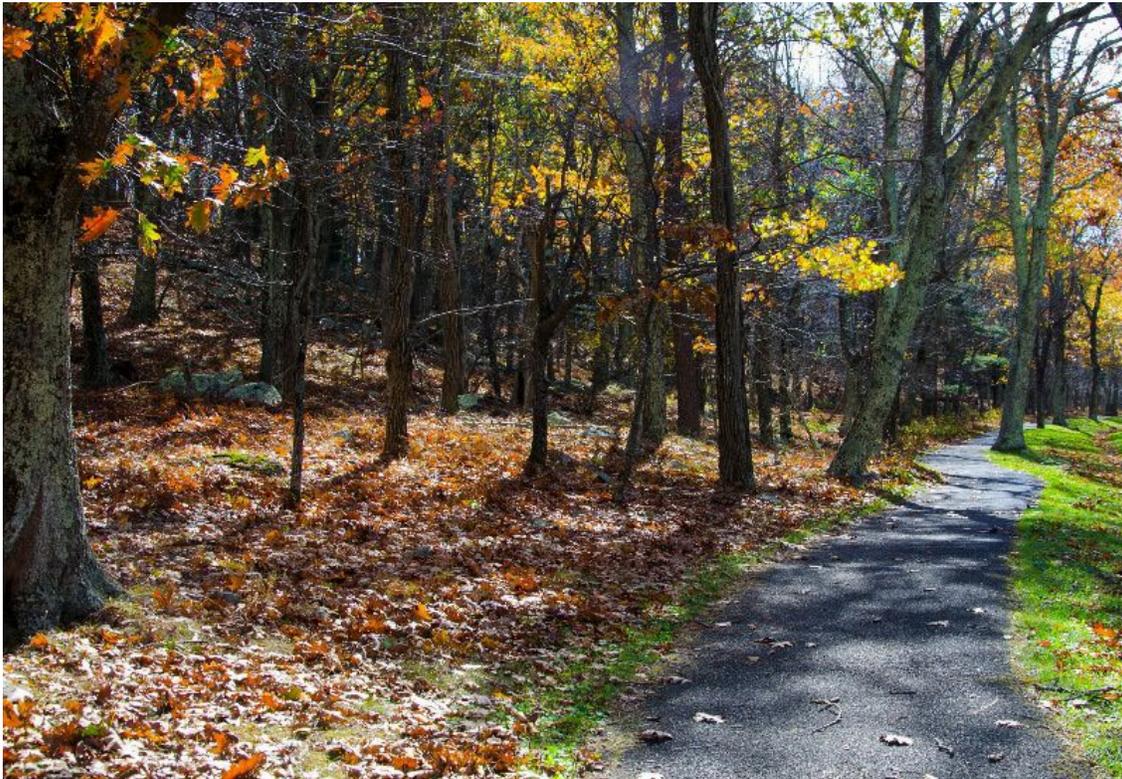


The Baptism of Our Lord

January 7, 2024



Pastor's Corner for January 7-13, 2024

Walk with Christ (Romans 6:1-11)

I love New Year's Resolutions. Scratch that, I love the idea of New Year's Resolutions. I love the idea of improving certain areas of my life, making small changes here and there that impact my walk with God through this life. But no matter how small I make those New Year's Resolutions, I end up failing at almost all of them. Year after year, I recycle the same resolutions, hoping that I'll do better this year. Did you know that the second Friday of January is known as Quitter's Day? We are so bad at keeping New Year's Resolutions that there is a day set aside,

giving you permission to quit your resolution!

Maybe that's part of the problem. New Year's Resolutions are all about what I can do to improve myself. Without knowing it, I often take God right out of the picture, thereby taking His forgiveness out of the picture when I fail. For the Christian, New Year's Resolutions are about our walk with God. How is God calling you and me to grow in our relationship with Him this year? How is the Spirit guiding us in His love and grace? Who has God put in our lives this year to impact with compassion and mercy?

God can use any number of resolutions to cause us to grow in our faith walk. Maybe it is walking. Maybe it's eating better, waking up earlier, going to see family more, giving up social media, watching less of the news, going to church more, taking more time to pray; whatever it may be, God can and will use it. I truly think that New Year's Resolutions can be profoundly Biblical and Christ-centered!

It is yet another time to set aside and see how God is encouraging us in our identity as His baptized children (Romans 6:5). Because we have been united with Him, we are brought into a new life that we now walk in (Romans 6:4). That sounds like a New Year's Resolution to me! We walk in this life with Christ. How are you being called to walk with Christ this year? He is already walking with you; you are already a member of His Church! Because that is who you are, how is He pulling you closer (Galatians 5:16)?

A great resolution for all God's children is to read the Bible more. But where do you start? That's a problem I always run into. It's such a big book, and I know it's important, but I'm often overwhelmed by the immensity of it! That's why a reading plan can be helpful. This year, in my walk with Christ, I've started a read-the-Bible-in-a-year plan. It's something I've never succeeded at, but it is a fun way to be united with God's truth in a world of so many distractions (Galatians 5:7). If you want to join me on this journey, simply google good Bible reading plans or follow this link ([Reading Scripture Is a Walk in the Park: Bible Reading Plans for 2024 \(thegospelcoalition.org\)](https://thegospelcoalition.org/reading-scripture-is-a-walk-in-the-park-bible-reading-plans-for-2024)) and find one that works for you.

Because Christ is victorious over our sin and death (Romans 6:9) we are confident

to walk with Him in our living this year! May God bless your New Year's Resolutions!

Your walking brother in Christ,
Pastor Zach Sarrault

We will be installing the Church Council for 2024 at all services this weekend.
Tom Bolling, Mark Dirks, Mike Haertling, Mike Hahne, Mike Heffner, Lori Jannings, Linda Mangino, Charles Miller, and Aaron Newcomb

Prayers of the Church

Sunday Morning Adult Christian Education Class

Isaiah - Herald of the Messiah

9:30-10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall

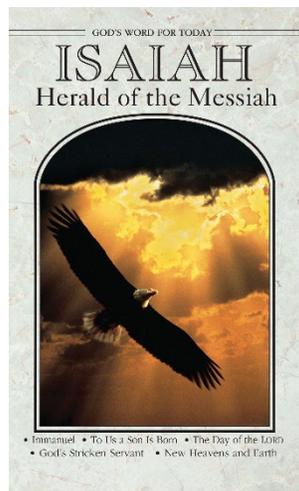
January 7-February 11

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.





Weekly Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday

Isaiah - Herald of the Messiah

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

January 7-February 11

Contacts: 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.

Monday

Monday Night Women's Bible Study

Measured by Grace: How God Defines Success by Sharla Fritz

Mondays, 7:00-8:00 pm in Room 151, Family Life Center

January 8-May 20

Contact: Jamee Thieme

In the Bible, you'll find no lack of sinfulness, shortcomings, rejections, and broken people. People like Joseph, Rahab, David, Jeremiah, John the Baptist, The Samaritan Woman, Peter, and Paul. We see them as people God transformed, turning their lack into faithfulness for His good. Study these eight biblical figures to see that God does the same for you.

Men's Weekly

A Study of Heroes of the Faith

Mondays, 7:00-8:15 pm in Room 240, Family Life Center

January 8-May 20

Contact: Tom Gebbia

This week only, January 8, we will begin with a potluck at 6:30 pm.

We will study and discuss the Heroes of the Faith series published by Concordia Publishing House - starting with *Intrepid Heroes of the Faith*, which includes Joshua, Gideon, Sampson, and Daniel.

Tuesday

Tuesday Morning Bible Study and Fellowship

Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall

January 2-May 21

Contacts: Pastor Jonathan Blanke, Pastor Zach Sarrault

We will look at the appointed readings from each week that are used in the weekend sermons.

Mama Bear Apologetics... Also for Papa Bears

Tuesdays, 2:00-3:00 pm in Room 240, Family Life Center

January 2-February 6

Contacts: Pastor Zach Sarrault, Erika Hulse

Learn how to raise kids who think critically, love Biblically, and stand firm against the cultural tide. This book study will equip you to teach your kids how to affirm Biblical beliefs about what is true and what is false.

Wednesday

Mama Bear Apologetics... Also for Papa Bears

Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00 pm in Room 240, Family Life Center

January 3-February 7

Contacts: Pastor Zach Sarrault, Erika Hulse

See listing above, identical classes.

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

Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall

January 3-February 7

Contacts: Tim Kearby, Mindy Stephani

We will use Max Lucado's five-session study to learn more about this “helper” whom we know as the Holy Spirit. *Help Is Here* reminds us that our Good Shepherd doesn't just feed us; he leads us. He does more than correct us; he directs us. God keeps us on track – he's commissioned the Holy Spirit to guide us down the winding roads of life, wherever they may lead us.

Men with Kids

Wednesdays, 6:30-7:45 pm in Room 247, Family Life Center

January 3-April 24

Contact: Tom Gebbia

This group is designed to bring men in a similar season with similar life experiences and goals together.

Grace-Full Women

Wednesdays, 6:30-7:45 pm in Room 251, Family Life Center

January 3-February 7

Contact: Shane Jarvis

As we read through the in-depth Bible study of *Ruth: More Than a Love Story* by

Elizabeth Ahlman, we will come to see how God watches carefully over every little detail so His grace may come to fruition and fully abound.

Saturday

This Is the Church

Saturdays, January 20, January 27, February 3 Only

9:30-11:00 am in Room 151, Family Life Center

Contact: Pastor Jonathan Blanke

Three 90-minute gatherings, Conversations around the Basics of the Christian Faith, will focus on what Christians believe and how the Christian faith can be understood in distinction from other world religions.

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

To download the Christian Education Winter 2024, Block 1 Sheet, [click here](#). Paper copies are available at the Information Centers in the Narthex and Family Life Center Lobby.

Any questions can be directed to the church office at office@rlcary.org or 919-851-7248.

Wednesday Night Workshop Schedule

5:00-6:00 pm Dinner, FLC Gym	6:30-7:30 pm Heavenly Handbells, Sanctuary
5:00-5:30 pm Jubilee Bells, Sanctuary	6:30-8:00 pm Adult Christian Ed <i>Help Is Here</i> , Fellowship Hall <i>Men with Kids</i> , RM 247 <i>Grace-Full Women</i> , RM 251
5:30-6:00 pm Rainbow Choir, Sanctuary Sonshine Singers, Choir Room	7:00-8:00 pm 1st Communion Instruction, RM 244
6:00-7:00 pm Kidz Live, RM 151 Ignite, The Warehouse <i>Mama Bear Apologetics</i> , RM 240	7:00-8:15 pm Confirmation, RM 240 7:30-8:45 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 January 10:

Soup and Chili, Bread, Salad, Fruit, and Dessert

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).

The Coffeehouse for Special Needs Adults

Friday, January 12

We thank all of our volunteers who help us to have wonderful Coffeehouses! We couldn't do it without our faithful volunteers. Please come be a volunteer! Our special needs guests love to attend these events and we need lots of volunteers to make them feel special and loved.

We need Setter Uppers at 5:30 pm (both food and room), Servers at 6:30 pm, and Cleaner Uppers at 8:30 pm.



Sign Up: <https://bit.ly/3kqoHGN>

The first Coffeehouse of 2024 is **Friday, January 12** from 7:00-8:30 pm in the Family Life Center gym. Jim Linn's band, *Bona Fide Brass*, will play for us.

Questions? Contact Brenda Peterson through RCB or the church office at office@rlcary.org or 919-851-7248.

MEN'S BREAKFAST



**Saturday,
January 13
8:00 am
Fellowship Hall**

Come gather for fellowship, food, and message.
All men welcome.

Contact Tom Gebbia or mens-ministry@rlcary.org

Welcome to Resurrection Brunch for New Members



**Saturday, January 13
10:00-11:30 am
Fellowship Hall**

An opportunity for you to get to know us better
and we get to know who you are, too!

We will eat good food, have great conversation,
and tour our facilities. Kids are invited.

RSVP to Pastor Zach - zach.sarrault@rlcary.org, 919-851-7248

Food & Fellowship for the Blind



Resurrection's Ministry for
the Visually Impaired meets

Friday, January 26

5:30-7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

This outreach to the blind community provides a monthly fellowship dinner for those who are blind or visually impaired on the last Friday of each month from 5:30-7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Volunteers provide transportation, prepare and serve food to guests, and help set up and clean up.

Contact Annette Langefeld-Kennedy to learn more and to become a volunteer through RCB, or the church office (919-851-7248, office@rlcary.org).

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

You may also contact the church office (office@rlcary.org, 919-851-7248) for assistance.

Finance Updates

Offering Envelopes and 2023 Statement of Giving

New giving envelopes for 2024 have been placed in your RLC mailbox. If you don't see yours, please contact the Finance Team. Likewise, financial statements for 2023 will soon appear in mailboxes. Please review and contact the Finance Team with any questions at finance@rlcary.org. Thanks!

Stock and Securities

We are appreciative of the many ways our congregation donates to RLC. If you have donated stock in the last 2 months of 2023, please contact finance@rlcary.org or 919-270-7914 to finish processing.

Electronic Giving

Vanco - that provides the platform for our electronic and mobile donations - is changing the design for both online and mobile use. Our RLC Council has customized and will soon release the link to the new version (current version remains active). Thanks for your patience!

Children & Family Ministry News

January 2024

Important Dates:

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!



Thanks to all who participated in the Christmas shoe box project. Our gifts were sent to children in Peru and Colombia.



Your most recent shoebox gift(s) shipped to:

Peru

Shipped on: Tue Nov 28
2023

Learn More About Peru



Colombia

Shipped on: Fri Nov 24
2023

Learn More About Colombia



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

Happy New Year! A brand new year for new adventures, new games, a clean slate to fill with memories! I am so excited for the remainder of our school year. The calendar is set with so much to do and ways to experience God's word.

Interested in becoming an Adult Leader? It is never too late to jump on board. It takes a lot of hands to make sure our youth are safe on campus. Just reach out!

*There has been a calendar adjustment to our summer schedule. We will be focusing our efforts here at home this year during the week of Vacation Bible School. I will be working with our High School Leadership Team to dream what this might look like, but we will be doing our Mission Trip at Home (no Kentucky this year). I am excited what adventures might unfold right here in our own community! So mark your calendars for VBS and on-site Mission work right here at home
- **June 24-28, 2024!**

Everything is back on!

- Connection Cafe (Sunday School for Middle and High School)
See you Sunday morning at 9:30 am!
- Middle School: Youth Group is back on Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00 pm
- High School: Youth Group starts Sunday, January 7 from 6:30-8:00 pm

January Youth Schedule

Middle School

Youth Group:
Wednesdays
6 - 7pm
Jan. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

Hebrews 12:1
Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us...

High School

Youth Group:
Sundays
6:30 - 8:00pm
Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28

Connection Cafe

All youth
Sundays 9:30 - 10:30am
January 7, 21, 28

Welcome back

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

Resurrection Lutheran Preschool

Enroll NOW for the 2024-25 preschool year!

We offer 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.

Schedule a tour!

Monday, January 8 at 10:00 am
Wednesday, January 10 at 11:00 am
Thursday, January 11 at 10:00 am

Class openings are also available for the current preschool year, 2023-24.



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

Resurrection Lutheran School



rlscary.org
Junior Kindergarten-8th Grade

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

Latest Lion's Tale



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

This Week's Visual Faith Sheet

Attendance and Giving

In-Person Worship Attendance

Saturday, December 30

6:00 pm - 64

Sunday, December 31

8:00 am - 51

9:30 am - 117

11:00 am - 91

Total In-Person Worship: 323

Views of Online Worship at RLC's YouTube Channel

Sunday, December 31

8:00 am - 105

11:00 am - 42

Total Online Views: 147 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: \$28,861.17

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 – January 7, 2024

*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, Sara Phillips

Those Prayed for on December 31, 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
- Our Sunday School Students and Their Teachers, Offering Praises in Worship on December 17
- Connections Between RLC Staff and Our School Students
- Blessings of the Past Year

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

- Patricia Wellington, Chemo Treatments
- Miriam Beyer, Daughter-In-Law of *Charlotte Beyer
- *Bill Xenakis, Radiation Therapy
- Jan Bloom
- Evelyn Bloom
- Pastor William Otto, Cancer Treatment and Surgery
- Bruce, Brother of *Ralph Klevenow
- *Meredith A.
- Michael
- *Pam Dickson
- *Stephanie Ford
- Jimmy, Cancer Treatment
- Myrna, Recovery From Car Accident
- Successful Operation for Gar
- Colleen, Danny, Millie, Mike and Trudy, Tim, Justin, Red, Brian, Kevin, Keith, Mark, Carlton, Carol, Anna, Anne, Skylar, Patty, Don, Barbara, Sandi, Jadis, Wonda, Imma, Alice, Eve, Pam, Jan, Stuart, Patricia, Charlotte, Javed, Ken, Harold, Donald, Virginia

For Comfort

- Friends and Family of Andy Renninger, Especially His Mother, Ellen Renninger, Aunt of *Dawn Leister
- Friends and Family of Pam Harrell
- Friends and Family of Violet Easterly
- Friends and Family of Ted Dumas, Father of *Michele Brake
- Friends and Family of Doug Enfinger, Brother of *Kathi Carlson
- Friends and Family of Joann Otten, Mother of *Mark Otten, Grandmother of *Leah Robison

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
- Victims, Families, and Communities Suffering with Gun Violence
- RLC Financial Health and Stewardship
- *Mike Persson, Next Steps in Employment Process

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 1/5/24