



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2023

From the Pastor

God—Up Close and Personal

(Galatians 4:4-5)

This year as we prepare again to welcome the Christ child, I invite the parents among us to remember the birth of their own children. I call to mind my own two kids, all grown up now. Though both arrivals were memorable, I can't help reliving the day our first child, Sarah, was born. I went from being a "Dad-from-a-distance" to being a Dad "up-close," cradling this newborn in my arms, making eye contact with her, and marveling at the miracle of life I was experiencing firsthand. Being the Dad-from-a-distance was nice, of course. I saw the ultrasound photos. I put my hand on Juli's tummy and felt the baby kick. Both children were already named before they were born. But having that "up-close" connection to my daughter was life changing. I've never been the same since. I suspect the same can be said for many of the Dads who are reading this today.

In the month of December life at RLC slows down a bit. We prepare to welcome the God of the universe—our Creator—in a tiny, ordinary, package of baby flesh! Of course, there are midweek Advent services and Wednesday Night Workshop opportunities that continue throughout most of the month.



On December 10 we enjoy an important time of reflection on our involvement in God's mission to the world and our life together as we gather for our semi-annual voters'

meeting. Then, on December 24 and 25, we celebrate that God got down on our level... that in that tiny Christ Child we experience God up close and personal. "[For] when the fullness of time had come,

Worship Schedule

Saturday

6:00 pm in the Sanctuary

Sunday

8:00 am in the Sanctuary*

9:30 am in the Sanctuary

11:00 am

Praise Worship
in the Family Life Center*

*Live Stream

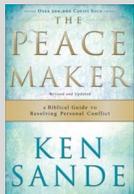
Dates of Interest:

- Parents Night Out.....Dec 1
- Advent Tea.....Dec 2
- Holden Evening Prayer.....Dec 6
- RLP Nativity Play.....Dec 7
- Carol Celebration.....Dec 10
- Voter's Meeting.....Dec 10
- Old North Brass.....Dec 13
- RLS Christmas.....Dec 14
- Outdoor Carol Sing.....Dec 20
- Christmas Eve.....Dec 24
- Christmas.....Dec 25

Sunday Morning Adult Ed

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

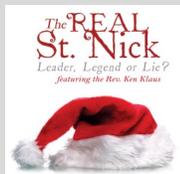
Conflict is difficult for some; others seem to thrive. There are different ways to view conflict, but it always produces opportunities: to serve God and



serve one another. This study will look at how we handle conflict and the "Four G's of Peacemaking".

The Real St. Nick: Leader, Legend, or Lie? December 17, 9:30-10:30 am Fellowship Hall

This study examines a man who, next to Jesus Christ, is the most visible figure during the holidays – St. Nicholas or Santa Claus – as we know him in Western culture. Dating back to the 3rd century, St. Nick is attributed with the doing of many benevolent and charitable acts of kindness and generosity. As with most anything passed down through the centuries,



however, things have a way of becoming larger than life. Is he the

great despoiler of Christmas or the persecuted confessor of the Christ? Is he a defender of the faith or one who undermines it? We will largely determine what role Santa plays in our homes. This study looks at the traditions and tries to sort out the usable from the discardable.

God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons" (Gal 4:4-5).

Our connection to the Divine was never meant to be experienced from a distance. Jesus became flesh and blood... the divine Word was "born of a woman" so that we might experience God up close. If you have been staying home from RLC lately more out of habit than out of necessity, allow me to challenge you to make 2024 the year your up-close encounter with the Christ-child together with all of us really takes off! Jump into the activities going on at RLC. Show up on Sunday to receive the very Body and Blood of Christ, for the forgiveness of your sins. Shake hands and greet with peace the people who, together with you, make up the Body of Christ. We miss you when we don't see you. More than that, God made us to be people who see AND touch the Life that has been born in our midst (1 John 1:3). Let's make this the year we experience Him in person, together.

A very blessed Christmas to one and all!
Pastor Jonathan

Stephen Ministry

From Broken to Whole

The RLC Stephen Ministry group is hosting a training session for those with a servant heart. Sound like you? Or do you know someone that could benefit from having a confidential listening partner?

Your Stephen Ministry group is a great resource that helps walk alongside broken or breaking people; people experiencing difficult circumstances and need someone to talk to.

We're looking for people to join this 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 7th.

We only ask that you prayerfully consider this ministry. Look for anyone with a Stephen Minister badge or email Pastor Alan, alan.shaw@rlcary.org for more information.

We look forward to serving you.



November 2023

During our November Council Meeting, we addressed the continuing budget issues Resurrection is now facing because of our aging facilities. God has blessed His mission among us at Resurrection, and we have been able to pay for an \$80,000 flood repair in 2022, and more recently, a \$10,000 window order, a \$33,000 Air Conditioner replacement, and a \$3,000 Roof Repair over the last several months. However, we have all faced high inflation during the past two years, and that includes churches. Resurrection still needs funds to install the aforementioned windows and keep up with other repairs that arise in our beautiful facility with dwindling cash flow available (our giving is now ~\$35,000 behind our expenses for the first 4 months of our Fiscal Year). These upgrades to our facility are essential for the ongoing ministry of Resurrection Lutheran Church to reach out to our community with God's love and build one another up for service.

As your Council President, my wife and I have prayerfully considered God's Blessings in our lives and have increased our giving for the coming year. I ask that each member also prayerfully consider the Blessings of the Lord and determine if any increase is possible for the General Fund.

- If you are unable to give more financially, there are plenty other ways you can support God's mission at Resurrection, especially with your time and talents. Resurrection is always in need of Ushers, Slide Techs, Altar Assistants, and Lectors. If you are already on the list of volunteers, please be sure to sign up for one of the available slots. If you have never volunteered for these in the past, please reach out to Lori Jannings (Saturdays, 6PM), Brenda Peterson (Sundays, 8AM), Dara Linn (Sundays, 9:30AM), or Suzi Heffner (Sundays, 11AM). They would be happy to answer your questions and make sure you are adequately prepared for these roles, which are vital to the ongoing mission of God at RLC and to the operation of our weekly worship services.
- The Council is also getting ready for the next **Voter's Meeting on Sunday, December 10 at 12:45 pm** in the Family Life Center. The Agenda will include the election of 6 open Council positions, Pastor's Report, Treasurer's Report, School Report, Preschool Report, and an update from the Endowment Committee.

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, Council Member (919) 645-8005
Mike Heffner, Secretary (469) 644-2049	Linda Mangino, Council Member (919) 538-0104
Barry Needle, Council Member (919) 345-5088	Ex Officio: Margaret Hyatt, Operations Director (919) 851-7248
	Ex Officio: Pastor Jonathan Blanke, Sr. Pastor (301) 997-6687



Adult Christian Education

Bible Study Opportunities

Please note, there will be no Sunday morning Christian Education classes for adult and youth held on December 10, December 24, and December 31.

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. Contact: Jamee Thieme

Looking ahead...

Beginning January 8, we will study *Measured by Grace: How God Defines Success* by Sharla Fritz.

Men's Weekly — *The Chosen*

Join us for the Men's Weekly on Mondays in Room 240, Family Life Center, for fellowship and study. Contact: Tom Gebbia

We will meet at 6:30 pm on December 4 and 11. December 4 will be the last session of *The Chosen* and discussion. December 11 will be our potluck and tool gift exchange. Bring your favorite meat, treat, or side to share. Please also bring a wrapped gift (~\$20 or less) for the exchange. It can be tool-themed or humorous.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study and Fellowship

This ongoing study meets Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall and is led by Pastor Jonathan Blanke and Pastor Zach Sarrault. No class held December 19 and 26.

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 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. We will not meet December 20 and 27. Contact: Tom Gebbia

Writing to Christians, the apostle Paul defines the gospel, explores its depths, discusses its significance and implications for the Christian life.

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

Worship

Advent and Christmas



Advent Worship Services

December 3	2nd Sunday in Advent	
December 6	Wednesday, 6:00 pm	Holden Evening Prayer Service, Sanctuary
December 10	3rd Sunday in Advent	Christmas Carol Celebration, Sanctuary 8:00 am and 9:30 am Services
December 13	Wednesday, 6:00 pm	Featuring Old North State Brass, Sanctuary
December 17	4th Sunday in Advent	Including Sunday School Christmas Program, Beginning of 9:30 am Service
December 20	Wednesday, 6:00 pm	Christmas Carol Celebration in Circle Entrance

Christmas Worship Services

December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

- 3:00 pm ~ For Families with Young Children with Interactive Lessons and Carol Singing
- 4:30 pm ~ Traditional Christmas Carol Family Worship with Special Pre-Service Musical Offerings by Resurrection Music School Students
- 6:00 pm ~ Candlelight Service with Contemporary Settings of Traditional Carols and Holy Communion in Family Life Center
- 8:00 pm ~ Candlelight Service with Traditional Christmas Carols and Brass Ensemble, Sanctuary Choir, and Heavenly Handbells (*live stream)
- 10:00 pm ~ Candlelight Service with Traditional Christmas Carols and Holy Communion

December 25 ~ Christmas Day

- 10:00 am ~ Festival Celebration of Holy Communion with Christmas Carols

Worship Times, unless noted:
Saturday 6:00 pm, Sunday 8:00 am, 9:30 am, and Praise 11:00 am



Happy Anniversary!

December 4

Alan and Linda Sullivan
52 years

December 7

Vern and Dorothy Ebert
71 years

December 19

Sam and Heather Burgiss
25 years

Martin and Mindy Stephani
53 years

December 23

Bob and Barb Shimmel
56 years

December 24

Bob and Susan Jones
30 years

December 27

Lyle and Sue Malotky
55 years

Bill and Fran Xenakis
59 years

December 29

Dennis and Stephanie Ford
50 years

December 31

Douglas and Daisy Morris
35 years

Service Event

Kids Against Hunger

Thank you to all who participated in this successful service event!



Worship Servants

There is always a need for more volunteers to assist in all of our worship services. Consider being a greeter or usher, worship assistant or lay reader, slide tech or live stream team member.

Reach out directly to the following for more info:

Saturday, 6:00 pm - Lori Jannings

Sunday, 9:30 am - Dara Linn

Sunday, 8:00 am - Brenda Peterson

Sunday, 11:00 am - Suzi Heffner



Mom's Group
Daytime Meet Up

Join us!!



Mom's
Group
Night
Out

Join us in
January!!

Next Night Out
January 18, 2024

Sign up
here:



For Moms Together Dates and To Sign Up: <https://bit.ly/3ZVhyB8>

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

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



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

RLC YOUTH
December Events

- Middle School Christmas Party**
Sunday, Dec. 10
2:30-4:00
- HS Youth Group**
Dec. 3 & 10
- High School Christmas Party**
Sunday, Dec. 17
6:30 - 8:00pm
- Connection Cafe**
Dec. 3, 10, 17



Questions? Contact Jenny Piontek, Youth Ministry Director, at jenny.piontek@rlcary.org.

Youth Ministry News



Youth Sunday

Many times watching the news can be daunting. Watching and seeing everything going wrong in the world, we can forget to see what is going right. On Sunday, November 19 at the 11:00 am worship, our RLC Youth helped run the service. Our future church leaders brought such joy and light to the good they have seen and been a part of. There were so many people and youth involved in supporting the first Youth Sunday since 2019, I wanted to recognize and highlight the good right here on our RLC campus.

Thank you to Pastor Jonathan, Pastor Zach, Chris Reed, Shane Kirby, Garrett Nigg, Jeff Ashmore, Ryan Johnson, Elliot Lubak, Laura Lubak, and Linda Mangino!

Greeters: Aidan, Alec, and Elam

Ushers: Josh and Cooper

Readers: Cameron, Cassidy, Ben, and Blake

Skit: Cameron, Cassidy, Josh, Ben, and Lilia

Testimonies: Josh, Ben, and Blake

Musicians: Olivia, Avery, Brendan, Blake, Garrett, Sebastian, and Marta

*"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."
Matthew 5:16*

Keep sharing your gifts and shining His light!



Resurrection Lutheran
Preschool

Diane Hooper, Director

rlpcary.org

919-851-7270

office@rlpcary.org



Our program offers opportunities and experiences that will enrich, expand, and develop a child's ever-increasing accumulation of knowledge in a loving Christian atmosphere.

Resurrection Lutheran **PRESCHOOL's**

Nativity Play

By our Transitional-Kindergarten & 4-years-old classes

Thursday, December 7th

11:15am OR 12:00pm in the Sanctuary

Questions? Contact the Preschool office: office@rlpcary.org or 919-851-7270

Preschool Punchlines

3-year-old Boy:

"After lunch, I go home, I get to see what my mommy and daddy look like.

4-year-old Girl Talking to Her Mom:

"We had fun in Science today!
We did an 'fermiment' (experiment) with popcorn!"

Enrollment for 2024-25

at Resurrection Lutheran
PRESCHOOL

+ Classes for children 2-years-old thru 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.**

office@rlpcary.org **919.851.7270**

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Please join us for the RLS Christmas Program which promises to be festive and heartwarming! Every one of our students, Junior Kindergarten-8th Grade, will be participating in this program on **December 14 at 6:30 pm**.

Middle school students will bring the program to a magnificent close with a performance of "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever." Whether acting in the drama, showcasing their musical talents, singing in the choir, or contributing their artistic talents to set design, each middle school student will have a vital role in the production.

We encourage you to invite family and friends to this special program, as it's a perfect opportunity for our school community to come together and celebrate the birth of our Savior.

EXCITING NEWS FOR 2024-2025

The re-enrollment deadline has come and gone and we are thrilled to announce that *over 90%* of our students will be returning in the Fall. This is a testament to the quality of education our students are receiving and the strong community support of our families. God is good and know He has great things in store for us as we continue to grow as a school.

Academic excellence, Christian community, STEM initiatives, student engagement, extra-curricular opportunities, advanced math, fine arts, foreign language are a high priority as we plan for the 2024-2025 year. While space is limited, we will have open seats in most classes.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| December 8 | Early Release, 11:30 am |
| December 14 | Christmas Program, 6:30 pm |
| December 15 | Early Release, 11:30 am |
| December 15-January 1 | Christmas Break |



5th Graders Spend the Day Walking Through History!



Resurrection Lutheran School

Robin Hester
Principal

Rosie Creasy
Director of Admissions/
School Growth

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

One Heart, One Mind

Make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind.

Philippians 2:2 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

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

 facebook.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary

 instagram.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary

 youtube.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary

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

Newsletter deadline is the 20th of each month.
Please send submissions to susan.moore@rlcary.org.

100 LOCHMERE DRIVE WEST, CARY NC 27518