Fifth Sunday After the Epiphany February 9, 2025



Pastor's Corner for February 9-15, 2025

Truly Awesome (Isaiah 6:1-7)

Do you remember the last time you experienced something truly awesome?

There's a lot of stuff that you can think of as "plain awesome." Just this past week I met a couple whose son-in-law is teaching religion at my alma mater, William and Mary. They were looking forward to an upcoming visit to Williamsburg to see their grandchildren. As they described their travel plans, I found myself replying — happy for them and their opportunity for a long-awaited vacation — "That's awesome!" Watching the Superbowl game this weekend? I don't have a dog in this fight. But I'm sure if I see an unlikely touchdown on a punt or kickoff return in this game, I'll probably be saying —right along with either the Eagles or the Chiefs fans, "Can you believe it? How awesome was that?" And who can remain unimpressed with technology these days? Whether it's an impossible A.I. calculation, a humanoid-

looking robot, or a helicopter successfully flying for the first time on the planet Mars, I can't help shaking my head in disbelief and saying, "That's... just... awesome!" The Lego Movie song "Everything Is Awesome!!!" was overstating the case for entertainment purposes. But there's a lot to exult and be happy about. Awesomeness is all around us!

That said, check the default dictionary definition for the word "awesome" before reading the Old Testament text this weekend. You see, according to Oxford Languages, "awesome" means "extremely impressive or daunting; inspiring great admiration, apprehension, or fear." It's that last part about fear that Isaiah is sensing as he encounters the Holy One of Israel, the Lord and Creator of all. What does Isaiah say? "Woe is me! For I am lost; I am a man of unclean lips... and my eyes have seen the King, the Holy Lord of Hosts!" Isaiah is in the presence of the only One who is holy. Isaiah knows that as one who is sinful and unclean he deserves to die. Yet this God does not destroy Him. This God has a spokesman! That spokesman touches a coal to Isaiah's lips and pronounces absolution: "Your guilt is taken away. Your sin atoned for." Isaiah could now stand before God. Isaiah could now be sent by God! Isaiah could now be of use in the Lord's workshop. Because of Jesus, so can you and I.

My parents once underlined the awesomeness of God for us kids by taking us on a trip to Niagara Falls. The falls were spectacular that day! I had never seen anything in nature so massive and so beautiful at the same time. Of course, there was also something terrifying about the falls. The frothy blue water below the lookout station seemed so close you could almost touch it. But you knew that, were you to try, you'd get swept up in that water, go cascading over the edge, and die in the roughly 100-foot plunge to the boulders below. Mom and Dad did not set out to make the trip into a life lesson. However, they introduced us to the marvel of God's creation while ensuring we would stay safe. That introduction to something truly awesome is an experience I still carry with me today.

How have you felt, seen, and experienced the awesomeness of God in your life? No matter what form it may have taken, in Christ Jesus God says again to you today: "Your guilt is forgiven. Your sins are removed." Praise God that because of Jesus, we stand before the only truly Holy One and are pronounced restored. By His work

in us we continue to live out the joy of experiencing the truly awesome work of God... today and always!

Watch the Vicarage Assignment Service of Christopher Reed at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Resurrection Lutheran Church's newest Specific Ministry Pastor program vicar Christopher Reed was recognized this past week at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, together with the entire 2025 Spring Cohort of SMP vicars. To watch the service, I invite you to watch the Thursday, February 6 service through this link. Please keep Chris in your prayers as he is installed this weekend at RLC as SMP Vicar in all services.

Love in Christ, Pastor Jonathan

Prayers of the Church



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



Welcome Brunch for Newcomers

Saturday, February 8 10:00-11:30 am Fellowship Hall

RSVP to Pastor Zach - zach.sarrault@rlcary.org, 919-851-7248



It is with great sadness and in Christian love and hope that we announce that our brother in Christ, **Darrell Moore**, was called to rest with Jesus on January 27, 2025.

Visitation with the family will be Friday, February 7 from 6:00-8:00 pm at Brown-Wynne Funeral Home, 200 Southeast Maynard Road, Cary. Here at RLC, a Celebration of Life in Christ to be held on **Saturday**, **February 8 at 12:30 pm**. Rite of Committal service will follow at 3:00 pm in Raleigh Memorial Park, Raleigh.

Our prayers are with his wife Anita, and their family during this time.

In lieu of flowers, the Moore family would like donations to be sent to the Resurrection Lutheran Church building fund.



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!

Come Support Our Youth! Sunday, February 9 at 12:30 pm

Have fun in fellowship, test your New Orleans and Superbowl trivia, hear from the youth attending the Youth Gathering trip what they are looking forward to, and enjoy some yummy food! We will be serving some traditional New Orleans food as well.

No need to bring any food. Soups, breads and baked goods will be available. Youth will be accepting a *Free Will Donation* to help with expenses for their summer trip. (Participant cost is \$1,860.)

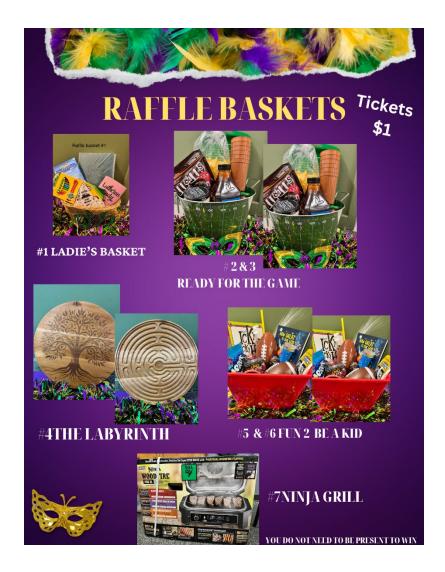






We will also have \$1 raffle tickets for the following prizes: (You do not have to be present to win.)

- 1. <u>Ladies Basket</u> Devotional Bible with Colored Pencils, Dark Chocolate, Stickers, and Key Chain (\$60 value)
- 2. and 3. <u>Ready for the Game</u> Chips, Salsa, Queso, Trail Mix, Beef Stick, M&M's, Sweet Tea, Football Cups, Bucket, and Tray (\$60 value)
- 4. <u>Labyrinth</u> Beautifully handcrafted by a generous RLC Member, this labyrinth has Luther's rose on one side and on the opposite, a tree, and comes with a stand for display. (priceless)
- 5. and 6. <u>Fun to be a Kid</u> Games, Candy, Bible, Adventure Stories, and Some Football Themed Fun for the Big Game (\$40 value)
- 7. <u>Ninja Grill</u> Ninja Woodfire Grill, Graciously Donated by the Newcomb (\$400 value)



Questions? Contact Jenny Piontek, Youth Director jenny.piontek@rlcary.org or 919-851-7248, ext. 24.

Prayer Cards

Visual Faith® Ministry has provided prayer cards by the prayer sheets in the Narthex and the Family Life Center.

We invite you to take a few cards home and add prayer notes for your family and friends for whom you are praying.

As you pray for those concerns, color the card, and then send it to the person with a note that says, "You've been in my prayers this week."

If you have questions, please contact Jamee Thieme through RCB.

Weekly Bible Study Opportunities

SUNDAY

Last Christian Discipleship in an Instant Society

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 am Fellowship Hall January 5-February 9 Bob and Barb Shimmel

New The Herod Family

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 am Fellowship Hall February 16-March 23 Paul Brandt

Attend to better understand the New Testament by learning about the confusing collection of Herods who grew from a simple crime family into the rulers of Judaea and beyond. We will explore their inclusion in Scripture and their connections with the rich and famous like Julius Caesar, Marc Antony, Caesar Augustus, Cleopatra, and more. Along the way, we will tour "Herod's Temple" to see where Jesus confronted the oligarchs of his time, where he taught, where a widow gave her mite, and more. Bring your Bible. There are no materials to buy.

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 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-April 30 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

This Is the Church

Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 pm Room 140, Family Life Center February 12-March 19 Pastor Jonathan Blanke

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 <u>office@rlcary.org</u> or 919-851-7248.

Supper & Scripture Wednesday Evening Activities Schedule

5:00-5:30 pm

Jubilee Bells, Sanctuary

5:15-6:00 pm

Dinner, Gym

5:30-6:00 pm

Rainbow Choir, Sanctuary Sonshine Singers, Choir Room

6:00-7:00 pm

Kidz Live, RM 151

Middle School Youth, Warehouse

Intentional Parenting, RM 240

6:30-7:30 pm Adult Christian Ed

Men with Kids, RM 247 Grace-ful Women, RM 251 This Is the Church, RM 140

6:30-7:30 pm

Heavenly Handbells, Sanctuary

7:00-8:00 pm

First Communion, RM 244 Confirmation, 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!

February 12

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

February 19

Quiche, Salad, Fruit, and Cinnamon Rolls

February 26

Bocci's Lasagna and Pasta Marinara, Garlic Bread, Salad, Fruit, and Cherry Cheesecake

Suggested donation of \$7 per person or \$25 maximum per family. Cash, check, or card payable at door. Please RSVP through <u>rlcary.org</u> 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).



We will learn and review the basic teachings of the Christian faith. Great opportunity for those who are joining us from another denomination or are new to the church altogether.

The Next Coffeehouse for Special Needs Adults

Friday, February 14

We thank all our volunteers who help us to have wonderful Coffeehouses! We couldn't do it without our faithful volunteers. Please come be a volunteer! 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/3VAtWW0

The next Coffeehouse is **Friday**, **February 14** from 7:00-8:30 pm in the Family Life Center gym.

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





Saturday, February 15

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.

The Herod Family

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 am Fellowship Hall February 16-March 23

Plan to attend to better understand the New Testament by learning about the confusing collection of Herods who grew from a simple crime family into the rulers of Judaea and beyond.

Led by Paul Brandt

We will explore their inclusion in Scripture and their connections with the rich and famous like Julius Caesar, Marc Antony, Caesar Augustus, Cleopatra, and more. Along the way, we will tour "Herod's Temple" to see where Jesus confronted the oligarchs of his time, where he taught, where a widow gave her mite, and more.

Bring your Bible. There are no materials to buy.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Join us for the Best All You Can Eat Pancake Supper, Pancake Races, and Fellowship on **Tuesday, March 4** from 5:30-7:00 pm in the Family Life Center Gym!

Free Will Offering with proceeds to the youth attending the Youth Gathering this summer.

We need many hands to make this a success! Please sign up to help.

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

Men's Retreat and Service Weekend

March 7-9, 2025

Mark your calendars for this fun and impactful event!

Friday, March 7 at 6:00 pm - Sunday Morning, March 9

Camp Agape

Theme: Equipped To Be Men of God Study Leader will be Pastor Zach Sarrault.

Reach out to Tom Gebbia through RCB or mens-ministry@rlcary.org to express interest, ask questions, provide input, or volunteer to help.

Save the Date!



RLC Spring 2025 Workday

Saturday, March 15 from 8:00 am-Noon

All are invited; many hands make light work.

Tasks: exterior landscaping spruce-up, others

Please bring:

- electric or gas hedge trimmers; string trimmers
- loppers, limb saws, pole saws
- rakes, tarps, wheelbarrows, step ladder
- debris trailers

Contact Randy Bowling through RCB, or the church office (919-851-7248, office@rlcary.org).

Men's Softball

Attention Men: Spring is just around the corner. Time to grab your glove and cleats and join your fellow church members in representing RLC in the Town of Cary's Men's Open League.

Games will be played Tuesday and Thursday nights late March through June. Practices will start the second or third weekend of March. All sign-ups must be made by March 23.

If you are interested in joining us for some exercise, fun, and fellowship, please see Adam Brake or send an email to mens-softball@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 at 919-851-7248 or office@rlcary.org for assistance.

Children's Ministry News February

Nursery - The Nursery is staffed by screened volunteers Sunday mornings during 9:30 Worship for your Birth - 3 year old child(ren). It is available for family use whenever needed.

Sunday School - Pre-K to 5th graders are welcomed Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:30 for Bible, games, crafts and fun!

Kidz Live - Wednesday Nights from 6:00-7:00 in the Family Life Center (Room 151 and the gym) for Pre-K to 5th graders.

Questions? erika.hulse@rlcary.org

Important Dates:

No Sunday School February 16 Mother Daughter Interactive Tea - March 1 at 11:30 am Easter Eggstravaganza - April 13 at 3 pm



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

Coming Up:

Sunday, February 9:

Sunday School, 9:30-10:30 am in The Warehouse (Room 253) **No** High School Youth Group, 5:00-6:30 pm - Enjoy the game!

SOUP-ER BOWL SUNDAY, 12:30 pm in the Gym. Come support our team that will be going to NOLA this July for the Youth Gathering!

Wednesday, February 12:

Middle School Youth Group, 6:00-7:00 pm

Looking ahead...

No Sunday School on Sunday, February 16. There will be High School Youth Group.

Questions? Contact Ms. Jenny, Youth Director <u>jenny.piontek@rlcary.org</u> 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.

<u>Class openings are currently available</u> for the **2024-25** preschool year.

office@rlpcary.org 919.851.7270





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

Resurrection Lutheran School

Our next PSO Spirit Day is at Duck Donuts! Get yummy donuts this Saturday, February 8 and support the RLS PSO at the Duck Donuts Cary location (100 Wrenn Drive, #101, Cary). This event lasts all day from 6:00 am (for you Saturday early risers!) to 7:00 pm and gives back a generous 25% of all purchases! Be sure to mention RLS PSO when you check out (in-person orders only).



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, February 1 6:00 pm - 38 Sunday, February 2 8:00 am - 116 9:30 am - 170 11:00 am - 111

Total In-Person Worship: 435

Views of Online Worship at RLC's YouTube Channel

Sunday, February 2 8:00 am - 125 11:00 am - 56

Total Online Views: 181 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

<u>rlcary.org</u>

919-851-7248 | office@rlcary.org

Prayers of the Church – February 9, 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

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

Those Prayed for on February 2, 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
- Commissioning of *Craig White as a Stephen Minister
- Lutheran Schools Week Celebrating RLS and RLP
- February Love Month
- Steve, Successful Surgery
- Virginia and John Heilman's 60th Anniversary
- Emerson and Lily Birthday

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, Judy Dean,
 Ruby Franklin, Miriam Delgado, Betty Oglesby, Helen Rice-Lyles, Nancy Waggoner

- *Greta Nelson
- Pastor William Otto, Cancer Treatment and Surgery
- *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
- Steve Cottle, Healing
- Bryon, Recovery
- Marion Cecconi, Mother of *Lecia Roberts
- *Thelma Rhodes, Recovery
- Ingrid, Recovery
- Martha, Sister of *Charlotte Raines
- Pastor Tich Luu, Healing, and Wife Michelle
- Kari Heilman, Daughter-In-Law of *John and *Virginia Heilman, Cancer Treatment
- Chris and David, Sister and Brother-In-Law of *Susan Brandt, Cancer Treatments
- Clare Roberts, Mother of *Michelle Woods, Cancer Treatment
- Roger Loosen, Cancer Treatment
- John and Judy Haraminac
- Alicia, Joan, Sandy, Robbie, Gary, Karen, Paul, Doug, Richard, Rosemary, Alice, Brian, Anne, Marvin, Chris, Ingrid, Karen, Lynne, Roy, Pam, Jan, Rich, Betty, Shannon, Beatrice, Roger, Rebecca, Joe, Harold, Ken, Kelly, Carrie, Debbie, Shim, Dave, Nicole, Patricia, Howard, Justin

For Comfort

- Friends and Family of Esther Martin, Mother of *Esther Robinson
- Friends and Family of Hilda Messner, Mother of Dorothy Connors
- Friends and Family of Melissa Tucker, From Our Blind Ministry
- Friends and Family of Reggie Tate, Colleague of *Chris Alladin
- Friends and Family of *Darrell Moore, Husband of *Anita 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

- Those Affected by the Fires in California
- 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
- *Spencer Hulse, Interview
- Air Crash Victims
- For Selling of House
- Locke and Family, Mental Health
- Thankful for Medical Team
- Safe Travel for Mike Heffner in Asia
- Liz, Surgery Recovery
- Basketball Teams Conference Tournaments

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

 <u>Click here for the Cima Family Newsletter!</u>
- 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.

*RLC Members Updated 2/7/25