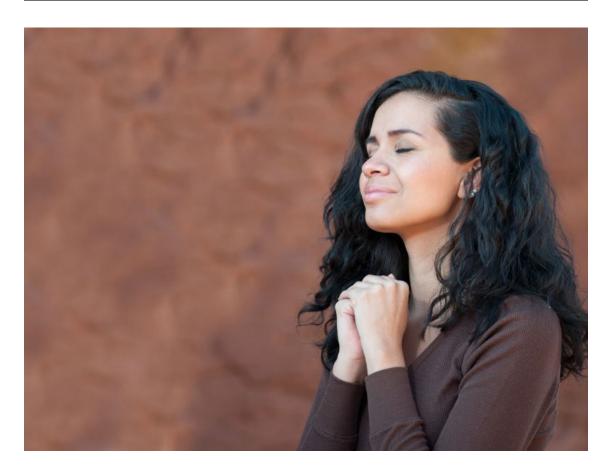
# First Sunday in Lent March 9, 2025



Pastor's Corner for March 9-15, 2025

# Lenten Discipline? (Romans 10:8b-13)

Have you decided on a Lenten discipline? Is there something you are taking on or giving up as we journey with Jesus toward the cross? Whether you have or haven't (and I encourage you to try something!) it's always good to ask the question "why?". Why practice a Lenten discipline? Sometimes we simply try again at whatever New Year's resolution we failed at a couple months ago. Maybe you finally decide to do what your doctor has been begging you to do

for a while now. Maybe you dust off your Bible, working your way into a habit of reading the Word.

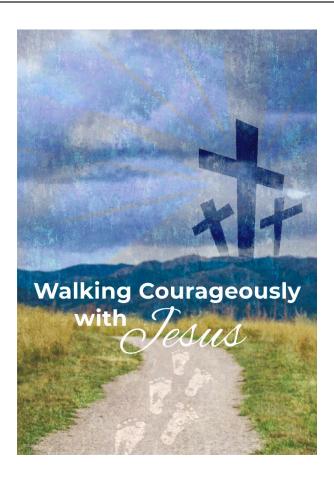
No matter what you may choose, the question of "why?" drives us to wonder who we are doing it for? Are these disciplines for me or for God? Or, to ask the question another way, does God need this discipline or do I? God doesn't need anything. He doesn't need our disciplines or works. He is Lord of all creation, the One who has a name for every single star in the galaxy, He doesn't need anything. And that's a good thing.

These Lenten disciplines are not to benefit God, nor are they to bring God closer to us (Romans 10:6-7). Instead, they can be used to narrow our focus, a reminder of our need for God and what He has done. There may be a time of day set aside for a quiet moment with God. In those times, we may feel closer to Him, but His presence doesn't change. The presence of God comes through His desire to be close to us. The apostle Paul, echoing what God first spoke to the Israelites as they were entering the Promised Land, said, "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (Romans 10:8b, see Deuteronomy 30:14).

The word of faith that is God's presence is in your mouth and heart PERIOD. There is nothing we can do to bring God's presence closer; He is already there. Paul continues, "if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9). That's it! All it takes to be saved by the blood of Christ is simple belief and confession. That's exactly what we do every time we recite the Creed in worship.

Then why do Lenten disciplines? As a participation with our close Savior in the life He has won for us. It's us learning how to live well with Jesus, not the other way around. It's an awesome privilege to grow in our journey with Jesus. First, He saves us by faith alone, then we walk with Him. As we walk with Him, He holds nothing back. Our Savior showers all "His riches on all who call on Him" (Romans 10:12). Whatever God has to give, it's already yours, in your mouth and in your heart. What a beautiful gift that is!

## **Prayers of the Church**



It takes courage to fully approach Lent. Jesus, help me walk in your steps.

Join us in the Family Life Center for Interactive Lenten Worship Services!

### Wednesdays, 6:00 pm March 12-April 9

Families are encouraged to attend.

Dinner is available starting at 5:00 pm. Sign up online.

Note, adjusted schedule during Wednesdays in Lent.

### **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 2025**

Thank you to ALL the many helpers and staff that helped us pull off a fun and delicious Pancake Supper! We had many helpers, and about half were middle and high school kids!

We used 40 lbs. of ham, 25 lbs. of sausage, 25 lbs. of pancake mix! We feed about 150 people and raised over \$1,000 to help send the kids to the LCMS Youth Gathering this summer. Kids of all ages enjoyed the pancake races, too.

Please plan to join us next year for fun, fellowship, and delicious pancakes!



### **Lenten Offerings**

Offerings received during the Lenten Midweek Worship Services this year will go to support two entities: Manna Food Bank and Inter-faith Food Shuttle.

Please place your offerings in the specially marked offering envelopes or denote "Lenten Offerings" on your check. Thank you for your generosity in supporting these important charities and ministries.

### Manna Food Bank

Manna Foodbank is located in Asheville, NC. Founded in 1982, Manna Foodbank is a private, not-for-profit service organization working to end food insecurity in the 16 counties of Western NC, including the Qualla Boundary.

This group was hit hard by Hurricane Helene losing their warehouse and all the food stored there. Our donation will go a long way to help them rebuild and feed our friends impacted by the storm.

mannafoodbank.org

#### Inter-Faith Food Shuttle

Inter-Faith Food Shuttle states their mission is "To feed our neighbors, teach self-sufficiency, and grow healthy foods by cultivating innovative approaches to end hunger." They provide shelf stable food through their pantry, have onsite gardens and administer the Back Pack Buddies program which sends food home with food insecure school children on the weekends.

foodshuttle.org/feed

### **Weekly Bible Study Opportunities**

### **SUNDAY**

### 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

### Men's Weekly Study and Fellowship Bible On Trial: Beyond A Reasonable Doubt

Mondays, 7:00-8:15 pm Room 240, Family Life Center March 3-24 Tom Gebbia

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

### **No Intentional Parenting**

Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00 pm Room 240, Family Life Center January 8-April 30 (Not Meeting During Lent) Pastor Zach Sarrault, Erika Hulse

### Men with Kids - Facing Disaster Like A Man

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 pm Room 247, Family Life Center February 26-March 19 Group Led, Tom Gebbia

### This Is the Church

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 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 <a href="mailto:office@rlcary.org">office@rlcary.org</a> or 919-851-7248.

# Supper & Scripture Wednesday Evening Activities *Lent* Schedule

5:00-5:20 pm

Jubilee Bells, Sanctuary

5:00-5:45 pm

Dinner, Gym

5:20-5:40 pm

Rainbow Choir, Sanctuary Sonshine Singers, Choir Room

6:00-6:45 pm

Lenten Midweek Worship, Gym

7:00-8:00 pm Adult Christian Ed Men with Kids, RM 247 This Is the Church, RM 251

7:00-8:00 pm

Heavenly Handbells, Sanctuary

7:00-8:00 pm

Confirmation, RM 240

8:00-9:15 pm

Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary

### **Wednesday Evening Dinner**

Join us for Wednesday evening dinners during Lent on Wednesdays, 5:00-5:45 pm in the Family Life Center Gym. All are welcome!

### March Menus:

March 12 - Soup and Chili Potluck, Bread, Salad, Fruit, and Cookies

March 19 - TBD

March 26 - Quiche, Salad, Fruit, and Cinnamon Rolls

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).

### Handel's Messiah

On Good Friday, April 18, at the 7:00 pm Tenebrae Worship Service, the Sanctuary Choir, accompanied by a chamber orchestra, will present the Passion portion of Handel's Messiah.

Five choruses, "Behold the Lamb of God", "Surely He Hath Borne Our Griefs", "And with His Stripes We Are Healed", "All We Like Sheep Have Gone Astray", and "He Trusted in God that He Would Deliver Him"; one aria, "He Was Despised"; and three recitatives will interpret the events surrounding the Passion of our Lord.

Plan on attending this special Worship opportunity and bring a friend with you!



Rehearsals for <u>The Messiah</u>, <u>Part II</u>, are held Wednesdays in Lent from 8:00-8:30 pm in the Sanctuary.

If you would like to participate in this special Worship Service presentation, please contact Bob Unger at the church office, or attend the rehearsals.



Let's get moving together while building our faith!

This Lent, join the Stewardship of Life & Health for our "Moving In Faith" fitness challenge. **Every Friday during Lent**, we will meet up in the RLC parking lot and depart promptly at 7:00 am for a journey through nature and scripture.

Weekly faith-based discussion topics will be provided. Walk, ruck, and jog options are available. Expect the journey to last about an hour with option for coffee afterwards. Open to all adults at all fitness levels.

<u>Click here to sign up</u> (not required, but recommended). We hope to see you there!

Contact Art Berger or Anthony Johnson through RCB, or the church office (919-851-7248, office@rlcary.org).

# The Next Coffeehouse for Special Needs Adults

Friday, March 14

We thank all our volunteers who help us to have wonderful Coffeehouses! We couldn't do it without you. Please come be a volunteer! Our special needs guests love to attend these events, 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: <a href="mailto:bit.ly/3VAtWW0">bit.ly/3VAtWW0</a>

The next Coffeehouse is **Friday**, **March 14** from 7:00-8:30 pm in the Family Life Center gym. *Bona Fide Brass* will play for us - thank you, Jim Linn!

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





# RLC Spring 2025 Workday Saturday, March 15 8:00 am-Noon

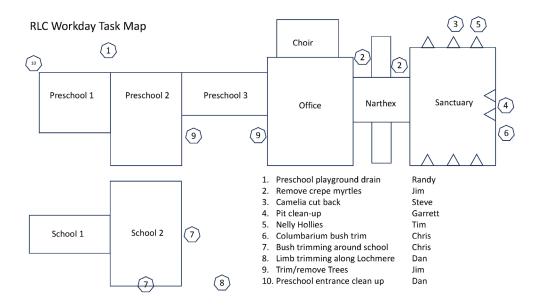


All are invited and many hands make light work.

Tasks: landscaping spruce-up

### Please bring:

- battery or gas hedge trimmers, fuel
- loppers, limb saws, pole saws
- rakes, tarps, wheelbarrows, step ladders
- debris trailers



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

# YOUNG FAMILIESgathering



Join us for fun outside and in the woods!

Bring your hiking boots.

Saturday, March 15 at 4:00 pm

at Home of Doug and Tara Tommas (8801 Mandale Road, Graham NC 27253)

Please bring a dish to pass. Burgers and hot dogs will be provided.

RSVP to Doug and Tara Tommas, or Pastor Zach Sarrault.

### **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 <a href="mailto:office@rlcary.org">office@rlcary.org</a> 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.

### **Blind Ministry**

A big thank you to **Enrigo's**, Italian restaurant in Waverly Place! They provided a delicious dinner for our guests and volunteers at our last meal on February 28.

If any of you are looking for good Italian food, please remember this restaurant. And if you go, please tell them that you are from our church.

The next Food & Fellowship for the Blind will be held on **Friday, March 28** from 5:30-7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Contact Annette Langefeld-Kennedy to learn more and for volunteer needs

### **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.

### **RLS Student Eyeglass Drive**

Helping Others See Clearly

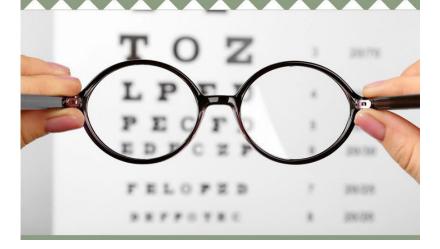
Resurrection Lutheran School students, Charlie (6th grade) and Stella (5th grade) Altenbach, are making a difference by collecting eyeglasses for the visually impaired. Their efforts will help provide those in need with the gift of clearer vision, improving daily life and learning opportunities.

If you have any eyeglasses to donate, consider contributing to their collection. Every pair makes a meaningful impact, bringing hope and clarity to someone in need.

# Eyeglass Donation!

An estimated 120 million people are visually impaired because they do not have the resources for corrective eyeglasses. A lack of corrective eyeglasses denies children and adults opportunities for education, employment and better quality of life.

- Please donate eyeglasses in one of the donation boxes located at the school's front office, next to the gym doors or the Chapel vestibule.
- Broken, old, sun and prescription/nonprescription eyeglasses accepted!
- 100% of your donations will be used for a charitable cause!



Thank you, Charlie and Stella, for your kindness and leadership in serving others!

### **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.





Questions? Contact Erika Hulse, Children and Family Ministry Director, at <a href="mailto:erika.hulse@rlcary.org">erika.hulse@rlcary.org</a> or 919-851-7248, ext. 62.

### **Youth Ministry**

Middle School and High School

I can't thank you all enough for the prayers and support recently regarding my mother-in-law's passing and appreciate all of the people who have stepped up to help!

Thank you, Cyndy Vagle, Sharon Brooks, and Kevin Shaw, for leading High School Youth Group! Thank you, Adam Brake, Jamie Measmer, Derica Justice, Kim Breiler, Diane Hooper, and Nate Hostetter, for leading the Shrove Pancake Supper! Thank you, Kim Breiler, for leading Sunday School on March 9! Thank you, Dave Edeal, Chris Reed, and Kevin Shaw, for leading High School Youth Group on March 9!

### **Calendar**

### Sunday, March 9

Sunday School, 9:30-10:30 am High School Youth Group, 5:00-6:30 pm (Ultimate Frisbee)

### Wednesday, March 12

No Middle School Youth Group during Lent.

Join us for Lenten Midweek Worship at 6:00 pm in the Family Life Center!



### Looking ahead...

### Friday, March 21

All Youth Late Night, 6:00-10:00 pm

**Laser Tag and Games** 

Waivers Needed: Laser Tag Waiver, Youth Ministry Participation Forms

Need a couple of adult helpers for the Late Night: 1 adult for Check In (5:45-

6:15 pm), 1 adult for Middle School, 1 adult for High School. The best part is we can play Laser Tag, too! Woohoo!



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 +





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

### **Resurrection Lutheran School**



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

## **Latest Lion's Tale**



For online services, connect through our YouTube channel at <a href="youtube.com/ResurrectionLutheranChurchCaryNC">youtube.com/ResurrectionLutheranChurchCaryNC</a>
or through our website at <a href="rlcary.org/about-us/online-worship">rlcary.org/about-us/online-worship</a>.

This Week's Visual Faith Sheet

**Weekly Attendance** 

**In-Person Worship Attendance** 

Saturday, March 1

6:00 pm - 74

Sunday, March 2

8:00 am - 92

9:30 am - 191

11:00 am - 98

Ash Wednesday, March 5

7:00 pm - 191

Total In-Person Worship: 646

Views of Online Worship at RLC's YouTube Channel

Sunday, March 2

8:00 am - 107

11:00 am - 40

Ash Wednesday, March 5

7:00 pm - 81

**Total Online Views: 228** 

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

# Church Calendar





100 Lochmere Drive West, Cary NC 27518

rlcary.org

919-851-7248 | office@rlcary.org

#### Prayers of the Church – March 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, \*Kelsey Sarrault, \*Lauren Unger, \*Erika Lonseth

### Those Prayed for on March 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
- Birth of Clara Maeve Yllanes, Parents \*Alex and \*Hannah Yllanes, and Grandparents \*Garry and \*Kristi Grabow
- Anita's 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, Debbie Guice
- \*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, Recovery
- Bryon, Recovery
- Marion Cecconi, Mother of \*Lecia Roberts
- \*Thelma Rhodes, Recovery
- Ingrid, Rehab
- Martha, Sister of \*Charlotte Raines
- Carrie Heilman, Cancer Treatment, Daughter-In-Law of \*John and \*Virginia Heilman
- Chris, Hospice Care, Sister of \*Susan Brandt
- \*Paul Brandt's Father in Rehab with Multiple Issues
- Clare Roberts, Cancer Treatment, Mother of \*Michelle Wood
- Roger Loosen, Cancer Treatment
- John and Judy Haraminac
- \*Alan Sullivan
- Rabih Haddad, Bouchra, Carrie, Virginia, Darlene, Fran, Roz, Carol, Dick, Ricky, Jean, Karl, Linda, Sam, Sara, William, Cathy, Jessica, Megan, Ben, Mindy, Tim, Justin, Red, Brian, Kevin, Keith, Mark, Timmy, Carlton, Carol, Anna, Anne, Patty, Skylar, Richard, Joe, Paul, Chris, Dave, Marna, Ian, Kevin, Ingrid, Christine, Gene, Lois, James, Ruby, Debbie, Noreen, Sylvia, Shelby, Joann, Ken, Harold, Thomas and His Dad, Mike, Bob, George, Debbie, David, Shim, Brent, Charlie, Caroline, Glen, Rose

### **For Comfort**

- Family and Friends of Kitty Jamison, Husband Ron
- Family and Friends of Kathleen Hyatt, Sister of \*Patricia Peterson
- Family and Friends of Janet Piontek, Mother of \*Jason Piontek, Grandmother of \*Emily, \*Ben, and \*Josh Piontek

### 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
- \*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, and Federal Workers
- Victims, Families, and Communities Suffering with Gun Violence
- Wayne and Dorothy Conners, and Their Family
- \*Jim and \*Thelma Rhodes
- \*Anita Moore and Family
- Our Government and Leaders
- Ron, Upcoming Surgery

### 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
- \*Moya Shaw, Dominican Republic Mission Trip
- \*Ilea Kuo, Southeast Asia Mission Trip

#### **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 3/7/25