



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH

JULY 2025

From the Pastor

“That [Your] Hearts May Be Encouraged”

(Colossians 2:2)

Ever known someone who was a great encourager? I’ve had the privilege of knowing a few over the years. One thing I’ve noted: the best encouragers don’t have a hidden agenda or need to control. The only thing they do is... encourage! Encouragement is something that I suspect we could all use a little more of, in our day-to-day lives.

The month of July marks the beginning of a new sermon series at Resurrection: a focus on St. Paul’s letter to the Colossians. How does



Paul see his purpose in writing this letter? “That your hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of God’s mystery, which is in Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” We don’t know the precise nature of the

challenges the Colossians were facing. What we do know is that the Colossians needed encouragement — not advice. Paul seems to sense all the forces that could be at work in and among the church in Colossae to sow discord and division. He has listened carefully to what is happening there. He has much to say. Rather than give them a list of counter-measures or life hacks intended to lead them to “the best life,” St. Paul speaks at length of what GOD has done. Specifically, it is what Christ has done FOR them and how Christ at work IN them brings a hope to the Colossian Christians that Paul prays they will never abandon.



Dates of Interest:

Christmas in July.....Jul 1-31
 Ladies Lunch.....Jul 2
 Church Office Closed.....Jul 4
 Coffeehouse.....Jul 11
 Youth Gathering Send..Jul 13
 Youth Gathering.....Jul 18-24
 Men’s Summer.....Jul 23
 Blind Ministry.....Jul 25

VISIT US ONLINE AT RLCARY.ORG

Gifts & Memorials

For Gifts & Memorials

In honor of
Ayer Justice's Birthday
Larry and Debbie Adams

In Memory of
Michael Collins
Barrett Joyner
Keith and Yvonne Braswell

In Memory of
John Healey
Keith and Dawn Leister
Keith and Yvonne Braswell

You and I, like the Colossians, are a people in need of encouragement. The words of St. Paul to the church in Colossae are God's Word for us today, too. Where do you find yourself most in need of comfort, motivation, or inspiration? I invite you to join us this month, as we walk alongside the Colossians, not focused so much on DOING more. Rather, in this busy summer season, as a people truly needing our hearts to be encouraged, let's rest again in who God has made it to be in Christ! A very blessed summer... and a happy Fourth of July for everyone!

Peace and joy in Him,
Pastor Jonathan



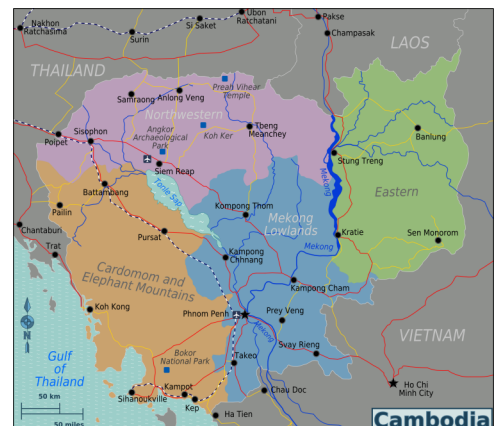
Cross Cultural Mission Engagement Team

Mission Minute

In their latest meeting in June, the Cross Cultural Mission Engagement Team (CCMET) decided to focus Resurrection Lutheran Church's international mission efforts on sharing the Gospel in Cambodia. The CCMET sees this as an opportunity to have a great and lasting impact for our Lord. Few people there are Christian, but many respond positively to learning of the Good News of Jesus Christ.

The team will focus on coordinating efforts with our missionaries the Cima Family and several other LCMS organizations. The CCMET is learning more about mission needs and opportunities in Cambodia. In 2026, members of the CCMET expect to travel there to finalize opportunities for Resurrection Lutheran Church members to become engaged by attending or supporting future short term mission trips.

If you are interested in learning more about future mission trip opportunities or ways you can support cross cultural mission work at RLC, please email the CCMET short-term mission contact Erika Hulse at ccmet@rlcary.org.



Have You Taken Your Temperature Lately?

In our fast-paced world, I sometimes overlook the importance of checking in on my own wellness. And when I do, I usually end up focusing on the “symptom of the day” rather than looking at the big picture. Just as we use blood pressure and temperature to help monitor our immediate physical well-being, the LCMS has a Wellness Wheel to help you determine your well-rounded wellness. This resource can help you assess which areas are strong and which areas may be showing signs of “infection” and need attention.

This month, I included links to other SED Wellness blogs and RLC resources that you may want to check out as well.

Physical wellness is perhaps the most tangible aspect of the wellness wheel. It involves maintaining a healthy body through regular exercise, proper nutrition, and adequate rest. It's been my New Year's resolution every year with the determination that this year will be different. It ain't easy, for sure, but my [Giant Leap](#) is still edging towards my goal.

Emotional wellness involves understanding and managing our emotions. It includes being able to express feelings appropriately, cope with stress, and enjoy life. We can fill our toolbox with resources that help [ground us](#) and keep our emotional temperature from rising during times of stress, anxiety, or sadness.

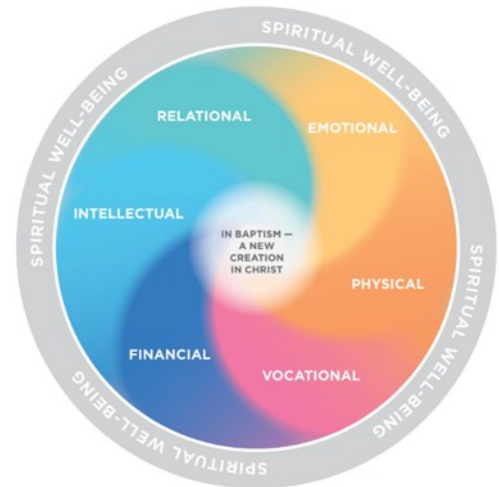
Intellectual wellness is engaging and stimulating activities that expand our knowledge and skills. This may be easier for someone in school or thinking of transitioning to a new job and needs training, but it can start to wane (especially in this new world of AI) if we don't take the time to intentionally exercise our intellect through reading, solving puzzles, or learning a new hobby.

Relational wellness refers to the quality of our relationships and our ability to connect with others. Just as our body temperature can fluctuate, our relationships can rise and fall based on stressors and conflict pushing between us. Relationships that are forced [for the sake of the kids](#) can eventually implode, which is where my ministry of reconciliations seeks to assist couples, churches, and organizations that are in conflict.

Vocational wellness is about finding satisfaction and enrichment in our work or volunteer activities. The SED has a great resource in Travis Guse's work, “Called 2 Be”. [Check it out](#) to see what you can do when your vocational temperature is rising and leading to stress and unhappiness.

Spiritual wellness involves our relationship with God, our relationship with ourselves, and our relationship with others. It's an area we can sometimes overlook in our journey to improve the other areas on the wheel, but you'll notice it the one aspect that encompasses all areas of wellness. You can check out your spiritual temperature by understanding your [spiritual intelligence](#).

To learn more about Stephen Ministry at RLC, [click here](#). RLC has many resources and teams that you can [check out here](#). There are several resources here at RLC to help in each of these areas, like our Stephen Ministers, our Stewardship of Health and Life Team, career mentoring and coaching, Christian Conciliation and pastoral care, as well as the [SED's coaching network](#). So what's your “temperature”? Is it time to get it looked at?



July News

Summertime Safety

The Stewardship of Life and Health Team wants everyone to be safe outdoors. Here are some important tips to help you have fun in the sun and enjoy the great outdoors while celebrating this summer.

Fireworks are often used to celebrate during the summer months. It is recommended that firework displays are left to the professionals because fireworks cause thousands of injuries each year and are unsafe in the hands of consumers. This includes sparklers, which account for 29% of injuries to children under the age of five. Sparklers burn at 1200 degrees Fahrenheit. Did you know that more than 31,000 reported fires are started by fireworks annually? 38% of injuries treated in emergency rooms are burns associated with the use of fireworks. Children younger than 15 years old accounted for 28% of firework-related injuries. Half of the firework injuries consisted of hands, fingers, or legs. One-third related to the eyes or other parts of the head.

There are alternative ways to celebrate without the use of fireworks as well. Families and friends can use glow sticks, noise makers, or red, white, and blue silly string. They might want to consider making a patriotic craft or hosting an outdoor movie night or birthday party to honor the USA, but don't forget the cake!

Another part of the celebration might be grilling some yummy food. Here are some tips to help keep grilling fun and safe. Only use your grill outside and keep grills away from siding and deck rails, note that it is the heat from the grill, not necessarily a flame, that causes melting of siding and charring of deck rails. While grilling, keep children and pets at least 3 feet away from the entire circumference of the grill in a "safe zone" to keep them from getting burned. After each use, clean your grill to remove grease that could lead to potential fires. Open your gas grill before you light it to avoid a flash fire. If using a charcoal grill, place the coals from the grill in a metal can with a lid after they have cooled. Keep the can outside. Lastly, keep an eye on your grill, firepit, and patio torches. These items should never be left unattended.

Being intentional with your safety choices around summer celebrating is the key to enjoying the blessings of the summer sun with family and friends!

Written by Jolynn Van Wart, a retired firefighter and public fire and life safety educator. She is a member of the Stewardship of Life and Health team whose mission seeks to improve the health and wellness of RLC members of all ages through medical assistance at church services, physical fitness and fellowship, and general health education and counseling.



Outreach Service to the Community

Christmas in July

Christmas in July is here! The Human Care Committee is sponsoring our Christmas Giving Tree in July. This effort will give our congregation the opportunity to support these organizations that assist families working to stabilize their housing and financial situations.

The Christmas tree is located in the Narthex of the Sanctuary from July 1-31. The tree has numerous ornament "tags". Take a tag (or 2) and return it to the tree with the requested item and tag next time you are at church. No need to wrap them!

This year our gifts will benefit Green Chair Project (thegreenchair.org) and Families Together (famielstogethernc.org).

Blessings on your summer and
thank you for your support,
Human Care Committee



Men's Ministry

Summer Gatherings

During the summer, we are meeting up for casual gatherings. Enjoyed our time together at the Tap Station in Apex during our June event!



All men welcome! Our next event will be **Wednesday, July 23** from 6:30-8:30 pm at the Cleveland Draft House in Fuquay Varina. Contact Tom Gebbia at mens-ministry@rlcary.org.

Happy Anniversary!

July 1

Curry and Kari Huskes
20 years

July 4

Barry and Pam Gardner
50 years

Andy and Lisa McCorkle
10 years

July 6

John and Joyce Bocksnick
51 years

July 14

Bob and Julie Glenn
35 years

July 22

John and Jennifer Collins
25 years

John and Deanna Leuenberger
64 years

Jason and Betsy Moll
30 years

Paul and Barbara Niffenegger
53 years

July 29

Jack and Darlene Bartels
58 years

July 30

Ralph and Carol Klevenow
65 years

July 31

Doug and Tara Tommas
10 years

Free Evening Seminar

TRIANGLE FAITH.ORG

Sunday, August 10, 2025

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Revealing Jesus: Christ's Fulfillment of the Old Testament

Jesus' words are saturated with the Old Testament. He speaks of Himself and His work as the fulfillment of everything promised by Moses and the prophets. Everything! From Genesis to Malachi, every word drips with Jesus. Let's take a look at how Jesus uses the Old Testament to make His person and work known. We'll examine specific Old Testament texts to understand them in their original context and then see how Christ fulfills them. Not only will our appreciation of the Old Testament grow, but we will have a deepened insight into what the New Testament teaches us of Christ.

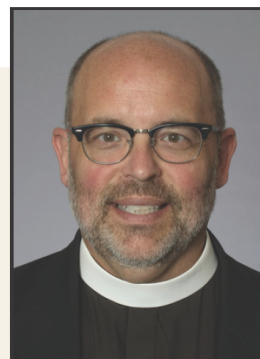
- Walking with Jesus to Emmaus: Christ's Self-Reference to the Old Testament
- Reading the Old Testament on Its Own Terms
- How the New Testament Reads the Old Testament

Workshop Location

Hosted by: Jordan Lutheran Church

Location: 309 Holleman St., Apex, NC

TriangleFaith.org is a cooperative effort of congregations in The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod that seeks to bring the message of forgiveness to the greater Raleigh Triangle community.



Dr. Kevin Golden
Associate Professor of
Exegetical Theology

Dr. Kevin Golden is associate professor of Exegetical Theology, dean of Theological Research and Publication, and director of Resident Field Education at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He joined the faculty in 2021.

Golden's research experience includes Hosea, biblical usage of the divine name, Genesis 6-9, Jonah, the Book of the Twelve (Minor Prophets) and biblical intertextuality.

He is the author of *Blessed Be His Name: Revealing the Sacred Names of God* (Concordia Publishing House, 2021), *God's Own Son Is Born A Child* (Concordia Publishing House, 2019) and *LifeLight: Minor Prophets* (Concordia Publishing House, 2009). He contributed to the festschrift, *The Mercy of God in the Cross of Christ: Essays on Mercy in Honor of Glenn Merritt* (LCMS, 2016).



**Concordia
Seminary**
ST. LOUIS

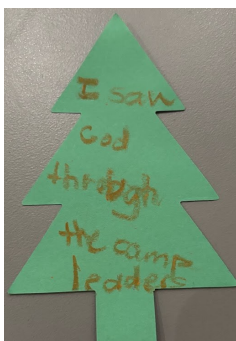
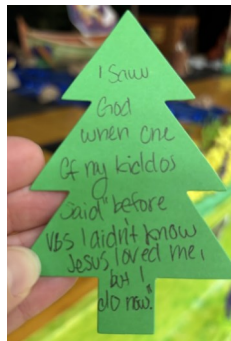
Children and Family Ministry

Vacation Bible School

We had an amazing week with your child(ren) at True North VBS, Resurrection Lutheran Church. 136 children learned to trust Jesus when they wonder, feel alone, feel powerless, need hope, and need help!

Everyone enjoyed the Wild Bible Adventure accounts, Sticky Scripture memory verse fun, Imagination Station experiments and lessons, Glacier Games team building fun, and our awesome Sing and Play Openings and Compass Closings. And we had over 70 volunteers help make VBS fun and engaging for the kiddos.

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



Youth Ministry

Middle School and High School

It is finally almost time to leave on our adventure to New Orleans for the **2025 LCMS Youth Gathering!** So what is the LCMS Youth Gathering? According to lmsgathering.com, “Held every 3 years since 1980, the LCMS Youth Gathering provides thousands of youth and adults the opportunity to come together as a community of God’s people to be encouraged in their walk with Jesus Christ and learn about the Christian faith and their Lutheran identity.” What does a day look like or what do we do? Here is a sneak peak of a scheduled day for us this year while attending the Gathering:

Sunday, July 20

- Wake Up and Breakfast @ 8:00 am
- Leave for Bible Study at the Convention Center @ 9:00 am (Bible Study from 10:00-11:30 am)
- Attend topical classes, mini concerts, participate in mini mission projects, experience the interactive floor, explore the LCMS booths (like the Concordia schools), and squeeze in lunch time from 11:30 am-5:00 pm
- SED special gathering with tour of Mardi Gras world, dinner with music in old, historic mansion, and then traveling together to the Superdome for our nightly Praise and Worship (and possibly a concert) from 5:00-8:00 pm
- We end every night with a trip to the Superdome for our Praise and Worship and deep dive into our theme verse (Hebrews 12: 1-3). We sing, we laugh, we cry, we praise God, and we do it with about 20,000 other LCMS youth and adults from around the world from 8:00 pm-12:30 am (give or take).
- Walk the 1.5 miles back to our hotel where we will have Family Time to check in
- Then showers, lights out, and SLEEP hopefully by 1:30 am

Tired yet? Don’t worry, tomorrow is the SAME! It is a jammed pack week for everyone involved to really explore and be encouraged in their journey with Christ. Our church was selected to participate with an onsite service opportunity. So, Monday we will be packaging food for the Orphan Grain Train. We will also be doing some sightseeing to let the youth and adults on our team really explore the culture of New Orleans. We will visit the WWII museum, Jackson Square Cathedral, Cafe Du Monde, riverwalk, French Market, and anything else we can stuff in.

How can you help? Keep our team in your prayers! We fly out July 18 and return home July 24. Pray for our safety, our health, and our mission while there to learn more about our faith and continue to grow in Him. You can also come be a part of our Sending Service on Sunday, July 13 during 11:00 am worship. Come meet the team, check out our awesome t-shirts for the week, and send us out with His blessing!

Youth: Avery, Cameron, Jay, Lily, Wyatt, Alec, Chip, Ben, Josh, Eva, Jonah, Nicole, Rachel

Adults: Jenny, Erika, Jason, Jen, Dave, Adam

YAV (Young Adult Volunteer): Spencer Hulse

Flex Volunteer: Leah Robison

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



ENDURE
2025 LCMS YOUTH GATHERING
HEBREWS 12:1-3



**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.*

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

We hope you're enjoying a restful and joy-filled summer! Here at RLS, we are already hard at work planning for an exciting and meaningful 2025-2026 school year! We're also thrilled to share some updates, changes, and new additions to our faculty and staff in [our latest newsletter](#).

SAVE THESE DATES

The PSO will be selling gently used uniforms on **August 11-13**.

We invite all parents to join us for Parent Orientation Night on Wednesday, **August 13** at 6:00 pm.

Then, on Tuesday, **August 14**, we'll kick off the school year with a half-day. School doors will open at 8:15 am and dismissal will begin at 11:30 am.

Our 6th-8th grade students will travel to the North Carolina mountains again this year for our Fall Retreat at Camp Linn Haven. The retreat will be held from **August 25-28**.



**Resurrection Lutheran
School**

Robin Hester
Principal

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



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



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Newsletter deadline is the 20th of each month.

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

100 LOCHMERE DRIVE WEST, CARY NC 27518