

Sixth Sunday After the Epiphany

February 16, 2025



Pastor's Corner for February 16-22, 2025

Life and Death Wisdom from "Adventure Games" (Jeremiah 7:5-8; Psalm 1)

When I was a student at the College of William and Mary in the early 80s, I took a class called "Adventure Games." As you might expect from a class by that name, we did some pretty cool stuff. We practiced rappelling off the back wall of the football stadium before driving to western Virginia to do the real thing on cliffs in the Blue Ridge Mountains. We travelled to New York to learn how to build igloos and survive in snowy, frozen conditions. And back on campus we would sometimes just play "British Bulldog" and other games that would develop our agility and speed. It was a lot of fun. But there was a serious side to

the endeavor, too. You learned early on that trusting the instructor and following her encouragements for survival could be the difference between life and death. There were two ways to approach any challenge in the unforgiving natural world: take the proper precautions and live... or take your chances following your own instincts, and... well, you get the picture.

This "better-of-two-ways" lesson I learned in my college youth is depicted frequently in the Scriptures, only now GOD is the instructor. Psalm 1 reminds us that the "righteous" person focused on the Word of God will be like a tree planted by streams of water whereas the "wicked" who has no reliable Life source will be like chaff blown away by the wind. Jeremiah makes a similar contrast this weekend between the one who "makes flesh his strength," getting by like a shrub that must endure life in a "salt-land marsh" and the one who trusts in the Lord. The latter is like a tree planted by water that never ceases to bear fruit. Isn't it interesting that in both passages the focus is not on a person's "good deeds" or "bad deeds" but rather where that person finds true Life? You can take your chances following your own instincts. But you will always find greater strength in the wisdom that comes down from above!

There's this wonderful series of questions and answers Martin Luther once suggested would be helpful in leading people to discern the better of the two ways throughout their lives. The body and blood of Jesus are the saving medicine for the wounded conscience and the broken heart, mind, body, and soul. What should you do if you wake up one day and do not feel your need for them? First, Luther says, "touch your body and see if you still have flesh and blood." If you do, "believe what the Scriptures say of [your flesh] in Galatians 5 and Romans 7." Second, look around and see if you're still in the world, "and remember that there will be no lack of sin and trouble there...." Third, remember that the devil will let you have no peace. Jesus is risen from the dead! In His Sacrament, He gives us the same body that was nailed to the cross for us... the same blood He shed for us. He does this for our forgiveness, life, and salvation. How can we find what we need in life anywhere else?

What better way then to enjoy the adventure of life than trusting not in ourselves but in the God who wants to always give us what He knows we need

the most? As the catechism puts it, “That person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: ‘Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.’” Thus believing, we not only go joyfully to the altar, where Christ gives us Himself. We find that each new day can be an adventure where we have nothing to fear.

By the grace of God, we stay planted by His Life-giving Word and Sacrament. That’s where we will always find true blessing. That’s where we will always thrive.

Epiphany grace and peace,
Pastor Jonathan

Please note, there will be **no Sunday School for Children and Youth** this week.

Prayers of the Church



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.



**Flowers on the Sanctuary Altar
In Honor of Our 49th Anniversary
by Keith and Dawn Leister**

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!](#)



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.

Led by Paul Brandt. Bring your Bible; no materials to buy.



[Sign Up for Altar Flowers!](#)

In Gratitude

The family of Darrell Moore want to thank everyone for the love and support that was shown to our family. Special thanks to those who served and shared in our time of loss.

Your thoughts, prayers, and fellowship have brought us much comfort.

Weekly Bible Study Opportunities

SUNDAY

New The Herod Family
Sundays, 9:30-10:30 am

Fellowship Hall
February 16-March 23
Paul Brandt

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

***Last* 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

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

Bible On Trial: Beyond A Reasonable Doubt

Mondays, 7:00-8:15 pm

Room 240, Family Life Center

February 24-March 17

Tom Gebbia

Join us for a *combined* Men and Women's Potluck on Monday, February 24 at 6:30 pm.

Biblical criticism, ancient historical voices, the illumination of archaeology, the testimony of first-century followers of Jesus Christ -- all these come to bear on the examination of the reliability of the Scriptures in *The Bible On Trial: Beyond A Reasonable Doubt*.

The case is made that the Scriptures are authentic, dependable, God-inspired and worthy -- not only of our full attention but of our complete faith. In this Men's NetWork Bible study, attorney Craig Parton leads the viewer through relevant points that comprise this important discussion. He asks, "Is this book, the Bible, and its contents-reliable?"

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

Last 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

New Men with Kids - Facing Disaster Like A Man

Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 pm

Room 247, Family Life Center

February 26-March 19

Group Led, Tom Gebbia

Disasters! Life's catastrophes come in many shapes and sizes, and their

unwelcome intrusion leaves us reeling. Grief, profound uncertainty and -- not infrequently -- more questions than can reasonably be answered, rise from its wake. In this devastation, the heart is drawn to look for answers human reason cannot provide. This three-lesson Bible study stresses the importance of relying on God in an age when the specter of disaster is an all-too-familiar occurrence.

***Last* 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 [on our website](#).

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

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.

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 <i>This Is the Church</i> , RM 140
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!

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 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).

RLC Moms Together
galentines

DOWNTOWN APEX
Shop, browse, eat and
enjoy dessert!

February 22
4:30 Shopping
5:30 Appetizer Share
?? Dessert at The Cranky Yankee

Sign up!!

Contact Erika at erika.hulse@rlcary.org

Food & Fellowship for the Blind



Resurrection's Ministry
for the Visually Impaired meets

Friday, February 28

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).



Mothers and daughters of all ages (multiple generations welcome) are invited to an Interactive Tea on **Saturday, March 1** at 11:30 am.

The event will have interactive stations set up that are Biblically based for moms and daughters to explore together. Mini sandwiches, fruit, veggies, sweet treats, and tea will be served.

Cost is \$5 per person. Sign Up: bit.ly/3PIEYoL

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

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).

ASH WEDNESDAY

March 5



8:45 am in the Sanctuary

Imposition of Ashes with Resurrection Lutheran School

7:00 pm in the Sanctuary*

Imposition of Ashes and Holy Communion

All other Wednesday night activities are cancelled, except for rehearsals for Heavenly Handbells at 6:00 pm and Sanctuary Choir at 8:00 pm.

*Live Stream

Men's Retreat and Service Weekend

March 7-9, 2025

Our 2025 Men's Retreat and Service Weekend is **March 7-9** at beautiful Camp Agapé. Pastor Zach is leading us this year.

Our theme is Equipped to Be Men of God. We will have separate sessions on Equipped for Study, Equipped for Service, Equipped for the Word, and Equipped for Witness.

We kick-off Friday evening, March 7 around 6:00 pm with a Cookout/Potluck Gathering at the Retreat House at Camp Agape.

Weather permitting, we will spend most of Saturday morning and afternoon in Service tackling projects throughout the camp utilizing multiple skillsets and capabilities.

Our Study is woven throughout the impactful weekend with sessions Friday night, Saturday morning, Saturday evening, and Sunday morning. Weather permitting, our study venues will be a combination of inside and out.

Weather permitting, we will have an outdoor Worship Service Sunday morning.



Participants have the option to stay overnight at the Retreat House or commute. Our overnight accommodations are optimal at 16 with a max of 24.

As in past years, we provide flexibility to support your schedule and commitments. You can join us for the entire event (preferred), or join us for the Saturday service day, or just the Friday night cookout!

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).

Easter Flowers

Due March 16

Time to order Easter flowers to be used in the Easter services!

Choose from 6" Lily (\$15), 6" Hydrangea (\$20), and 8" Azalea (\$25). Orders are due by Sunday, March 16.

Forms available in the Narthex and Family Life Center. You may also email office@rlcary.org or call 919-851-7248 with your order. Payment can follow.

Make checks payable to RLC and place in Linda Merrill/Office mailbox. Plants are from Williams Plant Farm. You may pick up your plants to take home after the last Easter service on Sunday, April 20.

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

Thank you for all the support shown to the Youth and Adult Leaders at the Soup-er Bowl Fundraiser for the Youth Gathering! [Check out this video from the youth participants!](#)

Coming Up:

Sunday, February 16:

No Sunday School!

High School Youth Group, 5:00-6:30 pm, The Warehouse (Room 253)

Wednesday, February 19:

Middle School Youth Group, 6:00-7:00 pm, The Warehouse (Room 253)

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





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

Resurrection Lutheran School

**Camp Flintlock transported our students back to the 18th century
for an unforgettable experience!**



rlscary.org
Junior Kindergarten-8th Grade

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 8
6:00 pm - 57

Sunday, February 9
8:00 am - 95

9:30 am - 169

11:00 am - 142

Total In-Person Worship: 463

Views of Online Worship at RLC's YouTube Channel

Sunday, February 9

8:00 am - 95

11:00 am - 38

Total Online Views: 133 views

Financial Update - Fiscal 2024/25

January 2025

Budgeted Giving to Date: \$888,125.00

Actual Giving to Date: \$834,081.00

Current Over/(Under) Giving: \$(54,044.00)

Budgeted Expenses to Date: \$845,833.33

Actual Expenses to Date: \$818,783.00

Current Under/(Over) Spend: \$27,050.33

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 – February 16, 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, *Erika Lonseth

Those Prayed for on February 9, 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
- Lutheran Schools Week Celebrating RLS and RLP
- First Responders, Especially Those Responding to the Recent Plane Crashes
- David, Brother-In-Law of *Susan Brandt, On Bone Marrow Transplant List
- *Chris Reed, Beginning his SMP Vicarage and Training
- Theresa, Cancer Remission

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
- 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
- Carrie Heilman, Daughter-In-Law of *John and *Virginia Heilman, Cancer Treatment
- Chris, Sister of *Susan Brandt, Cancer Treatment
- *Paul Brandt's Father in Rehab with Multiple Issues
- Clare Roberts, Mother of *Michelle Woods, Cancer Treatment
- Roger Loosen, Cancer Treatment
- John and Judy Haraminac
- Dale, Graydon, James, Gene, Lois, Karl, Linda, Jean, Ricky, Jessica, Cathy, Tim, Justin, Red, Brian, Kevin, Keith, Mark, Carlton, Carol, Skylar, Anna, Anne, Patty, James, Charles, Paul, Lynn, Darlene, Lori, Glen, Ingrid, Caitlyn, Charles, Roger, Noreen, Sylvia, Shelby, Elio, Joann, Ken, Harold, Kelly, Joe, Dana, Debbie, Dave, Jack, Sandy, Bill, Carrie, Virginia, Darlene

For Comfort

- Friends and Family of *Darrell Moore, Husband of *Anita Moore
- Family and Friends of People Lost in Plane Crashes in Washington DC and Philadelphia
- Family and Friends of Kathleen Hyatt, Sister of Patricia Peterson
- Family and Friends of Pastor Ron Froehlich, by Patricia Peterson
- Family and Friends of Lynn Smith Helms, Sister of *Paul Smith

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
- *Spencer Hulse, Interview
- First Responders and Recovery Teams Working Plane Crash Sites

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
- Chris Reed, SMP Training and Vicarage
- 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
- Life for Uganda
- *Moya Shaw, Dominican Republic Mission Trip
- *Ilea Kuo, Southeast Asia Mission Trip

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.*

***RLC Members**

Updated 2/14/25