First Sunday in Advent December 1, 2024



Pastor's Corner for December 1-7, 2024

A Prayer During Long-Distance Relationships (1 Thessalonians 3:9-13)

This weekend, the season of Advent begins again. The appointed Scripture reading from St. Paul's epistle may seem at first like an odd choice for this time of year. This is a season of "connecting-the-dots" between God's Old Testament promises and God's New Testament fulfillment of those promises in the Christ-child. It's a season of focusing on the supreme Gift Christmas brings and not only on the gifts to be purchased, delivered, and wrapped for under the tree... or delivered and put under someone else's tree. Where does St. Paul fit into all of that? Why this passage? Why now?

To answer those questions, I invite you to consider someone you love but from whom you happen to be separated right now (or have been separated in the past) for whatever reason. I remember when my Mom was diagnosed with cancer and I was living far away on the other side of the world at the time. It was so easy to read into any unanswered phone call or any unusual tone of voice on the other end of those international phone calls that everything was worse than it actually was. That's because our Adversary the Devil is quick to put obstacles in the way of any true faith and authentic relationships. St. Paul, like you and me, was quick to wonder how his friends far away in Thessalonica were doing. His answer to the ongoing work of the Adversary problem was to express deep love for and connection to the people of Thessalonica, from whom he was separated by many miles. Paul trusted that the Lord Jesus could remove any obstacle between himself and others, both now and in the life of the world to come.

Maybe this year you find yourself longing for friends and family who are unable to be close at hand for Christmas. Our waiting and longing together for Christ's return teaches us to long for real relationships, even when that relationship must be sustained at a distance. But Jesus does sustain us... as He sustained St. Paul. If you find yourself in a long-distance relationship, why not offer up St. Paul's prayer together with those you love, as you prepare for the Christ-child's coming? "May our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus clear the way for us to come to you. May the Lord make our love increase and overflow for each other and for everyone else. And may he strengthen our hearts so that (in Him) we will be blameless and holy in the presence of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus comes with all his holy ones" (3:12-13).

A very blessed Advent season to all of you, Pastor Jonathan

Please note, the church office will be closed on **Thursday**, **November 28 and Friday**, **November 29**. Happy Thanksgiving!

Also, there is no Sunday School, adult and children, on **Sunday, December 1**.

Prayers of the Church

Last Weekend!

The Christmas Store Toys for Children

We are excited again to partner with The Christmas Store Toys For Children and our trees are up!

The Christmas Store exists to provide the gift of new toys at Christmas to children in low-income families by engaging volunteers in meaningful community service. Following the instructions of Jesus, The Christmas Store is designed to help families in the towns and cities of southern Wake County who are in need during the holidays.

Please take a tag (or 2!), purchase your item(s), and return them unwrapped with their tags **by Sunday, December 1**. Gifts can be placed under the trees in the Narthex and Family Life Center.

You can volunteer to assist on the days of the store (December 13, 14, and 16). To volunteer, sign up through their website.

For more information, visit The Christmas Store - christmasstorenc.com.

The Season of Advent



The Time is Coming

The Christmas story is tied into the entire Bible story. It was first mentioned in the very beginning, as soon as sin entered the world, God promised that Christmas would come. Christmas is the glorious work of God to fulfill that long-awaited promise, forgive His people, restore His community, and be our present peace for eternity. As we anticipate the awesome celebration, God draws our attention to His original promises, inviting us to see how He delivered on those promises in sending us Jesus. He continues to deliver on His promises to us, again and again, today.

December 1 ~ 1st Sunday in Advent

Sanctuary Services - Saturday 6:00 pm, Sunday 8:00 am^{*}, 9:30 am Praise Worship - Sunday 11:00 am^{*} in the Family Life Center

December 4 ~ Wednesday, 6:00 pm*

Hanging of the Greens in the Sanctuary (Children and Family Focused Service)

For full listing of all the Advent services, click here.

Services marked with an asterisk (*) will be live streamed <u>online</u> @ResurrectionLutheranCary.

Reaching Out with the Love of Christ to All People through Advent Offerings

Each Season of Advent, RLC designates ministries to support in reaching out with Christ's love to all people. This year, the following organizations were chosen:

Camp Linn Haven

Camp Linn Haven is located in Avery County, North Carolina. Its mission is to provide a wholesome, safe Christian vacation setting for persons of all ages and abilities, offer opportunities to combine the camping experience with worship and devotional activities, and to encourage fellowship through the many and varied recreational activities offered by the camp. Hurricane Helene caused significant damage to the camp facilities. Visit <u>camplinnhaven.org</u> for more information and the many pictures documenting the damage.

Orphan Grain Train

Orphan Grain Train is a Christian volunteer network that ships donated food, clothing, medical, and other needed items to people in 71 different countries including the United States. This group worked with Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Asheville to distribute needed items for people affected by Hurricane Helene. The aid provided included 29,000 pounds of purchased food, generators, heaters, a 5,300-gallon water tanker truck to help with the water shortage and many other disaster relief items. Visit their website at <u>ogt.org</u> for more information regarding their hurricane relief work in North Carolina.

Weekly Bible Study Opportunities

SUNDAY

No **Different Ages, One Christ** Sundays, 9:30-10:30 am - Fellowship Hall October 27-December 22 lan Glenn (No Class December 1)

MONDAY

New Monday Night Women's Bible Study Mondays, 7:00-8:00 pm - Room 151, Family Life Center & Zoom *Advent Studies* - December 2-9 Jamee Thieme, Sharon Hahne, Dawn Leister

Last Men's Weekly Study and Fellowship Mondays, 7:00-8:15 pm - Room 240, Family Life Center *Tell Someone* Series - October 21-December 2 Ron Bostick, Tom Gebbia

<u>TUESDAY</u>

Tuesday Morning Bible Study Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 am - Fellowship Hall Ongoing Pastor Jonathan Blanke, Pastor Zach Sarrault

WEDNESDAY

Building a Christian Reconciliation Team Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 pm - Fellowship Hall October 30-December 18 Pastor Alan Shaw

Men with Kids - The Book of Jonah Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 pm - Room 247, Family Life Center October 30-December 18 Tom Gebbia

Grace-ful Women

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 pm - Room 251, Family Life Center *Ragged* - October 30-December 18 Pastor Jonathan and Juli Blanke

Christian education information, including class descriptions, <u>can be found here</u>. Any questions can be directed to the church office at <u>office@rlcary.org</u> or 919-851-7248.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer Shawl Participants: Rebecca Melland-Kuo will be dropping off hats and scarves for the Neighbor to Neighbor group in mid-December. Please have your donations turned in **by Sunday, December 1**.

Have you thought about joining the Prayer Shawl Ministry? Did you know that we make more than just prayer shawls? We also make hats from preemie to adult sized, scarves for kids to adults, and blankets!

Questions? Contact Rebecca Melland-Kuo or Betsy Moll through RCB, or the church office at <u>office@rlcary.org</u> or 919-851-7248.



Supper & Scripture Wednesday Evening Activities Advent Schedule

5:00-5:30 pm Jubilee Bells, Sanctuary

(No Dinners in December)

5:30-6:00 pm Rainbow Choir, Sanctuary Sonshine Singers, Choir Room

6:00-6:45 pm Advent Worship, Sanctuary 7:00-8:00 pm Adult Christian Ed Christian Reconciliation, Fellowship Hall Men with Kids, Room 247 Grace-ful Women, Room 251

7:00-8:00 pm Confirmation, Room 240

7:00-8:00 pm Heavenly Handbells, Sanctuary

8:00-9:15 pm Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary



Resurrection Women's Ministries

Special thanks to Thrivent for supporting our *Preparing for Jesus: An Advent Tea* through the Thrivent Action Team program. Sign up is now closed; we look forward to a full house on December 7. Please remember to bring a teacup with you - we will send a reminder the week prior.

Questions? Contact Dawn Leister or Carol Bostick through RCB or the church office at <u>office@rlcary.org</u> or 919-851-7248.



Voter's Meeting Sunday, December 8

12:30 pm in the Sanctuary

Main Topic is the Election of Council Members for 2025

Childcare Provided

The three candidates are listed below:



MIKE HAERTLING

Mike and his wife Trudy have been members of Resurrection since 2018. Both are active in the church, helping during Saturday Evening Service or 8:00 am Service, Coffeehouse, Wednesday Evening Suppers, and other special events. Mike retired from Los Alamos National Laboratory after 36 years of service in Nuclear Weapons engineering and physics, but continues to consult part time with the Department of Energy out of Washington DC.

Mike is completing his fourth year on the RLC Council (completing 2nd year as President) and is interested in serving for another term. He wants to continue working on charters, the Resurrection Lutheran Church Governance Document, and communications both within the Resurrection Lutheran Church, School, and Preschool community and externally with our sister LCMS churches in the Raleigh area. Mike's main goal continues to be serving the Lord and helping ensure the church continues to teach God's Word in its truth and purity as presented in the Holy Scripture and the Confessions of our church – despite the fast-changing world around us.



JASON JENNINGS

Jason and his wife, Martha, have been members of Resurrection since 2022. They have two sons, Jackson (7) and Max (5). Max is in kindergarten at Resurrection Lutheran School. Jason is thrilled with the way Resurrection teaches ways to incorporate a Christ-centered focus in the family. That's why you can often spot Jason attending the 11:00 am Sunday worship service, adult Christian Education on Sundays and Wednesdays, Wednesday morning Chapel at RLS, many young family gatherings, or playing for the church softball team. Martha also helps teach children's Sunday School for kindergarten and first grade.

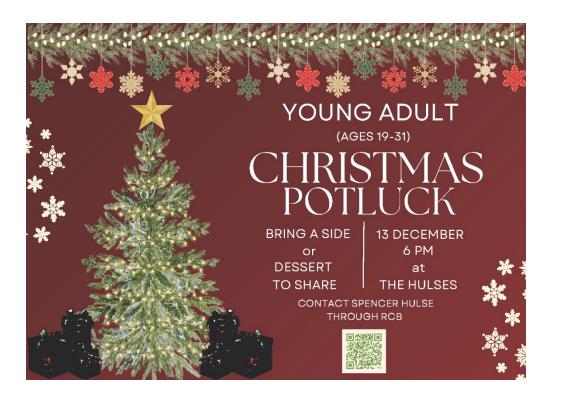
Jason was born in Raleigh, grew up in Cary right across the street from RLC, and previously served on the worship team and audio/visual team for the now closed New Haven Baptist Church and Freedom River Church in Raleigh. Jason currently works for the North Carolina Community Foundation and has experience working for local television stations, including more than 12 years at WRAL. He is also active on his son's Cub Scouts leadership committee and is often helping coach his sons' sports teams.



CHARLES MILLER

I have been married to Stacy Miller for 23 years, moved to North Carolina in 2007 where we have raised our family. We joined RLC 12 years ago because the teachings and morals of this church are well aligned with our own beliefs. We are especially thankful that our children could be raised in the close-knit and caring environment which this congregation has provided. My two children, Nora (20) and James (18), both attended Resurrection Lutheran Preschool and School.

I have served on the RLC Council for the past 2 years. Additionally, I have enjoyed being one of the cooks for the monthly men's breakfast and serving as usher at the 8:00 am service. I would like to continue my service on the council, especially to further develop and maintain the culture which attracted our family to RLC.





Contact Tom Gebbia through RCB, <u>mens-ministry@rlcary.org</u>, or the church office (919-851-7248, <u>office@rlcary.org</u>).

The Coffeehouse for Special Needs Adults

A big thank you and all the Glory to God for another year of The Coffeehouse at Resurrection!

We do not have a Coffeehouse in December, so our next one will be **Friday**, **January 10** in the Family Life Center Gym. We will be starting our 23rd year! Come join us to volunteer!



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

Campus Maintenance Initiative

Thank you to the RLC family. We've raised over \$14,000 so far in our efforts to fund the needed repairs and improvement to our facility. The first item has been checked off. A new gutter system will be installed December 3-4. Please continue to prayerfully consider and support the CMI. Our initial project list now totals nearly \$150K (window replacements, security enhancements, HVAC replacement).

Questions? Contact Randy Bowling through RCB 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.



Questions? Contact Erika Hulse, Children and Family Ministry Director, at <u>erika.hulse@rlcary.org</u> or 919-851-7248, ext. 62.

> Youth Ministry Middle School and High School



· RLC, High School youth ministry December Schedule: • Dec 1 @ 12:30-2:30 pm Decorate the Church for Christmas • Dec 4 @ 5:45-6:45pm Hanging of the Greens Service • Dec 6 @ 5-9:30pm (Youth Gathering ONLY) Parents Night Out • Dec 8 @ 9:30am Sunday School • Dec 8 @ 5-6:30pm Friendsgiving (bring a dish to share & a friend) • Dec 15 @ 5-7pm **Christmas Party**



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

Resurrection Lutheran Preschool

Enrollment for

2025-26

at Resurrection Lutheran **PRESCHOOL**

Registration forms will be emailed after Thanksgiving

🕈 Classes for children 2-years-old

thru 5-years-old 🕇

Our program provides a balance of academic and social opportunities by **'learning through play'** in a loving **Christian** atmosphere.

Class openings are currently available for the 2024-25 preschool year.



Informational Sessions

TK: PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Tuesday, December 3rd @7:00 pm *T-K Room #112*

- Hear first-hand benefits and reasons for 'gifting an extra year' to your child (including down the road- 3rd grade, middle/high school, college).
- Conversation with former TK parents for families "weighing options" and "on-the-fence" regarding sending a child to T-K vs. kindergarten.
- Wake County Kindergarten teacher shares expectations of students & a 'typical day' for a kindergartner.
- Opportunity for conversation with RLP's Staff about our program.

TK TEACHERS Session

Thursday, January 9th @12:30 pm

TK Room #112 Opportunity for conversation about our program with our TK teachers in their classroom.



Resurrection Lutheran School



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

Weekly Attendance

In-Person Worship Attendance

Saturday, November 23 6:00 pm - 62

Sunday, November 24 8:00 am - 95 9:30 am - 155 11:00 am - 113

Total In-Person Worship: 425

Views of Online Worship at RLC's YouTube Channel

Sunday, November 24 8:00 am - 116 11:00 am - 33

Total Online Views: 149 views

Financial Update - Fiscal 2024/25

October 2024

Budgeted Giving to Date: \$449,500.00 Actual Giving to Date: \$441,818.37 Current Over/(Under) Giving: \$(7,681.63)

Budgeted Expenses to Date: \$483.333.33 Actual Expenses to Date: \$473,060.12 Current Under/(Over) Spend: \$10,273.21

Questions? Contact finance@rlcary.org.

Church Calendar





100 Lochmere Drive West, Cary NC 27518

<u>rlcary.org</u>

919-851-7248 | office@rlcary.org

Prayers of the Church – December 1, 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, *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, *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, Jimmy Ketner, Hope Mackelprang, Melissa Huntsman, Sue, Kathy, Pamm Haley, Bob, Michael Murphy, *Greta Nelson, *Marina de Moura Torres, Paul Wozniak, Ames, Doug Gill, Emily, *Alison Whatley, Joe Huley

For Expectant Moms

Taylor Stephani, *Hannah Yllanes

Those Prayed for on November 24, 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
- Birth of Beatrice Graham Blanford, Granddaughter of *Diane and *Bob Hoffmeister
- Baptism of Ryan Pocock, Grandson of *Grant and *Brenda Peterson
- Dedication of New Altar Rail Cushions
- Blind Ministry Dinner, November 22
- Mark and Megan Mantey's Relocation to Maine and Their New Journey of Service
- Meredith's Baptismal Birthday

For Healing

- *Kim Goss
- All Those Exposed to COVID, with COVID, and Recovering from COVID
- Blind Ministry Guests Maria and Jeff Barker, Sheila McNair, Linda Jones, Melissa Tucker, Judy Dean, Ruby Franklin, Miriam Delgado, Betty Oglesby, Helen Rice-Lyles, Nancy Waggoner

- *Greta Nelson
- Pastor William Otto, Cancer Treatment and Surgery
- Bruce, Brother of *Ralph Klevenow
- *Pam Dickson
- *Stephanie Ford
- Betty, Memory Issues
- *Vern Ebert
- *Mindy Stephani, Continued Recovery
- Doug Gill, Ongoing Cancer Treatment
- *Helen Campbell
- Joan Gresens, Mother of *Phil Gresens
- Terrie Johnson, Mother of *Jen Kirby
- *Alison Whatley
- *Sally Cotton
- *Yvette Crawley, Recovery
- Christie, Cancer Treatment
- Fred Litten, Recovery
- Debbie, Sister of *Lynne Hoffman
- *Lynne Hoffman
- Roz, Fran, Kay, Debbie, Darrell, Cathy, Jessica, Tim, Justin, Red, Brian, Kevin, Keith, Mark, Sam, Carlton, Carol, Anna, Anne, Skylar, Patty, Paul, Alice, Doug, Imma, Mindy, Bill, Bryon, Pam, Marty, Kathy, Noreen, Sylvia, Shelby, Joann, Olivia, Ken, Harold, Kelly, Steve, Jan, Dave, Douglas

For Comfort

- Friends and Family of Diane Bean, especially Husband Pastor Matt Bean, Personal Friend and Colleague of *Pastor Jonathan Blanke
- Friends and Family of Dan Wolf, Cousin of *Jamee Thieme

For Provision, Peace, Strength, and Patient Endurance

- Persecuted Christians
- People Around the World Affected by Natural Disasters, Especially People of Western NC, SC, GA, TN, and FL
- Families of Those Missing and Lost in Western NC
- Mountainside Lutheran Church and Camp Linn Haven
- Safety and Thanksgiving for People Helping with Recovery Efforts
- People of Ukraine, and All Those Who Serve to Support Them
- People of Israel, People of Gaza, and People of Lebanon, Peace in the Middle East
- All Those Supporting Family Members with Caregiving Needs
- Safe Travels
- Annie Ruth Ford, Mother of *Dennis Ford
- *Eric and *Jill Hammergren
- *Jan and Paul Wozniak
- Jan and Rich Bloom, Care Decisions and Discernment for Doctors
- *Ginny and *Ed Koren
- *Meredith A.
- *Fran Xenakis

- Those Enduring Marriage Struggles and Families in Turmoil
- Those Seeking Jobs and Career Changes
- Victims, Families, and Communities Suffering with Gun Violence
- Immanuel Lutheran Church, Altamont IL and Their Call Process
- Mark, Son of *Charlotte Raines, and Their Family
- Wayne and Dorothy Conners, and Their Family
- Good Test Results for Daughter
- Alicia, Need Good Rehab Outcome
- All Healthcare Workers

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, and Ellen
- Resurrection Lutheran Church and Schools Staff
- Area Pastors and Schools Staff
- Our Stephen Ministers
- Our New Ministry of Presence

For Ongoing Mission and Outreach Efforts

- Missionaries to the Dominican Republic, Stan and Dana Stigdon
- RLC's The Coffeehouse
- RLC's Blind Ministry
- Sleep in Heavenly Peace
- Safe Families for Children
- Families Together/PLM
- Camp Agape Ministries
- Read-a-Book at Reedy Creek Elementary School and Our RLC Volunteers

For Our Missionaries

- JP and Aimee Cima, Cambodia *Click here for the Cima Family Newsletter!*
- 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 11/27/24