

Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany

February 4, 2024



Pastor's Corner for February 4-10, 2024

Slave of No One, Servant of All (1 Corinthians 9:16-27)

I had lots of Sunday School teachers growing up. One I remember especially vividly was Mrs. Christiansen. Mrs. Christiansen was teaching us kids about Jesus and His disciples at the wedding in Cana. Here Jesus revealed Himself as God's Son by turning ordinary water into wine. I don't know how she did it. But after reading us the story, Mrs. Christiansen illustrated something of the wonder of that day by pouring pure clear water from one vessel into another where it became wonderful, deep, delicious red cherry Kool-Aid. (Remember, this was back in the mid to late 60's when Kool-Aid was a thing.) Of course, we all got a Dixie cup to have a sample!

I remember being able to distinguish — even in my small child's imagination — the conjuring involved in that object lesson from the majesty of Jesus' miracle. What I'm humbled by today is how our teacher so perfectly put herself into the shoes of small children to teach us something about the good news of God. I'm almost ashamed to say it, looking back, but to this day I remember that lesson and the Bible verse it illustrated better than any message our pastor preached!

Sunday School teachers are uniquely placed by God into the lives of children to communicate the Gospel. Their love for their students is one of the unseen treasures found wherever the Gospel is proclaimed throughout the Kingdom of God. St. Paul conveys a little bit of the servant heart of teachers who put themselves into the shoes of their students when he speaks about his own mission heart: "For though I am free from all, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win more of them.... To the Jews I became as a Jew, in order to win Jews..... To those outside the law I became as one outside the law (not being outside the law of God but under the law of Christ) that I might win those outside the law. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all people, that by all means I might save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share with them in its blessings." Martin Luther paraphrased this passage of St. Paul when he wrote, "A Christian... is the most free lord of all, and subject to none; a Christian... is the most dutiful servant of all, and subject to everyone."

As we seek to be winsome witnesses of Jesus Christ to the world around us, how can we find greater courage to live out the truth that we are subject to no one, yet servant of all? How can we strive harder to put ourselves into the shoes of the people around us so that God can use us to convey a message of life? Maybe we need look no further than the example our Sunday School teachers provide! God will give us the wisdom — and the encouragement — we need.

Give thanks to God for the Sunday School teachers in your life — and your children's lives! May God use us all for the creative communication of His Good News to the world....

With Epiphany joy,
Pastor Jonathan

Prayers of the Church



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

All other Wednesday night activities are cancelled,
except for rehearsals for Heavenly Handbells at 6:00 pm
and Sanctuary Choir at 8:00 pm.



Sunday Morning Adult Christian Education Class

Isaiah - Herald of the Messiah

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

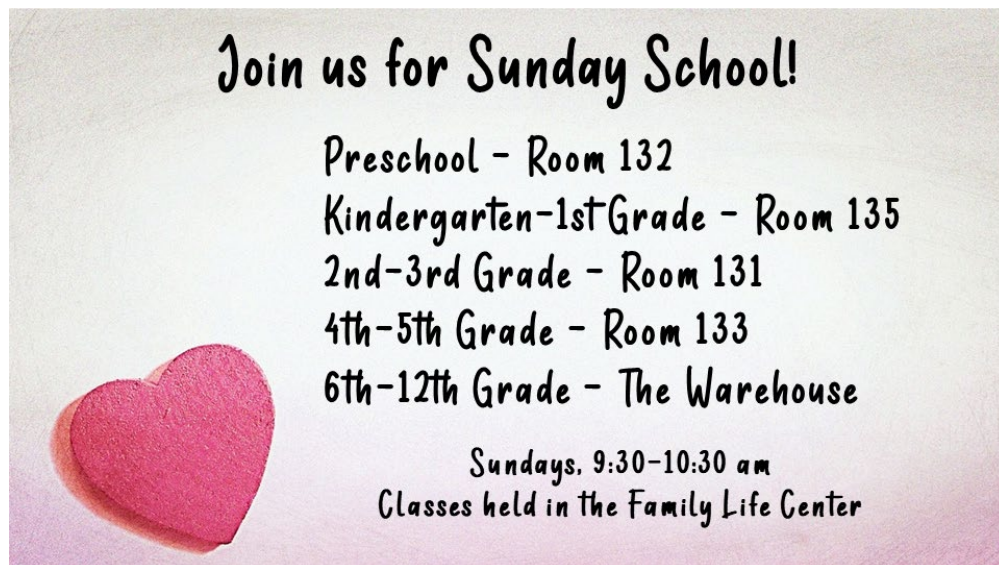
January 7-February 11

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.



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.

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.

Last 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

Last 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.

Last 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.

Last 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.

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 or 919-851-7248.

Wednesday Night Workshop Schedule

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

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).

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).

MEN'S BREAKFAST



Saturday,
February 10
8:00 am
Fellowship Hall

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

This month, women are also invited to join in the breakfast festivities.

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

February Adult Game Night

February 11, 5:00-9:30 pm

Looking for a night of fun and fellowship? Like to play board/card games?

Join us the 2nd Sunday of the month from 5:00-9:30 pm
for Adult Game Night in Room 240, Family Life Center!

We'll bring a variety of games, but feel free to bring your favorite.
Snacks and food are welcome, too!

For more info or to sign up, contact Sandy Wuori or Ben Wuori through RCB
or the church office (919-851-7248, office@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!](#)

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



It is with great sadness and in Christian love and hope that we announce that our brother in Christ, **Stuart Sanders**, was called to rest with Jesus.

Our prayers are with his family, especially his wife Sue and his stepdaughter, Jan Boyer, at this time.

Funeral will be held on **Saturday, February 17**, 11:30 am at Resurrection, followed

by a reception in the Family Life Center.

Live stream will be available on our YouTube channel (youtube.com/@ResurrectionLutheranCary).

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 live on our site now and [available on our website](#). 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.

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.

RLC Worship Servants and Training

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'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

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>

Children's Ministry Wish List

Do you happen to have any of these pictured items? The Children's Ministry Team is accepting donations for VBS. If anyone would like to donate a Thrivent Grant, that would be welcome as well!

thrivent
Thrivent Action Team
Grant



Sea creature cutouts for decor



ocean themed table cloths or back drops



used pool noodles - any color



foil pans for science experiments



paper lanterns - any color



Kinetic sand or play dough

Vacation Bible School ~ June 24-28, 2024

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

Youth Ministry

Middle School and High School

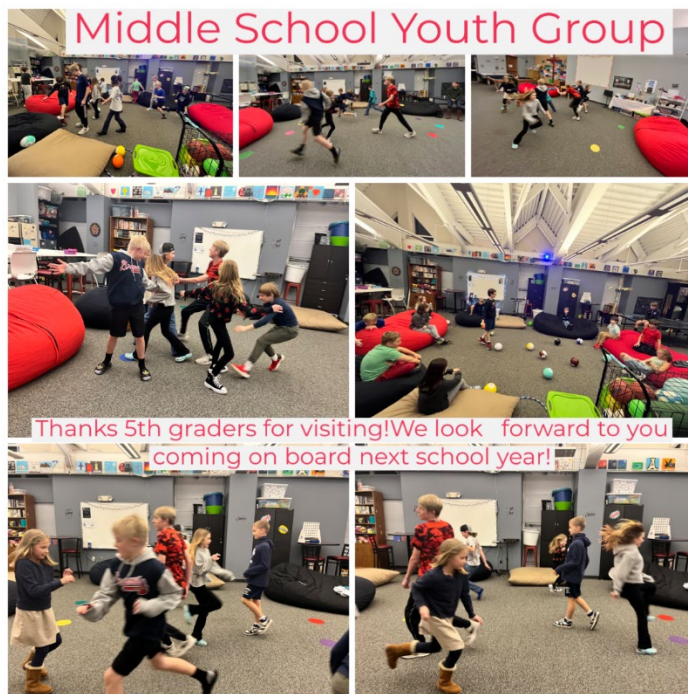
Our calendar is PACKED for the short month of February! Within our groups this month, we will be looking at the idea of being transformed by God's will for our lives instead of conformed by the world that surrounds us. Romans 12:2 tells us, "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." Youth can easily conform to the world around them to "fit in," however my challenge will be to really look at how God is working to transform their ideas and challenge that "fit in" desire.

I am in great need of regular Sunday evening **adult helpers**. Even if you can do it once a month, it really does help. Thanks for considering!

Did you know that we have a Moms Group? It is not just for moms of little kids, it's for moms of all ages and stages. Let's support each other! Check out the Galentine's event on February 25 at 5:00 pm. I will be there, and I hope to see some of you!

Here's what is coming up...

- **Connection Cafe** (Sunday School for Middle and High School)
Sundays, 9:30-10:30 am
- **Middle School:** Ignite Youth Group
Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00 pm - ***February 7 Only***



- **High School:** Breakaway Youth Group
Sundays, 6:30-8:00 pm - ***February 4 and 18 Only***



- **Youth SuperBowl Event** for Middle and High School
Sunday, February 11 from 2:00-3:30 pm
Competitions, fun, prizes, and everyone will be home to enjoy the festivities.
- **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
- **Service Events:**
February 3 - Baskets for First Responders
February 13 - Serving at Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

RLC Youth

SUNDAY, FEB 4

Schedule:

9:30-10:30 ConnectionCafe

all 6th-12th grades

6:30-8:00pm High School Youth Group

9th-12th grade

Romans 12:2

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed...”



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.

SUMMERCAMP

Resurrection Lutheran Preschool

**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!

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

Resurrection Lutheran School



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

Latest Lion's Tale

Western Wake Crisis Ministry

Western Wake Crisis Ministry is in need of the following items for February:

Peanut Butter and Jelly
Pancake Mix (Complete, Just Add Water)
Pancake Syrup
Oatmeal
Cereal
Snacks/Crackers
Chicken Noodle Soup
Pasta Sauce
Diced Tomatoes

Tomato Paste
Canned Tuna
Canned Chicken

You may bring in your donations and place them in the bin under the coat rack near the church mailboxes.

You can also drop them off directly to Western Wake at 1600 Olive Chapel Road, Suite 408, (in the "540 Flex" Complex), Apex. They accept donations between 9:30 am-12:00 pm or 3:00-5:00 pm, Monday-Thursday.



A poster with a background of horizontal brushstrokes in shades of yellow, orange, and teal. The text is arranged in a clear, organized manner.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Traditional Worship in Sanctuary	Praise Worship in Family Life Center
Saturday, 6:00 pm	Sunday, *11:00 am
Sunday, *8:00 & 9:30 am	

**Services Live Streamed to YouTube*

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

This Week's Visual Faith Sheet

Attendance and Giving

In-Person Worship Attendance

Saturday, January 27

6:00 pm - 61

Sunday, January 28

8:00 am - 83

9:30 am - 176

11:00 am - 129

Total In-Person Worship: 449

Views of Online Worship at RLC's YouTube Channel

Sunday, January 28

8:00 am - 127

11:00 am - 52

Total Online Views: 179 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: \$22,324.40

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 rlcary.org/ministries/online-giving
- Download the Vanco Mobile app, Search for Resurrection Lutheran Church

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 – February 4, 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 28, 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
- Blind Ministry Gathering, January 26

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

- 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
- *Paul Schmidt
- Bill, Virginia, Patricia, Bryan, Joyce, Kathy, Stuart, Sue, Dave, Mindy, Virginia, Noreen, Sylvia, Faye, Shelby, Olive, Ken, Harold, Don, Eric, Mara, Connie, Marti, Shirley, Barbara, Lydia, Dave, Shirley

For Comfort

- Friends and Family of Stuart Sanders, Especially Wife Sue, Stepfather of *Jan Boyer

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
- *Ginny and *Ed Koren
- Sue Sanders, and the *Boyer Family
- *Eve Sommers, Continued Recovery
- *Meredith A.
- 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
- Safe Travels
- Peace in Our Hearts

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 2/2/24