



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH

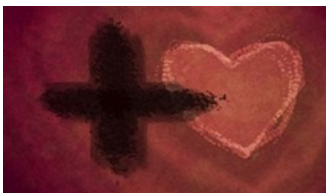
FEBRUARY 2024

From the Pastor

Happy Va-LENT-ine's Day!

(Romans 5:8)

Did you notice Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday fall on the same day this year? Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent and the day we receive ashes on our foreheads while hearing the words "You are dust and to dust you shall return" (Gen 3:19). It begins a season focused on repentance and quiet reflection on the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.



Valentine's Day originated in the church as a feast day honoring a Christian leader named "Valentine" who was put to death for ministering to the otherwise unloved people in his midst. Today it is ordinarily

dedicated to gift-giving and romantic dinners between couples. What could these two days possibly have to do with one another?

The story is told of a little girl who was getting ready for the yearly Valentine's Day celebration at her school. Her mother bought a pack of 30 Valentine's Day cards. "You can share one with everyone in your class!" the girl's mother said. "No Mom," her daughter replied. "That's not the way we do it. I only need five or six cards to pass around. I just give them to my friends!" That was as far as the conversation went. The girl got her six cards, signed and sealed them, put one friend's name on the outside of each, and took them all along to school. There she inserted them into a big, decorated box with a slot on top, on the teacher's desk. When the day of the party came, all the valentines prepared by the children were in that big box. One of the little girl's classmates was then asked to play "mailman" and delivered the cards to the kids whose names were written on them. As the cards



Dates of Interest:

Following Naomi.....Feb 8
Coffeehouse.....Feb 9
Men's Breakfast.....Feb 10
Discover RLC.....Feb 10
Transfiguration Sun.....Feb 11
Shrove Tues Pancake..Feb 13
Ash WednesdayFeb 14
First Sun in LentFeb 18
Midweek Lenten.....Feb 21
Blind Ministry.....Feb 23
Taize.....Feb 24

VISIT US ONLINE AT RLCARY.ORG

Sunday Morning Adult Ed

Isaiah - Herald of the Messiah

**9:30-10:30 am, 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.

Upcoming:

Life Lived under the Cross of Jesus

**9:30-10:30 am, Fellowship Hall
February 18-March 24**

Led by Pastors Jonathan and Zach and using resources by Concordia Publishing House (*Spirituality of the Cross* by Gene Edward Veith, Jr. and *Lutheran Spirituality: Cross* by Hollger Sontag), we will look at the issue of Christian spirituality, especially as it is understood in the Lutheran tradition.

Each session will offer meaningful interaction with God's Word and what the Scriptures have to say on topics like vocation, the hiddenness of God, the means of grace (and presence of God), etc. Ever heard of folks who claim to be "spiritual, but not religious"? This class is for people of faith who identify with the "religious" life of worship and spiritual disciplines, yet long to connect more meaningfully both to the ancient church and the contemporary need to experience Christ authentically." Materials will be provided.

were delivered, the little girl saw her stash getting larger and larger. Another child, seated in front of her, had none. This other child would look and wait each time the "mailman" got close to her desk. But the much-anticipated card from a friend didn't come. Finally, just as the delivery of valentines was almost over, the child seated in front of the little girl saw the "mailman" draw close. A card was dropped on her desk. Beaming, this child immediately tore it open and saw the message inside: "From a secret admirer." She smiled and looked around, wondering who the giver might be. But the little girl of our story knew. When she got home, her mother revealed what had happened. She had secretly sealed every card purchased from the store and mailed them, ahead of time, to her daughter's teacher! The little girl found herself put to shame for her earlier desire to only use some of the cards, and not all. She was happy her mother had ensured that EVERYONE would be included.

Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day, at first glance, seem to have nothing in common. But on this Ash Wednesday and throughout this season of Lent, we find ourselves put to shame by the all-inclusive love of God for the world--God's love for ALL, including you and me—demonstrated by the Son of God, Jesus Christ (Romans 5:8). Think of the cross of Christ you wear on your forehead this Ash Wednesday as a kind of Valentine's Day message. In Christ Jesus, you are loved. You are treasured. Let's have that be our focus throughout this year's Lenten journey to the cross of Christ!

In the love of Jesus,
Pastor Jonathan



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

No other Wednesday evening activities will be held.

January 2024

The 2024 RLC Council welcomed our newest member, Tom Bolling. Tom comes to us with council experience from Grace Lutheran Church in Northbrook, Illinois; so we look forward to his insights in the coming year. We also bid goodbye to Barry Needle. Barry served with the RLC Council for four years and also served as the Council President for two of those four years. Thank you, Barry, for your service to the Resurrection Lutheran Church Council.

Our first order of business during the January Council Meeting was to elect new officers for the 2024 Council. The 2024 Council officers are Mike Haertling (President), Lori Jannings (Vice-President), Mike Hahne (Treasurer), and Mike Heffner (Secretary).

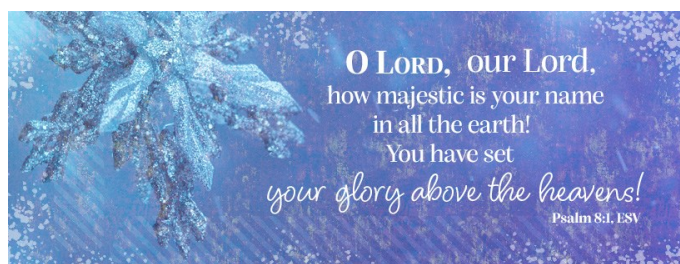
During this January Council Meeting, we reviewed the mid-year budget report. As expected, the giving in November and December brought us into a much more favorable position, giving us a better “cash-on-hand” situation; however, the projected expenses in the last six months of our fiscal year will probably use up this balance. Future expenses will be vigorously scrutinized to be sure we stay within our budget and more importantly within our giving/cash-on-hand. If our giving does not keep up with expenses, we may have to make hard decisions on what areas may need to be curtailed. On the brighter side, a single donor has offered to purchase new external church doors for the main church entrance and garden entrance. Praise be to God!

The Council is now considering an initiative proposed by Pastor Jonathan that would establish a Cross-Cultural Mission Engagement Team. The proposed Team would oversee communication and advocacy on behalf of RLC missionaries overseas, facilitate LCMS short-term mission trips, as well as consider cross-cultural mission engagement locally in our community. Its work would be coordinated with outreach currently being proposed and undertaken by the Human Care Committee.

Other future work for the 2024 Council includes the completion of the review of the RLC Governance Manual and the review/re-write of other RLC documents as needed. The Council is also investigating the benefits of a Board of Trustees to help keep up with the maintenance challenges of our aging facility. If you are interested or have thoughts about this, please reach out to one of your 2024 Council members noted below.

Your Council members are listed below and are willing to take questions and suggestions.

Mike Haertling, President (505) 690-9929	Mark Dirks, Council Member (919) 345-5348
Lori Jannings, Vice President (919) 523-6619	Charles Miller, Council Member (919) 534-5649
Mike Hahne, Treasurer (919) 749-7666	Aaron Newcomb, Council Member (919) 645-8005
Mike Heffner, Secretary (469) 644-2049	Linda Mangino, Council Member (919) 538-0104
Tom Bolling, Council Member (847) 922-9555	Ex Officio: Margaret Hyatt, Operations Director (919) 851-7248
	Ex Officio: Pastor Jonathan Blanke, Sr. Pastor (301) 997-6687



Adult Christian Education

Bible Study Opportunities

Monday

Monday Night Women's Bible Study

Measured by Grace: How God Defines Success by Sharla Fritz

7:00-8:00 pm in Room 151, Family Life Center, and Online via Zoom, January 8-May 20

Leaders: Jamee Thieme, Sharon Hahne, Dawn Leister

Men's Weekly Study and Fellowship

A Study of Heroes of the Faith

7:00-8:15 pm in Room 240, Family Life Center, January 8-May 20

Leaders: Mark Otten, Tom Gebbia

Tuesday

Tuesday Morning Bible Study and Fellowship

Scripture Lessons in Worship

10:30-11:30 am in Fellowship Hall, January 2-May 21

Leaders: Pastor Jonathan Blanke, Pastor Zach Sarrault

Wednesday

Grace-Full Women

Ruth: More Than a Love Story by Elizabeth Ahlman

6:30-7:45 pm in Room 251, Family Life Center, January 3-February 7

Leader: Shane Jarvis

Men With Kids

6:30-7:45 pm in Room 247, Family Life Center, January 3-April 24

Leader: Tom Gebbia

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

Help is Here Study Guide by Max Lucado

6:30-8:00 pm in Fellowship Hall, January 3-February 7

Leaders: Tim Kearby, Mindy Stephani

Upcoming:

The Bible: Where It Comes from and Why It Matters

6:30-8:00 pm in Fellowship Hall, February 21-April 24

Facilitated by Pastor Jonathan Blanke and Ian Glenn, with introduction by Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Kloha, Chief Curatorial Officer, Museum of the Bible

We all know that the Bible is at the center of what we believe, teach, and confess about God. Yet how many of us have learned how the Bible came to be over time? What role did God play in the formation of the entire Bible that was put together from its individual books? What are some of the differences between modern translations of the Bible? How "accurate" is the Bible we have today? How were the books of the Bible recognized as authoritative... and by whom? These are just some of the questions we will address as we read specific Bible verses and marvel at the gift of God's inspired Word to us today... the same Word spoken over God's people over the course of millennia! Materials for the class will be provided.

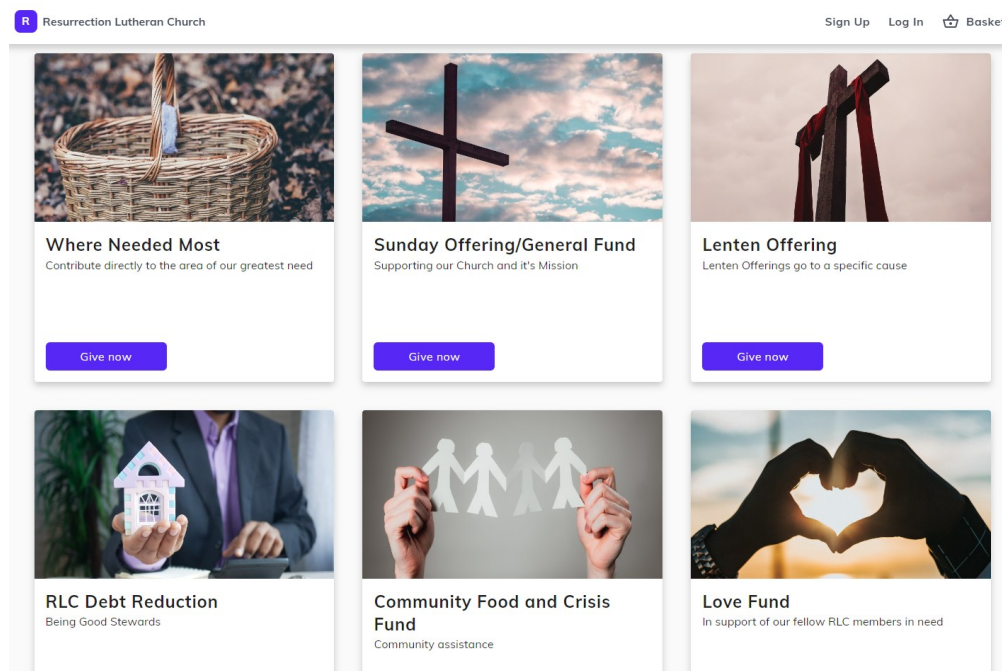
Treasurer and Finance Update

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 ([click here](#)) and available on our website at rlcary.org/ministries/online-giving.

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 rlcary.org 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 online giving page 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 [Vanco Online How-To Guide](#) 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 treasurer@rlcary.org or finance@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 and fellowship!

Free Will Offering to Camp Agape

We need many hands to make this a success!

Please sign up to help:

bit.ly/3w0agrX

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

Lenten Midweek Worship

Join us on Wednesdays, 6:00 pm
in the Sanctuary starting February 21!

Live stream available.

Wednesday Night Workshop will operate
on an adjusted schedule.

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 or the church office for more information:

Saturday, 6:00 pm - Lori Jannings
Sunday, 9:30 am - Dara Linn

Sunday, 8:00 am - Brenda Peterson
Sunday, 11:00 am - Suzi Heffner

Community Partner Highlight

Camp Agape

Summer Camp registration is open!

Summer camp is an important part of a child's life, a time for fun, for outdoor games, s'mores, new friends, old friends, and evenings gathered around campfires. And yet, summer camp offers so much more!

Agapé + Kure Beach Ministries provides a summer camp program that focuses on small group living, building community, and providing positive faith formation opportunities.

Because no child should miss out on a summer camp experience, campership funds are available for those in need.

We're Looking for Summer Staff!

Looking for a summer job that will make a real difference in the world? Consider becoming a counselor at Camp Agapé. Spend your days surrounded by nature, exploring the great outdoors, and enjoying all that summer has to offer. You'll make new friends, learn new skills, and gain valuable experience that will help you in all areas of your life. But most importantly, you'll be a positive influence in campers' lives, showing them love, support, and encouragement every step of the way. Start your journey to a summer you'll never forget!

Please visit our website at agapekurebeach.org or get in touch with Lucas Welch, Program Director, for further details.



Outreach Service Update

Lutheran World Relief

Quilt and Kit Ministry Impact: 551,700 blessings in 2023!

When you make quilts and kits for neighbors in need, you are God's hands sharing love across the world.

In 2023, you made it possible for a total of 551,700 quilts and kits to reach neighbors in 14 countries. That's 194,983 quilts and 356,717 kits — more than one every minute!

[Check out the newest Quilt and Kit Distribution Map](#) for more details about where your gifts went last year.

Thank you to all our quilters and kit makers for blessing your neighbors in need with warmth, dignity and hope.

The Piecemakers, RLC's quilting group, creates hand-tied quilts that are blessed, then shipped to Lutheran World Relief (LWR). Quilts are valuable tools in LWR's relief work to end poverty and human suffering.

Feel free to join The Piecemakers every Tuesday, 1:00 pm in Room 151, Family Life Center, or simple quilt kits are available to work on at home. Contact Linda Merrill in the church office for more information.

Children's Ministry News

February 2024

Nursery - The Nursery is staffed by screened volunteers Sunday mornings during 9:30 Worship for your Birth-3 year old child(ren). It is available for family use whenever needed.

Sunday School - Pre-K to 5th graders are welcomed Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:30 for Bible accounts, games, crafts and fun! Join us!

Kidz Live - Wednesday Nights from 6:00- 7:00 in the Family Life Center (Room 151 and the gym) for Pre-K to 5th graders.

Upcoming Events:


Easter Eggstravaganza - March 17 at 3 pm
Mother Daughter Interactive Tea - April 6
Vacation Bible School - June 24-28



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19:14



We love Sunday School!



Moms Together at Resurrection Lutheran Church

February 12 - Prayer Board Class 9:30-11 Fellowship Hall
February 25 - Galentine's 5 pm Nightingales, Holly Springs
February 26 - 9:30 Walk Lochmere Greenway

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 available for small fee. We also meet for evening activities occasionally.

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

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

Middle School and High School

Youth Ministry News

Gathering Ambassadors (formerly known as Community Life Builders or CLBs) are adult volunteers, age 26 and older at the time of the Gathering. These volunteers serve in many different capacities for the duration of the Gathering. They are servant leaders and trusted voices, helping participants have a safe and remarkable experience. The Ambassador team is filled with pastors, church workers, and lay people. They are volunteers in YELLOW.

Ambassadors pay a \$400 volunteer registration fee. The Gathering uses this fee to supplement expenses such as hotel costs, travel stipend, and some meals. They are housed in dedicated hotels with assigned roommate.

Ambassadors must commit to attending the Gathering and serving from July 16-23, 2025. Ambassadors will need to arrive midday on the 16th for training. Details will be available before travel arrangements are made.

Ambassadors commit to paying the volunteer registration fee, staying in assigned Gathering accommodations, attending volunteer training from July 16-19 in New Orleans, and serving at the Gathering from July 19-23.

Gathering Ambassador applications are OPEN NOW and will remain open until March 15, 2024. For details, [Volunteer — 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering \(lcmsgathering.com\)](https://lcmsgathering.com).

RLC Youth ~ Currently 7th Grade-High School Juniors

There are 534 days (as of February 1) until the LCMS YOUTH GATHERING 2025 in New Orleans, Louisiana! Who's excited? Too soon, nope! Meetings will start in August 2024, sign up by September 1, 2024, and then the fun of planning begins. Want to get a head start on the Bible study? Start looking at what our word from *Hebrews 12:1-3* have for you.



Questions regarding our middle school and high school youth activities can be directed to Jenny Piontek, Youth Ministry Director, at jenny.piontek@rlcary.org or 919-851-7248, ext. 24.

Happy Anniversary!

February 6

John and Virginia Heilman
59 years

February 17

Ken and Mary Elder
56 years



**Resurrection Lutheran
Preschool**

Diane Hooper, Director

rlpcary.org

919-851-7270

office@rlpcary.org



Our program offers opportunities and experiences that will enrich, expand, and develop a child's ever-increasing accumulation of knowledge in a loving Christian atmosphere.

**Enroll NOW for 2024-25
at Resurrection Lutheran
PRESCHOOL**

+ Classes for children 2-years-old thru 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 2023-24 preschool year.

Preschool Punchlines

A 3-year-old boy asked a 3-year-old girl if she was going to get married.

She said, "No."

The boy says, "Well, I'm going to marry my mommy."

Girl, "You can't do that because your mom has to be the 'grandma' to your children!"

SUMMERCAMP

**3-year-olds
to Rising kindergarteners**
(children currently in our 2's classes can come!)
(ALL Ages MUST be toilet-trained)

June 3 – 6 (9:15-12:30)
June 10 – 13 (9:15-12:30)
June 17 – 20 (9:15-12:30)

RLChurch VBS June 24-28

Neighbors, friends, & family welcome!
Brochures and Registration forms coming soon.

Mark Your Calendars!

STEAM NEWS

STEAM is happening all around RLS! Kindergarten students are developing their creativity as they use materials such as magnetiles, strawbees, and “snowflakes” in their STEAM bins. Junior Kindergarten made snowmen outside with special materials and discussed how snowflakes are formed. Fourth graders have been learning about “wild hearts”. Did you know that giraffe hearts are 2 feet long? They discussed the fact that human hearts are not “heart” shaped. They worked in collaborative groups to create a tower out of Valentine candy. Fun and engaging!

MAKERSPACE NEWS

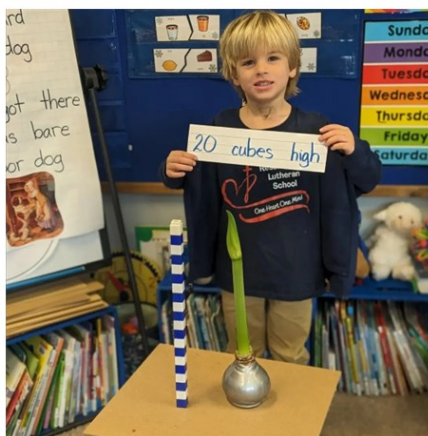
The Makerspace focus has been on technology skills and incorporating literacy and math. We are planning to begin a community service project making mats out of grocery plastic bags. We hope to give these mats to a community organization that would be able to distribute them to a homeless shelter/those in need. Please have your child drop off any extra plastic bags you have at home to Room 134.

RLS GOT TALENT

Calling all performers and artists! Start planning for this year’s Talent Show. Whether you are a singer, dancer, comedian, magician, even lip synching, we can’t wait to see what you can do. Solo or group acts welcome, but space may be limited. Registration opens February 1st.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

February 1	NC Opportunity Scholarship Opens For All
February 9	2024-2025 Enrollment Agreements Due
February 16	Early Release, 11:30 am
February 19	No School - Presidents Day



Resurrection Lutheran School

Robin Hester
Principal

Rosie Creasy
Director of Admissions/
School Growth

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

One Heart, One Mind

Make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.

Philippians 2:2 NIV

Mission:
Resurrection Lutheran School is committed to educating generations of children in the training and instruction of the Lord. Because of this commitment, we will provide a Lutheran educational experience that is Christ-centered, as well as academically focused for children in junior kindergarten through eighth grade.



stayCONNECTED

WORSHIP

Join us for worship!

Saturday, 6:00 pm

Sunday, 8:00 am*, 9:30 am, and Praise 11:00 am*

*Live Stream Services

Connect through our YouTube channel
[@ResurrectionLutheranCary](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCResurrectionLutheranCary)

or through our website at
rlcary.org/about-us/online-worship



LEARN MORE

rlcary.org | office@rlcary.org | 919-851-7248

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Blanke, Senior Pastor
Rev. Zachery Sarrault, Associate Pastor
Rev. Alan Shaw, Assistant Pastor

GIVING

We appreciate your contributions to our congregation.
Here are the different ways to make your offering:

- Place in offering plate during worship
- Mail to 100 Lochmere Drive West, Cary NC 27518
- Online through our church website at rlcary.org/ministries/online-giving
- Download the Vanco Mobile app to transfer funds from your account

Questions? Contact finance@rlcary.org.

SOCIAL MEDIA



facebook.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary



instagram.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary



youtube.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary

Newsletter deadline is the 20th of each month.
Please send submissions to susan.moore@rlcary.org.

100 LOCHMERE DRIVE WEST, CARY NC 27518