to help: signupgenius.com/go/4090B48AAAB292

Contact Kim Simpson through RCB or the church office (919-851-7248, <u>office@rlcary.org</u>).

ASH WEDNESDAY February 14

8:45 am in the Sanctuary Imposition of Ashes with Resurrection Lutheran School

7:00 pm in the Sanctuary* Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

*Live Stream

There will be no other Wednesday night activities held.

New Online Giving Site

Resurrection is pleased to announce our new and improved online giving page! Vanco, our eGiving provider, has updated their online giving platform to make it easier than ever to make one-time gifts or set up recurring donations to our church.

The new page is now live (<u>click here</u>) and available on our website at <u>rlcary.org/ministries/online-giving</u>.

Nothing about our online giving has changed except the look of the page. You can adjust existing donations, set up new gifts, and update personal information from the new Vanco Online.

Once you have accessed the new site, please be sure to bookmark the new site and delete any current bookmarks to the old site.

Please note that there is a fee associated to Credit/Debit card transactions, but no fee with a donation from a bank account. Both options are available on the site. If using a Credit/Debit card, please be aware that there is an option to pay the fee yourself which will assure that your entire intended donation goes to RLC.

How Do You Sign Up with Vanco Online?

It's easy! If you're a new giver to Resurrection, visit our website at <u>rlcary.org</u> to create a Vanco Online account. From there, you can read more about our mission and give to our ministries.

If you already have a Vanco account, you can log in using the same username and password as before. To do this, visit our <u>online giving page</u> and click the "Log In" button at the top right of your screen. From there you can update scheduled

donations or set up new recurring gifts by clicking "Profile" and then "View Scheduled Donations."

You can also check out this <u>Vanco Online How-To Guide</u> for step-by-step instructions.

We are thrilled about our online giving page's new look. Please stop by the church office or call us at 919-851-7248, if you have questions or need assistance. You can also email <u>treasurer@rlcary.org</u> or <u>finance@rlcary.org</u>.

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 are there also. Please review and contact the Finance Team with any questions at <u>finance@rlcary.org</u>. 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 <u>finance@rlcary.org</u> or 919-270-7914 to finish processing.

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 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 (<u>office@rlcary.org</u>, 919-851-7248) for assistance.

Children and Family Ministry



Sign Up to Donate Basket Items!

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: <u>https://bit.ly/3ZVhyB8</u>



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

Youth Ministry

Middle School and High School

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...

- <u>Connection Cafe</u> (Sunday School for Middle and High School) Sundays, 9:30-10:30 am
- <u>Middle School:</u> Ignite Youth Group Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00 pm



• <u>High School:</u> Breakaway Youth Group Sundays, 6:30-8:00 pm



 Laser Tag Lock In for Middle and High School Friday, February 23 - Save the Date! Middle School until 11:00 pm, High School All Night



Questions? Contact Ms. Jenny, Youth Director 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.

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



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

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

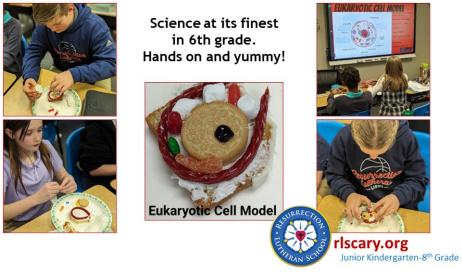
This is the time of year that we have the opportunity to lift up our schools in the community! Please take a moment to vote for Resurrection Lutheran schools in the following categories:

BEST PRIVATE SCHOOL - Resurrection Lutheran School BEST PRESCHOOL - Resurrection Lutheran Preschool

BEST ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL - Robin Hester BEST MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL - Robin Hester

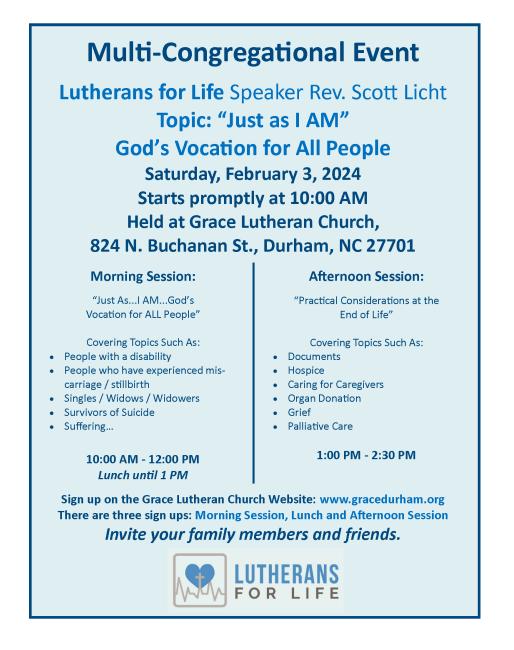
CLICK HERE TO VOTE!

Resurrection Lutheran School



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

Latest Lion's Tale



Sign up at gracedurham.org or call their church office at 919-682-6030.



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>.

This Week's Visual Faith Sheet

Attendance and Giving

In-Person Worship Attendance

Saturday, January 20 6:00 pm - 44

Sunday, January 21 8:00 am - 80 9:30 am - 118 11:00 am - 118

Total In-Person Worship: 360

Views of Online Worship at RLC's YouTube Channel

Sunday, January 21 8:00 am - 109 11:00 am - 45

Total Online Views: 154 views

General Fund Giving and Spending - December 2023

	Current Month	Year to Date
General Receipts	\$ 197,439.28	\$ 737,839.80
Total Disbursements	<u>\$ 128,816.95</u>	<u>\$ 706,580.64</u>
Receipts Less Disbursements	\$ 68,622.33	\$ 31,259.16

This Week's Offerings: \$21,274.16 Average Weekly Giving for 2023/24: \$27,327.40 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 <u>finance@rlcary.org</u>.





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

Prayers of the Church – January 28, 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 21, 2024

Thanking God Today

- Our RLC Family
- Family Celebrations and Time Together, Anniversaries, Birthdays, Weddings, Births, Baptisms
- Our Many Blessings
- Safe Travels
- Caring Organizations Within Our Local Communities
- Laurel Yost Birthday

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
- *Greta Nelson
- Paul Wozniak, Recovery
- Julie Wozniak, Recovery
- Patricia Wellington, Chemo Treatments
- Miriam Beyer, Daughter-In-Law of *Charlotte Beyer
- Jan Bloom

- Evelyn Bloom
- Pastor William Otto, Cancer Treatment and Surgery
- Bruce, Brother of *Ralph Klevenow
- Michael
- *Pam Dickson
- *Stephanie Ford
- Jimmy, Cancer Treatment
- Emily, Cancer Treatment
- Imma, Recovery
- Betty, Memory Issues
- Javed, Recurrence of Cancer
- *Vern Ebert, Lessening of Pain and Help Managing It
- *Bill Xenakis
- *Mindy Stephani, Shoulder Surgery on January 25
- Pastor Tom Jackson, Heart Issues
- Phil Gresens, Eye Surgery
- Danny, Brian, George, Karl, Linda, Charles, Patti, Chris, Carla, Lindsay, Bill, Alice, Imma, Jackie, Paul, Stuart, Ali, Javed, Emily, Marsha, Patricia, Anita, Noreen, Shelby, Julian, Harold, Ken, Donald, Barbara, Mary, Dave

For Comfort

- 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 Bob Wiley Sr., Father of *Bob Wiley Jr.
- Friends and Family of Mike Garza, Uncle of *Robert Field
- Friends and Family of Daniel Boone's Mother, Friends of the *Heffner's

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, Care Decisions
- Stuart and Sue Sanders, and the *Boyer Family
- *Ginny and *Ed Koren
- *Eve Sommers, Continued Recovery
- *Meredith A.
- Myrna, Recovery from Car Accident
- 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 <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 1/26/24