



## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH

**MARCH 2025**

### *From the Pastor*

As the calendar turns to spring, I appreciate that Lent comes with this new season. The church calendar and my 2025 calendar sing a different tune this time of year. Take that literally! When the calendar turns from February to March, you begin to hear the chorus of creation singing a new song, birds, frogs, insects, children, dogs, wind, and rain. All these beautiful noises that God has designed with His incredible creativity come together in the awe-inspiring symphony of God's creation.

While that's going on outside, a different tune is sung in the church as well. Journeying into Lent, the "Alleluias" are put away for a time, songs and prayers take on a more somber and meditative tone. We remember the cross of Christ and how our sins put Him on that cross. Some of us may even take up a Lenten discipline that brings a bit of suffering into our daily life. We often associate Lenten-time with suffering, which I find just a little ironic since we often associate spring-time with joy.

There can be room for both! Remember, we are always resurrection people, the cross is empty, even during Lent. Because of the tomb is empty, we take time to focus on the cross and what it means for our daily lives. Jesus brings us into His cross when He says in Luke 9:23, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

The idea here is not to intentionally take up a life of suffering. Instead, it is to focus our lives on the cross of Christ, which can include suffering at times. Think for a moment on the physicality of carrying a cross. A cross is big enough that when carrying it, you need empty hands. There isn't room to carry anything else. That's the point Jesus is trying to make! As people of our crucified and risen Christ, He calls us to live wholly for and with Him. There is no time or moment in our lives that are separate from Christ. Our relationship with Him soaks into every particle and atom of the life He has gifted us.



### **Dates of Interest:**

Ash Wednesday.....Mar 5  
Men's Retreat.....Mar 7-9  
1st Sunday in Lent.....Mar 9  
Lenten Midweek.....Mar 12  
Coffeehouse.....Mar 14  
Spring Workday.....Mar 15  
Youth Late Night.....Mar 21  
Discover RLC.....Mar 22  
Taize.....Mar 22  
Blind Ministry.....Mar 28

VISIT US ONLINE AT [RLCARY.ORG](http://RLCARY.ORG)

# Sunday Morning Bible Study

## The Herod Family

**Sundays, 9:30-10:30 am  
Fellowship Hall**

**February 16-March 23**

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.

Led by Paul Brandt.

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## The Pastoral Epistles: Paul’s Last Letters

**Sundays, 9:30-10:30 am  
Fellowship Hall**

**March 30-May 18**

The apostle Paul labored ceaselessly for thirty years to spread the Christian gospel.

Led by Larry Cameron

That’s why Jesus calls us to take up this cross daily and we follow Him. This cross is not our own, but the cross of Christ. The cross that we have been baptized into. The apostle Paul says that “all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death” (Romans 6:3). This cross that we carry is a reminder that our sins have been crucified with Christ, they are dead and we now “walk in the newness of life” (Romans 6:4) that Jesus has accomplished for us.

The song we sing this season is both one of new-spring-joy and routine-Lenten-meditation. They always go together as people of the crucified and risen Christ. Our focus is on the cross we carry, the cross of victorious-suffering of Christ. As we do, I ask, what is your Lenten discipline this season? What will you give up or take on, as you daily live with hands full of the cross?

Your cross-carrying brother in Christ,  
Pastor Zach Sarrault

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## SMP Vicar Christopher Reed Installation

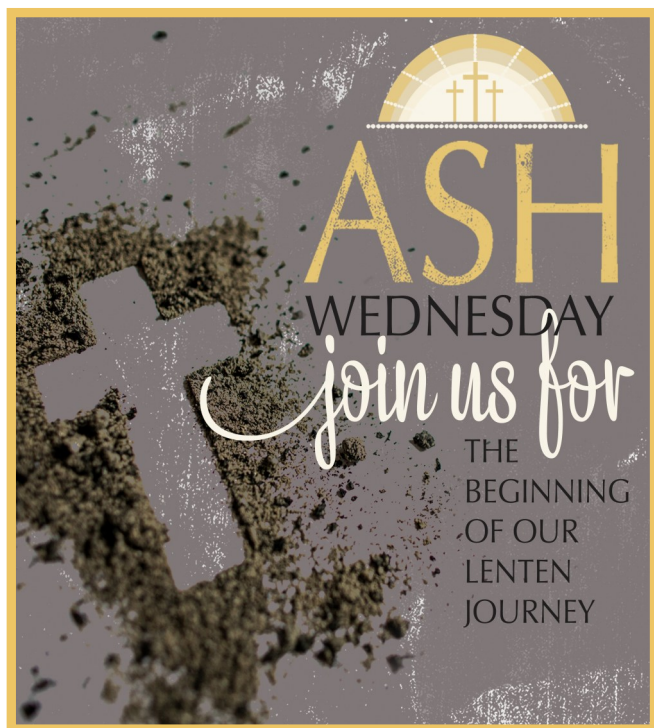
On February 8, Praise Worship Leader Christopher Reed was installed as SMP vicar at RLC. He is enrolled in the Concordia Seminary’s Specific Ministry Pastor (SMP) Program pursuing ordination as an SMP pastor, specializing in Music Ministry.





Worship

## Lent Services



**Wednesday, March 5**

**8:45 am in Sanctuary**

Imposition of Ashes with  
Resurrection Lutheran School

**7:00 pm in Sanctuary\***

Imposition of Ashes  
and Holy Communion

All Wednesday night activities cancelled,  
except for Heavenly Handbells and  
Sanctuary Choir.

\*live stream

*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**

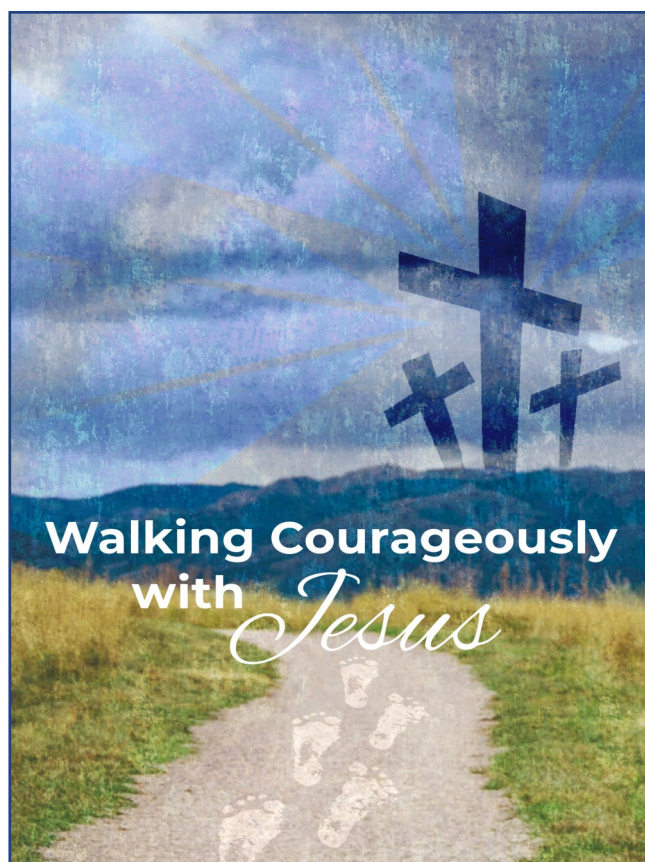
**March 12-April 9**

Families are encouraged to attend.

Dinner is available starting at 5:00 pm.

[Sign up online.](#)

Check announcements for adjusted  
schedule during Wednesdays in Lent.



## Weekly Bible Study Opportunities



### 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

Ongoing until May 19

Jamee Thieme, Sharon Hahne, Dawn Leister

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

Mondays, 7:00-8:15 pm

Room 240, Family Life Center

Tom Gebbia

*Bible On Trial: Beyond A Reasonable Doubt* by Craig Parton, Esq.

March 3-24

*Intersection of Church & State* by Rev. Gregory Seltz

March 31-April 28

### Tuesday

#### **Tuesday Morning Bible Study and Fellowship**

Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 am

Fellowship Hall

Ongoing until May 20

Pastor Jonathan Blanke, Pastor Zach Sarrault, and Pastor Alan Shaw

### Wednesday

#### **Intentional Parenting**

Room 240, Family Life Center

(No Class during Lent)

Pastor Zach Sarrault, Erika Hulse

#### **Men with Kids**

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 pm

Room 247, Family Life Center

Tom Gebbia

*Facing Disaster Like A Man* by Rev. Kurt Klaus

February 26-March 19

*Jesus's Farewell Message* by Francis Chan

March 26-April 30

#### **This Is the Church**

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 pm

Room 140, Family Life Center

February 12-March 19

Pastor Jonathan Blanke

#### **Confirmation**

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 pm

Room 240, Family Life Center

Ongoing until April 30

Pastor Zach Sarrault

[Christian education information, including class descriptions, can be found here.](#)

## February 2025

The February meeting of the 2025 RLC Council began with a short presentation by RLC Member Jon Bohlmann and Squadron Commander Major Witte, who are both representatives of the Civil Air Patrol of Apex, NC. This group of youth, ages 16-21, has met at Resurrection Lutheran for more than 20 years. This squadron has grown from about 30 cadets to more than 80 cadets and needed to move to a larger facility. Major Witte expressed the gratitude of this organization and presented Resurrection Lutheran Church a plaque to reflect this appreciation. The plaque now hangs in the hall by the Church Office. Though the cadets will no longer be training at Resurrection, they will still participate at the monthly Coffeehouse here at Resurrection.

A report of maintenance updates and needed repairs was presented. During the month of December, the lights and some ballasts in the Family Life Center gym were replaced. This has certainly brightened things up!

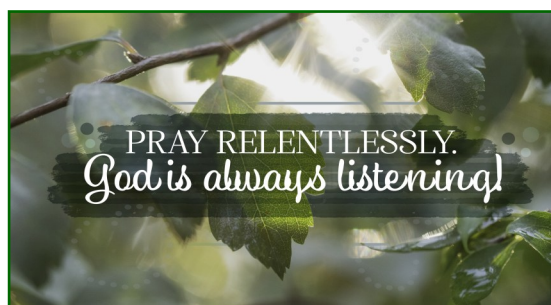
Pastor reported that he and Chris Reed completed SMP orientation in St. Louis for mentors and students during the week of 3 February. Concordia Seminary announced Chris' vicarage assignment to Resurrection Lutheran Church during their morning chapel service on February 6, 2025. Pastor Blanke will be mentoring Chris about 3 hours/week. Chris received his first class assignment and will begin his first distant class lecture on Monday, 24 February. Installation of Chris at RLC was scheduled (and completed) 8-9 February 2025.

In past years, Pastor Blanke has worked with the Church Council to develop the Resurrection Strategy of our Mission Activities. Pastor then presents this each year to the Voter's Assembly. This year, Pastor Blanke, the Council, and RLC Staff met together in February to jointly work on the 2025 Strategy as we continue to reach out to those near and far. Rev. Dr. Travis Guse (LCMS Southeastern District Director of Wellness and Coaching) moderated this strategy session.

The financial report reflected the annual "dip" in giving we see each year at this time. For details, please see the report provided in RCB or the paper copy available to view in the narthex outside the sanctuary. As always, your continued prayerful contributions to the General Fund are encouraged as we work together to continue the Lord's Mission Work here at Resurrection and beyond.

Your Council members are listed below and are willing to take questions and suggestions.

<b>Mike Haertling, President (505) 690-9929</b>	<b>Mark Dirks, Council Member (919) 345-5348</b>
<b>Lori Jannings, Vice President (919) 523-6619</b>	<b>Charles Miller, Council Member (919) 534-5649</b>
<b>Mike Hahne, Treasurer (919) 749-7666</b>	<b>Aaron Newcomb, (2024) Member (919) 645-8005</b>
<b>Mike Heffner, Secretary (469) 644-2049</b>	<b>Linda Mangino, Council Member (919) 538-0104</b>
<b>Tom Bolling, Council Member (847) 922-9555</b>	<b>Ex Officio: Margaret Hyatt, Operations Director (919) 851-7248</b>
<b>Jason Jennings, (2025) Member (813) 440-9112</b>	<b>Ex Officio: Pastor Jonathan Blanke, Sr. Pastor (301) 997-6687</b>



## Gifts & Memorials

### ***To Campus Maintenance Initiative***

In Memory of Darrell Moore

Robert and Joyce Hirt  
Keith and Yvonne Braswell  
Shelia and Troy Hirt  
Janet Wozniak  
The Sisters and Staff  
at Assisi Heights  
Marcia Shaw  
Jeff and Marcie LaPine  
Jamie Kurtz  
Garrett McGhee  
Curtis and Cheryl McGhee  
Katherine Rihani  
Harold and Teri McCarty  
Eydee Persson  
Clinton and Patty Peterson  
Annette Langeheid-Kennedy  
Paul and Barbara Niffenegger  
Sally Van Schack  
Sharon Melvin  
Dean and Sharon Riess  
Jon and Robin Klande  
Anita Moore

### ***To Gifts and Memorials***

In Memory of Darrell Moore

Anita Moore

### ***To Love Fund***

In Memory of  
Bruce Klevenow

Robert and Joyce Hirt

In Memory of Bill Xenakis

Eydee Persson

## *Cross Cultural Mission Engagement Team*

### **Mission Minute**

Cross Cultural Mission Engagement Team (CCMET) is excited to announce that Short Term Mission Grant Requests are now being accepted by the committee. Grants are available to members of Resurrection Lutheran Church for those sharing the Good News of Christ within or outside of the United States.

Grants up to \$500 may be gifted to applicants to help offset the expenses of travel, food, and lodging for the missionary. Grants will be considered by the committee at any time, but it is recommended that they be submitted six weeks prior to the scheduled mission trip.

If you would like to apply for a grant, please email Erika Hulse at [ccmet@rlcary.org](mailto:ccmet@rlcary.org) and she will send you the application form.



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.

[Click here to sign up](#) (not required, but recommended).

We hope to see you there!



## You're Not Alone

You know how to dial 911 in case of an emergency. Did you know there is a separate number for someone experiencing a crisis that they need help addressing, or someone contemplating suicide but is not to the decision point to make it an “immediate 911” type of call? For help in any type of personal crisis, you can dial 988 and reach the National Suicide and Crisis Hotline. For our monthly Stephen Ministry theme this month, we want you to know that if you or someone you know is experiencing a life crisis, you are not alone.

Stephen Ministers are trained lay caregivers providing one-on-one, confidential care to those in need. While we are not trained to replace professional counselors, we are trained to recognize when someone's needs go beyond our ability to provide a listening ear and caring presence. Sometimes we do need professional care and that is where the Crisis Hotline can assist, especially if you don't know where to turn.

Here's what you can expect if you dial 988: You'll hear a message that gives you service selection options. Hold music will play while you are connected to a counselor based on your previous selection. A counselor will introduce themselves and ask if you're safe. They will continue to listen to you, understand how your problem is affecting you, provide support, and share any resources that may be helpful. Counselors have access to a network of over 200 centers across the country. It is a confidential call, and geolocation is not activated (meaning the hotline cannot tell where you are calling from, unlike when you dial 911 and you need responders to know your location).

If you are connected with a professional counselor and decide to continue working with them, Stephen Ministers are still available for you and can work in conjunction with a trained counselor to provide another contact for confidential conversations.

Stephen Ministry is a Christ-centered ministry, and we recognize Christ as the “Curegiver”. Christ knows the hurts and pains that affect us while we're in this body. But we, as the body of Christ, can also come together to support you or someone you love through those hurts and pains of this world. We are in this life together... you are NOT alone.

To learn more about the National Crisis Hotline, [click here](#).

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](mailto:stephenministry@rlcary.org) and ask about how to make a referral to a Stephen Minister.



## Spring Workday



### RLC Spring 2025 Workday

**Saturday, March 15 8:00 am-Noon**

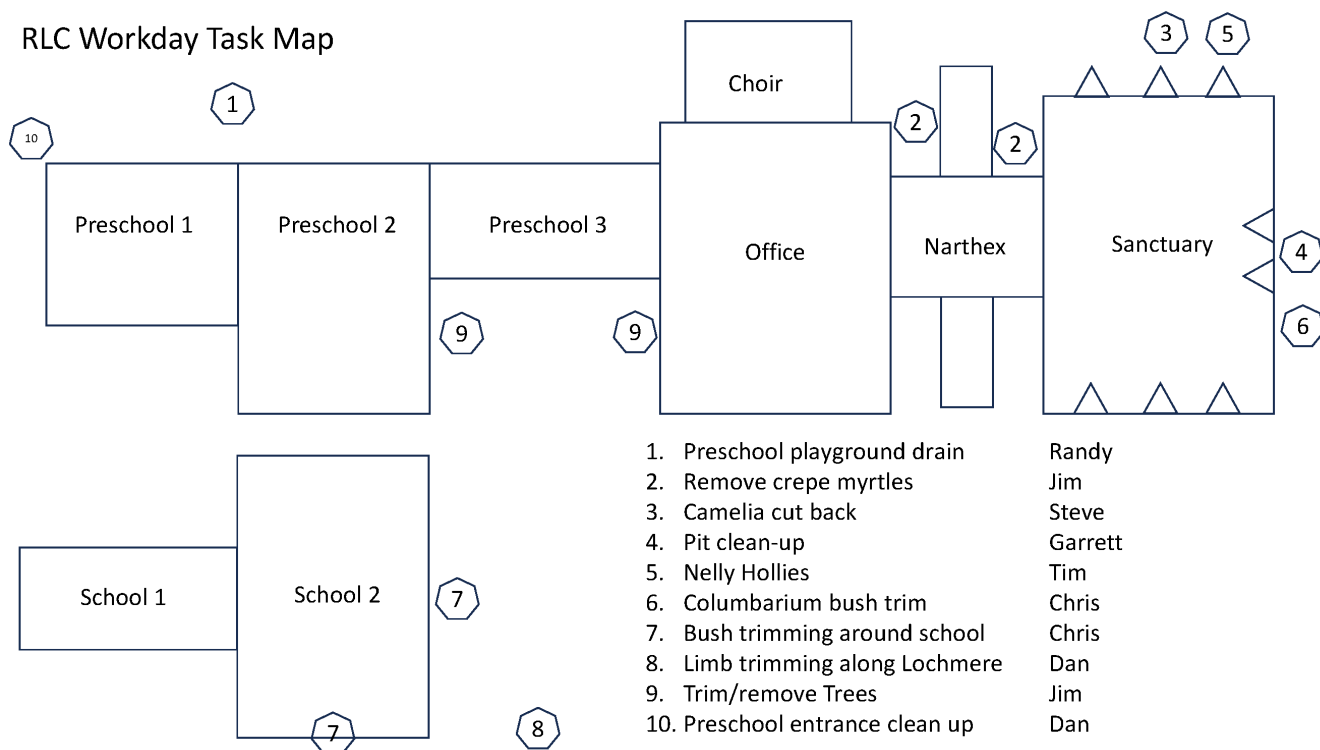
All are invited and many hands make light work.

**Tasks:** landscaping spruce-up

**Please bring:**

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

RLC Workday Task Map





## Human Care Committee

### March News

#### Thrivent Action Cards Can Help Camp Linn Haven in Western NC

Thrivent Financial members can request (2) Action Team gift cards per year. If you haven't used yours yet this year, consider Camp Linn Haven.

Thrivent will approve them as flood relief. One \$250 card is enough to supply one cabin with two new toilets. The camp is hoping to buy in bulk so your card may be enough for three toilets.

**(Clarification: we are not asking you to supply the toilets, only the cards. Camp will purchase with your gift cards.)**

If you can help this year, the physical cards are preferred so you don't have to be present during use. Also please remember to include your zip code when you mail the card as that may be required.

Mail to: Camp Linn Haven, PO Box 1096, Conover NC 28613

Please see the attached flyer detailing other ways to donate to Camp Linn Haven as they prepare to open.

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## Western Wake Crisis Ministry

### Voices of Service - WWCM Volunteer Dara

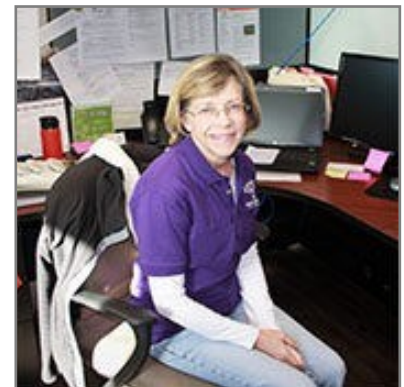
Our very own Dara Linn was highlighted for her volunteer work by Western Wake Crisis Ministry!

"This month, we are thrilled to spotlight one of our dedicated volunteers, Dara Linn, who has been an integral part of the WWCM community for 10 years. Dara's commitment to service and passion for helping others embody the spirit of volunteerism that we cherish at WWCM.

When asked about her experience at WWCM, Dara expressed her deep connection to the organization: "Volunteering here is the best way to live out your faith, whether you are Christian or practice another belief. All faiths aim to help others, and at WWCM, we strive to make the world a better place, one person at a time." Her words resonate with our mission and reflect the heart of our community effort.

Dara primarily serves as a financial assistance volunteer, but she has stepped in to assist in the pantry during slower times, showcasing her willingness to lend a hand wherever needed. Her flexibility and enthusiasm exemplify what it means to be a part of this incredible team.

Dara Linn's remarkable dedication and diverse interests make her a cherished member of our WWCM family. We encourage anyone inspired by her story to join us in making a difference in the lives of others. Thank you, Dara, for your unwavering commitment and all you do for our community!"



## Happy Anniversary!

#### March 5

Ed and Ginny Koren  
60 years

#### March 7

Nick and Elena Balmes  
10 years

#### March 18

Paul and Pat Smith  
45 years

#### March 24

Garry and Kristi Grabow  
35 years

#### March 27

Ron and Carol Bostick  
54 years

## LCMS Youth Gathering 2025

### Super Soup-er Bowl!

Whether your team came out on top or not for the actual Super Bowl, the Soup-er Bowl held by our Youth Gathering Team was amazing! The fellowship, the yummy variety of soups, the fun New Orleans and Super Bowl trivia and raffles, it was a truly blessed event.

The event raised over \$3,000 and we are well on our way to our goal to get us to New Orleans! RLC is an amazing community and our team was so excited to fellowship with you, break bread with you, and share the excitement of attending the LCMS Youth Gathering in July.



Questions? Contact Jenny Piontek, Youth Ministry Directo, at [jenny.piontek@rlcary.org](mailto:jenny.piontek@rlcary.org) or 919-851-7248, ext. 24.

# March Children's Ministry News

March 12, 19 & 26 and April 2 & 9  
Wednesday Night Supper and Scripture  
(midweek dinner and Lenten services)

Join us in the gym for dinner  
followed by an interactive Lenten service.  
Families are encouraged to attend!

Sunday School 9:30-10:30 ~ Every Sunday

Save the Date ~ April 13 for Easter Eggstravaganza



## DONATIONS



### FOR THE EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA

The Children and Family Ministry Team is  
accepting donations of unfilled plastic Easter  
Eggs and individually wrapped candy.  
Items may be dropped off in the church office  
before April 9th!

*Thank you* 



Any Questions? Contact Erika Hulse, Children and Family Ministry Director, at [erika.hulse@rlcary.org](mailto:erika.hulse@rlcary.org).



## Church Workers

Concordia University Chicago is pleased to announce the launch of the **Prepared to Serve: Church Professional Guarantee**.

Beginning in Fall 2025, eligible full-time students pursuing a church work degree will pay a maximum of \$5,000 in tuition and mandatory fees each academic year.

The new tuition rate is available to all full-time church work students enrolled in one of the following undergraduate programs:

- ◇ Classical Lutheran Educator
- ◇ Deaconess
- ◇ Director of Christian Education
- ◇ Director of Parish Music
- ◇ Lutheran Teacher Education
- ◇ Pre-Seminary

The \$5,000 guarantee is made possible by faithful and generous supporters who are dedicated to preparing the next generation to serve in commissioned and pastoral ministry.

For more details, [please click here](#).



**Resurrection Lutheran  
Preschool**

Diane Hooper, Director

[rlpcary.org](http://rlpcary.org)

919-851-7270

[office@rlpcary.org](mailto:office@rlpcary.org)



## 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.**

### Mark your calendar for Summer Camp!

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 am-12:30 pm

**June 9-12**, 9:15 am-12:30 pm

**June 16-19**, 9:15 am-12:30 pm

RLC VBS ~ **June 23-27**

Neighbors, friends, and family  
welcome!

Email for registration form.



## STEM NEWS

We are getting excited about NCTies 2025 Student Showcase which takes place on March 6 at the Raleigh Convention Center!

Our kindergarten students will invite participants to actively immerse themselves in the journey of the pumpkin life cycle. Visitors will be invited to push "buttons" on our student-made interactive life cycle posters. Each "button" will be linked to a Makey Makey circuit. After pushing a "button", each stage of the life cycle will have a student-voiced description. Students will code their voice responses through Scratch (app) technology on a Chromebook.

## STUDENT EYEGLASS DRIVE

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

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

<b>March 4</b>	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
<b>March 6</b>	NCTies Event - Student STEM Teams Attend
<b>March 7</b>	NCTies Event - No School for Middle School Students
<b>March 8-16</b>	SPRING BREAK
<b>March 15</b>	RLC Spring Workday
<b>March 19</b>	Visit from Lake Country Lutheran School Band and Choir
<b>March 21</b>	NJHS Induction Ceremony, 8:30 am
<b>March 26</b>	Third Grade Wax Museum



### Resurrection Lutheran School

Robin Hester  
Principal

Rosie Creasy  
Director of Admissions/  
School Growth

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

### Choose JOY

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Romans 15:13 NIV*

*Mission:*  
Resurrection Lutheran School is committed to educating generations of children in the training and instruction of the Lord. Because of this commitment, we will provide a Lutheran educational experience that is Christ-centered, as well as academically focused for children in junior kindergarten through eighth grade.



## WORSHIP

### Join us for worship!

Saturday, 6:00 pm

Sunday, 8:00 am\*, 9:30 am, and Praise 11:00 am\*

\*Live Stream Services

Connect through our YouTube channel

[@ResurrectionLutheranCary](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCResurrectionLutheranCary)

or through our website at

[rlcary.org/about-us/online-worship](https://rlcary.org/about-us/online-worship)



## LEARN MORE

[rlcary.org](https://rlcary.org) | [office@rlcary.org](mailto:office@rlcary.org) | 919-851-7248

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Blanke, Senior Pastor

Rev. Zachery Sarrault, Associate Pastor

Rev. Alan Shaw, Assistant Pastor

## GIVING

We appreciate your contributions to our congregation. Here are the different ways to make your offering:

- Place in offering plate during worship
- Mail to 100 Lochmere Drive West, Cary NC 27518
- Online through our church website at [rlcary.org/ministries/online-giving](https://rlcary.org/ministries/online-giving)
- Download the Vanco Mobile app to transfer funds from your account

Questions? Contact [finance@rlcary.org](mailto:finance@rlcary.org).

## SOCIAL MEDIA



[facebook.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary](https://facebook.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary)



[instagram.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary](https://instagram.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary)



[youtube.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary](https://youtube.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary)

Newsletter deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Please send submissions to [susan.moore@rlcary.org](mailto:susan.moore@rlcary.org).

100 LOCHMERE DRIVE WEST, CARY NC 27518