



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH

APRIL 2025

From the Pastor

“If It Dies...”

(John 12:23-24)

Have you seen the Yoshino cherry (sakura) tree in front of the main office of our church this year? It burst into bloom several days before I wrote this article. And though today the tree is dropping petals with every gust of wind, the blossoms are still going strong! In Japan, where our family used to live, sakura signify both the transient beauty of life and the discipline and dedication of the samurai spirit — no matter



how short-lived. I find it interesting that though ornamental cherries are grown from cultivars, sakura grown from a seed actually produce fruit.

These tiny cherries are harvested by birds and other creatures who eat the fruit once the blossom petals are spent and have fallen to the ground.

Once the flowers are dead and gone, the fruit of the tree remains! What a meaningful symbol for the Life we celebrate every year that coincides — more or less — with the blooming of the spectacular sakura.

Not long before His death, Jesus invoked an image from his own natural surroundings to describe what He was about to accomplish: “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified,” He said, speaking about His death on a cross. “Truly truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies it bears much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it; and whoever hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life.” Jesus did not have cherry trees in mind when He spoke this parable. He envisioned a stalk of wheat or barley with an ear at the top, clustered with tiny kernels. Yet it is hard



Dates of Interest:

| | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| New Members..... | Apr 6 |
| Coffeehouse | Apr 11 |
| Palm Sunday..... | Apr 13 |
| Easter Fun for Kids | Apr 13 |
| 5th Grade Seder..... | Apr 16 |
| Maundy Thursday..... | Apr 17 |
| Good Friday..... | Apr 18 |
| Easter Sunday | Apr 20 |
| Blind Ministry..... | Apr 25 |
| RLC Day of Service..... | Apr 26 |
| Taize | Apr 27 |

VISIT US ONLINE AT RLCARY.ORG

Sunday Morning Bible Study

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. He established churches in Roman cities and provinces throughout the region. Realizing that his ministry was drawing to a close, he knew that he must assign qualified leaders to oversee these congregations. Paul selected Timothy and Titus, two young men who had traveled and faithfully ministered with him.

In his last years, Paul wrote letters to these dedicated Christian workers to provide them with instructions regarding pastoral oversight for the churches. He would identify the types of persons who would qualify for church leadership and establish their key responsibilities.

As we conduct an expository reading through these epistles, we will hear Paul's voice giving both instruction and encouragement to two of his most reliable assistants men whom he addresses as his "true children."

Bring your Bible.
Led by Larry Cameron.

to miss the connection between sakura and the grain of Jesus' parable: Jesus recognized the time had come that He HAD to die. He realized the moment had arrived that the brief period of His earthly ministry MUST come to an end. It would end with His enthronement and glorification as King by His heavenly Father on a humble cross. Yet all of it was so that He might bear fruit through His disciples and — one day many years later — through such as you and me. He died so that you and I might not just "live" but enjoy abundant Life (John 10:10)... for all eternity!

"Hating" our lives in this world does not mean neglecting our bodies or despising the gift of physical life God has gifted us. It does not mean living as if simple physical pleasures were no longer important. It simply means recognizing where true and abundant Life comes from. It means being gifted by God to leave behind a legacy of faith that He can use to bless others. And even "if we die" ... as people who die in Christ Jesus, all is not over for us. Good Friday and Easter mean we have so much more now AND in the world to come!

So we enjoy the exhilaration of Spring. Images of the dark wintry world springing into colorful life are all around us. What a beautiful reminder of Easter renewal the natural world can be!

The signs of spring mean it is almost time to say it again this year: "Alleluia! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!" I await that glad proclamation together with all of you.

Love in Christ,
Pastor Jonathan

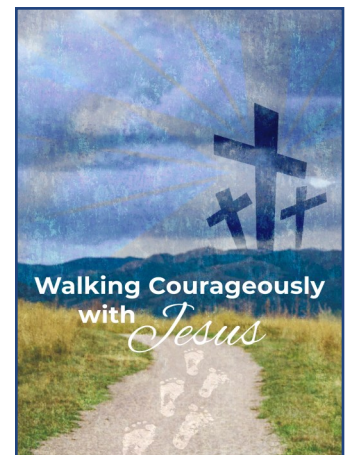
*It takes courage to fully approach Lent.
Jesus, help me walk in your steps.*

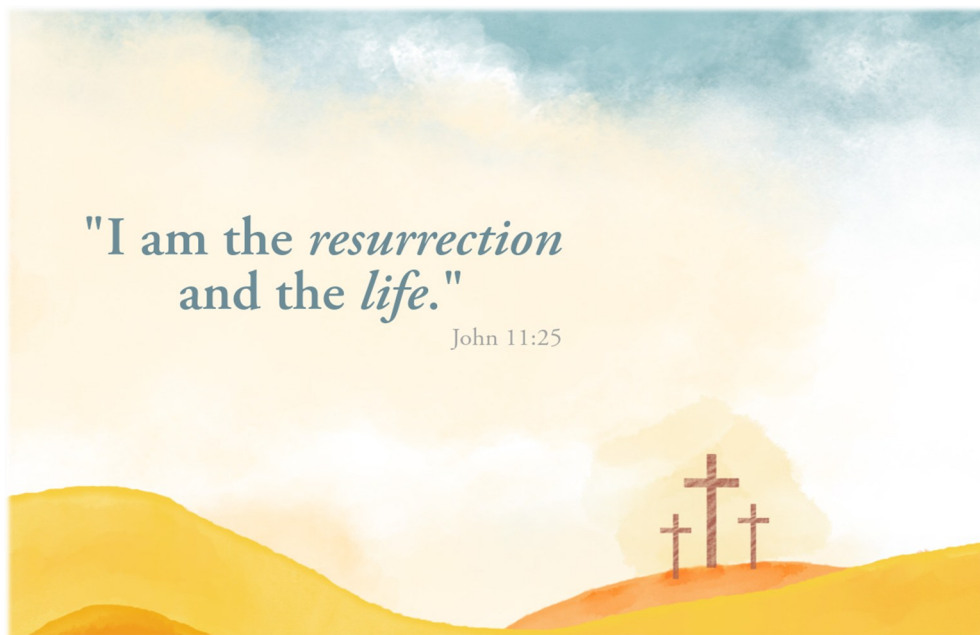
Join us
in the Family Life Center for
Interactive Lenten Worship Services!

**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.





"I am the *resurrection*
and the *life*."

John 11:25

Palm Sunday | April 12 & 13

6:00 pm ~ Sanctuary Worship with Holy Communion on Saturday

8:00, 9:30 am ~ Sanctuary Festival Worship with Holy Communion on Sunday

Led by Sanctuary Choir, Heavenly Handbells, and Brass Ensemble

11:00 am ~ Praise & Worship with Holy Communion on Sunday

Led by Reign! in the Family Life Center

Maundy Thursday | April 17

4:00 pm ~ Sanctuary Worship with Holy Communion

7:00 pm ~ Sanctuary Worship with Holy Communion

(First Communion for 5th Grade Students)

Good Friday | April 18

12:00 pm ~ Sanctuary Worship

Preceded and Followed by a Soup and Salad Lunch

Musical Offerings by Cantus Christe Quartet

7:00 pm ~ Tenebrae Service in the Sanctuary featuring *The Messiah, Part II*

Led by Sanctuary Choir

Easter Sunday | April 20

6:30 am ~ Sunrise Service Begins in Prayer Garden

Processes to Sanctuary, Led by Celebration Singers

8:00, 9:30, 11:00 am ~

Sanctuary Easter Festival Worship with Holy Communion

Led by Sanctuary Choir, Heavenly Handbells, and Brass Ensemble

11:00 am ~ Praise & Worship with Holy Communion

Led by Reign! in the Family Life Center



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

Intersection of Church & State by Rev. Gregory Seltz

Mondays, 7:00-8:15 pm

Room 240, Family Life Center

March 31-April 28

Tom Gebbia

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

Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00 pm

Room 240, Family Life Center

(No Class During Lent)

Pastor Zach Sarrault, Erika Hulse

Men with Kids

Jesus's Farewell Message by Francis Chan

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 pm*

Room 247, Family Life Center

March 26-April 30

Tom Gebbia

Assertiveness

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 pm*

Room 151, Family Life Center

March 26-April 30

Pastor Alan Shaw, Sue Campau

Confirmation

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 pm

Room 240, Family Life Center

Ongoing until April 30

Pastor Zach Sarrault

Please note changes in Wednesday's schedule: no activities during Holy Week (April 16) and class times will resume to 6:30-7:30 pm after Lent (April 23 and 30).

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

March 2025

The March Operations report showed how the RLC staff are making improvements around our campus and keeping the costs to a minimum. This includes changes to cleaning services of the Preschool building, replacement of the campus phone system server – currently scheduled for this coming summer, and security upgrades via addition of one more exterior camera (previously purchased), as well as replacement of exterior lights.

Between the February and March Council meetings, we met with the RLC staff in a retreat setting to discuss our strategic focus for the coming year. This focus session was led by Rev. Dr. Travis Guse (LCMS Southeastern District Director of Wellness and Coaching). Four focus areas were discussed: Church/School Partnership, New Member Engagement, Crisis Care, and Digital Platform. More will be shared in the coming months about how you can help in any of these focus areas designed to help further the Lord's Mission Work here at Resurrection Lutheran.

A recent review of our Church documents revealed a procedural issue that the Council and Voting Members have overlooked since the Resurrection Constitution was revised in 2016. Specifically, all Voting Members are now required to sign the 2016 Constitution. This was not a requirement in the previous Constitution. The Council is currently working on a path forward to become compliant with this requirement and still make this easy for our Voting Members.

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

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



Come for a walk or jog with us every Friday during Lent! Meet in the RLC lower parking lot for your choice of either a 2-mile walk or a 4-mile jog, both departing promptly at 7:00 am.

Weekly Bible verses are provided for discussion on the walk or jog. [Click here to sign up](#) (not required but recommended).

Presented by the RLC Stewardship of Life & Health. We hope to see you there! Contact Art Berger or Anthony Johnson through RCB, or the church office (919-851-7248, office@rlcary.org).

Happy Anniversary!

April 8

Keith and Yvonne Braswell
69 years

April 9

Ken and Shannon Dawe
5 years

April 20

Mike and Nancy Balsamello
50 years

Mike and Roberta Danilowicz
40 years

April 23

Eric and Gretchen Bostick
20 years

Service Opportunity

Are you interested in serving recent immigrants to our community as a volunteer ESL teacher?

Please reach out to our team at ccmet@rlcary.org to let us know.

Music Ministry

Tenebrae Service

HANDEL'S MESSIAH – **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!



Cross Cultural Mission Engagement Team

Mission Minute

The Cross Cultural Mission Engagement Team (CCMET) distributed its first Mission Grant to Moya Shaw for her recent mission trip to the Dominican Republic. Moya traveled with fellow dental students and provided free dental care to local residents.

Moya writes, "We spent our spring break providing free dental care and sharing the Gospel with each patient. Each day, we set up clinic in different churches and in one school, and the pastors and teachers would help us translate as we prayed over every single person that entered. It was truly an unforgettable experience that taught me so much and I am so grateful to everyone that supported me and prayed for me leading up to this trip!"

The CCMET continues to accept grant requests. To request a form, email ccmet@rlcary.org.



Ever Feel Overwhelmed?

I don't think it's a coincidence that April is national stress awareness month, which happens to coincide with filing our taxes. If you're like me and received a much larger bill (not refund) this year, the stress meter may be continuing to tick upwards. What stresses you today? Kids need to get to soccer practice or band or some other sport. Oh, and they need your help with homework (that you too may need to relearn to help them). Our friends, spouses, or significant others would like to spend some quality time with us. We have a business to run or a boss that has four projects to give us on top of the six we're already working. You're leading (or attending) a Bible study next week and haven't looked at the material. The dog is mopey because you've haven't taken her to Bass Lake this week (OK... that may be just me). And through it all, don't forget to eat right and work out because after all, your physical health is important too.

I think my stress level increased just writing that. Feeling the stressors of life push against us can be overwhelming on its own, but sometimes we are the one listening to someone else's stress, and that can feel pretty helpless at times too. When our kids share their stressors, it's not always easy to say "this too shall pass" even though we're sure they will look back and see this through different lenses in ten years. It can also be challenging with friends and family, always encouraging them to "hang in there" and praying that ten years from now will be different for them as well.

Brené Brown says that vulnerability is a strength, not a weakness. So, if you're stressed and need someone who can provide a confidential listening ear, consider reaching out to your Stephen Ministers. You are demonstrating strength in that moment. If you know someone who is struggling, recommend us to them. They do not need to be RLC members to use Stephen Ministry. We are not trained as professional counselors, but we are trained to listen and recognize when professional counseling may be needed.

Peter tells us to cast "all your anxieties on (Jesus) because He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7) and Jesus Himself reminds us, "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." (Matthew 6:34) Ain't that the truth!

[To learn more about Stephen Ministry at RLC, click here.](#) If you or someone you know who could use a listening partner, consider emailing the Stephen Leader team at stephenministry@rlcary.org and ask about how to make a referral to a Stephen Minister.



Men's Ministry

Men's Retreat and Service Weekend

The annual Men's Retreat and Service Weekend was held Friday, March 7-Sunday, March 9 at Camp Agape, near Fuquay-Varina. This year's theme was Equipped To Be Men of God, led by Pastor Zach. We started with a cookout and potluck on Friday evening and moved to service projects on Saturday. They included cutting up a fallen tree, splitting and transporting the wood, blowing debris from roofs and clearing gutters, repairing a split rail fence at the cemetery, and repairing a deck at the Lodge. Study sessions were held throughout the weekend. Great time had by all! Look out for the next year's dates and make plans to attend.



Contact Tom Gebbia at mens-ministry@rlcary.org for more information regarding the events of Men's Ministry.

Human Care

RLC Day of Service

Resurrection has participated for years in dedicated local service projects under the auspices of Operation Inasmuch. We will continue the tradition this year on **Saturday, April 26 from 8:00 am-12:00 pm.**

This Day of Service is a way for us to put our faith into action and make a difference in the life of others. The event starts with breakfast prepared by the Men's Ministry and fellowship in the Family Life Center at 8:00 am. After breakfast, we will divide into groups to complete service projects. There will be activities for all age groups.

The following are organizations that benefit from our help. Most groups stay at RLC to complete their project. A few groups will leave after breakfast to travel to another location to serve.

- Habitat for Humanity of Wake County
- Quilters and Sewers
- Knitters
- Camp Agape
- Prison Alliance
- Western Wake Crisis Ministry ([shopping list](#))
- Families Together
- Cards for Missionaries, Church Members, and Friends
- Project Linus
- The Miracle League of the Triangle
- Landscaping on Church Grounds
- Designed for Joy

[Click here for project descriptions and to register!](#)

Quilters and Sewers



Prison Alliance



Making Cards



Library Tidings

April Update

The RLC Library, Room 151 in the Family Life Center, continues to welcome all readers and researchers. Its purpose is to support the congregation. Resurrection Lutheran School has a different Media Center for their students use.

Please stop in to see what's new in the RLC Library... just in are two graphic novels and some useful reference books. The graphic novels, on display for anyone to borrow, are *Luther: Echoes of the Hammer* and *Katie Luther: Mother of the Reformation*. Reference books include *Finding the Lost Cultural Keys to Luke* by Ken Bailey and the four volume in-depth study of *Lutheran Theology, Christian Dogmatics* by Francis Piper.

For more information, contact Joyce Bocksnick or Ian Glenn through RCB or the church office (office@rlcary.org, 919-851-7248).

April Children and Family Ministry News

Easter Eggstravaganza

Join the fun Sunday, April 13th at 3 pm! There will be a petting zoo, egg hunts, games and activities. Bring a basket/bag for collecting eggs. Invite a friend!

VBS Volunteers

There will be 2 identical volunteer meetings! You pick one!
Thursday, June 5 at 7 pm in the FLC room 151 -OR- Sunday, June 8 at noon in the FLC room 151.
We are in need of volunteers & would love to have you join the True North VBS team!!

Children's Sunday School

Sundays 9:30-10:30 in the Family Life Center.
No Sunday School April 20 - Happy Easter Sunday!



Vacation Bible School
registration for
participants &
volunteers! ➔



Mother Daughter Tea Party 2025

Any Questions? Contact Erika Hulse, Children and Family Ministry Director, at erika.hulse@rlcary.org.

Youth Ministry

Middle School and High School

Matthew 18:20 says, “For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.” Well, we gathered 53 youth on a Friday night last month for a Late Night event. There were High School youth, Middle School youth, Resurrection Lutheran School Middle School youth, and a handful of friends. A large group of young people that didn’t know each other, hadn’t built trusting relationships, and honestly not all are settled in a church home. That’s when God gathers close to us.

Whether we have a small youth group night or a large event like our Late Night, God is close at hand. His presence was felt among adults and youth alike that night whether on the playground playing Gaga Ball or in the gym playing Laser Tag with Nathan, owner of Mission Games, or during our meal time.

I gave them a challenge that night to get to know someone they had never met before. Here’s how I witnessed God working through these youth. At meal time, I set up multiple tables for youth to eat at. They rearranged the room and made large table groups where their entire group had a space at one communal table. Looked a lot like Luther’s Table.

Team goals were set when playing games and suddenly you couldn’t tell who the church kids, school kids, or friends were. Numbers and snaps were being exchanged by the end of the night (that is how youth communicate). My two seekers for our game of hide and seek represented one from the church and one from the school, different ages and genders. The conversation started like this, “Well, since we have to wait for them to hide and we don’t know each other, maybe we should find out some things we have in common.”

Where two or three or 53 teenagers are gathered in faith, God will surely show up. We are so thankful for the God who always shows up to help us have fun in our faith and build relationships with Christ at our foundation.

A huge thank you to Pastor Zach, Jamie Measmer, Jamie Anderson, Leah Robison, and Jenny Beyer for making this event a huge success!



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



Guide kids on the ultimate Alaskan adventure where northern lights glow over majestic mountains, racing rivers, and glistening glaciers. As kids trek the tundra, they'll explore how easy it is to lose sight of what's true in our wild world today. Pointing them toward Jesus, True North VBS shows them that he is a faithful friend we can always trust. He's our True North! Join us on **June 23-27** from 9:00 am-12:00 pm!

[Register today!](#) Cost is \$10 per participant. Payments can be made through [Online Giving](#) or by cash/check to the church office.

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



**Resurrection Lutheran
Preschool**

Diane Hooper, Director

rlpcary.org

919-851-7270

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

NCTies 2025 Student Showcase success! Ms. King's Kindergarten group presented a project called, "Joie de Vivre! Pumpkin Life Cycle from Seed to Harvest." Ms. Barnette's Middle School Quarter 1 STEM Elective presented a fantastic "Rocket Golf Course" using Ozobots. Our Middle School Quarter 2 STEM Elective designed incredible educational apps using code.org. The presentation of Ms. McCuiston's 8th Grade Science class showed how students could apply their curricular skills of research, collaboration, math, and visual arts. One group from Ms. Farmer, Ms. Boyle, Ms. Adams' 7th Grade Math & Science learned about Makey Makey kits and implemented them in creating a variety of games. Another group created models of a tiny house to scale using mathematical calculations. [Check out this video!](#)

PARENT SCHOOL ORGANIZATION (PSO)

From the Book Fair, Cultural Arts events, and Popsicles on the Playground, to the Hootenanny, Talent Show, and Field Day - these are the things our students look forward to all year long, and they happen because our PSO makes them happen. Looking ahead to the 2025-2026 school year, we'd love for every family to find just one activity each semester to be part of. Be sure to stop by the PSO Coffee & Expo on **April 23** — it's a casual, welcoming way to learn more and find your spot. Join us at the new playground shelter from 8:15-9:15 am. (Room 151 in the event of rain).

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| April 10 | Middle School Connections Pizza Party at Ritter Park |
| April 17 | Early Release, 11:30 am |
| April 18-21 | No School, Easter Break |
| April 23 | Parent Coffee Drop-In and PSO Expo |
| April 28 | Bright Star Theater - PSO Family Night |
| | Alice in Wonderland, 6:00-7:00 pm |
| April 30-May 2 | 8th Grade Trip to Williamsburg |



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.

stayCONNECTED

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



LEARN MORE

rlcary.org | office@rlcary.org | 919-851-7248

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Blanke, Senior Pastor

Rev. Zachery Sarrault, Associate Pastor

Rev. Alan Shaw, Assistant Pastor

Christopher Reed, Vicar

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
- Through [Online Giving](#)
- Download the Vanco Mobile app to transfer funds from your account

Questions? Contact finance@rlcary.org.

SOCIAL MEDIA



facebook.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary



instagram.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary



youtube.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary

Newsletter deadline is the 20th of each month.

Please send submissions to susan.moore@rlcary.org.

100 LOCHMERE DRIVE WEST, CARY NC 27518