

Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

August 31, 2025



Pastor's Corner for August 31-September 6, 2025

The Lord Is My Helper (Hebrews 13:1-8)

Change in the world is all around us. No small wonder that there are a variety of popular maxims that speak about change:

- “The only constant in life is change.” (Heraclitus)
- “If you don’t like something, change it. If you can’t change it, change your attitude.” (Maya Angelou)
- “Change is inevitable, growth is optional.” (John Maxwell)

The Word of God for us this weekend doesn’t deny that change happens. And it doesn’t imply that change is bad or that we should seek to avoid it. It does tell us that despite the ever-shifting cultural landscape we are called to manage and live in day after day, there are some constants: the need to welcome “the stranger” (13:2), the need to visit and identify with those who are imprisoned (13:3), the need for marriage to be held in high regard (13:4), and the need for us

to be free from the love of money (13:5). Know what that means? Our need for the boundless grace and mercy of God will likewise never change!

More importantly, in the midst of it all, the author of Hebrews delivers to us the same promises God first made to the patriarchs: “I will never leave you nor forsake you” (Gen 28:15). He reminds us we have Jesus! “Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever” (13:8). Praise God! Today you may find yourself facing an unexpected health diagnosis or an uncertain future brought about by being riffed from a job. This week you might have just experienced the finality of watching a loved one die. A few days ago you may have heard something on the news that caused you to question your own safety or the safety of those you love. Any or all of those things may mean it feels right now as if the ground is shifting under your feet. But no matter what change or changes tomorrow will bring, Jesus continues to hold onto you. He is there in the change and will see you all the way through that change!

And so, by the grace of God, we too, can confidently say, “The Lord is [our] helper! [We] will not fear” (13:6).

Jesus is sufficient for our greatest needs. That does not... that will not ever change!

Love in Christ,
Pastor Jonathan

Please note, the church office will be closed on Monday, September 1 in observance of Labor Day.

Prayers of the Church



It is with great sadness and in Christian love and hope that we announce that our brother in Christ, **Ron Mitchell**, was called to rest with Jesus on August 28, 2025. Our prayers are with his wife, Carol, and their family at this time.

A Celebration of Life in Christ will be held at Resurrection for Saturday, September 20 at 11:00 am.



**Flowers Placed on the Sanctuary Altar
In Honor of Linda Merrill
by Margaret Hyatt and Susan Moore**

Sign up for Altar Flowers in the Sanctuary and Family Life Center.
Click below or call the church office at 919-851-7248.
Flowers are from Cary Florist and cost \$45.

[Sign Up for Altar Flowers!](#)

Adult Bible Study Opportunities

Tuesday Morning

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 am ~ September 2-May 19

Fellowship Hall

Pastor Jonathan Blanke, Pastor Zach Sarrault

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.

Wednesday Evening ~ Supper & Scripture

Christian Parenting

Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00 pm ~ September 3-November 19

Room 240, Family Life Center

Erika Hulse, Children and Family Ministry Director, and Pastor Zach Sarrault

For Parents, Grandparents, Guardians – All Welcome!

Parenting happens in habits. We make meals, get in cars, answer questions, discipline, and do bedtime. Using the book, *Habits of the Household* by Justin Whitmel Earley, we will see how these ordinary routines are extraordinary opportunities to live out the love of God in profound ways.

The Rock, The Road, and The Rabbi

Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00 pm ~ September 3-October 22

Room 151, Family Life Center

Tim Kearby and Mindy Stephani

Have you ever longed to walk where Jesus walked, to understand Scripture the way His first followers did? Join us for an inspiring Bible study based on the book, *The Rock, The Road, and The Rabbi* by Kathie Lee Gifford — a journey through the Holy Land with fresh insight from Jewish roots and ancient traditions.

James For Men

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 pm (Fellowship at 6:30 pm)

September 3-October 22

Room 247, Family Life Center

Tom Gebbia

Progress never comes easily! If you want to see improvement and concrete results, in anything you do, you will need to embrace discomfort. Yet it's the discomfort that prevents men from pressing on toward the goal. The book of James, which was written by the half-brother of Jesus, serves as a call to action for those who are hesitant to push through discomfort.

Women of the Word (WOW)

Everlasting: Peaks, Valleys, and Grace in the Psalms

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 pm (Fellowship at 6:45 pm)

September 3-December 10

Fellowship Hall

Jamee Thieme

All women are invited to this discussion-based study using the book, *Everlasting: Peaks, Valleys, and Grace in the Psalms* by Christina Hergenrader.

Anxious. Worthy. Ashamed. Nostalgic. Lonely. Secure. This is just a handful of emotions we observe in the Psalms – and in our day-to-day lives, too. In this women's Bible study, you'll be guided through 25 psalms, digging into their genres, perplex emotions, glimpses of Jesus, and more.

This Is the Church

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 pm ~ September 10-October 8

Room 251, Family Life Center

Pastor Jonathan Blanke

We will focus on the basics of what Christians believe and how the Christian faith can be understood in distinction from other world religions.

Sunday Morning

Challenging Words of Jesus

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 am ~ September 7-October 12

Fellowship Hall

Pastor Zach Sarrault, Pastor Jonathan Blanke

Ever wonder why Jesus tells you to hate your family, make friends by unrighteous wealth, fear God, or that divorce is adultery? We will be specifically looking at these challenging words of Jesus, because even His hard words matter for our relationship with Him and the people He gives us. Jesus doesn't

always tell you what you want to hear. But He always tells you what you need to hear, and even the hard words are a gift given to you in love. Our goal will be to understand these hard words in context and see the love of Jesus behind them using *Jesus Said What?* by Christopher M. Kennedy.

[View the Christian Education Booklet, Fall 2025](#)

Employment Opportunity

Our church is seeking a dedicated and organized individual to fill the role of **Church Office Assistant**. This vital position supports the overall operations of our church, ensuring smooth administrative functions, and a welcoming environment for all who interact with our ministries.

The work would be part-time, approximately 20 hours per week, and is scheduled to begin September 2.

Interested parties are asked to reach out to Pastor Jonathan for more information.





Contact Marcia Shaw through RCB or the church office
(919-851-7248, office@rlcary.org).

Wednesday Evening Dinners

Join us for dinner on Wednesdays from 5:15-6:00 pm in the Family Life Center Gym starting September 3!

Dinners are prepared for all ages with a buffet style setup including dessert. There can be a vegetarian option upon request. Excellent opportunity to bond with family and friends, new and old, over a sit-down meal!

All are welcome! Online reservations at rlcary.org requested by 12:00 pm on Monday each week.

Previous/standing reservations from last year do NOT carry over. Please make sure to place your new reservation for this year.

Suggested donation of \$7 per person or \$25 per family. Cash, check, or card payable at door. If you plan to attend multiple dinners, you may reserve and pay in advance.

Menu for September

September 3: Danny's Bar-B-Que Pulled Pork, Potato Salad, Hush Puppies, Salad, Fruit, and Banana Pudding

September 10: Baked Ziti with Meatballs, Garlic Bread, Salad, Fruit, and Cake

September 17: Roasted Chicken with Potatoes, Carrots, Salad, Fruit, and Pie

September 24: Jersey Mike's Sandwiches (Ham, Turkey, Roast Beef, Italian, Veggie), Chips, Fruit, and Cookies

Interested in volunteering to help with set up, serving, and cleaning? [Sign up today!](#)

Questions? Contact Kim Simpson through RCB or the church office (919-851-7248, office@rlcary.org). We look forward to seeing you!

Heavenly Handbells

Interested in learning how to ring with the Heavenly Handbells? Open to adults and high school age.

Rehearsals are Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00 pm, in the Sanctuary. We start up again on **Wednesday, September 3.**



If interested, plan to attend any of the rehearsals or contact Bob Unger at robert.unger@rlcary.org or 919-851-7248 x 25.

Following Naomi

The Following Naomi widow's group will be meeting on **Thursday, September 11** from 2:00-4:00 pm in Room 151, Family Life Center.

Please bring an object from your childhood or a picture of something you've saved from your childhood (i.e. jewelry, toy, book, clothing, card or note, etc.). The important part is telling the story behind the object to share with the group. If you don't have something from your childhood, please think of a childhood story you can tell the group so we can all get to know each other better.

Contact Eydee Persson or the church office (919-851-7248, office@rlcary.org).

The Next Coffeehouse for Special Needs Adults

Friday, September 12

We thank all our volunteers who help us to have wonderful Coffeehouses. We couldn't do it without our faithful volunteers! Please consider joining us. 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: bit.ly/3VAtWW0

The next Coffeehouse is **Friday, September 12** from 7:00-8:30 pm in the Family Life Center Gym. *Bona Fide Brass* will be playing for us.



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

Men's Breakfast



Saturday, September 13
8:00 am
Fellowship Hall

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

Contact Tom Gebbia at mens-ministry@rlcary.org.

New Members

Interested in becoming a church member? We will have a **Welcome to Resurrection Brunch on Saturday, September 13** from 10:00-11:30 am. We try to meet all our guests at worship, but we know we miss some of you.

This brunch is an opportunity for us to get to know you better and you get to know who we are too! What will happen? Eat good food, have good conversation, and tour our facilities. Kids are invited!

Questions or to RSVP, please contact Pastor Zach at zach.sarrault@rlcary.org or 919-851-7248.

Men's Ministry ~ Summer Gatherings

Over the summer, we enjoyed meeting up for casual gatherings. We had an enjoyable time at the Player's Retreat in Raleigh during our August event!



There is an interest to continuing these gatherings throughout the year. Check the announcements for future dates.

All men welcome! You do not have to eat or drink to attend these events. Contact Tom Gebbia at mens-ministry@rlcary.org.

Prayer Cards

Visual Faith® Ministry has provided prayer cards by the prayer sheets in the Narthex and the Family Life Center. We invite you to take a few cards home

and add prayer notes for your family and friends for whom you are praying.

As you pray for those concerns, color the card, and then send it to the person with a note that says, "You've been in my prayers this week."

If you have questions, please contact Jamee Thieme through RCB.

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 at 919-851-7248 or office@rlcary.org for assistance.

Children and Family Ministry



The graphic features a blue cloud on the left, a sun on the right, and a central illustration of a girl with brown hair holding a book titled 'HANDS-ON BIBLE'. The title 'September Children's Ministry News' is in large blue letters. Below it, a list of dates and events is provided. A QR code is included for sign-up, and a 'Don't forget!' note points to it. A 'Milestone Bible Distribution' section describes the event on Sept. 20-21. A 'Hands-On Bible Class for 2nd Graders' section describes the class on Sept. 24.

September Children's Ministry News

Important Dates!

- Sept. 3 - 1st Kidz Live
- Sept. 7 - First Sunday School Class
- Sept. 6-7 Blessing of Educators & Learners
- Sept. 10 - KICKS (3rd-5th grade)
- Sept. 20-21 - Bible Distribution *
- Sept. 24 - Hands on Bible Class (2nd graders)

***Milestone Bible Distribution**

On September 20 and 21 in all services 3-year-olds and 2nd graders will be called forward, with their parents, to receive a Bible.

Hands-On Bible Class for 2nd Graders

2nd graders and their parents are invited to a brief overview of their new Hands-On Bible with Pastor Zach on Sept. 24 from 5:30-6:00 in room 240.

Don't forget! Please sign your children up for Sunday School using this link:



Kidz Live

Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00 pm ~ Starting September 3

Family Life Center Gym

Children, Kindergarten-5th Grade, are invited to participate in a devotion, activity, and then play games or complete a fun project.

Questions? Contact Erika Hulse, Children and Family Ministry Director, at erika.hulse@rlcary.org or 919-851-7248, ext. 62.

Youth Ministry

Middle School and High School

Middle School Youth Group

Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00 pm ~ Starting September 3

The Warehouse, Room 253, Family Life Center

Middle school students (6th-8th grade) are in an important stage of faith

building. The goal is to spark that faith flame and watch it grow! We have fun, ask questions, build our team and group up, learn, serve, engage, grow, and take that faith spark out into our homes, church, families, and community.

Sunday School

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 am ~ Starting September 7

The Warehouse, Room 253, Family Life Center

For Middle School (6th-8th Grade) and High School (9th-12th Grade) Youth, our Enduring Faith Bible curriculum is a flexible curriculum that nurtures lifelong disciples of Jesus. We will be doing a walk through the whole Bible and its major themes, tracing God's plan of salvation from Genesis to Revelation. Let's dive into our Enduring Faith!

High School Youth Group

Sundays, 6:30-8:00 pm ~ Starting September 7

The Warehouse, Room 253, Family Life Center

We have fun, encourage one another, serve, engage, and grow our faith!

Plan to attend the **High School Youth and Family Kick Off on Sunday, September 7** from 6:30-8:00 pm. Lots of fun!



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

Resurrection Lutheran Preschool

Enrollment for 2025-26

at Resurrection Lutheran **PRESCHOOL**

Our program provides a balance of
academic and social opportunities by
'learning through play'
in a loving Christian atmosphere.



+ Classes for children 2-years-old
thru 5-years-old +

office@rlpcary.org
919.851.7270



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

Resurrection Lutheran School



Serving
First Responders
in Avery County
during Middle School
Retreat!



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

Weekly Attendance

In-Person Worship Attendance:

Saturday, August 23

6:00 pm - 67

Sunday, August 24

8:00 am - 90

9:30 am - 201

11:00 am - 127

Total In-Person Worship: 485

Views of Online Worship at RLC's YouTube Channel:

Sunday, August 24

8:00 am - 92

11:00 am - 45

Total Online Views: 137

Financial Update - Fiscal 2024/25

July 2025

Budgeted Giving to Date: \$117,889

Actual Giving to Date: \$137,066

Current Over/(Under) Giving: \$19,177

Budgeted Expenses to Date: \$124,413

Actual Expenses to Date: \$122,259

Current Under/(Over) Spend: \$2,154

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 – August 31, 2025

*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, *Anne Altieri, *Charlotte Raines, *Eric Hammergren, *Anita Moore, *John Shaeffer,
*Vern Ebert, *Aaron, Marcus, Malcolm, *Sandy Douglas, Henry Otten, Michael Flannery,
*Helen Campbell, Paul Batt, *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, Hope Mackelprang, Melissa Huntsman, Sue, Kathy, Pamm Haley, Bob, Michael Murphy,
*Greta Nelson, *Marina de Moura Torres, Ames, Doug Gill, Emily, *Alison Whatley, Joe Huley,
Lyn Becksford

For Expectant Moms

*Emily Hooper Evans, *Shannon Dawe, *Renee Guerin, *Alyssa Shaw, Ally Brown

Those Prayed for on August 24, 2025

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
- Healthy Baby Boy for Rhianna
- Skye's 1st Birthday
- Baby Rosemary Gerdes, Born August 5th, Proud Parents Karl and Melody Gerdes
- *Linda Merrill's Retirement and Faithful Service as RLC Office Assistant
- Successful Surgery

For Healing

- *Kim Goss
- All Those Exposed to COVID, with COVID, and Recovering from COVID
- Blind Ministry Guests - Maria and Jeff Barker, Linda Jones, Judy Dean, Ruby Franklin,
Miriam Delgado, Helen Rice-Lyles, Nancy Waggoner, Debbie Guice

- *Greta Nelson
- Pastor William Otto, Cancer Treatment and Surgery
- *Pam Dickson
- *Stephanie Ford
- Betty, Memory Issues
- *Mindy Stephani, Recovery
- *Helen Campbell
- Terrie Johnson, Mother of *Jen Kirby
- *Alison Whatley
- Bryon, Recovery from Brain Injury
- Marion Cecconi, Mother of *Lecia Roberts
- Martha, Sister of *Charlotte Raines
- Carrie Heilman, Cancer Treatment, Daughter-In-Law of *John and *Virginia Heilman
- Dave, Brother-In-Law of *Susan Brandt
- Clare Roberts, Cancer Treatment, Mother of *Michelle Wood
- *Charlie Shiel
- *Kathy Rihani
- *Charlotte Raines
- Leta Huntsinger's Mother in Hospice Care
- Cynthia Wyse
- Brian Gorneau, Recovery from Accident
- *Fern Frusti
- Deb, Sister of *Pam Dickson
- Tyler, Recovering from Burns, and His Family Supporting Him
- Belle, Cancer Return, Healing
- Jeri Breitsprecher, Recovery, Mother of *Sue Campau, Recovery and Guidance for Her Family
- Mike Hodgin
- Laurie, Ricky, Jean, Karl, Linda, Kim, Jordan, Larry, Catherine, Mike, Stella, David, Carly, Karen, Jessica, Olevia, Charlie, Lois, Doug, Melissa, Stephen, Richard, Rosemary, Kandi, Gabby, Diane, Gary, James, Gene and Lois, Walter, John, Joe, Jeri, Herbie, Charlie, Steve, Mark, Eric, Susan, Mara, Sandy, Connie, Alvin, James

For Comfort

- Family and Friends of Alice Loeffler, Neighbor/Friend of *Sue Sanders
- Family and Friends of Lee Frank Sr., Father of Friend of *Eric Heise
- Family and Friends of Keenwood Family, Friend of *Cathy Kimmel
- Family and Friends of Pat Houghton, Friend of *Marcia Shaw
- Family and Friends of Paul Leister, Cousin of *Keith Leister

For Provision, Peace, Strength, and Patient Endurance

- Persecuted Christians
- People Around the World Affected by Natural Disasters and Weather Events, Especially People of Western NC, SC
- Weather Events, Heavy Rain, and Flooding, Especially TX and NC
- Families and Businesses Recovering in Western NC
- Mountainside Lutheran Church and Camp Linn Haven (Reopened for Summer)

- Safety and Thanksgiving for People Helping with Recovery Efforts
- People of Ukraine, and All Those Who Serve to Support Them
- People of Israel and People of Gaza, Peace in the Middle East
- All Those Supporting Family Members with Caregiving Needs
- Safe Travels
- Annie Ruth Ford, Mother of *Dennis Ford
- *Eric and *Jill Hammergren
- *Jan Wozniak and Her Family
- Jan and Rich Bloom
- *Ginny and *Ed Koren
- *Meredith A.
- *Fran Xenakis
- *Ron and *Carol Mitchell
- Those Enduring Marriage Struggles and Families in Turmoil
- Those Seeking Jobs and Career Changes, and Federal Workers
- Victims, Families, and Communities Suffering with Gun Violence
- Dorothy Conners and Her Family
- *Jim and *Thelma Rhodes
- *Anita Moore and Family
- Rundel Family
- Marion Cecconi, Mother of *Lecia Roberts
- Our Government and Leaders
- Job Search - Kyle, Malcolm
- Doug Gill, Ongoing Cancer Treatment and Move to Oregon
- College Students Returning to Classes
- Peace for Families

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 Alan Shaw, Intentional Interim Pastor at Peace Lutheran Church, Goldsboro NC
- SMP Vicar Christopher Reed, SMP Training and Vicarage, and His Family
- Resurrection Lutheran Church and Schools Staff
- Area Pastors and Schools Staff
- Our Stephen Ministers
- Our Ministry of Presence

For Ongoing Mission and Outreach Efforts

- RLC's The Coffeehouse
- RLC's Blind Ministry
- Sleep in Heavenly Peace
- Safe Families for Children
- Families Together/PLM
- Camp Agape Ministries
- Read-a-Book at Reedy Creek Elementary School and Our RLC Volunteers
- Orphan Grain Train

- Eastern NC Lutheran Via de Cristo

For Our Missionaries

- JP and Aimee Cima, Cambodia
[Click here for the Cima Family 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 8/28/25