

# Second Sunday in Advent

## December 3, 2023

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### *Pastor's Corner for December 3-9*

#### **Ongoing Repentance (Mark 1:1-8)**

Maybe it's because so much preparation is required for one thing or another this time of year that the words of John the Baptist ("Prepare ye the way of the Lord!") seem to add yet another item to our expanding "to-do" list. We hear the call to repentance from John the Baptist and are tempted to sigh out loud. "OK. Add church duties and worship services to the list of things that have to get done in December," that inner rascal says! Of course, I hope and pray that worship and service IS on your short list of things to do this season. But what does John the Baptist really mean... and how does his message impact our waiting— and receiving— Jesus?

John's words have to do with repentance. But repentance is often misunderstood.

There are two kinds of repentance. One kind happens once-and-for-all... when the Holy Spirit calls people to faith in the Lord of the cross, and there is a 180-degree turning... from unfaith to faith, from death to life. But there is also another kind of repentance, an ongoing repentance for followers of Jesus. This ongoing repentance occurs whenever the Holy Spirit leads us to encounter God's holy Law, own up to our own brokenness, and receive the grace of God to find wholeness today and renewed strength for tomorrow. Ongoing repentance never stops! As Martin Luther once famously wrote, "Our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, when He said ['Repent!'], willed that the LIFE of believers [emphasis mine] should be repentance." Ongoing repentance, then, isn't a matter of going from unfaith to faith. And it isn't necessarily a matter of our "doing" anything at all. It is all about being led by the Spirit from a recognition of our own shortcomings in the eyes of a holy God to gratitude: gratitude to the One who forgives us and loves us in Jesus, despite those shortcomings. It is all about the cross of Jesus, where we find lasting peace and true spiritual restoration. "Preparing the way" only happens in the first place because of the unexpected victory already accomplished by the One who has come...is coming now...and will come again.

This Advent we hear again the call to "Prepare the way of the Lord." Let's focus first and foremost on the power and the mercy of the One who is coming: our Savior, Jesus Christ. Resting in the mercy of our loving Lord Jesus we can be sure that the truly necessary preparations of the season have already been taken care of.

### **Calling All Car Owners**

If you are looking to upgrade your current vehicle this season and already own a serviceable car that someone else can use, I encourage you to consider donating your used vehicle to a family in need and to contact the Resurrection Lutheran Church office ([office@rlcary.org](mailto:office@rlcary.org)) for more information. A family in our church community, currently relying on carpool assistance in order to maintain present employment and income, is in great need. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

In peace and joy,  
Pastor Jonathan

## Prayers of the Church

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"Restore us, O God," cries the Psalmist, in every appointed Psalm for these weeks leading up to Christmas. This year, we center our Advent worship on the theme of God's gift of restoration! We experience together God's turning our hearts back to Him, God's gift of peace and forgiveness, and God's unexpected work in life's wilderness places that can even bring dreamlike joy (Psalm 126:1). Come, Lord Jesus!

### **December 3 ~ 2nd Sunday in Advent**

Sanctuary Services - Saturday 6:00 pm, Sunday 8:00 am\*, 9:30 am

Praise - Sunday 11:00 am\* in the Family Life Center

### **December 6 ~ Wednesday, 6:00 pm\***

Holden Evening Prayer in the Sanctuary

[For full listing of all the Advent services, click here.](#)

Services marked with an asterisk (\*) will be live streamed online [@ResurrectionLutheranCary](#).

You can also view services afterward through the [Online Worship](#) page.

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## Reaching Out with the Love of Christ to all People through Advent Offerings

Each Season of Advent, RLC designates a local, regional, and international ministry to support in reaching out with Christ's love to all people. This year, the following organizations were chosen:

**Lutheran Services Carolinas / Wake County Ukrainian Refugee Program**, a human services organization focusing on seniors, children, families, and refugees. They help new immigrants transition to our life and culture in Wake County through their New Americans Program, with housing, jobs, and other support resources, and have a special fund for Ukrainian refugees in our county.

[Learn More](#)

**LCMS Maui Disaster Relief**, providing food, housing, supplies, school placement, pastoral care, licensed therapeutic care, and other sustaining and ongoing support systems for immediate and long-term assistance since the recent fire in Maui, working through local Lutheran congregations.

[Learn More](#)

**Holy Land Christian Solidarity Cooperative** (via Dr. George Ghanem who visits RLC each year with his olive wood carvings fundraiser), helps Christian families survive and remain in their homeland in Bethlehem and the surrounding area, providing basic necessities for housing and everyday needs, especially now with the war in the middle east.

[Learn More](#)

Please use the Advent Offering envelopes or indicate 'Advent Offering' on memo of checks.

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## Stephen Ministry

Faith Junghahn completed her Stephen Leader training in August and is serving with the Stephen Leaders here at RLC! We are excited to have her join the Leadership team but unfortunately her job has deployed her overseas for the next two years, so we haven't been able to hold a commissioning ceremony.

Faith will be commissioned when she returns and meanwhile will join our Leadership meetings and contribute as she can to the publicity for and leading of the Stephen Ministry.



Congratulations, Faith! We look forward to commissioning you and celebrating your return. Keep Faith and the family in your prayers.

**We're looking for people to join the Stephen Ministry.** Training is provided so you don't have to feel like you're being asked to do anything without a support system behind you. Training starts January 7, 2024.

We only ask that you prayerfully consider this ministry. Look for anyone with a Stephen Minister badge or email Pastor Alan at [alan.shaw@rlcary.org](mailto:alan.shaw@rlcary.org) for more information.

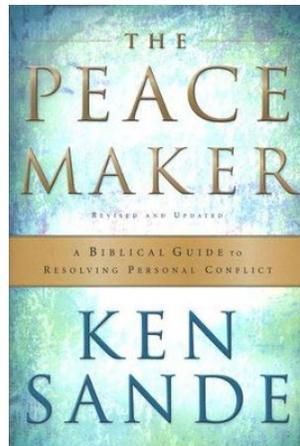
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## Sunday Adult Christian Education

**Conflict Produces Opportunities**  
**Sunday, December 3 from 9:30-10:30 am**  
Fellowship Hall

Conflict is difficult for some; others seem to thrive. There are different ways to view conflict, but it always produces opportunities: opportunities to serve God and serve one another.

This study, led by Pastor Alan Shaw, will look at how we handle conflict and the “Four G’s of Peacemaking.”





Baptized on Sunday, December 3 at 11:00 am

**Savannah Grace Lambert**

born April 15, 2022,

and

**Levi Austin Lambert**

born March 17, 2023

daughter and son of Jake Travis Lambert and Amy Nicole Lambert.

Godparents are Allen Richard and Sandy Holden.

*May God's blessing be upon Savannah Grace and Levi Austin  
as they grow in their baptismal grace.*

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## The Christmas Store Toys for Children

We are excited again to partner with The Christmas Store Toys for Children! The Christmas Store exists to provide the gift of new toys at Christmas to children in low-income families by engaging volunteers in meaningful community service. Following the instructions of Jesus, The Christmas Store is designed to help families in the towns and cities of southern Wake County who are in need during the holidays.

**Please return the toys unwrapped by December 3.** Gifts can be placed under the trees in the Narthex and Family Life Center.

You can volunteer to assist on the days of the store (December 8, 9, and 11). To volunteer, sign up through their website at [The Christmas Store - christmasstorenc.com](http://TheChristmasStore-christmasstorenc.com).



• YOUNG FAMILIES •  
*gathering*



Join us for the next Young Families Gathering  
on **Sunday, December 3 at 4:00 pm**  
at the home of Ian and Derica Justice.

Please bring a wrapped Christmas present for the White Elephant Gift Exchange (one per family) and an appetizer and/or dessert to share. RSVP to Pastor Zach, Derica or Ian Justice.

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### From The Church Council

Dear RLC Voting Members,

One of the responsibilities of the Church Council is to maintain an active council membership composed of nine (9) elected members of the congregation.

Per the RLC ByLaws,

- The normal term of office as a member of the Church Council is two years.
- The Nominating Committee is instructed to seek candidates from RLC's membership.
- Any member of the congregation may propose a candidate for Church Council membership to the Nominating Committee (Officers of the Church Council + Senior Pastor, ex-officio).

The names of the nominees (with bios) will be published to the members of the congregation at least twice before the Election Meeting of the Congregation. Currently, six Council members are coming to the end of their terms. They are all eligible to run again and have chosen to do so. A separate email has been sent to the congregation that includes their bios. We are always looking for others who are interested in serving on the Council.

Presently, the Nominating Committee of the Church Council is requesting any member of the RLC Congregation to nominate candidates for the Church Council. Please send your candidate(s) nominations to a member of the Nominating Committee: Mike Haertling, Lori Jannings, Mike Hahne, Mike Heffner, or Pastor Jonathan Blanke **by Sunday, December 3.**

Thank you very much for considering service as a Council Member.

Yours in Christ,  
Michael Haertling, Council President

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### **Voter's Meeting**

Sunday, December 10

The next Voter's Meeting will be held on **Sunday, December 10** at 12:45 pm in the Family Life Center.

The agenda will include election of 6 Council Members, Pastor's Report, Treasurer's Report, Resurrection Lutheran School Report, Resurrection Lutheran Preschool Report, and an update from the Endowment Committee.

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## Weekly Bible Study Opportunities

### Monday Night Women's Bible Study

Join us in person on **Mondays, 7:00-8:00 pm** in Room 151, Family Life Center. We will be using a variety of single session Advent studies from November 20-December 11. For more information, please contact Jamee Thieme through RCB.

### Men's Weekly

Join us for the Men's Weekly on **Mondays, 7:00-8:15 pm** in Room 240, Family Life Center, for fellowship and study. Contact: Tom Gebbia

This eight-week study of *The Chosen, Season 3*, runs from October 16-December 4 and led by Ron Bostick. Discover what it means to belong to and be blessed by God. We all have to choose: the wide road that leads to destruction or the narrow path that leads to life. The third season of the groundbreaking television show, *The Chosen*, picks up with how Jesus' followers apply His teaching to their lives.

### Tuesday Morning Bible Study and Fellowship

This ongoing study meets **Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 am** in the Fellowship Hall and is led by Pastors Jonathan and Zach.

God gives His Word to instruct, guide, and bless our lives. The Scripture lessons in worship offer a menu every week to build up the people of God in faith and hope. We will study the lessons for the following Sunday, and as we do, we expect that this Word will enrich and edify our community prayer, faith, and servant life in Christ.

### Mama Bear Apologetics... Also for Papa Bears

Both Tuesday and Wednesday Mama Bear sessions will pause during Advent. They will resume on Tuesday, January 2 and Wednesday, January 3.

### Christ and Culture

Join us for a study of *Christ and Culture* on **Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 pm** from October 25-December 13 in the Fellowship Hall. Contact: Pastor Jonathan Blanke

This 7-week guided conversation on the relationship between Christ and Culture, introduced by Dr. Jon Diefenthaler, former LCMS Southeastern District President and Concordia Seminary scholar, of H. Richard Niebuhr and his classic book. We will discuss: How has the Christian church understood the relationship between Christ and culture historically? How do we understand that relationship today? What does all of this mean as we strive to live out the Gospel of Christ and serve our God who is King of both the "secular" realm as well as the realm of the Church? We will probe these questions using the context of current events.

### **Men with Kids**

Join us for a study of *The Book of Romans: Part 2* on **Wednesdays, 7:00 pm** in Room 247, Family Life Center. Contact: Tom Gebbia

The Book of Romans is considered by many to be one of the most important books ever written on the Christian faith. Writing to Christians, the apostle Paul defines the gospel, explores its depths, and discusses its significance and implications for the Christian life.

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

Any questions can be directed to the church office at [office@rlcary.org](mailto:office@rlcary.org) or 919-851-7248.

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**Wednesday Night Workshop**  
**Advent Schedule**

<p><b>5:00-6:00 pm</b> Dinner, FLC Gym</p> <p><b>5:00-5:30 pm</b> Jubilee Bells, Sanctuary</p> <p><b>5:30-6:00 pm</b> Rainbow Choir, Sanctuary Sunshine Singers, Choir Room</p> <p><b>6:00-7:00 pm</b> Advent Worship Service</p>	<p><b>7:00-8:00 pm</b> Adult Christian Ed <i>Christ and Culture</i>, Fellowship Hall <i>Men with Kids</i>, RM 247, FLC</p> <p><b>7:00-8:15 pm</b> Confirmation, RM 240, FLC</p> <p><b>7:00-8:00 pm</b> Heavenly Handbells, Sanctuary</p> <p><b>8:00-9:00 pm</b> Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary</p>
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**Wednesday Night Dinners**

Our dinners are thoughtfully prepared, catering to all ages with a kid friendly, buffet-style setup. We will have a fantastic vegetarian option available upon

request. Plus, a delectable dessert to satisfy your sweet tooth. An excellent opportunity to bond with family and friends over a sit-down meal!

**Wednesday Night Dinner**  
**5:00-6:00 pm in the Family Life Center Gym**

**All are welcome!**

Suggested donation of \$5 per person or \$20 per family.

Cash, check, or card payable at door.

[Please register by Sunday evening here.](#)

**Menu for December 6:**

Baked Ziti, Garlic Bread, Salad, Fruit, and Brownies

**Interested in volunteering to help with set up, serving, and cleaning?**

[Sign up here.](#)

If there are any individuals or groups that would like to contribute to preparing a WNW dinner, we would love to have you!

Questions? Contact Kim Simpson through RCB or the church office (919-851-7248, [office@rlcary.org](mailto:office@rlcary.org)).

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**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Prayer Shawl Participants: Rebecca Melland-Kuo will be dropping off hats and scarves for the Neighbor to Neighbor group in mid-December. Please have your donations turned in **by Sunday, December 10.**

Have you thought about joining the Prayer Shawl Ministry? Did you know that we make more than just prayer shawls? We also make hats from preemie to adult sized,

scarves for kids to adults, and blankets!

Interested, but don't know how to knit or crochet? We will teach you! We even have supplies you can borrow to learn on. We meet the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month from 4:00-5:30 pm in Room 240, Family Life Center.

Do you know someone who needs a prayer shawl? Contact Betsy Moll to arrange a time to meet.

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### **RLC Worship Servants**

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 ([office@rlcary.org](mailto:office@rlcary.org), 919-851-7248) for assistance.

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## Children and Family Ministry News

December 2023

### Upcoming Events:

- December 1 - Parent's Night Out, 5:30-8:30 pm, Family Life Center Gym
- December 3 - Young Family Gathering at the Justice Family Home, 4 pm
- December 7 - KICKS (3rd-5th grade) Gathering, Fellowship Hall, 6:30-7:30 pm
- December 10 - No Children's Sunday School
- December 15 - Mom's Together Group, 9:30-11am, Fellowship Hall
- December 17 - Sunday School Children sing in the beginning of Worship at 9:30 am
- December 24 and 31 - No Children's Sunday School
- January 3 - Kidz Live and Mama Bear Apologetics resume, 6-7 pm
- January 5 - Mom's Together Group, 9:30-11 am, Fellowship Hall
- January 7 - Children's Sunday School resumes
- January 18 - Mom's Together Night Out, 5:30-9 pm, Downtown Apex



## Moms Together

Moms, you are invited to join other moms for daytime get togethers to socialize, share tips, make new friends, and work on crafts/projects.

Childcare is available for a small fee.

We also meet for evening activities occasionally.

For dates and to sign up: <https://bit.ly/3ZVhyB8>

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

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**Youth Ministry**  
Middle School and High School



All events are located in The Warehouse (Room 253),  
in the Family Life Center, unless noted.

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

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**Enrollment for 2024-25 at Resurrection Lutheran PRESCHOOL**

+ Classes for children 2-years-old through 5-years-old +

Our program provides a balance of social and academic opportunities by means of 'learning through play' in a loving Christian atmosphere.

Class openings are currently available for the 2023-24 preschool year.

[rlpcary.org](http://rlpcary.org) | 919-851-7270 | [office@rlpcary.org](mailto:office@rlpcary.org)

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## Resurrection Lutheran School



### Monday, December 4

4:00 pm at Home

Boys and Girls Basketball  
vs. Montessori

### Tuesday, December 5

4:00 pm at Home

Boys Basketball Only  
vs. Oak Forest



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

Junior Kindergarten-8<sup>th</sup> Grade

[rlscary.org](http://rlscary.org) | 919-851-7271 | [contact@rlscary.org](mailto:contact@rlscary.org)

Latest Lion's Tale

## WORSHIP SERVICES

Traditional Worship  
in Sanctuary

Saturday, 6:00 pm  
Sunday, \*8:00 & 9:30 am

Praise Worship  
in Family Life Center

Sunday, \*11:00 am

*\*Services Live Streamed to YouTube*

## Online Worship Bulletins

For online services, connect through our YouTube channel at [youtube.com/ResurrectionLutheranChurchCaryNC](https://youtube.com/ResurrectionLutheranChurchCaryNC) or through our website at [rlcary.org/about-us/online-worship](https://rlcary.org/about-us/online-worship).

## Visual Faith

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### Attendance and Giving

#### In-Person Worship Attendance

- Wednesday, November 22 - Thanksgiving Eve  
7:00 pm - 68
- Saturday, November 25  
6:00 pm - 40
- Sunday, November 26  
8:00 am - 69; 9:30 am - 101; 11:00 am - 109

**Total In-Person Worship: 387**

#### Views of Online Worship at RLC's YouTube Channel

- Wednesday, November 22 - Thanksgiving Eve  
7:00 pm - 55

- Sunday, November 26  
9:30 am - 98; 11:00 am - 29

**Total Online Views: 182 views**

**General Fund Giving and Spending - October 2023**

	Current Month	Year to Date
General Receipts	\$ 113,095.12	\$ 416,637.50
Total Disbursements	<u>\$ 112,207.51</u>	<u>\$ 451,674.80</u>
Receipts Less Disbursements	\$ 887.61	\$ -35,037.30

**This Week's Offerings: \$29,326.97**

**Average Weekly Giving for 2023/24: \$23,146.52**

**Average Weekly Giving Budgeted for 2023/24: \$27,761.30**

We are grateful for all who are able to maintain financial contributions to our congregation! There are four ways to make your offering:

- Place in offering plate during the worship service
- Mail to Resurrection Lutheran Church, 100 Lochmere Drive West, Cary, NC 27518
- Online Giving through [rlcary.org/ministries/online-giving](http://rlcary.org/ministries/online-giving)
- Download the Vanco Mobile app, search for Resurrection Lutheran Church, transfer funds from your checking or savings account to RLC

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

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**Church Calendar**

**Resurrection Lutheran Church**    100 Lochmere Drive West, Cary NC 27518  
rlcary.org | 919-851-7248 | office@rlcary.org

## **Prayers of the Church – December 3, 2023**

*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, \*Eve Sommers, \*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, Peter and Esther Kuo, \*Geoffrey Wiggins, Marc and Elizabeth Langefeld's Baby Adoption, 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, \*Bill Xenakis, Linda, Jimmy Ketner, Hope Mackelprang, Melissa Huntsman, Sue, Kathy, Pamm Haley, Bob, Michael Murphy, Greta Nelson, Marina de Moura Torres, Paul Wozniak, Carol Stano

#### **For Expectant Moms**

Carolyn St. Laurent, Hannah Peterson, Analissa Vasquez

#### **Those Prayed for on November 26, 2023**

#### **Thanking God Today**

- Our RLC Family
- Family Celebrations and Time Together, Anniversaries, Birthdays, Weddings, Baptisms
- Our Many Blessings
- Safe Travels
- Caring Organizations Within Our Local Communities
- Another Successful Year of the Blind Ministry
- Groups Providing Thanksgiving Dinners for Others
- Kids Against Hunger Service Project on November 18 and All Who Volunteered
- Good Test Results

#### **For Healing**

- \*Kim Goss
- All Those Exposed to COVID, with COVID, and Recovering from COVID
- Blind Ministry Guests - Maria Barker, Sheila McNair, Linda Jones, Desiree, James
- \*Eve Sommers, Continued Recovery
- \*Greta Nelson
- Paul Wozniak, Recovery at Home

- Julie Wozniak, Recovery
- \*Mindy Stephani, Physical Therapy for Right Leg
- Patricia Wellington, Chemo Treatments
- Miriam Beyer, Daughter-In-Law of \*Charlotte Beyer
- \*Bill Xenakis, New Treatment Plan
- \*Kim Simpson, Recovery
- Jan Bloom, Recovery in Rehab
- \*Pam Dickson
- Pastor William Otto, Cancer Treatment and Surgery
- Bruce, Brother of \*Ralph Klevenow
- Sharayah, Complications in Pregnancy
- Mary, Barbara, Khyren, Elizah, Odessa, Brian, Charles, Karl, Linda, Pam, Eve, Renata, Betty, Tim, Justin, Red, Kevin, Keith, Mark, Timmy, Carlton, Carol, Anna, Anne, Skylar, Patty, Marina, Pat, Helena, Stuart, Oliver, Don, David, Ken, Harold, Donald, Nancy, Jessica, Dave

#### **For Comfort**

- Friends and Family of Peter, Brother of \*Pastor Jon Frusti
- Friends and Family of Dennis, Father of \*Dan Shaltanis
- Friends and Family of John Clifton Manyfield, Brother of \*Shanise Manyfield-Russell

#### **For Provision, Peace, Strength, and Patient Endurance**

- Persecuted Christians
- Uganda Lutheran Church
- People of Ukraine, and All Those Who Serve to Support Them
- People of Maui, Morocco, Libya, Afghanistan, and All Affected by Natural Disasters
- People of Israel and the People of Gaza, Peace in the Middle East
- All Those Supporting Family Members with Caregiving Needs
- Annie Ruth Ford, Mother of \*Dennis Ford
- \*Eric and \*Jill Hammergren
- \*Jan and Paul Wozniak
- Jan and Rich Bloom
- Stuart and Sue Sanders, and the \*Boyer Family
- \*Ginny and \*Ed Koren
- \*Eve Sommers, Adjustment to New Living Situation
- Those Enduring Marriage Struggles and Families in Turmoil
- Those Seeking Jobs and Career Changes, Especially Kevin
- Victims, Families, and Communities Suffering with Gun Violence
- For Those Who Find the Holiday Season Difficult - Separation from Family, Loneliness, Grief
- Elizah, Housing

#### **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
- Resurrection Lutheran Church and Schools Staff, Area Pastors and Schools Staff
- Our Stephen Ministers

## For Our Missionaries

- \*Mark and \*Megan Mantey, Kenya  
[Click here for the Mantey's Newsletter!](#)
- JP and Aimee Cima, Cambodia  
[Click here for the Cima Family Newsletter!](#)
- Shauen and Krista Trump, Kenya  
[Click here for the Trump's Newsletter!](#)

*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 12/1/23*