

The Epiphany of Our Lord

January 5, 2025



Pastor's Corner for January 5-11, 2025

God's Light (Isaiah 60:1-6)

How did you celebrate the coming of 2025 in your household? At the Sarrault house, we celebrated with football (another Michigan win!), family, food, and a little home project. Amidst all the celebration, there was a little bit of that always-dependable-mood-killer we also call, the news. It showed all the preparations going on across the country for the celebration of the New Year. In big cities all over the USA, ginormous crowds gathered, which of course drew the necessary security. With all the joy and gladness of what the New Year would bring, there on our tv

screen was a bit of darkness that is inevitable in our world.

Awaking on the first morning of the New Year, I was glad to hear there weren't any incidents the night before. But that gladness quickly turned to rage-filled sadness when I read about the individual who made that evil decision to senselessly take innocent lives in New Orleans. The darkness of sin, evil, and hate, and the worry that goes with it, can be overwhelming much too often. We read in Isaiah 60:2a, "For behold, darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples." It's a part of the world we live in. That's not an excuse; it's a reality that God Himself warns us of. He wants us to be prepared for the darkness we will encounter and live among. But why? Why give a warning? What good does it do?

I'll ask what I hope is a better question. What can God do with darkness? God eliminates darkness! God shines in darkness! God creates out of darkness! In the beginning, when "darkness was over the face of the deep" and there was nothing but that darkness, God said, "Let there be light," and there it was, shining in the darkness (Genesis 1:1-4). When God sent the plague of darkness, so thick it could be felt, over the Egyptians that burdened God's people with such incredible evil, He shined His light over His people, keeping them safe from darkness (Exodus 10:21-29). When Jesus was born, it was the "glory of the Lord" that shined from the angels all around the shepherds (Luke 2:8-14) and it was the light of the Lord in a star that led the Maji to the Savior of the world (Matthew 2:1-11).

So, what can God do in darkness? He brings His light into the darkness and the darkness CANNOT overcome it (John 1:5). No matter what darkness you fear in this world, God's light still shines. His light still creates. His light still saves. His light still protects. The light of "the Lord will arise upon you, and His glory will be seen upon you" (Isaiah 60:2b).

No matter what darkness the evil one will bring in the New Year, your Savior, the One who has defeated Satan for all eternity, will continue to shine His light, a light that shines upon and through you. The light of Christ has and always will overcome the evil of this world, and He chooses to shine that light through you. May God bless your light-filled New Year with the joy of His salvation!

Your light-reflecting brother in Christ,
Pastor Zach Sarrault

Happy New Year and Thank You!

The RLC Ministry and Support Staff wish you a Happy New Year and offer a heartfelt *thank you* for the many cards, notes, and gifts we received. We are truly blessed to serve together!

Prayers of the Church

Weekly Bible Study Opportunities

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

This week only, January 6, we will begin with a potluck at 6:30 pm.

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 - *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

Look for detailed class offerings at Info Centers in the Narthex and Family Life Center Lobby or [on the website](#).

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).



Supper & Scripture Wednesday Evening Activities Schedule

5:00-5:30 pm Jubilee Bells, Sanctuary	6:30-7:30 pm Adult Christian Ed <i>Men with Kids</i> , RM 247 <i>Grace-ful Women</i> , RM 251
5:15-6:00 pm Dinner, Gym	6:30-7:30 pm Heavenly Handbells, Sanctuary
5:30-6:00 pm Rainbow Choir, Sanctuary Sonshine Singers, Choir Room	7:00-8:00 pm First Communion, RM 244 Confirmation, RM 240
6:00-7:00 pm Kidz Live, RM 151 Middle School Youth, Warehouse <i>Intentional Parenting</i> , RM 240	7:30-8:45 pm Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary

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!

January 8

Danny's BBQ Pulled Pork, Mac 'n Cheese, Potato Salad, Salad, Hushpuppies, Rolls, Fruit, and Banana Pudding

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/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, 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).



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

“We Want You” RLC Stephen Ministry Leaders

January’s Stephen Ministry theme is a recruiting message. We are looking for people who have a desire to help people and be a part of our “ministry of presence.” If you would like to join the Resurrection Stephen Ministry team, keep reading. If you’re not sure, keep reading. If you’re pretty sure you this isn’t for you, keep reading anyway.

Every two years, RLC hosts a training class for new Stephen Ministers. This is our “off year”, but it’s never too early to be thinking about if this is something you’d like to do, so let’s take a “peek behind the curtain” and see what this is all about.



I'll be honest, the training program is very time intensive. You will invest about 2-hours of a Sunday afternoon for about 20-weeks (depending on the start date and surrounding holidays). I remember when I started on a cold January afternoon thinking, "it's going to be after Easter and a warm spring day before I finish this." Yep... it sure was, but it was some of the best training I've received on how to listen to others, how to provide Christ-centered emotional and spiritual care and how to be a part of the caring community to serve others in need. People who have completed the training also say how it's improved their relationships with family members or co-workers as they apply listening and empathy to their everyday lives.



Your service as a Stephen Minister is also directly assisting the pastors at RLC. It is impossible for the pastors to visit and care for all the members of the church. They

rely on other members of the congregation, like our Stephen Ministers, to care and visit people in need. Stephen Ministry is a great example of how the different parts of the body work together, centered on Christ as the head, to love and serve one another. We do not train you to be professional grief counselors or therapists, but we will equip you to support people during challenging times in life. Are you up to the challenge? Click the email link below and let us know to keep you in mind for our next class.

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.

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 & Family Ministry News

January 2025

Important Dates:

January 5 - Sunday School resumes

9:30-10:30 am

January 5 - New Bible Buddy Adoption

9:30-noon

January 8 - Kidz Live & KICKS 6-7 pm

January 25 - Family Service Project



First Responder Family Service Project



Saturday, January 25

10:00-11:30 am

in the Fellowship Hall



Families will build snack baskets
for local first responders
& deliver them.



Sign up here:



Sign Up: bit.ly/3Perilh

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

Happy New Year, Youth and Families! I hope you have been blessed this holiday

season and are looking forward to the blessings in store for 2025. I was very thankful to have some extra time with my family and to recover from a hand injury. During which I have had so many ideas and new games to play for the new year. God is always working!

Middle School Youth Group:

Our After Christmas Party - nothing needed but this for sure will be a fun night of Youth Group your youth won't want to miss. See you on **Wednesday, January 8 from 6:00-7:00 pm** for our return to our Wednesday schedule.

Adult Leaders Needed! If you have a Wednesday, you can help or if you are able to help with one of our special events or service projects, I would love it. Please contact me.

High School Youth Group:

Thank you to all who took the time to vote for the High School meeting time. We will continue to meet on **Sundays, 5:00-6:30 pm**. In keeping the same time, we do need to fluctuate how we will enter the building due to RLS hiring a cleaning company that is cleaning the building during our meeting time. We will be utilizing the back staircase/entrance to the Warehouse. Look for a video on Instagram, if you aren't sure where that is. Or follow the lights. Parents who pick up, we will also be dismissing from the back entrance (playground end of the school building). It will take a couple of weeks to get into the routine, but we will work on it.

First Service Project of the NEW YEAR for ALL YOUTH:

The Coffeehouse on **Friday, January 10 from 5:30-8:45 pm**. Let me know if you are coming, so I know who to look for.

Need Adult Leaders! Looking for a way to get involved this new year, we need the help of adult leaders. Take a look at the schedule and if something works, please join us!



You can always follow along on Instagram, GroupMe, and these announcements to see what's happening!

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

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

+ Classes for children 2-years-old
thru 5-years-old +



**Resurrection Lutheran
Preschool**

**3-year-olds
to Rising kindergarteners**
(children currently in our 2x 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



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



rlscary.org
Junior Kindergarten-8th Grade

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

Latest Lion's Tale



WORSHIP SERVICES

Traditional Worship in Sanctuary	Praise Worship in Family Life Center
Saturday, 6:00 pm Sunday, *8:00 & 9:30 am	Sunday, *11:00 am

**Services Live Streamed to YouTube*

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 28

6:00 pm - 26

Sunday, December 29

8:00 am - 48

9:30 am - 116

11:00 am - 100

Total In-Person Worship: 290

Views of Online Worship at RLC's YouTube Channel

Sunday, December 29

8:00 am - 95

11:00 am - 34

Total Online Views: 129 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 – January 5, 2025

*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 29, 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
- Our RLC Staff, Our Musicians, and RLC Volunteers for All Their Service During the Advent/Christmas Season
- Happy Birthday, Jesus!
- Sandy's Dad's 90th Birthday
- Keeping Son and Friend Safe

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, Recovery and Therapy
- Doug Gill, Ongoing Cancer Treatment
- *Helen Campbell
- Terrie Johnson, Mother of *Jen Kirby
- *Alison Whatley
- *Sally Cotton
- *Yvette Crawley
- Christie, Cancer Treatment
- Steve Cottle, Healing
- Brian, Recovery
- Marge Gallagher, Healing
- *Gene Woltman
- Marion Cecconi, Mother of *Lecia Roberts
- Mike Hodgins
- *June Buckler, Recovery and Rehab
- DeAnn, Darrell, Jordan, Julianne, Karl, Linda, Ricky, Jean, Ingrid, Lynne, Roy, Kelly, Bruce, Dawson, Ken, Harold, Paul, Mark, Jack, Sandy, Shim, Debbie, Joe, Dave

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
- Peace on Earth in 2025
- Rosalin Crumlish Family, Daughter's Illness
- Family

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.*