



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2024

From the Pastor

Bethlehem and the Promise of God’s “Yes” in Christ Jesus

(Luke 2:16 and 2 Corinthians 1:20)

God’s “YES!” is always more earthshattering than the world’s “maybe.” Heaven’s “YES” is always victorious over hell’s “NO.” Words, especially words of promise, bring life to lifeless people.

The power of promising words was chronicled ten years ago in a movie called The 33. I haven’t seen it, but it was based on a book entitled Deep Down Dark that chronicled the ordeal of 33 Chilean miners trapped by a cave in during the summer of 2010. If you followed the news back then you’ll remember how, after the accident at the Copiapo mine, no one knew whether or not any of the buried Chilean miners had survived the accident. They were buried 2,300 feet underground. The ordeal was



especially agonizing for the families of the “Los Treinta y Tres.” Deep Down Dark talks about the experience of the families who were forced to endure weeks of not knowing the condition of their loved ones. As the days following the collapse turned into weeks, a makeshift living area sprang

up in the desert around the mine, a tent-village called Campamento Esperanza or “Camp Hope”. The families of the trapped men prayed around the clock. Because of the mine's notorious history, it was originally thought that the workers had probably not survived the collapse or would starve to death before they could ever be found. But with the resources that the mining company, Codelco, was able to marshal, eight exploratory boreholes were hastily drilled. Seventeen days after the accident, on August 22, a note written in bold red letters

... and you shall call his name
Jesus for he will save his
people from their sins.
Matthew 1:21, ESV



Dates of Interest:

- Hanging Greens.....Dec 4
- Parents Night.....Dec 6
- Advent Tea.....Dec 7
- Voter’s Meeting.....Dec 8
- Holden Prayer.....Dec 11
- Young Adults.....Dec 13
- Men’s Breakfast..... Dec 14
- Christmas Music.....Dec 15
- Outdoor Carols.....Dec 18
- RLS Christmas Chapel..Dec 20
- Christmas Eve.....Dec 24
- Christmas Day.....Dec 25

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Different Ages, One Christ

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

October 27-December 22

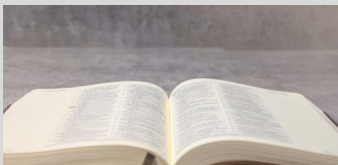
A scripture-based course that explores the typological and prophetic foreshadowing in the Old Testament of Christ's ministry and church on earth. Covered topics will include Baptism, the Lord's Supper, and the incarnation and suffering of Christ.

The goal of this class is to enrich, through scripture, our understanding of the fundamental doctrines we profess in the Apostles' and Nicene creeds, and further appreciate the rich theological heritage we have throughout the history of the church.

Hopefully this class will provide useful resources to attendees for understanding a complex time in history and will encourage them in understanding the ancient origin of many doctrines we find taught in Luther's Catechism.

Class led by Ian Glenn.

No Class December 15.



appeared taped to a drill bit pulled to the surface after penetrating an area believed to be accessible to the trapped workers. It read simply "Estamos bien en el refugio, los 33" (English: "We are well in the shelter, the 33 of us"). From that time forward, what many feared would be a recovery mission, turned into a rescue mission. From that time forward, the MAYBE, or at times even the NO that the miners and their families had contemplated, turned into a YES! And as Hector Tabor tells the story of the rescue, the miraculous work of engineers and government officials who pulled off a stunning rescue of these men in less than two months is a parable of hope sustained by simple words... We are well in the shelter, the 33 of us.

St. Paul once wrote to the Christian church in Corinth that "all the promises of God find their 'YES' in [Jesus]" (2 Cor. 1:20). That is what we celebrate again this Christmas. The story of Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection are words that sustain us when life experiences assail us and cause us to question or doubt God's love for us. Into the deep darkness of a Bethlehem night, a child — our Savior Jesus — was born! It was not a foregone conclusion that all would end well for those who waited on God's time and God's way of fulfilling what He had promised to do. But in that tiny baby, God's recovery mission for the human race got underway! On the Day we find ourselves above ground and living in the new heaven and new earth we will fully appreciate the love that went into that rescue effort! Advent gives us the chance to watch the story unfold again right now. We know how it ends. That makes all the difference.

Join us this month as God shines the light of His "YES" into our hearts once again.

A very blessed Christmas to all of you....
Pastor Jonathan

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 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 their website at camplinnhaven.org for more information.

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 ogt.org for more information.

Advent Worship Services

December 4	Wednesday, 6:00 pm	Hanging of the Greens Service, Sanctuary
December 8	2nd Sunday in Advent	
December 11	Wednesday, 6:00 pm	Holden Evening Prayer Service, Sanctuary
December 15	3rd Sunday in Advent	<i>The Messiah</i> , Sanctuary 8:00 am and 9:30 am Services
December 18	Wednesday, 6:00 pm	Carol Celebration in Circle Drive
December 22	4th Sunday in Advent	

Christmas Worship Services

December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

3:00 pm ~ For Families with Young Children, Interactive Lessons and Carol Singing

4:30 pm ~ Traditional Christmas Carol Family Worship
Special Pre-Service Musical Offerings by Students

6:00 pm ~ Candlelight Service with Contemporary Settings of Traditional Carols
and Holy Communion in Family Life Center

8:00 pm ~ Candlelight Service with Traditional Christmas Carols (*live stream)
with Brass Ensemble, Sanctuary Choir, and Heavenly Handbells

10:00 pm ~ Candlelight Service with Traditional Christmas Carols, Holy Communion

December 25 ~ Christmas Day

10:00 am ~ Festival Celebration of Holy Communion with Christmas Carols



Worship Times, unless noted:
Saturday 6:00 pm, Sunday 8:00 am, 9:30 am, and Praise 11:00 am

Adult Christian Education

Weekly Bible Study Opportunities

Monday

Monday Night Women's Bible Study

Advent Studies

7:00-8:00 pm — Room 151, Family Life Center
December 2-9

Leaders: Jamee Thieme, Sharon Hahne, Dawn Leister

Men's Weekly Study and Fellowship

7:00-8:15 pm — Room 240, Family Life Center
October 21-December 16

**Last Meeting will be Potluck and Gift Exchange*

Leader: Tom Gebbia

Tuesday

Tuesday Morning Bible Study and Fellowship

10:30-11:30 am — Fellowship Hall
September 3-December 17

Leaders: Pastor Jonathan Blanke, Pastor Zach Sarrault

Wednesday

Men With Kids, The Book of Jonah

7:00-8:00 pm — Room 247, Family Life Center
October 30-December 18

Leader: Tom Gebbia

Grace-ful Women

Ragged by Gretchen Ronnevik

7:00-8:00 pm — Room 251, Family Life Center
October 30-December 18

Leaders: Pastor Jonathan and Juli Blanke

Building a Christian Reconciliation Team

7:00-8:00 pm — Fellowship Hall
October 30-December 18

Leader: Pastor Alan Shaw



Please note, there will be no Sunday morning Christian Education classes for adult and youth on December 15 and December 29.



YOUNG ADULT
(AGES 19-31)
**CHRISTMAS
POTLUCK**

BRING A SIDE
or
DESSERT
TO SHARE

13 DECEMBER
6 PM
at
THE HULSE

CONTACT SPENCER HULSE
THROUGH RCB



MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday,
December 14
8:00 am
Fellowship Hall

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

Contact Tom Gebbia or mens-ministry@rlcary.org

Voter's Meeting

Plan to attend the Voter's Meeting on **Sunday, December 8 at 12:30 pm in the Sanctuary**. Main topic is the Election of Council Members for 2025. Childcare will be 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 Resurrection Lutheran School, many

young family gatherings, or playing for the church softball team. Martha also helps teach 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.

Gifts & Memorials

For the Love Fund

In Memory of Bill Xenakis
Jack & Darlene Bartels

For Gifts and Memorials

In Honor of
the Baptism of Maia Dodd
Robert & Katherine Dodd
Diane Donnelly

For Stephen Ministry

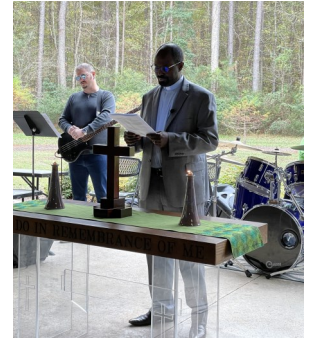
In Memory of Edward Fuge
in Thanks for the Support
and Comfort He Received
Anthony & Linda Abruzzini



Worship Service

Worship in the Park

On Sunday, November 10, we celebrated a wonderful morning of praise and worship in Ritter Park. The outdoor service was led by our praise band Reign! and included a musical offering by Resurrection Lutheran School students. Worship was followed with some family games and a delicious lunch provided by our fellow Ethiopian congregations.



RLC Stephen Ministry Leaders

Blue Christmas

December brings a new theme as we look at how Stephen Ministers help support people who may be experiencing life challenges. This month, we focus on a “Blue Christmas.” If you’ve never heard of it, then maybe you know the Elvis Presley song. Feel free to sign along:

*“I’ll have a blue Christmas without you
I’ll be so blue just thinking about you
Decorations of red on a green Christmas tree
Won’t be the same, dear, if you’re not here with me.”*

Many people who have lost a loved one this year – or even several years ago – may experience a “blue Christmas” that extends from Thanksgiving through New Year’s Day. The holiday season is a time of “thanks” and “joy” and “hope” and “family” and “new beginnings”. But some experience the opposite as they remember a lost loved one and reminisce on holidays gone by. The “hustle and bustle” of this time of year may cause some to feel uncomfortable being around others or sharing their grief.



If you know someone who may be experiencing a “blue Christmas” then your RLC Stephen Ministry team wants to encourage you to share a message of hope by saying (or hearing), “It’s OK that you are not OK.”

One of the songs we may sing over the Christmas season is #359 in the LSB: “Lo, How a Rose E’er Blooming.” For those experiencing a “blue Christmas”, hear the words (or sing along again) from verses 3 and 4:

“This flow’r, whose fragrance tender With sweetness fills the air, Dispels with glorious splendor The darkness everywhere. True man, yet very God, From sin and death He saves us And lightens ev’ry load. O Savior, child of Mary, Who felt our human woe; O Savior, King of glory, Who dost our weakness know: Bring us at length we pray To the bright courts of heaven, And to the endless day.”

Stephen Ministry is a great resource to those experiencing the loss of a loved one. It isn’t designed to replace professionally trained grief counselors, but we are well-equipped to support people during challenging times in life. Stephen Ministers are called “Care Givers” but we know that only Christ is the “Cure Giver”. It is through Christ’s relationship with us that Stephen Ministers can be that safe space for people to express their grief. It is our “ministry of presence” and sometimes all a person needs to know is that they are not alone.

To learn more about Stephen Ministry at RLC, [click here](#). If you or someone you know who could use a listening partner, consider emailing the Stephen Leader team at stephenministry@rlcary.org and ask about how to make a referral to a Stephen Minister.

Happy Anniversary!

December 1

Doug and Lori Durnbaugh
35 years

December 4

Alan and Linda Sullivan
53 years

December 7

Vern and Dorothy Ebert
72 years

December 19

Martin and Mindy Stephani
54 years

December 23

Bob and Barb Shimmel
57 years

December 27

Lyle and Sue Malotky
56 years

December 29

Dennis and Stephanie Ford
51 years



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

Family Life Center

Library Tidings

A magazine rack has been installed on the wall in Room 151 of the Family Life Center in the corner by window. On display will be *Christianity Today* and *The Lutheran Witness*. Other periodicals received by the church will be displayed there as they are received. Back issues will be available in boxes on the adjacent library shelf.

Also, copies of the [RLC Library Wish List](#) will be available in the rack. Come browse, borrow, and enjoy reading!

From more information, contact Joyce Bocksnick or Ian Glenn through RCB or the church office at office@rlcary.org, 919-851-7248.

Middle School and High School

Youth Ministry News



*RLC Youth
Middle School Ministry*

DECEMBER SCHEDULE:

- Dec 1 @ 12:30-2:30pm
Decorate the Church for Christmas
- Dec 4 @ 5:45-6:45pm
Hanging of the Greens Service
- Dec 8 @ 9:30am
Sunday 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 Jenny Piontek,
Youth Ministry Director

jenny.piontek@rlcary.org or 919-851-7248, ext. 24

Children and Family Ministry News December 2024

Upcoming Events:

December 6 - Parents Night Out 5:30-9 pm

December 8 - Bible Buddy Adoption Check In -Room 151 9:30- noon

December 8 - Young Family Gathering at the Justice Family Home 4 pm

December 15 and 29 - No Children's Sunday School

December 24 - Christmas Eve Family Service 3 pm

January 5 - Children's Sunday School resumes 9:30-10:30

January 8 - Kidz Live and Intentional Parenting resume
6-7 pm FLC



Oh what fun it is to see all that is happening in Children's Ministry @RLC!



Sunday School 9:30- 10:30 a.m.



Service project:
Birthday Bags for
Western Wake
Crisis Mission



Children's Church during 11 a.m. worship



Bible Buddy
Adoption



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

PARENTS NIGHT OUT

High School Youth and Adults will provide:

- Dinner
- Games
- A movie
- Crafts



DEC 6
2024

5:30-9:00 PM

\$20/CHILD

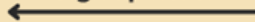
3 YEAR OLD POTTY TRAINED
TO 5TH GRADE

Resurrection
Lutheran Church
Family Life Center
Gym



Contact Jenny Piontek
jenny.piontek@rlcary.org

Sign up here!



Resurrection Lutheran
Preschool

Diane Hooper, Director

rlpcary.org

919-851-7270

office@rlpcary.org



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.

STEM NEWS

We are beyond excited to let everyone know that all six of our NCTies 2025 Student Showcase proposals have been accepted! All of our middle school students will be attending in March 2025, as well as our middle school teachers. We are also very proud to say that we have our first kindergarten group going to NCTies as well. Way to go!

We would like to thank the Sullivan family for five Makey Makey Kits. These will help so much with two of our Student Showcase projects for NCTies.

Wish List: Lego Spike Kits, Ozobots, PLA Filament (blue, orange, red) for Flash Forge 3D Printers, Sphero Minis

If you're willing to donate, email pambarnette@rlscary.org for an Amazon link. Thank you!

2025-2026 ENROLLMENT

Enrollment is now officially open to the public. We are thrilled that the vast majority of our families have re-enrolled and excited to be welcoming many new siblings to RLS in the fall! Help us spread the word about our exceptional Christian education, dedicated teachers, and vibrant curriculum. Join us in shaping bright futures and fostering a culture of learning!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- December 3** Girls and Boys Basketball Games - Cary Academy at Home
PSO's Moms Night Out
- December 5** Girls and Boys Basketball Games - Cary Christian at Home
- December 6** Girls and Boys Basketball Games - Cary Academy Away
- December 9** 8th Grade Christmas Play, 6:00 pm
- December 16** Girls Bible Study (Christmas Get Together)
- December 20** All School Christmas Program and Chapel, 8:30-10:00 am



Resurrection Lutheran School

Robin Hester
Principal

Rosie Creasy
Director of Admissions/
School Growth

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

Choose JOY

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13 NIV



Mission:
Resurrection Lutheran School is committed to educating generations of children in the training and instruction of the Lord. Because of this commitment, we will provide a Lutheran educational experience that is Christ-centered, as well as academically focused for children in junior kindergarten through eighth grade.



WORSHIP

Join us for worship!

Saturday, 6:00 pm

Sunday, 8:00 am*, 9:30 am, and Praise 11:00 am*

*Live Stream Services

Connect through our YouTube channel

[@ResurrectionLutheranCary](https://www.youtube.com/@ResurrectionLutheranCary)

or through our website at

rlcary.org/about-us/online-worship



LEARN MORE

rlcary.org | office@rlcary.org | 919-851-7248

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Blanke, Senior Pastor

Rev. Zachery Sarrault, Associate Pastor

Rev. Alan Shaw, Assistant Pastor

GIVING

We appreciate your contributions to our congregation. Here are the different ways to make your offering:

- Place in offering plate during worship
- Mail to 100 Lochmere Drive West, Cary NC 27518
- Online through our church website at rlcary.org/ministries/online-giving
- Download the Vanco Mobile app to transfer funds from your account

Questions? Contact finance@rlcary.org.

SOCIAL MEDIA



facebook.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary



instagram.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary



youtube.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary

Newsletter deadline is the 20th of each month.

Please send submissions to susan.moore@rlcary.org.

100 LOCHMERE DRIVE WEST, CARY NC 27518