

## Fourth Sunday in Advent

### December 22, 2024

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*Pastor's Corner for December 22-28, 2024*

### **Mystery** **(Hebrews 10:5-10)**

This is the week. Christmas is upon us! Though Jesus was always the reason for the season, the expectant mother Mary now takes more of a supporting role in the Advent-turned-Christmas drama. The Christ-child is born! He is heralded by angels and visited by shepherds. Glory to God in the highest! We pause and give thanks not only for the end and climax of the Gospel story (Jesus' death and resurrection). We marvel at its amazing and mysterious beginning: that moment the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Our creeds try to get after the mystery of the incarnation in the usual way: with straightforward words resonating with deeper meaning. The Apostles' Creed says, rather matter-of-factly, "I believe in... Jesus Christ... who was conceived by the Holy Spirit," and "born of the Virgin Mary." Those words are important. But what do Jesus' divine and human origins mean for us? What does His being 100% human and 100% God at the same time entail? I usually think of Jesus' obedience in connection with His suffering and death for our salvation. The author of Hebrews does too. But notice what else is written in the book of Hebrews: "WHEN CHRIST CAME INTO THE WORLD, he said, 'Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me.... Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God.'" Not only does Jesus share our humanity; His obedience and faithfulness to the Father extend all the way back to the moment of His conception and the day of His birth!

Now God knows what it means to laugh and to cry, be tired and be wide awake, experience disappointment as well as exhilaration. Though Jesus was without sin, He nevertheless sympathizes with us in our weakness. As both son of Mary and Son of God, Jesus did what only He could do: be obedient unto incarnation AND unto death, as the once-and-for-all perfect sacrifice for our sins! And now that "the immortal" has put on mortality and been born for us, Jesus would not only experience death... in the end He would overcome it. He would deliver eternal life to all of us. He would gift us a day of final resurrection to look forward to, even as we live out both the challenges and the joys of being His new creation, right here and now.

Words don't do it justice. But Christmas gives us a chance to stand in that mystery again. Christmas invites us to listen to the angels and let the reality of what God has done simply wash over us.

Behold the man! Jesus, Son of Mary and Son of God, is born. Alleluia!

A very blessed Christmas to all of you,  
Pastor Jonathan

Please note, the church office will be closed on Wednesday, December 25 and Thursday, December 26. A very Merry Christmas to you and yours from the church staff!

## Prayers of the Church

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### Christmas Worship Services



## December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

**3:00 pm**

Ideal 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  
with Brass Ensemble, Sanctuary Choir, Heavenly Handbells  
\*live stream

**10:00 pm**

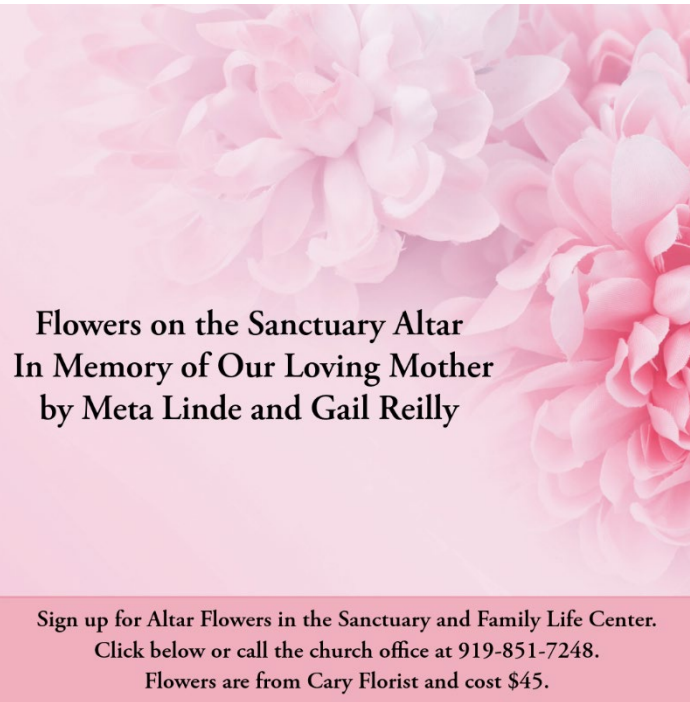
Candlelight Service with Traditional Christmas Carols  
and Holy Communion

## December 25 ~ Christmas Day

**10:00 am**

Celebration of Holy Communion with Christmas Carols  
with Anno Domini Quartet and Gloria Singers

[Full Listing of Advent and Christmas Worship Services](#)



[Sign Up for Altar Flowers!](#)

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## Weekly Bible Study Opportunities

### SUNDAY

#### **Last** Different Ages, One Christ

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

October 27-December 22

Ian Glenn

Sunday School for Adults and Children will resume on **Sunday, January 5** with all other classes and activities following that week. Look for detailed class offerings in services this weekend or [on the website.](#)

Any questions can be directed to the church office at [office@rlcary.org](mailto:office@rlcary.org) or 919-851-7248.

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Some of Our Resurrection Family with O Holy Night Staff at Camp Agape!

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Looking to improve your fitness in the New Year? Here's your chance to get started on the right foot!

Join the Stewardship of Life & Health for an outdoor workout on the morning of **Saturday, January 4** at 8:00 am. Our fitness leaders, Art Berger and Anthony Johnson, will guide two groups for fitness-level-appropriate exercise routines. Low tempo and medium tempo options will be available.

We'll spend roughly 45 minutes on a total-body workout that starts with a warmup, moves on to a mix of activities (which can be modified to fit your abilities), and conclude with stretching and yoga - all while enjoying some fellowship along the way. Open to all adults at all fitness levels.

This can be a great way to build momentum on New Year resolutions, or just to mix up your current workout routine and have fun. No equipment needed, just wear your athletic shoes and warm workout clothes (including gloves, if needed).

Meet outside in the parking lot near our playground. See you there!

Questions? Contact Art Berger or Anthony Johnson through RCB, or the church office ([office@rlcary.org](mailto:office@rlcary.org), 919-851-7248).

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## The Next Coffeehouse for Special Needs Adults for 2025

Friday, January 10

We thank all our volunteers who help us to have wonderful Coffeehouses! We couldn't do it without our faithful volunteers. Please join us. Our special needs guests love to attend, 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: [bit.ly/3VAtWWO](https://bit.ly/3VAtWWO)



The next Coffeehouse is **Friday, January 10 from 7:00-8:30 pm** in the Family Life Center Gym. Live entertainment by *The Back Porch String Band* and light refreshments served.

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

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## College Student Gathering

Friday, January 10



Calling all LCMS college students at our local colleges to the next LCMSU @ NCSU meeting in 2025!

After a successful meeting back in November, the Lutheran Pack is taking a break for December but will begin meeting once again at the start of the spring semester in January. Our next meeting will be on **Friday, January 10** from 7:00-8:30 pm at the NC State Study Center (201 Brooks Avenue, Raleigh). We will start with games and snacks before we conclude with *Evening Prayer* and Holy Communion led by RLC's Pastor Alan Shaw.



If you or someone you know is interested in attending or wants to find out more information, please reach out to Pastor Alan Shaw ([alan.shaw@rlcary.org](mailto:alan.shaw@rlcary.org)).

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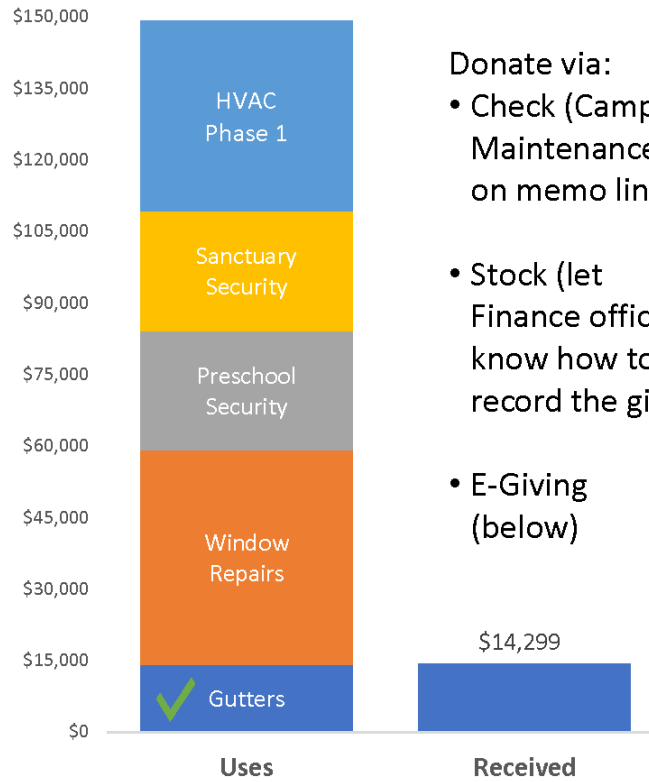
### Campus Maintenance Initiative

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).



## Campus Maintenance Initiative Status Monitor – Nov 2024



Donate via:

- Check (Campus Maintenance on memo line)
- Stock (let Finance office know how to record the gift)
- E-Giving (below)

We invite you to make your offering through our online giving site!



Campus Maintenance Initiative  
Gutters, Windows, and HVAC fund

Questions? Contact Randy Bowling through RCB or the church office (919-851-7248, [office@rlcary.org](mailto:office@rlcary.org)).

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## 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](mailto:office@rlcary.org), 919-851-7248) for assistance.

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**Children and Family Ministry News**  
**December 2024**

**Upcoming Events:**  
December 24 - Christmas Eve Family Service at 3:00 pm  
December 29 - No Children's Sunday School  
January 5 - Children's Sunday School Resumes, 9:30-10:30 am  
January 8 - Kidz Live and Intentional Parenting Resumes  
6:00-7:00 pm, Family Life Center

A colorful illustration of a nativity scene. In the center, the baby Jesus lies in a manger, surrounded by Mary and Joseph. To the left, a white sheep and a brown cow stand. To the right, two camels and a donkey are present. The scene is set under a wooden stable structure with a thatched roof, with a bright star above. The background features a blue sky with a full moon and falling snow.



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

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## Youth Ministry

Middle School and High School

Have a wonderfully blessed Christmas season!

### High School:

We will meet again in the New Year on **Sunday, January 5** from 5:00-6:30 pm.

### Middle School:

We will resume Wednesday Youth Group on **January 8** from 6:00-7:00 pm.

Questions? Contact Ms. Jenny, Youth Director  
[jenny.piontek@rlcary.org](mailto:jenny.piontek@rlcary.org) or 919-851-7248, ext. 24.

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Resurrection Lutheran Preschool

**Enrollment for**  
**2025-26**

at Resurrection Lutheran  
**PRESCHOOL**

+ 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.

[office@rlpcary.org](mailto:office@rlpcary.org)  
**919.851.7270**



# 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 2 – 5** (9:15-12:30)

**June 9 – 12** (9:15-12:30)

**June 16 – 19** (9:15-12:30)

**RLChurch VBS June 23-27**

**Neighbors, friends, & family welcome!**

*Brochures and Registration forms in January!*

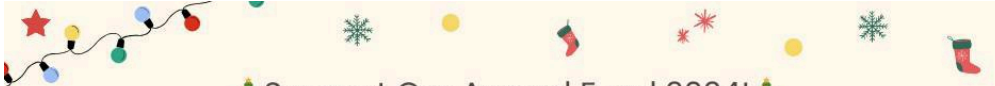
**Mark Your Calendars!**



[rlpcary.org](http://rlpcary.org) | 919-851-7270 | [office@rlpcary.org](mailto:office@rlpcary.org)

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## Resurrection Lutheran School



🎄 Support Our Annual Fund 2024! 🎄



At Resurrection Lutheran School, we are building a Christ-centered foundation for generations to come. Every gift to our Annual Fund helps us.

- ✦ Enhance academic programs like STEM and Spanish for all students
- ✦ Support the arts, including our new band program
- ✦ Provide resources to strengthen campus security and safety
- ✦ Celebrate the JOY of learning every day!

Together, we can continue to nurture young hearts, minds, and spirits. Your contribution—big or small—makes a lasting impact on our students and school community.

✦ Be part of this joyful journey. Help us reach our goal and continue growing in God's grace!

Wishing you a Merry Christmas filled with love, joy, and cherished moments with your loved ones.  
Merry Christmas!



[rlscary.org](http://rlscary.org) | 919-851-7271 | [contact@rlscary.org](mailto:contact@rlscary.org)

**Latest Lion's Tale**

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For online services, connect through our YouTube channel at  
[youtube.com/ResurrectionLutheranChurchCaryNC](https://youtube.com/ResurrectionLutheranChurchCaryNC)  
or through our website at  
[rlcary.org/about-us/online-worship](http://rlcary.org/about-us/online-worship).

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## This Week's Visual Faith Sheet

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### Weekly Attendance

#### In-Person Worship Attendance

Saturday, December 14  
6:00 pm - 41

Sunday, December 15  
8:00 am - 105



9:30 am - 231

11:00 am - 94

**Total In-Person Worship: 471**

### **Views of Online Worship at RLC's YouTube Channel**

Sunday, December 15

8:00 am - 187

11:00 am - 58

**Total Online Views: 245 views**

## **Financial Update - Fiscal 2024/25**

### **November 2024**

Budgeted Giving to Date: \$561,875.00

Actual Giving to Date: \$552,976.12

**Current Over/(Under) Giving: \$(8,898.88)**

Budgeted Expenses to Date: \$604,166.67

Actual Expenses to Date: \$582,851.53

**Current Under/(Over) Spend: \$21,315.14**

Questions? Contact [finance@rlcary.org](mailto:finance@rlcary.org).

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**Church Calendar**



100 Lochmere Drive West, Cary NC 27518

[rlcary.org](http://rlcary.org)

919-851-7248 | [office@rlcary.org](mailto:office@rlcary.org)

## Prayers of the Church – December 22, 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 December 15, 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
- Generosity of Our RLC Family for the Christmas Store Toy Collection - 300 Gifts Given!
- Wonderful Advent Tea and All of the Volunteers Who Made It Possible
- Our Dedicated Church Leadership Team and Our Voter's Meeting
- Grayson

#### **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
- Terrie Johnson, Mother of \*Jen Kirby
- \*Alison Whatley
- \*Sally Cotton
- \*Yvette Crawley, Recovery
- Christie, Cancer Treatment
- Debbie, Sister of \*Lynne Hoffman
- Steve Cottle, Healing
- Brian, Recovery
- Marge Gallagher, Healing
- Roz, Kay, Fran, Tim, Justin, Red, Brian, Kevin, Keith, Timmy, Mark, Carlton, Carol, Anna, Anne, Skylar, Patty, Jazmine, Fern, Natalysse, Paul, Doug, Alice, Marty, Mindy, Lorraine, Kelly, Kathleen, Noreen, Sylvia, Elio, Joann, Shelby, Virginia, Darlene, Bill, Yvette, Dave, Jeri, Marge, Ken, Harold, Eric, Connie, Abby, Shim, Reggie, Louise, Bill, Lorraine, Barbara

#### **For Comfort**

- Friends and Family of Joan Gresens, Mother of \*Phil Gresens
- Friends and Family of Gene Rhodes, Brother of \*Jim Rhodes
- Friends and Family of Mitch Thomas, Co-Worker of \*Rick Moore

#### **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 and People of Gaza, Peace in the Middle East
- People of Syria
- 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
- College Students, End of Academic Semester and Finals
- Comfort For All Who Find This Season to Be a Difficult Time

#### **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 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
- Orphan Grain Train

#### **For Our Missionaries**

- JP and Aimee Cima, Cambodia  
[Click here for the Cima Family Newsletter!](#)
- Shauen and Krista Trump, Kenya

*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.*