

# The Resurrection of Our Lord

March 31, 2024

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*Pastor's Corner for March 31-April 6, 2024*

## **Christ Is Risen (1 Corinthians 15:50-58)**

Let me tell you the story of a Christian church a mile or so up the road from the Lutheran Church in Okinawa. It's a story I love to tell. It's about a church that to this day is a part of the largest Protestant denomination in Japan: The United Church of Christ in Japan. While serving as a pastor and missionary at Okinawa Lutheran Church in the mid-90s, I used to drive past the sign of this church (上地教会: literally, "Above Ground Church") never stopping to consider what that name might signify. Over time, I got to know some of the folks in our neighborhood and the origin of the name was explained. It seems that during the World War II Battle of Okinawa, as the Allied forces were taking control of

the main island of Okinawa, many local Okinawan folks found shelter in family tombs all over the island. Traditional family tombs in Okinawa were large. They were intended to house the remains of generations of people and were built into the side of small hills or mounds. While their interior was naturally inhospitable and never intended to be a place of shelter for the living, these locations could be coveted places of refuge for folks whose own homes had been destroyed. However, once the terms of surrender between Japan and the United States were established and the word went out that it was OK for folks in hiding to come out, many refused. They had been told that surrender to the enemy would end in death! Many stayed underground for a very long time. Folks refused to come out when the call to do so came from armed soldiers. However, somewhere along the way the decision was made to also send U.S. Chaplains to these tombs, with translators! And one small band of people hiding in a family tomb came out, when they heard the call to do so from a man of the cloth. Coming up and out, into the light of day, they were introduced to the chaplain and heard his message on an Easter Sunday! In time, they converted to the Christian faith. They never forgot what it meant to leave the darkness of the tomb behind and to find life. They named their congregation the "Above Ground Church." And the name has remained to this day.

This weekend we celebrate Easter. Jesus has called us all out of the darkness of death into the light of Life. He does so not as a god faraway, but as One who has tasted death Himself – yet overcome it. You might say that every Christian congregation is an "above ground" church. Because of the risen Christ, everything is different! Or as St. Paul writes (and we affirm this Easter): "Death has been swallowed up in victory!"

It all comes down to this: The battle is over. Our salvation has been won. Let us celebrate all that God has done for us! Life outside the tomb will never be the same!

Christ is risen! Alleluia!

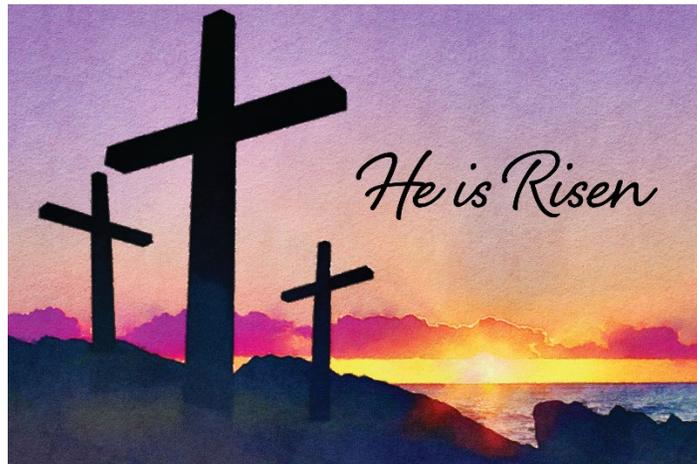
Pastor Jonathan

Please note, there will be no Saturday evening worship. No Sunday School, adult and children, on Easter Sunday.

Also, the Church Office will have limited hours on Easter Monday.

## Prayers of the Church

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### Easter Sunday Celebrations

~ 6:30 am ~

Sunrise Service Begins in Prayer Garden,  
Processes to Sanctuary, Led by Celebration Singers

~ 8:00 am\*, 9:30 am, 11:00 am ~

Sanctuary Easter Festival Worship with Holy Communion  
Led by Sanctuary Choir, Heavenly Handbells, and Resurrection Brass Ensemble

~ 11:00 am\* ~

Praise & Worship with Holy Communion  
Led by *Reign!* in the Family Life Center

No Saturday evening worship.

**\*Live Stream Services**

Connect through our YouTube channel [@ResurrectionLutheranCary](#)

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***New Class Starting After Easter!***

**Sunday Morning  
Adult Christian Education**

**Metaphors and the Figurative Language of the Bible**

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 am

April 7-May 19

Fellowship Hall

Language is one of the most remarkable gifts that God has given us. The Bible makes extensive use of both literal and figurative language. If God is revealing only truth to us, why did He not speak simply in plain, straightforward language?

This series of classes will identify many of the prominent metaphors found in Scripture and demonstrate the benefits that figurative language offers compared to more basic wording. Understanding the structure and the multi-

layered meanings of these metaphors will expand our appreciation of God's revelation and deepen our understanding of His all-embracing love for us.

In the process, we will compare and contrast how the Bible's use of metaphors compares and contrasts with their function in poetry and in everyday speech. Led by Larry Cameron. Handouts will be distributed at the start of each session; no other books are required.

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## Weekly Bible Study Opportunities

### Sunday

#### ***New Class Starting After Easter!***

#### **Metaphors and the Figurative Language of the Bible**

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

April 7-May 19

Contact: Larry Cameron

Language is one of the most remarkable gifts that God has given us. This series of classes will identify many of the prominent metaphors found in Scripture and demonstrate the benefits that figurative language offers compared to more basic wording. Understanding the structure and the multi-layered meanings of these metaphors will expand our appreciation of God's revelation and deepen our understanding of His all-embracing love for us.

#### ***Training to Become a Stephen Minister***

Sundays, 2:00-4:00 pm in Room 151, Family Life Center

February 25-June 30

Contacts: Pastor Alan Shaw, Jan Boyer, Sue Campau

Stephen Ministry is the one-to-one lay caring ministry that takes place in congregations that use the Stephen Series system. Congregations equip and empower lay caregivers, Stephen Ministers, to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting.

## 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

Ongoing - 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. ***We will not meet on April 1.***

Men's Weekly

***Christian History Made Easy***

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

Ongoing

Contact: Tom Gebbia

Current study is *Christian History Made Easy* by Timothy Paul Jones. This book summarizes the most important events in Christian history from the time of Jesus to today in 12 chapters, presenting key events and people every Christian should know.

***We will not meet on April 1. And when we return on Monday, April 8, we will have a potluck starting at 6:30 pm. (Note, no April Men's Breakfast.)***

## Tuesday

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

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

Ongoing - Contacts: Pastor Jonathan Blanke, Pastor Zach Sarrault

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

## Wednesday

### ***The Bible: Where It Comes from and Why It Matters***

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

February 21-April 24

Contacts: Pastor Jonathan Blanke, Ian Glenn

We all know that the Bible is at the center of what we believe, teach, and confess about God. Yet how many of us have learned how the Bible came to be over time? What role did God play in the formation of the entire Bible that was put together from its individual books? What are some of the differences between modern translations of the Bible? How "accurate" is the Bible we have today? How were the books of the Bible recognized as authoritative... and by whom? These are just some of the questions we will address as we read specific Bible verses and marvel at the gift of God's inspired Word to us today...the same Word spoken over God's people over the course of millennia!

### ***Men with Kids***

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

Ongoing - Contact: Tom Gebbia

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

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

To download the Christian Education Winter 2024, Block 2 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](mailto:office@rlcary.org) or 919-851-7248.

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## Wednesday Night Workshop Schedule

<b>5:00-6:00 pm</b> Dinner, FLC Gym	<b>6:30-7:30 pm</b> Heavenly Handbells, Sanctuary
<b>5:00-5:30 pm</b> Jubilee Bells, Sanctuary	<b>6:30-8:00 pm</b> Adult Christian Ed <i>The Bible</i> , Fellowship Hall <i>Men with Kids</i> , Room 247, FLC
<b>5:30-6:00 pm</b> Rainbow Choir, Sanctuary Sonshine Singers, Choir Room	<b>7:00-8:15 pm</b> Confirmation, Room 240, FLC
<b>6:00-7:00 pm</b> Kidz Live, Room 151, FLC Ignite, The Warehouse	<b>7:30-8:45 pm</b> Sanctuary Choir, Sanctuary

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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 April 3:**

Roasted Chicken with Potatoes and Carrots

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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**Support a great cause while enjoying the fun and fellowship  
of a day on the Lochmere Golf Course!**

Why? Help us bring kids to camp this summer. Funds raised in this Golf Event will be used to provide scholarships to attend camp and for program development. It is our policy that no one be turned away from camp programs due to lack of funds.

Established in 1997, the David L. Castor campership fund has made it possible for children who otherwise could not afford a camp experience to enjoy a week of camp.

Join us on **Monday, April 8** starting at 8:00 am for Check-In and Coffee  
at Lochmere Golf Club, 2511 Kildaire Farm Road in Cary!

[Click Here to Register](#)

Questions? Contact Brenda Peterson or the church office (919-851-7248, [office@rlcary.org](mailto:office@rlcary.org)).

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## The Coffeehouse for Special Needs Adults

Friday, April 12

We thank all 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 thank God for this ministry among us!

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 next Coffeehouse is **Friday, April 12** from 7:00-8:30 pm in the Family Life Center gym. We will have *The Every Voice Choir* sing for us! This group is made up of many of our guests. Also, Shane Kirby will spin tunes before and after they sing.

Questions? Contact Brenda Peterson or the church office (919-851-7248, [office@rlcary.org](mailto:office@rlcary.org)).



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*\*Please note corrected dates!*



The Annual Men's Retreat & Service Day is April 19-21 at Camp Agape. All men invited! Please mark your calendars.

We will kick off on Friday, April 19 at 6:00 pm with a cookout/potluck. Bring a side or treat to share and your favorite beverage.

Saturday is combined with Study and Service. Bring your hiking boots and gloves. We are installing trail signs and splitting wood.

More details to follow. Be ready to RSVP soon. Questions? Contact Tom Gebbia or the church office (919-851-7248, [office@rlcary.org](mailto:office@rlcary.org)).

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## Food and Fellowship for the Blind

We enjoyed another evening of beautiful music, devotion and prayer, fellowship and delicious food last Friday with our blind and visually impaired guests.

As always, we thank our amazing volunteers, but also would like to recognize Enrigo's Italian Bistro right here in Waverly Place. They donated our meal, and it was just so tasty!

We thank them for their generosity! When you feel like eating real good Italian food, please think of supporting them!

Our next gathering will be on **Friday, April 26**. If you feel drawn to join our group of volunteers or just to "check it out", please contact Annette Langefeld-Kennedy or the church office (919-851-7248, [office@rlcary.org](mailto:office@rlcary.org)).

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## Operation Inasmuch

**Saturday, April 27 from 8:00 am-12:00 pm**

During this annual event, we gather to provide numerous acts of service for our church, community, and country. We begin with breakfast in the Family Life Center at 8:00 am, and most activities will be completed by noon.

There will be many opportunities available for all ages to participate. Nursery care will be provided. Some of the activities will be at RLC and others off-site.

This year, some activities include Habitat for Humanity, RLC landscaping, Project Linus, card making, quilting, sewing and knitting, Miracle League, Designed for Joy, and much more.

Registration will open soon! Look for the website link in the weekly announcements and on the RLC website. Forms will also be available at the Welcome Centers in the Narthex and Family Life Center.

Questions? Please contact Jan Boyer or the church office ([office@rlcary.org](mailto:office@rlcary.org), 919-851-7248).



## RLC Worship Servants and Training

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.



### 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>



[Sign Up Here!](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

Here's what is going on...

- **Connection Cafe** (Sunday School for Middle and High School)  
Sundays, 9:30-10:30 am  
*No Sunday School on Easter.*

- **Middle School:** Ignite Youth Group  
Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00 pm  
*We're back on Wednesday, April 3!*
- **High School:** Breakaway Youth Group  
Sundays, 6:30-8:00 pm  
*No Breakaway on Easter Sunday, March 31.*
- Looking ahead...  
Girls, mark your calendars for the Mother's Day Tea on **Saturday, April 6** from 11:30 am-1:00 pm.

This is appropriate for all moms and daughters. There will be activities especially designed for middle/high school aged daughters and their moms to connect. That is the part I am working on! I really hope to see you there.

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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## Resurrection Lutheran Preschool

**Now Enrolling 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.

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



**SUMMERCAMP**

**Resurrection Lutheran  
Preschool**

**3-year-olds  
to Rising kindergarteners**  
*(children currently in our 2's classes can come!)*  
**(ALL Ages MUST be toilet-trained)**

**June 3 – 6 (9:15-12:30)**  
**June 10 – 13 (9:15-12:30)**  
**June 17 – 20 (9:15-12:30)**

**RLChurch VBS June 24-28**

**Neighbors, friends, & family welcome!**  
*Brochures and Registration forms coming soon.*

**Mark Your Calendars!**

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

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Resurrection Lutheran School



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

## Latest Lion's Tale

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**Western Wake Crisis Ministry**  
Let's Slam Dunk Hunger Together!

### March Madness Daily Themes:

- **Macaroni Monday**  
pasta (boxed and canned), sauces, paste, canned tomatoes, oil, breadcrumbs, other non-perishable Italian-inspired foods
- **Taco Tuesday**  
canned beans, boxed rice, taco shells, taco seasoning, other Mexican-

inspired foods

- **Wake-Up Wednesday**

breakfast foods such as cereal, oatmeal, pancake mix, syrup, pop-tarts, breakfast bars

- **Team Thursday**

Show your spirit by donating items or packaging that match your favorite team color.

Examples: Blue - Progresso soup, tuna, canned fruit, canned salmon, canned chicken or Red - ketchup, canned tomatoes, tomato sauce, tomato paste, strawberry jam/jelly

- **Favorite Food Friday**

Share your favorite non-perishable food items such as peanut butter, jelly, cake/brownie mixes, ramen, canned fruit, snacks





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

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## This Week's Visual Faith Sheet

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### Attendance and Giving

#### In-Person Worship Attendance

Wednesday, March 20 (Lenten Midweek Worship)  
6:00 pm - 49

Saturday, March 23  
6:00 pm - 49

Sunday, March 24  
8:00 am - 103  
9:30 am - 203  
11:00 am - 94

**Total In-Person Worship: 498**

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

Wednesday, March 20 (Lenten Midweek Worship)  
6:00 pm - 44

Sunday, March 24  
8:00 am - 160  
11:00 am - 39

**Total Online Views: 243 views**

#### **General Fund Giving and Spending - February 2024**

	Current Month	Year to Date
General Receipts	\$ 98,662.21	\$ 927,684.10
Total Disbursements	<u>\$ 114,631.47</u>	<u>\$ 932,586.72</u>
Receipts Less Disbursements	\$ - 15,969.26	\$ - 4,902.62

**This Week's Offerings: \$18,679.52**

**Average Weekly Giving for 2023/24: \$26,505.26**

**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](https://rlcary.org/ministries/online-giving)
- Download the Vanco Mobile app, Search for Resurrection Lutheran Church

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

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## Church Calendar



100 Lochmere Drive West, Cary NC 27518

[rlcary.org](https://rlcary.org)

919-851-7248 | [office@rlcary.org](mailto:office@rlcary.org)

## Prayers of the Church – March 31, 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 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, Jimmy Ketner, Hope Mackelprang, Melissa Huntsman, Sue, Kathy,  
Pamm Haley, Bob, Michael Murphy, \*Greta Nelson, \*Marina de Moura Torres, Paul Wozniak,  
Carol Stano, Ames, Doug Gill, Emily

#### For Expectant Moms

Carolyn St. Laurent, Hannah Peterson, Analissa Vasquez, Sara Phillips

#### Those Prayed for on March 24, 2024

#### Thanking God Today

- Our RLC Family
- Family Celebrations and Time Together, Anniversaries, Birthdays, Weddings, Births, Baptisms
- Our Many Blessings
- Safe Travels
- Caring Organizations Serving Our Local Communities
- \*Zachary Heffner, Recovery and Continued Healing
- Easter Eggstravaganza on March 17, and All the Helpers Who Made It Possible
- Successful Surgery for Alison
- New Baby Girl, Lucy, and Her Parents Katie and Nick

#### 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
- \*Greta Nelson
- Paul Wozniak, Recovery

- Patricia Wellington, Chemo Treatments
- Jan Bloom, At Home
- Pastor William Otto, Cancer Treatment and Surgery
- Bruce, Brother of \*Ralph Klevenow
- \*Pam Dickson
- \*Stephanie Ford
- Jimmy, Cancer Treatment
- Emily, Cancer Treatment
- Imma, Restoration
- Betty, Memory Issues
- \*Vern Ebert
- \*Bill Xenakis
- \*Mindy Stephani, Therapy at Home
- \*Laurel and \*Larry Yost, Continued Healing
- Doug Gill, Recovery from Surgery and Cancer Treatment
- \*Helen Campbell
- \*Yvette Crawley
- MaKenzie
- DeAnn, John, Riva, Danny, Brian, Karl, Linda, Dale, Graydon, Joan, Doug, Imma, Alice, Paul, Byron, Rob, Buddy, Patricia, Greg, Noreen, Sylvia, Shelby, Julian, Carol, Adelaide, Susan, Olive, Conner, Ken, Harold, Virginia, Eric, Mara, Connie, Paige, Kari, Marti, Mark, Dave, Bill

#### **For Comfort**

- Friends and Family of Arlo Sunderman, Father of \*Cyndy Vagle
- Friends and Family of Rudy Brnic, Father of \*Ginny Bastante
- Friends and Family of Millie Hiteshew, Mother of \*Tim Hiteshew
- Friends and Family of Hope Studt, Mother of \*Julie Easton
- Friends and Family of Linda Powell
- Friends and Family of Jerrie Branson, Mother of \*Jill Hammergren

#### **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, Care Decisions
- \*Ginny and \*Ed Koren
- Sue Sanders and the \*Boyer Family
- \*Eve Sommers, Continued Recovery
- \*Meredith A.
- Those Enduring Marriage Struggles and Families in Turmoil

- Those Seeking Jobs and Career Changes, Especially Those Who've Been Downsized
- Victims, Families, and Communities Suffering with Gun Violence
- Baby Adian (Terminal Cancer) and His Family
- Pastor Gordon Beck and His Family, Hospice Care
- Healing and Hope for Erin and Evan
- Surgery on Tuesday
- Aidan Alston, First Job as Police Officer

**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.*