

First Sunday After Christmas

December 29, 2024



Pastor's Corner for December 29, 2024-January 4, 2025

Newly Outfitted (Colossians 3:12-17)

Perhaps you've experienced a moment in life when some article of clothing you were given made you feel a little special. Sports were never a big part of my life as a child growing up. But even so, I remember as a kid playing baseball with a local neighborhood league as an ad hoc, informal group of kids getting together just to have fun. It was a low-budget enterprise, so we all had the same T-shirts to wear. No big deal but it drew us all in. It was all a sort of prelude for what would happen later in high school. I'll never forget the moment I moved from running cross country to winter track and the first time I put on the jersey everyone on our high school track team got to wear. You couldn't go out to a store to buy it. You were given that jersey to wear – together with everyone else who had permission to

start and run in our school's newly built fieldhouse. I remember wanting to live up to what that jersey represented. Of course, I didn't always run as well as I would have liked. There were even times I felt I didn't really deserve the trust that had been put in me to wear that uniform. But putting on those clothes reminded me I was part of a team that was truly bigger than just me. There was great joy in knowing that I had been chosen to play. Everything was just – well – more fun, because at the end of the day, I knew that I BELONGED.

Did you get something new for your wardrobe this past Christmas? I ask the question because St. Paul often talks about aspiring to live out the new life we have in Christ Jesus by using the image of getting dressed with new clothes or “putting on” Christ (Rom 13:14, Eph 4:24). These are clothes we don't buy, rent, or make. Like that jersey I got when I ran on my high school track team, they are clothes we can only receive. They tell you that you belong, even when you don't feel you deserve to belong. “Clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience,” St. Paul encourages in this weekend's Epistle reading. But notice: “As the Lord has forgiven you, so you must also forgive.” In other words: Yes, you/we are all given to put on... and leave on... an attitude of compassion for others. But those clothes are a gift from God's hand. We forgive because God first forgave us. To do your best or be your best, you need simply RECEIVE the best from the God whose love for you can never be in question! That is something you and I have already received in abundance. It started on the day of our Baptism. And with the proclamation of sins forgiven, we've been clothed in God's righteousness ever since!

All of which is to say... You and I are newly outfitted with the forgiveness and love God has already given us. So let's all put on compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience in 2025... and in the years to come, too! Our newborn Savior Jesus makes sure we are well-prepared whatever the new year brings.

A very blessed Christmastide to all of you! God's abundant mercy and peace to all of you in the New Year, too.

Pastor Jonathan

Please note, the church office will be closed on Wednesday, January 1. Happy New Year from the church staff!

Prayers of the Church

Weekly Bible Study Opportunities

*No Adult Christian Education or Sunday School
for Children and Youth will be held this week.*

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 [on the website](#).

SUNDAY

Christian Discipleship in an Instant Society

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

January 5-February 9

Bob and Barb Shimmel

MONDAY

Monday Night Women's Bible Study

Meant for Good by Donna Snow

Mondays, 7:00-8:00 pm

Room 151, Family Life Center, and Online via Zoom

January 6-May 19

Jamee Thieme, Sharon Hahne, Dawn Leister

Men's Weekly Study and Fellowship

Living a Life of Purpose: Adding Value to Others

Mondays, 7:00-8:15 pm

Room 240, Family Life Center

January 6 and 13

Joe Bastante, Tom Gebbia

TUESDAY

Tuesday Morning Bible Study and Fellowship

Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 am - Fellowship Hall

Ongoing

Pastor Jonathan Blanke, Pastor Zach Sarrault, Pastor Alan Shaw

WEDNESDAY

Intentional Parenting

Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00 pm

Room 240, Family Life Center

January 8-February 19

Pastor Zach Sarrault, Erika Hulse

Men with Kids - *The Book of Jonah*

Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 pm

Room 247, Family Life Center

January 8-February 19

Group Led, Tom Gebbia

Grace-ful Women

Scandalous Stories: A Sort of Commentary on Parables

by Daniel Emery Price and Erick Sorensen

Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 pm

Room 251, Family Life Center

January 8-February 19

Shane Jarvis

Any questions can be directed to the church office at office@rlcary.org or 919-851-7248.



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, 919-851-7248).

Wednesday Evening Dinner

Join us for Wednesday evening dinners on **Wednesdays, 5:15-6:00 pm** in the Family Life Center Gym, **starting January 8**. All are welcome!

Suggested donation of \$7 per person or \$25 maximum per family. Cash, check, or card payable at door. Please RSVP through rlcary.org or to the church office by Monday Noon.

We all have busy schedules and being able to have a family sit down dinner is always a blessing. Please join us!

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

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/3VAAtWW0



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, 919-851-7248).

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).

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Saturday,
January 11
8:00 am
Fellowship Hall

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

Contact Tom Gebbia through RCB or mens-ministry@rlcary.org.

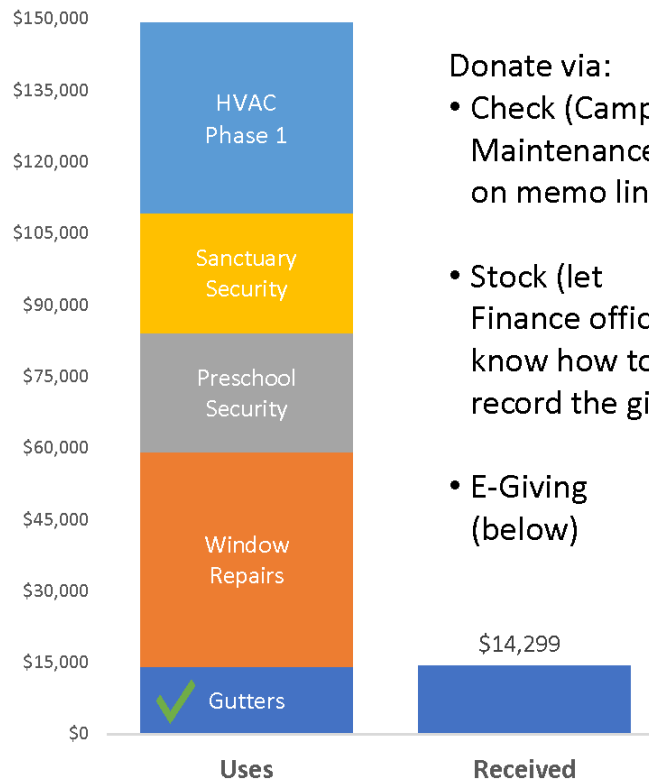
Campus Maintenance Initiative

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 was installed earlier this month.

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).

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.

Children and Family Ministry News December 2024

Upcoming Events:

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



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

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 or 919-851-7248, ext. 24.

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
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!

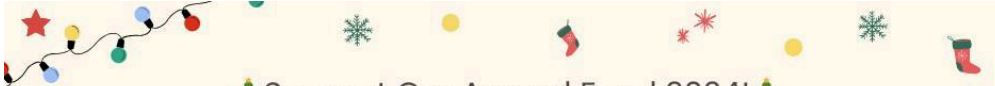
Brochures and Registration forms in January!

Mark Your Calendars!



rlpcary.org | 919-851-7270 | office@rlpcary.org

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

Latest Lion's Tale



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

Weekly Attendance

In-Person Worship Attendance

Saturday, December 21
6:00 pm - 52

Sunday, December 22
8:00 am - 88

9:30 am - 184
11:00 am - 149

Christmas Eve
3:00 pm - 170
4:30 pm - 259
6:00 pm - 85
8:00 pm - 336
10:00 pm - 128

Christmas Day
10:00 am - 77

Total In-Person Worship: 1,528

Views of Online Worship at RLC's YouTube Channel

Sunday, December 22
8:00 am - 107
11:00 am - 34

Christmas Eve
8:00 pm - 184

Total Online Views: 325 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.

Church Calendar



100 Lochmere Drive West, Cary NC 27518

rlcary.org

919-851-7248 | office@rlcary.org

Prayers of the Church – December 29, 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 22, 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
- Christmas Music Festival on December 15, Bob Unger, All Musicians, Choir Members, and Bell Choir Members

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
- Christie, Cancer Treatment
- Debbie, Sister of *Lynne Hoffman
- Steve Cottle, Healing
- Brian, Recovery
- Marge Gallagher, Healing
- *Gene Woltman
- Marion Cecconi, Mother of *Lecia Roberts
- Mike Hodgins
- DeAnn, Adalynn, Fran, Knox, Roz, Kay, Barb, Tim, Justin, Red, Brian, Kevin, Carlton, Keith, Mark, Timmy, Paul, Anne, Anna, Carol, Skylar, Patty, Karl, Linda, Ricky, Karen, Lorraine, Kelly, Bruce, Kathy, Noreen, Sylvia, Shelby, Virginia, Darlene, Ken, Debbie, Joe, Nicole, Patricia, Howard, Justin, Dave, Reggie, Mike, Bill, Henry, Jack, Sandy, Tracey

For Comfort

- Friends and Family of Jordi Calloway, Co-Worker/Friend of *Jan Boyer
- Friends and Family of Jon Scutt

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
- Mark, Son of *Charlotte Raines, and Their Family
- Wayne and Dorothy Conners, and Their Family
- Comfort For All Who Find This Season to Be a Difficult Time
- Rosalyn Crumlish's Daughter Julianne
- Safe Travels for Nephew
- Missing Pet

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.*