



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH

JANUARY 2024

From the Pastor

God’s Vision for Us in a New Year

(Psalm 90)

Happy New Year! At this start of a new year, we give thanks to God who is both our “help in ages past” and our “hope for years to come” (Lutheran Service Book, 733). January begins a new season in the church year called “Epiphany.” It’s a time to be guided by God’s revelation of His kingdom rule through Jesus, as recorded in the Gospel accounts of Jesus’ life, while beginning a new year together at RLC. However, even as we begin Epiphany, I’m reminded of the Psalmist’s words encouraging us to take note of the seasons and the passage of time as we turn another page on the calendar. In so doing, we seek God’s wisdom and gift of steadfast love for us and one another today.

There is a special Sunday observance, often marked in January, that I’ve discovered recently called “Vision Sunday.” Maybe you’ve heard of it? “Vision Sunday” is not a time to talk about a congregation’s mission statement or long-term plan for ministry. Rather, it highlights what is important in the life of the congregation at that moment in time.



The goal is for folks to identify a theme or a “handle” for church life that gets the various people and ministry teams of the faith community moving together. The vision

for our life together in 2023-2024, first emerging in your responses to the congregational survey we administered almost one year ago and then presented at our Voters’ meeting in June 2023, concerned Christian relationships. It was summed up in the 7th RLC “Value” on our church website: “We are a community of believers gathered by the Spirit to live out our faith with one another.” As an outcome of this

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:

- RLS Back to School.....Jan 2
RLP Back to School.....Jan 3
WNW Resumes .....Jan 3
First Communion.....Jan 3
All Sunday School.....Jan 7
Coffeehouse.....Jan 12
New Member Brunch..Jan 13
No RLP, RLS, RLC.....Jan 15
Confirmation Retreat..Jan 19-21
This Is the Church.....Jan 20,27
Blind Ministry.....Jan 26

## Sunday Morning Adult Ed

**Isaiah - Herald of the Messiah**  
**9:30-10:30 am, Fellowship Hall**  
**January 7-February 11**

Led by Bob and Barb Shimmel, this 6-week study is from the Concordia Publishing House series: *God's Word for Today*.

Each session will combine a presentation of the scriptural focus in Isaiah, followed by opportunities to explore relevant applications for life today.

Isaiah was called by God to speak His Word to a people who were committing spiritual adultery. Through Isaiah, God warned them to repent before the coming day of His wrath. And He gave them wonderful promises of the Messiah to Come and of the glorious future of God's restored people.

In all, 33 prophecies of the Messiah are found in Isaiah – we will look at the prophecy and the fulfillment in the New Testament.

This study seeks to help God's people today in the following ways:

- Develop an appreciation for how the Lord revealed parts of His plan of salvation in Jesus centuries before Jesus birth;
- live out their calling to reflect the light of God's salvation to people from all nations;
- look forward to a peaceful, joyous, and righteous life in the new heavens and new earth.

focus on Christian fellowship, we were privileged to gather again this past year in our regular, weekly Wednesday Night Workshop dinners and small groups. We have seen more and more of you in 2023 worshipping in person. And as time goes on, the opportunity to make new connections and renew familiar ones has been a blessing for our church family! I give thanks to God for all in our congregation who have embraced this vision and been led by God to live it out.

January 2024 will give us the chance to grow further in the calling to be a community of believers gathered by the Spirit to live out our faith together. On January 3, we will resume our Wednesday Night Workshop evenings with dinners, musical ensemble rehearsals, and gatherings around God's Word for everyone: children through adults. Newcomers to our church will gather for a Welcome Brunch on January 13 and receive the opportunity to learn about the fundamentals of our Christian faith/Lutheran heritage on subsequent Saturdays extending into February. Throughout January, God's vision for us to live out the gift we share together in Holy Baptism as His renewed people will take center stage in the worship life of our congregation. We will be reading and thinking about passages from the weekly Gospel readings that record Jesus healing, calling, and sending the people around Him for the work of God. It is exciting to consider how, in your baptism and mine, God's vision is to do just that with all of us.

Whether the new year finds you looking back and giving thanks for many events in 2023... or looking ahead, longing for a time of renewal in 2024... we give thanks this month that our God is our guard while troubles last AND our eternal home. Our ministry focus will change from one year to the next. God's loving-kindness and care for us never does!

A blessed 2024 to you!  
Pastor Jonathan

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## RLC Worship Servants and Training

**Ushering and Greeting at the Praise Worship Service**  
**Sundays, 11:00 am in the Family Life Center**

For those who will be Greeting and/or Ushering in our Praise Worship service, please plan to attend one of the three brief training sessions scheduled in January. Meet in the Family Life Center Lobby.

Monday, **January 8** at 7:00 pm    Sunday, **January 14** at 10:00 am  
Sunday, **January 28** at 10:00 am

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

## *Adult Christian Education*

# **Bible Study Opportunities**

### **Monday**

#### **Monday Night Women's Bible Study**

*Measured by Grace: How God Defines Success* by Sharla Fritz

7:00-8:00 pm in Room 151, Family Life Center, and Online via Zoom, January 8-May 20

Leaders: Jamee Thieme, Sharon Hahne, Dawn Leister

#### **Men's Weekly Study and Fellowship**

*Intrepid Heroes of the Faith*

7:00-8:15 pm in Room 240, Family Life Center, January 8-May 20

Leaders: Mark Otten, Tom Gebbia

### **Tuesday**

#### **Tuesday Morning Bible Study and Fellowship**

Scripture Lessons in Worship

10:30-11:30 am in Fellowship Hall, January 2-May 21

Leaders: Pastor Jonathan Blanke, Pastor Zach Sarrault

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

2:00-3:00 pm in Room 240, Family Life Center, January 2-February 6

Leaders: Pastor Zach Sarrault, Erika Hulse

### **Wednesday**

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

6:00-7:00 pm in Room 240, Family Life Center, January 3-February 7

Leaders: Pastor Zach Sarrault, Erika Hulse

#### **Grace-Full Women**

*Ruth: More Than a Love Story* by Elizabeth Ahlman

6:30-7:45 pm in Room 251, Family Life Center, January 3-February 7

Leader: Shane Jarvis

#### **Men With Kids**

6:30-7:45 pm in Room 247, Family Life Center, January 3-April 24

Leader: Tom Gebbia

#### **Help Is Here: Finding Fresh Strength and Purpose in the Power of the Holy Spirit**

*Help is Here Study Guide* by Max Lucado

6:30-8:00 pm in Fellowship Hall, January 3-February 7

Leaders: Tim Kearby, Mindy Stephani

### **Saturday**

#### **This Is the Church**

Conversations around the Basics of the Christian Faith

9:30-11:00 am in Room 151, Family Life Center, January 20, January 27, March 3 Only

Leader: Pastor Jonathan Blanke

# Gifts & Memorials

## ***For Gifts and Memorials***

In Memory of Lucas Kube  
Helga Copello

## ***For the Love Fund***

In Honor of  
Grandchildren's Birthdays  
Bill and Fran Xenakis

## ***For Gifts and Memorials***

In Memory of  
Pamela Phipps Brown  
Her Parents,  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Phipps Sr.

## ***For the Love Fund***

In memory of her daughter,  
Jill Comport  
Alice Cassimatis



## *Stephen Ministry*

# From Broken to Whole

### **Check Out Ministry Support Provided Free from Within the Church by Lay-Persons**

We are fortunate to have several members in our community volunteering their time and talents in support of the Stephen Minister program.

Those in service are a mighty team of Stephen Ministers, along with a pastor, who work to provide directed, Christ-centered, individualized care for members in our congregation.

The team works in tandem with the pastor by deepening, expanding, and extending the caring capacity of our church.

For more information, reach out to Pastor Alan Shaw, Ron Bostick, or Sue Campau.



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## *Outreach Service to the Community*

# The Christmas Store

The Christmas Store team would like to express their appreciation to our congregation for their participation and very generous donations of toys!



## Outreach Service to the Community

### Habitat for Humanity

The Lutheran Build Coalition with Habitat is back! Site construction will run from October 28-March 15. The Lutheran churches in the area will join together to build a new Habitat home in Knightdale. Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings faith coalitions together to build homes, communities, and hope.

This year, the Coalition homes are being built in our newest neighborhood of Flower's Place at the intersection of Kelley Meadows Drive and Flowers Street in Knightdale.

We have selected RLC-sponsored work days (Saturdays) and we need volunteers each day to support the build. Our work days and number of volunteers are **January 27** (7-8) and March 9 (5).

No construction experience needed and being a member of RLC isn't necessary, feel free to invite a friend. There will be jobs for everyone with a serving heart.

You must register and sign up via the Habitat vhub link:

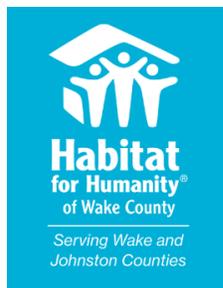
<http://vhub.at/lutheranbuild>

Not able to join a RLC build day? No worries. You can sign up for Saturdays that other churches couldn't fill or even weekday (Thursday/Friday) slots, if that works better.

Financial support needed. Additional funds are used to help offset the cost of building materials that the Lutheran Coalition community shares. Please mark your financial gifts: For RLC Habitat Build.

Questions?

Contact Tim Hiteshew, RLC Coalition Coordinator, Bud McCarty, Lyle Malotky or Bill Boyer.



# Happy Anniversary!

**January 4**  
Pastor Zach & Kelsey Sarrault  
5 years

*We encourage you  
to find areas of interest  
that best suit  
your natural gifts,  
and join us  
as we reach out  
with the love of Christ,  
by grace, through faith,  
for service.*



[Sign Up Online Here!](#)



**Happy New Year and Thank You!**

The RLC Ministry and Support Staff wish you a happy new year and offer a heartfelt thank you for the many cards, notes, and gifts we received.

We are truly blessed to serve together!

# Children & Family Ministry News

## January 2024

### Important Dates:

- January 3 - Kidz Live & KICKS 6-7 pm
- January 5 - Mom's Together 9:30-11
- January 7 - Sunday School resumes  
join us for fun and learning!
- January 14 - No Sunday School
- January 18 - Moms' Night Out



AS WE WELCOME THE NEW YEAR,  
LET'S JOIN OUR HEARTS IN PRAYER  
FOR OUR BELOVED CHILDREN AND  
THEIR FAMILIES. MAY THE COMING YEAR  
BRING ABUNDANT BLESSINGS, HEALTH  
AND JOY TO EACH ONE OF THEM.

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

### 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 available for small fee. We also meet for evening activities occasionally.

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

**Singing at 9:30 worship**

**David & Goliath in Sunday School**

**Parents Night Out activities**

**Nativity Family Service Christmas Eve**

**Fun & games in Children's Church**

**Oh what fun it is to be a part of Children's Ministry at RLC!**



# First Responder Family Service Project



Date: February 3, 2024

Time: 10:00-11:30

Where: Fellowship Hall



Details: Families will contribute items to build snack baskets for local first responders, then deliver them.

Sign up here:



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



Questions regarding our middle school and high school youth activities can be directed to Jenny Piontek, Youth Ministry Director, at [jenny.piontek@rlcary.org](mailto:jenny.piontek@rlcary.org) or 919-851-7248, ext. 24.



**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.*

**Tours available:**

- Friday, January 5 at 11:00 am
- Monday, January 8 at 10:00 am
- Wednesday, January 10 at 11:00 am
- Thursday, January 11 at 10:00 am
- Wednesday, January 17 at 9:45 am
- Thursday, January 18 at @ 11:00 am
- Monday, January 22 at 12:45 pm

RLP offers classes for 2-year-old to young 5-year-olds.

To schedule a tour, email [office@rlpcary.org](mailto:office@rlpcary.org) or call 919-851-7270.

**Preschool Punchlines**

3-year-old boy talking to his teachers,  
"When I wake up in the morning, I'll be able to play with you again!"

Children were reading books. One student was looking at the Bible.  
Miss Diane, "What are you reading?"  
4-year-old girl, "It's God's book."

**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](mailto:office@rlpcary.org) **919.851.7270**

## STEAM/MAKERSPACE NEWS

We decided to add the “A” in STEM to make it STEAM! The “A” stands for “Arts” along with Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.

Kindergarten and Junior Kindergarten students enjoyed making instruments with everyday items such as plastic cups, cardboard tubes, rubber bands, etc. Even the Third Graders joined in on the fun in their classroom, adding their own creativity to some of the instruments. We listened to and sang some fun songs, as we discovered how the instruments sounded and added to the rhythm of the music. What fun we had together!

## SAVE THE DATE

The Spring Fling Gala will be held on **Friday, April 5** at The Matthews House in Cary. Be sure to mark your calendar!

If you have a service or experience you can donate to the silent and live auction (such as a vacation home, golf, spa experience, or sports memorabilia), please email [PSO@rlscary.org](mailto:PSO@rlscary.org).

Any assistance you can provide will be greatly appreciated. Thank you in advance for your support and contributions to make this event not only successful, but memorable and enjoyable.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- |                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| <b>January 12</b> | Early Release, 11:30 am                 |
| <b>January 15</b> | No School - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day |
| <b>January 19</b> | Early Release, 11:30 am                 |
| <b>January 31</b> | Cultural Arts Event - Holly Harps       |



### Resurrection Lutheran School

Robin Hester  
Principal

Rosie Creasy  
Director of Admissions/  
School Growth

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



## 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](https://rlcary.org/about-us/online-worship)



## LEARN MORE

[rlcary.org](https://rlcary.org) | [office@rlcary.org](mailto: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](https://rlcary.org/ministries/online-giving)
- Download the Vanco Mobile app to transfer funds from your account

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

## SOCIAL MEDIA



[facebook.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary](https://facebook.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary)



[instagram.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary](https://instagram.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary)



[youtube.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary](https://youtube.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary)

Newsletter deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Please send submissions to [susan.moore@rlcary.org](mailto:susan.moore@rlcary.org).

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