

Second Sunday After the Epiphany

January 19, 2025



Pastor's Corner for January 19-25, 2025

The Bride of Christ (Isaiah 62:1-5)

There may be no worse feeling than feeling alone. That sense of emptiness growing within us when no one is there to support, care for, listen to, or love us. Maybe we know that love is there, somewhere out there, but the other actions that love comes through are missing. Loving people are near, but belonging, being cared for

and cherished can be distant.

It's an awful feeling to be alone, and it almost always comes at the worst times, when we need someone the most. It can come when sickness has fallen upon you. A new start in a new place, when you are literally alone with no family or friends near. A state of exhaustion, when you have been run ragged with the busyness of life. Aloneness can come when you are physically without another by your side or in the middle of a crowd, even a crowd of family and friends. It's the lack of love, lack of attention, the great void of emotional distance that causes us to feel alone.

That feeling of aloneness, as real as it is, is a lie the devil whispers in your ear. He tells us that, not only have people in our lives abandoned us, but God has abandoned us. The devil tells us we are not worthy of love, or we need to earn love, be it God's love or the love of others. The devil wants nothing more than for us to be alone and abandoned, without belonging. Jesus came to undo that lie, to abolish loneliness, to marry us.

Christ is the handsome bridegroom, and we are the beautiful bride of Christ! We are married to the Son of God! Just like a bride is given the last name of her new husband in marriage, we are given the name of God in baptism, brought into His eternal marriage. Isaiah 62:4 reveals our new name,

“You shall no more be termed **Forsaken**, and your land shall no more be termed **Desolate**, *but* you shall be called **My Delight Is in Her**, and your land **Married**.”

Notice the name change that has happened in your identity. You were once forsaken and desolate, but now you are the Delight of God, Married to Him! You were once alone, but now you **Belong!** This is what Christ, your Bridegroom, did for you on the cross. Hanging on the cross, Jesus cried out, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (Matthew 27:46) and the Father's answer was your name on His lips. On the cross, with your sins placed upon His shoulders, Jesus was called Forsaken and Desolate, so that you can now be called My Delight Is in Her and Married.

You are never alone; God has claimed you as His own in His eternal covenant of marriage. He has made you beautiful with His righteousness. "As the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you" (Isaiah 62:5).

Your Married brother in Christ,
Pastor Zach Sarrault

Please note, the church office will be closed on Monday, January 20 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Prayers of the Church

Dear RLC family,

On behalf of all the Resurrection Lutheran Church staff, I would like to thank you all for your generosity of spirit and for your gifts to us this past Christmas! It is a privilege to serve our God together with all of you.

With gratitude, praying for an abundant outpouring of God's grace as we begin a new year of serving our God together,

Pastor Jonathan Blanke

Church Council 2025

We will be installing the Church Council for 2025 at all services this weekend.

Mike Haertling, President; Lori Jannings, Vice-President;
Mike Hahne, Treasurer; Mike Heffner, Secretary
Tom Bolling, Mark Dirks, Jason Jennings, Linda Mangino, and Charles Miller



Saturday, January 18

We will use the Taize format of worship for the Saturday, 6:00 pm service.

A darkened setting with candles, singing of short ostinato refrains of Biblical and liturgical phrases, periods of quiet for reflection, the celebration of communion, readings, and sermon.

**Flowers on the Altar
in the Family Life Center
In Celebration of Cameron's Birthday
by Adam and Michele Brake**



Sign up for Altar Flowers in the Sanctuary and Family Life Center.
Click below or call the church office at 919-851-7248.
Flowers are from Cary Florist and cost \$45.

[Sign Up for Altar Flowers!](#)

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

***New* Men's Weekly Study and Fellowship**

Nurturing Your Faith: Patient Urgency

by Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Mondays, 7:00-8:15 pm

Room 240, Family Life Center

January 20-February 17

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 - *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.

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. All are welcome!

January 22

Swedish Meatballs with Egg Noodles, Salad, Fruit, and Cake

January 29

Jersey Mike's, Chips, Fruit, and Cookies

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).

Stephen Ministry Commissioning

Throughout history, when God has called people to special ministry, members of their community have commissioned them for the important new work they are taking on. Now we invite you to carry on that Biblical tradition by joining us in commissioning those who have answered God's call to our congregation's Stephen Ministry.

Our Stephen Ministers and Leaders completed their training to equip them for their task. We now celebrate them, pray for them, and send them out to minister, asking for God's blessing and the Spirit's wisdom and power.

Join us for the commissioning of Craig White as a Stephen Leader in all services next weekend, **January 25 and 26**, to show our support for this ministry.



[Learn more about Stephen Ministry at RLC.](#)

Food & Fellowship for the Blind



Resurrection's Ministry
for the Visually Impaired meets

Friday, January 31

5:30-7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Contact Annette Langefeld-Kennedy to learn more and for volunteer needs, or the church office (919-851-7248, office@rlcary.org).

News from the Human Care Committee

- Many thanks to the congregation for their generous donations to the **Advent Offerings**. A little over \$2,500 was collected. This amount was rounded up with discretionary funds to \$3,000 to be equally divided between Camp Linn Haven and Orphan Grain Train.

- Our **Christmas Store** collection of toys was a huge success! Over 300 toys were collected and delivered to United Church in Apex (formerly New Horizons) for distribution to families in need. This is a yearly project for us and them. Visit their [website](#) for more information and/or to volunteer for next year with the distribution day.
- **Are you looking for ways to volunteer in your community?** Our church membership represents many areas of Wake County. The following groups need volunteers to help alleviate food insecurity, aid in financial crisis situations, and provide heat to low-income families.
- **CARY: Dorcas Ministries** provides financial and food assistance, job and career training, community resources and more to Cary residents. Volunteers are needed in the thrift shop and in the food pantry. Learn more at dorcascnc.org.
- **APEX: Western Wake Crisis Ministry (WWCM)** has merged with Dorcas Ministries to become a stronger advocate for those who are in financial, food and/or housing crisis. This organization provides assistance to the residents of Apex, Holly Springs, Fuquay Varina, Friendship, and New Hill. There is a collection bin under the coat rack to collect food donations for their food pantry at RLC. For more information, wwcm.org.

NOTE: WWCM does not accept donations of household items or clothes, therefore, we do not accept those items in the RLC collection bin.

- **RALEIGH: Inter-Faith Food Shuttle's** mission statement reads, "To feed our neighbors, teach self-sufficiency and grow healthy foods by cultivating innovative approaches to end hunger." Volunteers are needed in their pantry and gardens, and to deliver food. This group administers the Backpack Buddies program which sends food home with food insecure school children on the weekends. Read more at foodshuttle.org.
- **WAKE COUNTY: Warmth for Wake** is administered by Wake County Health and Human Services. Volunteers are needed to cut, split and deliver

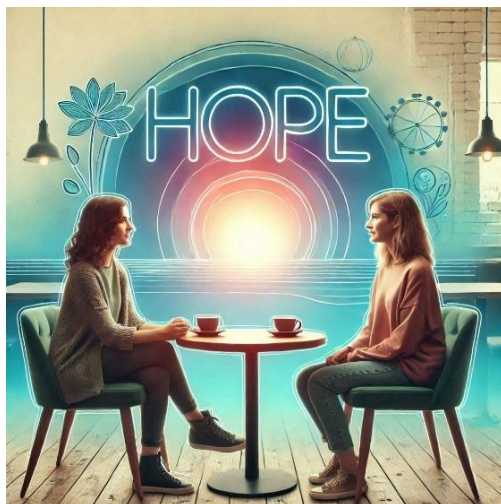
wood every other Saturday morning from October through March. Volunteers must be at least 15 years old. This program also accepts donations of new or lightly used space heaters, as well as financial donations. More info found on their [website](#).

- **WAKE COUNTY: Duke Energy Share the Light Fund** is administered by Duke Energy and accepts financial donations. Customers can apply directly on their [website](#) for assistance.

“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.

Reach Out and Say Hello!

Fran Xenakis has moved recently and would love to have people come by or call any time. Her new address is 215 Brightmore Drive, Unit 443, Cary NC 27518-8158. Please check RCB or contact the church office (919-851-7248, office@rlcary.org) for her telephone number.

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 at 919-851-7248 or office@rlcary.org for assistance.

Children & Family Ministry News January 2025

See you at Sunday School!
9:30-10:30 am



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



MOMS TOGETHER
TEA &
COOKIE
DECORATING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 26
FROM 3-5 PM
AT MAGGIE SHEROUSE'S
HOME

PLEASE RSVP HERE.



Sign Up: bit.ly/3W7rUx5



Save the Date for Vacation Bible School
at Resurrection Lutheran Church
June 23-27, 2025

The graphic features a moose on the left, a bear in the center holding a sign that says "TRUE NORTH" with a compass rose and "Trusting Jesus in a Wild World" below it, and a bear on the right. In the background, there are mountains, trees, and an eagle. At the bottom, there is a red crab on the left and a beaver on the right.

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

Sunday, January 19:

Sunday School, 9:30-10:30 am in The Warehouse (Room 253)

No High School Youth Group!



Sunday, January 26:

Sunday School, 9:30-10:30 am in The Warehouse (Room 253)

Youth Gathering Meeting, 4:00-5:00 pm

High School Youth Group, 5:00-6:30 pm



The poster features a purple background with a string of colorful Mardi Gras-style beads at the top. The main title is in a yellow, stylized font. A football icon is positioned to the left of the word 'FUNDRAISER'. A large, ornate Mardi Gras mask is centered below the title. To the right, a list of activities is written in a slanted, white font. The event details are presented in a white-bordered box at the bottom, with a yellow button for more information.

NEW ORLEANS
SOUP-ER BOWL
FUNDRAISER

*Raffles,
Trivia,
Food,
Fun*

SUNDAY
9th
February
12:30pm

FREE WILL OFFERING
COME SUPPORT OUR YOUTH
GATHERING GROUP
Soups, Bread and baked goods
📍 **RLC FAMILY LIFE CENTER**

MORE INFORMATION

JENNY PIONTEK
jenny.piontek@rlcary.org

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 +



**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!



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

Resurrection Lutheran School



rls Cary.org | 919-851-7271 | contact@rls Cary.org

Latest Lion's Tale

WORSHIP SERVICES

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

6:00 pm - 35

Sunday, January 12

8:00 am - 94

9:30 am - 160

11:00 am - 93

Total In-Person Worship: 382

Views of Online Worship at RLC's YouTube Channel

Sunday, January 12

8:00 am - 107

11:00 am - 46

Total Online Views: 153 views

Financial Update - Fiscal 2024/25

December 2024

Budgeted Giving to Date: \$775,750.00

Actual Giving to Date: \$756,704.00

Current Over/(Under) Giving: \$(19,046.00)

Budgeted Expenses to Date: \$725,000.00

Actual Expenses to Date: \$706,431.00

Current Under/(Over) Spend: \$18,569.00

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 19, 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

*Janet Lucien, *Hannah Yllanes, *Kelsey Sarrault, *Lauren Unger

Those Prayed for on January 12, 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
- Blessings of Our New Year
- Good Test Results
- A Family's Safety

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
- Marion Cecconi, Mother of *Lecia Roberts
- *Thelma Rhodes, Recovery
- Ingrid, Recovery
- Martha, Sister of *Charlotte Raines
- Pastor Tich Luu
- Robert, Jessica, Cathy, Tim, Justin, Red, Brian, Kevin, Mark, Timmy, Carlton, Carol, Anna, Anne, Skylar, Patty, Ingrid, Paul, Karl, Linda, Ricky, Jean, Pam, Bryon, Lynne, Roy, Lorraine, Doug, Alice, Kathleen, Noreen, Syliva, Eric, Shelby, Ken, Harold, Steven, Kelly, Joe and Debbie, Dave, Stephen, Reggie, Henry, Shim

For Comfort

- Friends and Family of Gloria Farr, Mother of *Jenny Kvantas
- Friends and Family of Mark Raines, Son of *Charlotte Raines
- Friends and Family of LaVerne Kulich, Mother of *Carole Shaeffer
- Friends and Family of *June Buckler, Mother of *Diane Breznik
- Douglas and Rosalind Crumlish, Friends of *Alan Sullivan

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, Especially for College Students Returning
- 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
- *Ron and *Carol Mitchell
- Those Enduring Marriage Struggles and Families in Turmoil
- Those Seeking Jobs and Career Changes
- Victims, Families, and Communities Suffering with Gun Violence
- Wayne and Dorothy Conners, and Their Family
- For the People of Los Angeles Area Due to Recent Wildfires
- Family of Abbi Meschke, Lost Home in LA Fires
- Safe Travels for RLS Basketball Teams and Support People to Knoxville, Tennessee

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.*