Third Sunday in Lent

March 3, 2024



Pastor's Corner for March 3-9, 2024

What a 2-Year-Old Taught Me (1 Corinthians 1:18-31)

A few years ago, in the midst of the COVID epidemic, Juli and I (and our dog Toula) needed a little fresh air, so we visited a place we'd never been before: Dorothea Dix Park. It was right about this time of year, and I remember how the view of the Raleigh City skyline was framed with daffodils. It was a delight for the eyes and a surprising reminder that spring was on the way. Fast forward three years, and last week I was walking up the sidewalk to the church office entrance at the same time parents were dropping off their children at Resurrection Lutheran Preschool. A girl roughly four years old had her trademark RLP bag tucked firmly under her arm as she marched purposefully behind her mom up the sidewalk in front of me. What caught my attention, however, was her 2-year-old brother. There were daffodils and ornamental trees in bloom everywhere. But this little tyke had just plucked an unopened clover flower from some unknown location. Oblivious of the time, he was dawdling a bit on the path his mom and sister were blazing. Gazing intently at the flower he had harvested, he poked it a bit with one finger to see what would

happen. Then, after holding it up to his eyes and inspecting his treasure as if it were a multi-faceted diamond, he thrust it up and out as a gift for his Mom! All I could think of as I witnessed this was how the wonder of the world is so easily lost on many of us who have lived longer and seen bigger and presumably more spectacular visions of God's glory. That little guy and his beloved "weed" humbled me. Have I stopped looking for God's hand at work in what appears too ordinary and small to be important? Is God at work in people and in places that I am often too inclined to overlook?

St. Paul writes in our Epistle reading this week: "Consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God...as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'"

After all, God chose a humble cross to do the most important work of all: win our rescue and obtain for us the gift of eternal life. He continues to use what is ordinary in the world. Even you and me! This weekend, we give thanks to God for Jesus, who gave up His life as the perfect sacrifice for our sins. No heroic human action need be made. No bigger and better treasure need be offered. No other sacrifice is required. Jesus has done it all. In such a world, even the ordinary can be extraordinary! The very foolishness of the cross is our wisdom!

In Lenten joy, Pastor Jonathan





Baptized on Saturday, March 2 at 6:00 pm

Lucy Marie Tate

born December 17, 2023, daughter of David C. Tate and Justine M. Tate.

Godparents are Thomas and Elise McGuire.

May God's blessing be upon Lucy Marie as she grows in her baptismal grace.

Sunday Morning Adult Christian Education

Life Lived Under the Cross of Jesus

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

We will be using resources produced by Concordia Publishing House (Spirituality of the Cross, [3rd edition] by Gene Edward Veith, Jr. and Lutheran Spirituality: Cross by Holger Sonntag) to 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 provided. Led by Pastor Jonathan Blanke and Pastor Zach Sarrault.



Lenten Midweek Worship



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

Throughout Lent, we will be focusing on Journeying from Our Idols of 'Performancism' to the Grace of Our God.

Lenten Offerings

Offerings received during the Lenten Midweek Worship Services this year will go to support the following:

Triangle Family Services

Since 1937, Triangle Family Services has served as a place for sustainable solutions helping families facing a crisis. They provide solutions to provide safety and security to local families and enabling our community to thrive. Their focus is on four core program areas: Family Safety, Financial Stability, Mental Health, and Homeless Engagement/Housing Stabilization. (tfsnc.org)

Inter-Faith Food Shuttle

Since 1989, Inter-Faith Food Shuttle (IFS) has recovered and distributed over a million pounds of food per year and has taught skills for self-sufficiency including culinary job skills, shopping and cooking healthy on a budget, and how to grow food. They service seven area counties, including Wake County, and their programs support low-income families living in 'food deserts' and without the income to purchase healthy meals. They partner with food providers, houses of worship, and community housing to distribute access free food at mobile markets where needy families live. IFS was started by two women, a Christian and a Jew, who wanted to recover and distribute food that would otherwise end up in landfills. (foodshuttle.org)

Lutheran Braille Workers

Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW) provides God's word – the Bible and other Christian materials) to people who are blind or visually impaired, completely free of charge, in quality formatted Braille and specialized large print, and in multiple languages. LBW started in 1943 in response to a shortage of Braille Bibles for blind pastors in Germany and now provides materials throughout the world. (<u>lbwloveworks.org</u>)

Please place your offerings in the specially marked offering envelopes or denote "Lenten Offerings" on your payment. Thank you for your generosity in supporting these important charities and ministries!

Weekly Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday

Life Lived Under the Cross of Jesus

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall February 18-March 24 Contacts: Pastor Jonathan Blanke, Pastor Zach Sarrault

We will be using resources produced by Concordia Publishing House (Spirituality of the Cross, [3rd edition] by Gene Edward Veith, Jr. and Lutheran Spirituality: Cross by Holger Sonntag) to 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."

Training to Become a Stephen Minister

Sundays, 2:00-4:00 pm in Room 151, Family Life Center February 25-June 30 Contacts: Pastor Alan Shaw, Jan Boyer, Sue Campau Stephen Ministry is the one-to-one lay caring ministry that takes place in congregations that use the Stephen Series system. Congregations equip and empower lay caregivers, Stephen Ministers, to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting.

<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 Ongoing 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 *Christian History Made Easy* Mondays, 7:00-8:15 pm in Room 240, Family Life Center Ongoing Contact: Tom Gebbia

Current study is *Christian History Made Easy* by Timothy Paul Jones. This book summarizes the most important events in Christian history from the time of Jesus to today in 12 chapters, presenting key events and people every Christian should know.

Tuesday

Tuesday Morning Bible Study and Fellowship

Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall Ongoing - Contacts: Pastor Jonathan Blanke, Pastor Zach Sarrault We will look at the appointed readings from each week that are used in the weekend sermons.

Wednesday

The Bible: Where It Comes from and Why It Matters

Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall February 21-April 24 Contacts: Pastor Jonathan Blanke, Ian Glenn

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!

Men with Kids

Wednesdays, 6:30-7:45 pm in Room 247, Family Life Center Ongoing Contact: Tom Gebbia

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

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

To download the Christian Education Winter 2024, Block 2 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 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 5:00-5:30 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 March 6:

Quiche, Salad, Fruit, and Dessert

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).

Easter Flowers

Due March 6

Time to order Easter flowers to be used in the Easter services! Choose from 6" Lily (\$15), 6" Mum (\$18), 6" Hydrangea (\$20), and 8" Azalea (\$25).

Orders are due by Wednesday, March 6. Forms are available in the Narthex and Family Life Center. You may also email <u>office@rlcary.org</u> or call 919-851-7248 with your order. Payment can follow.

Make checks payable to RLC and place in Linda Merrill/Office mailbox. All proceeds go to Resurrection Lutheran School.

Plants are from Campbell Nursery. You may pick up your plants to take home after the last Easter service on Sunday, March 31.

The Coffeehouse for Special Needs Adults Friday, March 8

We thank all our volunteers who help us to have wonderful Coffeehouses! We couldn't do it without our faithful volunteers. Please come be a volunteer with 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: <u>https://bit.ly/3kqoHGN</u>

The next Coffeehouse is **Friday**, **March 8 from 7:00-8:30 pm** in the Family Life Center gym. We will have Jonathan and Emily Hambrock play for us!

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





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

Mission and Ministry Presentation

Leaving Behind a Faith Legacy Sunday, March 10 from 9:30-10:30 am Fellowship Hall

"Stewardship" is used in various ways, but have you ever considered how Christian stewardship extends to the legacy of faith we leave behind for others, once we are longer living here below?

Pastor Jonathan will team up with RLC Member and Wealth Manager Scott Ferguson to discuss topics like how to write an obituary, plan for a funeral/memorial service, balancing the wishes of the deceased with needs of those who survive him/her, what to consider when thinking through memorial gifts to specific individuals and institutions, and so many more. This is an answer to repeated requests from church members on guidance for these questions. We invite you to save the date and bring your questions! Materials will be provided in person.



Adult Game Night

March 10, 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).

Interested in Learning About Quilting?

Come join us for National Quilt Day on **Saturday**, **March 16** from 10:00 am-12:00 pm in Room 151, Family Life Center!

Learn how to use a sewing machine, how to put color together, how we put quilts together, and how we enjoy our faithful fellowship together.

Questions? Contact Linda Merrill in the church office (919-851-7248, office@rlcary.org).



Food & Fellowship for the Blind



Resurrection's Ministry for the Visually Impaired meets

Friday, March 22

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

Contact Annette Langefeld-Kennedy to learn more and for volunteer needs or the church office (919-851-7248, <u>office@rlcary.org</u>).

Men's Softball

Attention Men: Spring is just around the corner! Time to grab your glove and cleats and join your fellow church members in representing RLC in the Town of Cary's Men's Open League.

Games will be played Tuesday and Thursday nights late March through June. Practices will start the second weekend of March. <u>All sign-ups must be made</u> by March 25.

If you are interested in joining us for some exercise, fun, and fellowship, please see Adam Brake or send an email to <u>mens-softball@rlcary.org</u>.





Support a great cause while enjoying the fun and fellowship of a day on the Lochmere Golf Course!

Why? Help us bring kids to camp this summer. Funds raised in this Golf Event will be used to provide scholarships to attend camp and for program development. It is our policy that no one be turned away from camp programs due to lack of funds.

Established in 1997, the David L. Castor campership fund has made it possible for children who otherwise could not afford a camp experience to enjoy a week of camp.

Join us on **Monday, April 8** starting at 8:00 am for Check-In and Coffee at Lochmere Golf Club, 2511 Kildaire Farm Road in Cary! <u>Click Here to Register</u>

Questions? Contact Brenda Peterson or the church office (919-851-7248, office@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 (<u>office@rlcary.org</u>, 919-851-7248) for assistance.



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



Vacation Bible School at Resurrection Lutheran Church

June 24-28, 2024 Registration Opening Soon! Volunteer information meeting:

> March 3rd in the Family Life Center – Room 151

Meet us after the 11:00 am service in Room 151!

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

Youth Ministry

Middle School and High School

Here's what is going on...

- 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 We will not meet during Lent.
- High School: Breakaway Youth Group Sundays, 6:30-8:00 pm



Questions? Contact Ms. Jenny, Youth Director jenny.piontek@rlcary.org or 919-851-7248, ext. 24



March 4-8 ~ John 15:1-5

Let's celebrate Lutheran Schools Week!

- Resurrection Lutheran Preschool Temple Talk on March 2/3
- Mrs. Powell's 5th Graders will lead RLS Chapel on Wednesday, March 6 at 8:40 am. Check out the live stream on the <u>church's YouTube channel</u>.
- Resurrection Lutheran School Temple Talk on March 9/10
- RLS Choirs will sing at the 11:00 am Praise Worship Service on Sunday, March 10 in the Family Life Center

Resurrection Lutheran Preschool

Now Enrolling 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

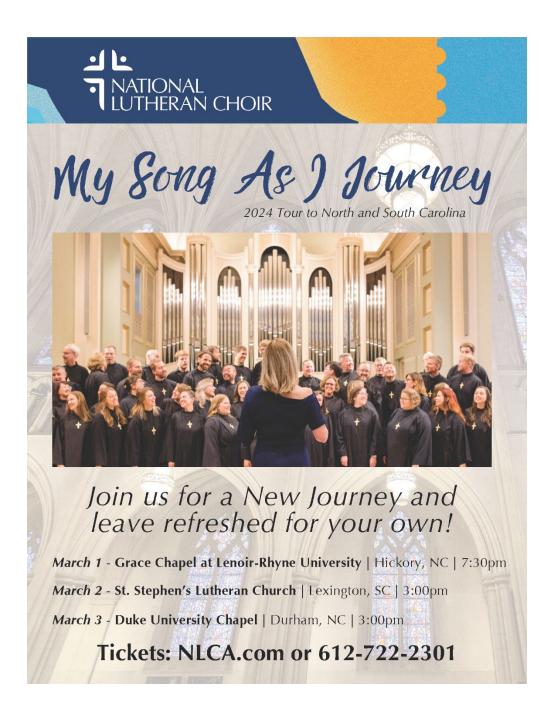
Resurrection Lutheran School

5th graders having the best time exploring the STEM tinker lab at Durham Museum of Life and Science!



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

Latest Lion's Tale





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

Wednesday, February 21 (Lenten Midweek Worship) 6:00 pm - 84

Saturday, February 24 6:00 pm - 63 Sunday, February 25 8:00 am - 80 9:30 am - 189 11:00 am - 106

Total In-Person Worship: 522

Views of Online Worship at RLC's YouTube Channel

Wednesday, February 21 (Lenten Midweek Worship) 6:00 pm - 57

Sunday, February 25 8:00 am - 112 11:00 am - 64

Total Online Views: 233 views

General Fund Giving and Spending - January 2024

	Current Month	Year to Date
General Receipts	\$ 91,182.09	\$ 829,021.89
Total Disbursements	<u>\$ 111,394.61</u>	<u>\$ 817,955.25</u>
Receipts Less Disbursements	\$ - 20,212.52	\$ 11,066.64

This Week's Offerings: \$19,254.90 Average Weekly Giving for 2023/24: \$26,742.64 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

Questions? Contact <u>finance@rlcary.org</u>.

Church Calendar



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

Prayers of the Church – March 3, 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, Ames, Doug Gill, Emily

For Expectant Moms

Carolyn St. Laurent, Hannah Peterson, Analissa Vasquez, Sara Phillips

Those Prayed for on February 25, 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
- Birth of Alden Brooks Zieglmeier, Grandparents *Jim and *Lana Zieglmeier, Great-Grandmother *Lorraine Kieffer
- Via de Christo Weekend
- Olivia's 1st 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
- Jan Bloom, At Home
- 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
- *Vern Ebert, Lessening of Pain and Help Managing It
- *Bill Xenakis
- *Mindy Stephani, Rehab
- *Paul Schmidt
- Evelyn Bloom, Recovery
- Avery Stevenson
- For Successful Heart Procedure
- *Laurel Yost, Surgery and Recovery
- Brian, Karl, Linda, Paul, Danny, Riva, John, Tim, Justin, Red, Brian, Kevin, Keith, Mark, Carlton, Carol, Anna, Anne, Skylar, Patty, Imma, Millie, Mindy, Bill, Paul, Wilmette, Juliet, Alice, Dick, Gail, Meta, Patricia, Ron, Denise, Noreen, Sylvia, Shelby, Carol, Jonathan, Cleveland, Ken, Harold, Don, Caroline, Josh, Joe and Corey, Bill, Kari, Paige, Connie, Mara, Marti, Eric, Dave, Mindy, Ernie

For Comfort

- Friends and Family of Stuart Sanders, Especially Wife Sue, Stepfather of *Jan Boyer
- Friends and Family of Patricia Buckner, Mother of *Kenn Buckner
- Friends and Family of Dirk Branson, Uncle of *Jill Hammergren
- Friends and Family of George Liggon, Brother of *Jackie Schautteet
- Friends and Family of Miriam Beyer, Daughter-In-Law of *Charlotte Beyer
- Friends and Family of Mrs. Kragle
- Friends and Family of Sara Evans, Aunt of *Karol LaCroix
- Friends and Family of Jack Hahne, Father of *Mike Hahne

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
- *Eve Sommers, Continued Recovery
- *Meredith A.
- Those Enduring Marriage Struggles and Families in Turmoil
- Those Seeking Jobs and Career Changes, Especially Those Who've Been Downsized
- Dave (Inoperable Cancer) and Wife, Vonnie
- Baby Aidan (Terminal Cancer) and Family
- Missing and Exploited Children
- Anita's Birthday
- Dave, Hospice Care

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 3/1/24