

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2024



Pastor's Corner for March 10-16, 2024

Betrothed to Christ (Ephesians 2:1-10)

In preparing to facilitate a group conversation around a passage of Scripture at church this past week, I ran across a quote by our church's namesake, Martin Luther. It really brings the significance of this week's Epistle reading home to me. Luther writes this, about the gift of faith: "Faith is the engagement ring that betroths us to Christ." Don't you love that? It calls to mind two things for me. One was the search for the perfect ring — the "best" my money at the time could buy! — when I was preparing to ask Juli the big question. I remember learning about things like the color, clarity, and shape of the ring's gem. How proud I was (and still am!) to have heard her answer my question affirmatively... and to see her wear the ring I bought! Another point Luther's quote brings home for me is that St. Paul never says in our Epistle reading this week "you are saved by faith." That would be like saying the engagement ring is EVERYTHING and the relationship of love between a future

husband and wife leading up to the purchase of the ring didn't matter. No. We are saved by grace... by the sacrificial love of God for us in Christ Jesus! But faith is the gift of God reminding us of Christ's fidelity to us. You and I make up the Church, the Bride of Christ! Jesus remained perfectly faithful all the way to His cross and tomb. His is a fidelity no ordinary husband could ever match. But it's His fidelity that truly matters. Nobody and nothing... not even our own bad behavior... can undo Jesus' perfect sacrifice for us.

The next time you see the words of St. Paul that we are saved "by grace... through faith... for service" I invite you to call to mind Luther's quote. We have a very special connection to our Savior! Therefore, we long to walk as our loving God intends!

Special Letter from Director of Music Ministries, Mr. Robert Unger

We recently received the following letter, intended to be read by the entire congregation, from our Director of Music Ministries, Mr. Bob Unger:

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Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Thank you for all the time, energy, and support you have given, and continue to give, to the mission and ministry we share at Resurrection Lutheran Church.

MaryAnn and I have been in conversation and prayer to discern the appropriate time for me to step back from the full-time ministry and some of the many commitments I have in the ministry at Resurrection Lutheran Church and School.

Since I am intending to continue in the Worship and Music Ministry at Resurrection, in the months to come, Pastor Jonathan, the leaders of the church, and I will, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, engage in conversations and develop a plan for a restructured part-time position to begin in the Fall, 2024.

God bless you and your families with Peace and Joy in Christ,
Bob Unger

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I know I speak for all of us when I say we owe such a debt of gratitude to Bob for his faithful service to our congregation and community! As he continues to minister in the area of music and worship at RLC, we give thanks to God for him and pray for his continued health and personal fulfillment in ministry together with all of us!

In Lenten joy,
Pastor Jonathan

Prayers of the Church

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.



Join us for Sunday School!

Preschool ~ Room 132

Kindergarten-1st Grade ~ Room 135

2nd-3rd Grade ~ Room 131

4th-5th Grade ~ Room 133

6th-12th Grade ~ The Warehouse

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 am

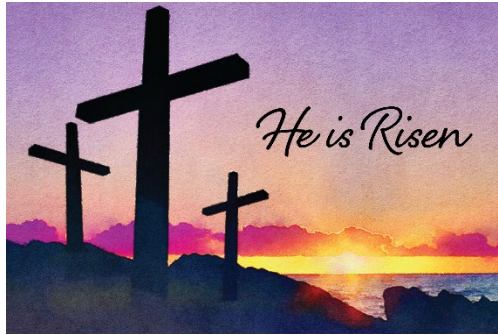
Classes held in the Family Life Center

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.



Holy Week Observances and Easter Sunday Celebration

Palm Sunday | March 23 & 24

6:00 pm ~ Worship with Holy Communion

8:00 am*, **9:30 am** ~ Sanctuary Festival Worship with Holy Communion
Led by Sanctuary Choir, Heavenly Handbells, and Resurrection Brass Ensemble

11:00 am* ~ Praise & Worship with Holy Communion
Led by Reign! in the Family Life Center

Maundy Thursday | March 28

4:00 pm ~ Worship with Holy Communion

7:00 pm* ~ Worship with Holy Communion
First Communion for 5th Grade Students

Good Friday | March 29

12:00 pm - Worship
Preceded and Followed by a Soup and Salad Lunch
Musical Offerings by Cantus Christe Quartet

7:00 pm* ~ Tenebrae Service featuring the St. John Passion by John Ferguson
Led by Sanctuary Choir

Easter Sunday | March 31

6:30 am ~ Sunrise Service Begins in Prayer Garden,
Processes to Sanctuary, Led by Celebration Singers

8:00 am*, 9:30 am, 11:00 am ~ Sanctuary Easter Festival Worship with Holy
Communion
Led by Sanctuary Choir, Heavenly Handbells, and Resurrection Brass Ensemble

11:00 am* ~ Praise & Worship with Holy Communion
Led by Reign! in the Family Life Center

***Live Stream Services**

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

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." *No class on March 10.*

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.

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

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 [here](#).

To download the Christian Education Winter 2024, Block 2 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.

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).

Wednesday Night Workshop Lent Schedule

5:00-5:30 pm Dinner, FLC Gym	7:00-8:00 pm Adult Christian Ed <i>The Bible</i> , Fellowship Hall <i>Men with Kids</i> , RM 247
5:00-5:30 pm Jubilee Bells, Sanctuary	7:00-8:00 pm Heavenly Handbells, Sanctuary
5:30-6:00 pm Rainbow Choir, Sanctuary Sonshine Singers, Choir Room	7:00-8:15 pm Confirmation, RM 240
6:00-7:00 pm Lenten Midweek Worship	8:00-9:15 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 5:00-5:30 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 13: Jersey Mike's Subs, Chips, Fruit, and Dessert

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).

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.

(lbwloveworks.org)

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!

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, office@rlcary.org).

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. All sign-ups must be made 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 mens-softball@rlcary.org.





**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!

[Click Here to Register](#)

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 (office@rlcary.org, 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>



Sign Up: <https://bit.ly/3ufP9tX>

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

Hello *Spring* — RLC Youth
March

Connection Cafe
*March 3, 10, 17, 24
All youth 6th – 12th grades

Service Event:
Easter Eggstravaganza
*March 17
2:15pm – 5:30pm
All youth 6th – 12th grades

**High School
Youth Group:**
*March 3, 10

**Middle School
Youth Group:**
*see you in April



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

2024
CONNECTED
NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK
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 [church's YouTube channel](#).
- 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.

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

LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK

DRESS LIKE YOUR FAVORITE CHARACTER!



rlscary.org

Junior Kindergarten-8th Grade

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

Latest Lion's Tale

WORSHIP SERVICES

Traditional Worship
in Sanctuary

Saturday, 6:00 pm
Sunday, *8:00 & 9:30 am

Praise Worship
in Family Life Center

Sunday, *11:00 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

Wednesday, February 28 (Lenten Midweek Worship)
6:00 pm - 75

Saturday, March 2
6:00 pm - 63

Sunday, March 3
8:00 am - 105
9:30 am - 125
11:00 am - 83

Total In-Person Worship: 451

Views of Online Worship at RLC's YouTube Channel

Wednesday, February 28 (Lenten Midweek Worship)
6:00 pm - 38

Sunday, March 3

8:00 am - 103

11:00 am - 53

Total Online Views: 194 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: \$27,725.27

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

Questions? Contact finance@rlcary.org.

Church Calendar

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