

Palm Sunday

March 24, 2024



Pastor's Corner for March 24-30, 2024

Prisoners of Hope, Come Home (Zechariah 9:9-12)

One of the more interesting disciples of Christ I've learned about over the years is a Japanese pastor named Hiroyuki Suzuki. Pastor Suzuki was a former gang member: a yakuza. He often used to wear shirts in warmer weather that displayed his yakuza tattoos. His left and right hands both bore signs of gang affiliation and loyalty to his "bosses": severed fingers. Pastor Suzuki was the last man in the world you would expect to have become a Christian, let alone to have written a book or started a speaking tour to testify to his faith in Christ. But that was what God brought about. What's important is that Pastor Suzuki didn't try to hide who he was after coming to faith. He couldn't. His tattoos and severed fingers were one of the first things folks would notice about him. Rather than try to conceal his association with

organized crime, he used this evidence of his past life to speak about how even though HE once chose the lordship of a strong man who led him down the road of drug use and gambling — even though HE chose a path that promised momentary rewards instead of the eternal treasures — Christ delivered him. He was, in other words, a prisoner of false hopes, a man who had looked for life in the wrong places. God gave him freedom to confess the only Lord that really mattered: the Lord of the cross... the God who loves him and has given him a new beginning as the Lord of his life.

I remembered this pastor when I read the appointed Old Testament reading for this weekend from the prophet Zechariah. I suspect we all know this passage as the prophecy that foretold the triumphant entry into Jerusalem of a warrior king who would bring all conflict to an end and “speak peace to the nations.” What I noticed this week as I read it is the call at the end of the passage to all who are “prisoners of hope” to come home. Ordinary hope is not always directed where it should be. But as Pastor Suzuki would discover, the isolation and conflict of past wrong decisions in life does not disqualify him — or any one of us — from the grace and mercy of God today! On that very first Palm Sunday, Jesus came humble, riding on a donkey, to deliver us. What He did would end with His cross and tomb. Yet as the crucified and risen Son of God, He does speak peace to the nations. The mystery is that He does it through wayward folks like us.

Join us again this weekend at RLC as we follow Jesus to the Upper Room (Maundy Thursday), Calvary’s cross (Good Friday), and the empty tomb (Easter). There is life-changing peace to be found at the end of Lent! To all who have put their hopes in what cannot bring true and lasting peace the call still goes out: Prisoners of hope... come home!

In Lenten joy,
Pastor Jonathan

Please note during Holy Week, most groups will not meet, including Bible studies, Wednesday Night Workshop and dinner. Check with your leader for specifics related to your group.

Prayers of the Church

Sunday Morning Adult Christian Education

Last Class!

Life Lived Under the Cross of Jesus

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 am

February 18-March 24

Fellowship Hall

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), we are looking at the issue of Christian spirituality, especially as it is understood in the Lutheran tradition. Materials provided. Led by Pastor Jonathan Blanke and Pastor Zach Sarrault.

New Class Starting After Easter!

Metaphors and the Figurative Language of the Bible

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 am

April 7-May 19

Fellowship Hall

Language is one of the most remarkable gifts that God has given us. The Bible makes extensive use of both literal and figurative language. If God is revealing only truth to us, why did He not speak simply in plain, straightforward language?

This series of classes will identify many of the prominent metaphors found in Scripture and demonstrate the benefits that figurative language offers compared to more basic wording. Understanding the structure and the multi-layered meanings of

these metaphors will expand our appreciation of God's revelation and deepen our understanding of His all-embracing love for us.

In the process, we will compare and contrast how the Bible's use of metaphors compares and contrasts with their function in poetry and in everyday speech. Led by Larry Cameron. Handouts will be distributed at the start of each session; no other books are required.

Join us for Sunday School!

Preschool ~ Room 132

Kindergarten-1st Grade ~ Room 135

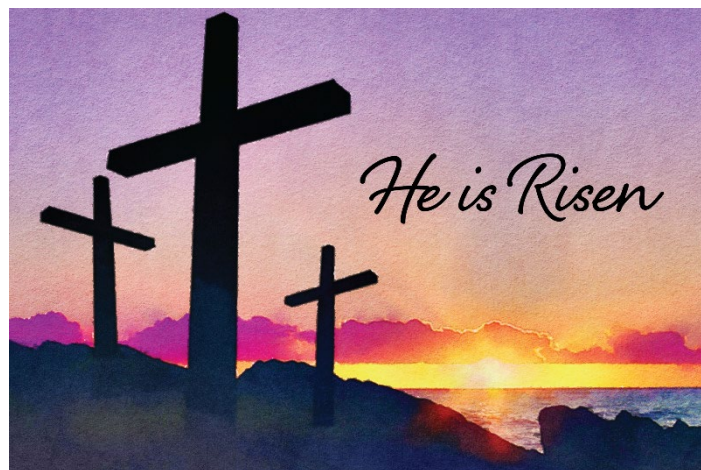
2nd-3rd Grade ~ Room 131

4th-5th Grade ~ Room 133

6th-12th Grade ~ The Warehouse

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 am

Classes held in the Family Life Center



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/@ResurrectionLutheranCary)



It is with great sadness and in Christian love and hope that we announce that our sister in Christ, **Millie Hiteshew**, was called to rest with Jesus on Saturday, March 16. Our prayers are with her son, Tim Hiteshew, and their family at this time.

The Memorial Service for Millie will be held at Resurrection on **Saturday, April 20** at 10:00 am.

And it is with continued sadness and in Christian love and hope that we announce that another sister in Christ, **Hope Studt**, was also called to rest with Jesus on Sunday, March 17. Our prayers are with her daughter, Julie Easton, and their family at this time.

The Memorial Service for Hope will be held at Resurrection on **Sunday, April 21** at 1:00 pm.

Weekly Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday

Last Class!

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

New Class Starting After Easter!

Metaphors and the Figurative Language of the Bible

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

April 7-May 19

Contact: Larry Cameron

Language is one of the most remarkable gifts that God has given us. This series of classes will identify many of the prominent metaphors found in Scripture and demonstrate the benefits that figurative language offers compared to more basic wording. Understanding the structure and the multi-layered meanings of these metaphors will expand our appreciation of God's revelation and deepen our understanding of His all-embracing love for us.

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. *We will not meet on March 25 and April 1.*

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. *We will not meet on March 25 and April 1.*

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. *We will not meet on March 26.*

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! *We will not meet on March 27.*

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. *We will not meet on March 27.*

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.



**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).

The Coffeehouse for Special Needs Adults

Friday, April 12

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! 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, April 12** from 7:00-8:30 pm in the Family Life Center gym. We will have *The Every Voice Choir* sing for us! This group is made up of many of our guests. Also, Shane Kirby will spin tunes before and after they sing.

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





Questions? Contact Tom Gebbia
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.

March Children's Ministry News

March 31 - No Children's Sunday School * Happy Easter!

April 6 - Mother Daughter Interactive Tea -Fellowship Hall- 11:30 am



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 Here!](#)

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 on March 27.
- **High School:** Breakaway Youth Group
Sundays, 6:30-8:00 pm
No Breakaway during Holy Week - Sundays, March 24 and 31.

- Looking ahead to April...

Girls, mark your calendars for the Mother's Day Tea on **Saturday, April 6** from 11:30 am-1:00 pm.

This is appropriate for all moms and daughters, aged to young adult. There will be activities especially designed for middle school/high school aged moms and daughters to connect. That is the part I am working on! I really hope to see you there.

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

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

We are proud of our National Junior Honor Society members.
Congratulations to our latest inductees!



rlscary.org
Junior Kindergarten-8th Grade



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

Latest Lion's Tale

Western Wake Crisis Ministry

Let's Slam Dunk Hunger Together!

March Madness Daily Themes:

- **Macaroni Monday**
pasta (boxed and canned), sauces, paste, canned tomatoes, oil, breadcrumbs, other non-perishable Italian-inspired foods
- **Taco Tuesday**
canned beans, boxed rice, taco shells, taco seasoning, other Mexican-

inspired foods

- **Wake-Up Wednesday**

breakfast foods such as cereal, oatmeal, pancake mix, syrup, pop-tarts, breakfast bars

- **Team Thursday**

Show your spirit by donating items or packaging that match your favorite team color.

Examples: Blue - Progresso soup, tuna, canned fruit, canned salmon, canned chicken or Red - ketchup, canned tomatoes, tomato sauce, tomato paste, strawberry jam/jelly

- **Favorite Food Friday**

Share your favorite non-perishable food items such as peanut butter, jelly, cake/brownie mixes, ramen, canned fruit, snacks





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

Visual Faith Sheet ~ Palm Sunday

Visual Faith Sheet ~ Maundy Thursday

Visual Faith Sheet ~ Good Friday

Attendance and Giving

In-Person Worship Attendance

Wednesday, March 13 (Lenten Midweek Worship)

6:00 pm - 64

Saturday, March 16

6:00 pm - 49

Sunday, March 17

8:00 am - 82

9:30 am - 153

11:00 am - 94

Total In-Person Worship: 442

Views of Online Worship at RLC's YouTube Channel

Wednesday, March 13 (Lenten Midweek Worship)

6:00 pm - 43

Sunday, March 17

8:00 am - 99

11:00 am - 28

Total Online Views: 170 views

General Fund Giving and Spending - February 2024

	Current Month	Year to Date
General Receipts	\$ 98,662.21	\$ 927,684.10
Total Disbursements	<u>\$ 114,631.47</u>	<u>\$ 932,586.72</u>
Receipts Less Disbursements	\$ - 15,969.26	\$ - 4,902.62

This Week's Offerings: \$28,327.44

Average Weekly Giving for 2023/24: \$26,505.26

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 – March 24, 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, 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 March 17, 2024

Thanking God Today

- Our RLC Family
- Family Celebrations and Time Together, Anniversaries, Birthdays, Weddings, Births, Baptisms
- Our Many Blessings
- Safe Travels
- Caring Organizations Serving Our Local Communities
- Successful Surgery
- Pat and Jill's Marriage

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
- Patricia Wellington, Chemo Treatments
- Jan Bloom, At Home

- Pastor William Otto, Cancer Treatment and Surgery
- Bruce, Brother of *Ralph Klevenow
- *Pam Dickson
- *Stephanie Ford
- Jimmy, Cancer Treatment
- Emily, Cancer Treatment
- Imma, Restoration
- Betty, Memory Issues
- *Vern Ebert
- *Bill Xenakis
- *Mindy Stephani
- *Paul Schmidt
- *Laurel Yost, Continued Healing and Rest
- Doug Gill, Recovery from Surgery and Cancer Treatment
- *Helen Campbell, Rehab
- *Zachary Heffner, Continued Healing and Rest
- *Yvette Crawley, Recovery
- MaKenzie
- John, Riva, Danny, Brian, Karl, Linda, Joseph, Francois, Tim, Justin, Red, Brian, Kevin, Keith, Weston, Carlton, Carol, Anna, Anne, Patty, Skylar, Larry, Olevia, Bill, Sue, Beth, Pam, Patricia, Hope, Byron, Yvette, Noreen, Sylvia, Carol, Shelby, Julian, Ken, Donald, Harold, Eric, Mara, Connie, Marti, Doug, Paige, Mark, Dave, Kirsten, Kari

For Comfort

- Friends and Family of Arlo Sunderman, Father of *Cyndy Vagle
- Friends and Family of Millie Hiteshew, Mother of *Tim Hiteshew
- Friends and Family of Hope Studt, Mother of *Julie Easton

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, Especially Those Who've Been Downsized
- Victims, Families, and Communities Suffering with Gun Violence

- Those Going Through Housing Transitions
- Baby Adian (Terminal Cancer) and His Family
- Protect All College Students on Spring Breaks
- Martin Kunkel
- Successful Surgery This Week for Larry
- Memory of My Dad

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 3/22/24