



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2025

From the Pastor

The Beauty of God’s “New Year’s Resolution” to Us

(Luke 2:21)

On this New Year’s Eve morning, as I was driving over to church, I overheard a podcast about New Year’s resolutions. It was predictably full of all the conventional wisdom we usually hear at the start of the year:

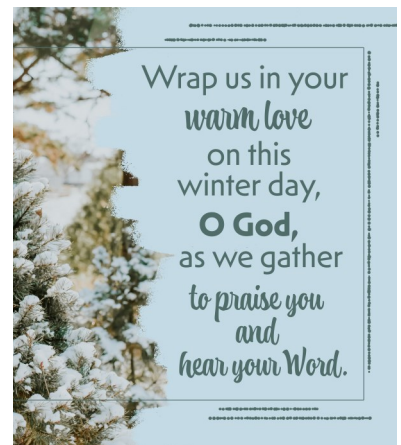
- Young people (between the ages of 18-29) tend to be in the demographic most inclined to make New Year’s resolutions;
- New Year’s resolutions tend to be most often associated with saving money, losing weight, exercising more, or eating healthier;
- A 2016 study revealed that of the 40% or so of Americans who set resolutions, only 9% felt they were successful in keeping them... 23% of those setting New Year’s resolutions had given them up before the end of the first week and 43% quit by the end of January!

And so on. You get the idea. It’s not that resolutions are bad. There are other podcasts or blogs that (of course) give advice about how to set and achieve New Year’s resolutions successfully. If you are reading this



with New Year’s resolutions firmly in place for 2025, my prayer is that you find personal success in achieving the goal or goals you set for yourself. There’s no denying what can happen for the better when people establish achievable and personally gratifying objectives for themselves... no matter the time of year. It’s just that January 1

is notorious for being a trigger for low self-esteem when folks make the effort to do something differently and end up realizing how difficult “doing something differently” can be.



Dates of Interest:

- New Year’s Day.....Jan 1
- Fitness Kick Off.....Jan 4
- Christ Ed Begins.....Jan 5
- Ladies Lunch.....Jan 8
- Weds. Eve Returns.....Jan 8
- Coffeehouse.....Jan 10
- Men’s Breakfast.....Jan 11
- MLK Day Holiday.....Jan 20
- First Responder.....Jan 25
- Blind Ministry.....Jan 31

Sunday Morning Bible Study

Christian Discipleship in an Instant Society

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

January 5-February 9

Eugene Peterson's book, *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*, uses the fifteen Songs of Ascent (Psalms 120-134) to provide the text for developing "discipleship in an instant society."

As with the Jewish people who sang, spoke, or prayed these psalms on their trips back to the hilltop city of Jerusalem for their holy days, we will, with the author's insight, learn how we can still live according to what God wants us to be.

We will review each psalm, understand its scriptural background and purpose, and how it helps us to relate as a Christian in today's world. For example, the major theme of each will include insights for Christian areas like Worship, Joy, Hope, and Blessings.

This series can be an excellent way for each of us to prepare for our journey in upcoming Lenten season.

Weekly summary handout will be available. Book can be found on Amazon.

Led by Bob and Barb Shimmel.

The good news is that January 1 is more than just a date for us to welcome in as New Year's Day, with or without resolutions attached. January 1st is also the 8th day after Christmas. That means it is also the day the Church celebrates a feast day known as "Circumcision and Name of Jesus" Day. There might not be anything built into that day having to do with champagne at midnight, a crystal ball drop near Times Square, or human resolutions to more faithfully work out in the gym. But January 1 is the day the Church gives thanks for GOD'S successful resolution to save us! January 1 is the day we celebrate how Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple to be circumcised and named "Jesus" (God saves)... how God inaugurated Jesus' saving work through the shedding of His own blood for us... and how that saving work would continue until the day Jesus shed His blood on Calvary's cross, rescuing us from sin, death, and the Devil. It's a rescue delivered to you and me through God's Word of promise and the water of Holy Baptism. If the question "When were you saved?" had anything to do with us and our ability to make lasting resolutions, we would all be in trouble. Because it has everything to do with the life and death of Jesus and GOD'S resolution to rescue us, it can never — ever — be in doubt.

The weeks and months ahead will give us the opportunity at RLC to celebrate God's saving work through Holy Baptism and witness His successful resolution to save at work in the lives of His people. Won't you join us in 2025 as we are confirmed again in God's successful resolution to be at work in and among us... by His grace?

God's abundant blessing in Jesus be with us all in 2025 and beyond!

Peace and joy in Christ,
Pastor Jonathan



**Sign up for Altar Flowers
in the Sanctuary
or Family Life Center!**

Flowers are from Cary Florist
and cost \$45.

Contact the church office
or click the link below.

[Sign Up Online Here!](#)

Church Council News

December 2024

The final meeting of the 2024 RLC Council was conducted on 10 December 2024, two days after Resurrection Lutheran Church (RLC) Voter's Assembly. During this meeting, we welcomed our newest member, Jason Jennings who will begin serving in January on the 2025 RLC Council. Jason is a life-long North Carolina resident. He and his wife, Martha, have been members of Resurrection since 2022 and generally attend the 11:00 am Sunday Worship Service. They have two sons, Jackson (7) and Max (5). Max is in kindergarten at Resurrection Lutheran School.

We also say goodbye to Aaron Newcomb who served on the Council for the past two years. Aaron brought a helpful perspective to the Council from a newer parent with an information technology perspective. We thank Aaron for his service to the RLC Council and for his continued service as a regular usher on Sunday mornings.

One of the first orders of business for this final 2024 Council meeting is to elect officers for the 2025 Council. The 2025 Council officers elected are Mike Haertling (President), Lori Jannings (Vice-President), Mike Hahne (Treasurer), and Mike Heffner (Secretary).

Financial reports were basically the same as presented at the Voter's Assembly two days prior. Other items reported to this Council included a reschedule of the new gutters that will now take place on 18 December 2024. And, one of our part-time janitors (Matt) left so the Resurrection School decided to hire a cleaning service (bonded and insured). The church will use current janitorial support to complete the few items left behind by Matt.

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	Aaron Newcomb, (2024) Member (919) 645-8005
Mike Heffner, Secretary (469) 644-2049	Linda Mangino, Council Member (919) 538-0104
Tom Bolling, Council Member (847) 922-9555	Ex Officio: Margaret Hyatt, Operations Director (919) 851-7248
Jason Jennings, (2025) Member (813) 440-9112	Ex Officio: Pastor Jonathan Blanke, Sr. Pastor (301) 997-6687

Outreach Service to the Community

The Coffeehouse

The Coffeehouse at RLC was highlighted in the LCMS Southeastern District Blog on December 4. The article included the humble beginnings with the help of Kathy Rasmussen, a 20 year volunteer who has since passed the torch to current leader, Brenda Peterson.

"The story of Resurrection's Coffeehouse ministry is one of a self-described introvert who overcame her fears to help serve a group of people who society sometimes overlooks."

To continue reading, [Community Outreach Spotlight: Resurrection's Coffeehouse - Southeastern District, LCMS.](#)

Join us for the next Coffeehouse on **Friday, January 10** from 7:00-8:30 pm in the Family Life Center Gym.



Adult Christian Education

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

January 6-May 19

Jamee Thieme, Sharon Hahne, Dawn Leister

Men's Weekly Study and Fellowship

Living a Life of Purpose: Adding Value to Others

Mondays, 7:00-8:15 pm

Room 240, Family Life Center

January 6 and 13

Joe Bastante, Tom Gebbia

Nurturing Your Faith: Patient Urgency

by Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

Mondays, 7:00-8:15 pm

Room 240, Family Life Center

January 20-February 17

Tom Gebbia

Tuesday

Tuesday Morning Bible Study and Fellowship

Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 am

Fellowship Hall

January 7-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

January 8-February 19

Pastor Zach Sarrault, Erika Hulse

First Communion

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 pm

Room 244, Family Life Center

January 8-February 19

Tyler Timm

Men with Kids

Book of Jonah

Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 pm

Room 247, Family Life Center

January 8-February 19

Tom Gebbia

Confirmation

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 pm

Room 240, Family Life Center

Ongoing

Pastor Zach Sarrault

Grace-ful Women

Scandalous Stories: A Sort of Commentary on

Parables by Daniel Emery Price and Erick Sorensen

Wednesdays, 6:30-7:30 pm

Room 251, Family Life Center

January 8-February 19

Shane Jarvis

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

Service Opportunity

Join the Chair Team!

A New Year's Resolution Request from Me to You

Happy New Year. I hope you have recovered from all the Christmas wrapping paper and cardboard boxes and food and snacks and eggnog and cookies and leftover and...(sorry, I got a little side tracked there for a minute).

I don't know about you, but I really enjoyed sitting on the cushioned seats for the 6pm Christmas Eve service. Did you know we could sit in those chairs every Sunday? It's true. There's just one problem: no one has



answered the call to join the chair team. We've dwindled to just two people to set up every Sunday.



How many people do we need? I'm glad you asked. An "army" of 6 people set up for Christmas Eve in about 30-minutes. The problem is that 4 of those 6 people are doing other things to prepare for various worship services on Sunday, which leaves

us with the original two. A team of 6-10 people could set the entire Family Life Center up in about 15-20 minutes.

Have you been looking for a New Year's Resolution that serves everyone who attends the 11am Sunday services and the guests who visit? Here's an urgent request: join the "army" of chair team volunteers. It's not hard work, but it is necessary.



I'm looking for about 10 people from the 8am, 11am, and/or Saturday night services to stand up and say, "Pick me" (9:30am worshippers will be in service already during the setup). If you're looking for a New Year's Resolution, contact Pastor Alan at alan.shaw@rlcary.org and he'll help make the connection.

Gifts & Memorials

For the Love Fund

In Honor of Ryan James Pockock's Baptism

Grant and Brenda Peterson

For Gifts and Memorials

In Honor of Case Justice's Birthday

Debbie and Larry Adams



Outreach Service to the Community

Christmas Store

Jamee Thieme and Linda Crandall loaded up and delivered the **225 toys** (and two gift cards) for the Christmas Store at United Church in Apex. Smaller items were contained in the large black bags.

The Christmas Store staff was very appreciative of our congregation's generosity, once again. They wanted to share that 951 children's parents will be able to shop for and receive toys this month.

They expect to have "excess toys," and those will be delivered to children in Western Carolina affected by Hurricane Helene.



Middle School and High School

Youth Ministry News

THANK YOU

**PARENTS NIGHT OUT
WAS A BIG SUCCESS!**

Over \$800 raised!

**YOUTH & ADULTS WHO ROCKED THE
CHAOS... YOU ARE TRULY THE COOLEST!**

**Cameron, Lilia, Nicole, Rachel,
Alec, Ben, Jonah, Josh, Wyatt
Elam and Emerson**

**Huge Thanks to Mr. Adam, Mr. Dave,
Ms. Erika, Ms. Erin & Ms. Jen S!**

Questions? Contact Jenny Piontek,
Youth Ministry Director

jenny.piontek@rlcary.org or
919-851-7248, ext. 24

Children & Family Ministry News

January 2025

Important Dates:

January 5 - Sunday School resumes
9:30-10:30 am

January 5 - New Bible Buddy Adoption
9:30-noon

January 8 - Kidz Live & KICKS 6-7 pm

January 25 - Family Service Project



First Responder Family Service Project



Saturday, January 25

10:00-11:30 am

in the Fellowship Hall



**Families will build snack baskets
for local first responders
& deliver them.**



Sign up here:



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

Outreach Service to the Community

Families Together

On December 30, a fire broke out in the Families Together emergency shelter apartment building on Polly St. in East Raleigh. The blaze spread quickly, forcing the families to evacuate with nothing but the clothes on their backs. The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

Thanks to the quick action of one resident who alerted everyone else in the building about the fire, the 5 adults and 12 children staying in the shelter escaped unharmed. A resident's emotional support cat is missing; the team is making efforts to find him.

We are deeply grateful to the Raleigh Fire Department for their swift response in extinguishing the fire. The families are now temporarily housed in a local hotel. We also extend heartfelt thanks to the American Red Cross of North Carolina - Greater Triangle Area for providing immediate resources and support.

Our priority is meeting the urgent needs of these families. The Families Together team is actively providing hotels, meals and other essentials, as well as emotional support, during this difficult time. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

These families need your help now more than ever. Your generous donation will help with the emergency response for the families - their housing, meals, clothing, counseling, and other critical needs - and our recovery efforts. Thank you for your support and compassion during this challenging time.

If you are called to do so, please give at famiestogethernc.org/general-donation or to Families Together, PO Box 14395, Raleigh, NC 27620, with a note designating funds for "Fire Relief."

Questions? Contact Executive Director Jennifer Paul at jennifer@FamiliesTogetherNC.org.



**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!

Forms coming soon!

STEM NEWS

We are beyond excited to let everyone know that all six of our NCTies 2025 Student Showcase proposals have been accepted!

All of our middle school students will be attending in March 2025, as well as our middle school teachers. We are also very proud to say that we have our first kindergarten group going to NCTies, too.

Wish List: Sphero Bolt +, Lego Spike Kits

ANNUAL FUND

Thank you to everyone who has already contributed to this year's Annual Fund! Your generosity is helping us take exciting steps toward our goals, like becoming a STEM School of Distinction, enriching our cultural and music programs, and continuing to enhance safety on our campus.

2025-2026 ENROLLMENT

Enrollment is now officially open to the public! We are thrilled that the vast majority of our families have re-enrolled and excited to be welcoming many new siblings to RLS in the fall.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- January 6** Return to School
- January 17** Early Release, 11:30 am
- January 20** No School, Martin Luther King Day



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/@ResurrectionLutheranCary)

or through our website at

rlcary.org/about-us/online-worship



**Resurrection
Lutheran Church**

By Grace Through Faith For Service

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

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
- Download the Vanco Mobile app to transfer funds from your account

Questions? Contact finance@rlcary.org.

SOCIAL MEDIA



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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