

Third Sunday in Advent

December 10, 2023



Pastor's Corner for December 10-16

Get Ready!
(John 1:6-8, 19-28)

Christmas seems like a never-ending season of preparation. The long daunting list always before you: buy plane tickets, clean the house, buy presents, decorate tree, hang lights, all on top of the normal things like keeping your kids alive and sleeping for a least a couple hours a night! All that preparation and stress all for one big day that you hope to be relaxing but ends up being more running around and preparation for the next thing. While it might be a lot of work, it's only appropriate

that our homes are full of preparation during these Advent days because Advent is all about preparation.

For this reason, we spend time with John the Baptist during Advent. His whole job was to prepare people for Jesus' ministry. John was very blatant about the Mission God gave him, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord'" (John 1:23). He's the guy to get everyone ready for the Light that was coming into the world to shine in the darkness (John 1:5, 8). That is the reason we put up Christmas lights during Advent. Sure, they're pretty and everything, but they are to remind us of the one true Light that has come for you.

Every morning, the first thing I do is plug in the lights on our Christmas tree. It's a perfect start to my day. In the midst of the darkness of the kitchen and living room, all of a sudden there shines the multi-color strands of light, shining through the branches of our Fraser Fir. On my way to plugging in the tree, I usually trip over things; my shoes laid out the night before, the chair I didn't push in, the dog racing to his yet-to-be-filled food bowl, but once those lights arrive the room is brought to life.

Christ is that Light that brings the world to life! Without Him, there would be only darkness always, but He came to bring Light and Life to all people. Our own lives are seen in a new light because of the Light that shines forth through us and into us, though it may be a dim light at the moment (1 Corinthians 13:12). We still live in a sinful world. Those lights on my Christmas tree aren't enough to illuminate the entire home. There are still some dark corners, even right next to the tree I couldn't read my morning magazine with breakfast unless there's brighter light. That is the Light we are preparing for now, that is the Light that is promised to come (Revelation 22:5)!

Christmas is a season of never-ending preparation, because the Christian life is a season of never-ending preparation. Christmas is more than celebrating the birth of the Savior for all people (though we can't miss that!). Just as John was preparing people for the ministry of Jesus, we are still preparing for Jesus. For His glorious return and the Light that will forever eliminate the darkness!

Your preparing brother in Christ,
Pastor Zach Sarrault

Please note, there will be no Sunday School, children or adult, held this week.

Prayers of the Church



"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 10 ~ 3rd Sunday in Advent

Sanctuary Services - Saturday 6:00 pm

Christmas Music Festival ~ Sunday 8:00 am, 9:30 am*

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

December 13 ~ Wednesday, 6:00 pm*

Old North State Brass 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.

**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.

Voter's Meeting

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

There is a Zoom option available with a chat function but without voting opportunity:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87580307939?pwd=zXRgQumPopFvTBd27M0l1OZltZblOc.1>

Meeting ID: 875 8030 7939

Passcode: 813007

The agenda includes 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.

[To view the 8 Council Nominee Bios, click here.](#)

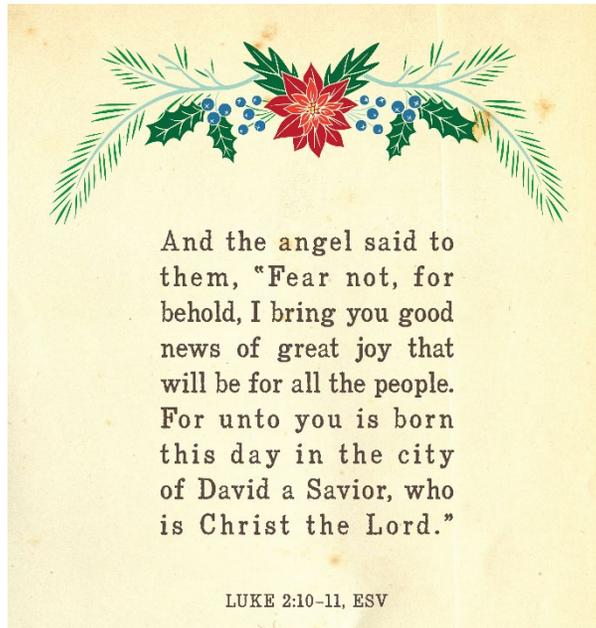
Prayer Shawl Ministry

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.



Christmas Worship Services

December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

(No Saturday Evening or Sunday Morning Services)

3:00 pm ~ For Families with Young Children,
Featuring 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 the Family Life Center

8:00 pm ~ Candlelight Service with Traditional Christmas Carols
and Resurrection Brass Ensemble, Sanctuary Choir,
Heavenly Handbells *(*live stream)*

10:00 pm ~ Candlelight Service with Traditional Christmas Carols

and Holy Communion

December 25 ~ Christmas Day

10:00 am ~ Celebration of Holy Communion with Christmas Carols
featuring Anno Domini Quartet



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** in Room 240, Family Life Center, for fellowship and study. Contact: Tom Gebbia

We will meet at 6:30 pm on December 11 for 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 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 or 919-851-7248.

Adoption Announcement

Many thanks for all of your prayers over such a long period of time!

Elizabeth and Marc Langefeld's, and all of our prayers have been answered: They returned on Friday from Utah with a beautiful baby boy! Praise the Lord! His name is Matthew (which means a gift from God) Ethan Langefeld. He was born on November 20th.

Annette Langefeld-Kennedy

Wednesday Night Workshop

Advent Schedule

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

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 13:

Quiche, Salad, Fruit, and Cinnamon Rolls

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).

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 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 for more information. We look forward to serving you.

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, 919-851-7248) for assistance.

Children and Family Ministry News December 2023

Upcoming Events:

December 10 - No Children's Sunday School

December 17 - Sunday School Children sing in 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 - Moms Together Group, 9:30-11 am, Fellowship Hall

January 7 - Children's Sunday School resumes

January 18 - Moms Together Night Out, 5:30-9 pm, Downtown Apex

For more information about these events, please contact
Erika Hulse at erika.hulse@rlcary.org.



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.

Youth Ministry

Middle School and High School

Advent is in full swing and started our new church year. This really is my favorite time of year. My favorite things are definitely the Christmas lights! I love looking at Christmas lights because they truly light up the darkness. Jesus, our gift at

Christmas, a savior born to be the light of the world. A Savior that lights up our hearts even in the dark.

We have just come out of a busy season of service opportunities. Our opportunity to be a light in our community and here at our church. I am so thankful for each and every youth and parent that has participated over the past 6 weeks! We now get to start to slow down and take a minute to truly appreciate the light that is Jesus and what it means.

Here's what's coming up:

- **Connection Cafe** (Sunday School for All Youth, 6th-12th Grade)
December 10 and 17
- **Ignite - Middle School, 6th-8th Grade**
Christmas Party on Sunday, December 10 from 2:30-4:00 pm



- **Breakaway - High School, 9th-12th Grade**
Youth Group on Sunday, December 10 from 6:30-8:00 pm

Christmas Party on Sunday, December 17 from 6:30-8:00 pm
White Elephant Gift Exchange! Super fun tradition.
Theme is Christmas with a limit of \$15. Please wrap it, no names.

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

We will take a break to celebrate Christmas and the New Year and be back in 2024!
I wish all of you a very Merry Christmas!

Questions? Contact Ms. Jenny, Youth Director
jenny.piontek@rlpcary.org or 919-851-7248, ext. 24

Resurrection Lutheran Preschool

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 | 919-851-7270 | office@rlpcary.org

Resurrection Lutheran School

Please join us for our school-wide **Christmas Program on Thursday, December 14**. The musical fun begins at 6:10 pm, so come a bit early. We will end the evening with "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" performed by our awesome middle school students. Let's celebrate the birth of our Savior together as a school family!



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

Latest Lion's Tale



Online Worship Bulletins

For online services, connect through our YouTube channel at youtube.com/ResurrectionLutheranChurchCaryNC
or through our website at rlcary.org/about-us/online-worship.

Visual Faith

Attendance and Giving

In-Person Worship Attendance

- Wednesday, November 29 - Hanging of the Greens
6:00 pm - 103

- Saturday, December 2
6:00 pm - 49
- Sunday, December 3
8:00 am - 96; 9:30 am - 139; 11:00 am - 111

Total In-Person Worship: 395

Views of Online Worship at RLC's YouTube Channel

- Wednesday, November 29 - Hanging of the Greens
6:00 pm - 34
- Sunday, December 3
9:30 am - 83; 11:00 am - 30

Total Online Views: 113 views

General Fund Giving and Spending - November 2023

	Current Month	Year to Date
General Receipts	\$ 123,763.02	\$ 540,400.52
Total Disbursements	<u>\$ 125,538.89</u>	<u>\$ 577,213.69</u>
Receipts Less Disbursements	\$ -1,775.87	\$ -36,813.17

This Week's Offerings: \$30,830.10

Average Weekly Giving for 2023/24: \$24,563.66

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
- 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.

Church Calendar



100 Lochmere Drive West, Cary NC 27518

rlcary.org

919-851-7248 | office@rlcary.org

Prayers of the Church – December 10, 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, 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 December 3, 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
- Judy Dean, Cancer Free
- Ongoing Release of Hostages Held in Gaza
- Sharayah and Her Baby, Successful Birth

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
- Jan Bloom, Recovery in Rehab
- *Pam Dickson
- Pastor William Otto, Cancer Treatment and Surgery
- Bruce, Brother of *Ralph Klevenow
- *Meredith A.
- *Stephanie Ford, Surgery
- Patti, Lindsay, Alex, Carla, Joyce, Pam, Graydon, Dale, Linda, Megan, Ben, Esther, Lee, Gail, Glen, Stuart, Kathy, Patricia, Mary, David, Brian, Karl, Linda, George, Charles, Stacie, Harold, Ken, Donald

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
- Friends and Family of Pastor John Kassouf, and the Congregations He Served in MD, VA, and SC
- Friends and Family of Timi Gamble, Cousin of *Donna Krupcale

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
- 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
- *Mike Persson, Testing Process for New Job
- College Students Completing Classes and End of Semester Exams
- New Stephen Ministry Class
- Peace Throughout the World

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
- Pastor Jon Richter, Serving St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Norlina NC
- 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 12/8/23