

Third Sunday in Advent

December 14, 2025



Pastor's Corner for December 14-20

Go and Tell (Matthew 11:2-6)

This time of year, Jesus is everywhere. I don't just mean in a spiritual, God-like, omnipresent sort of way. I'm talking about a very physical presence that people can see with their own eyes. All those manger scenes! In front yards, living rooms, garages, rooftops, on t-shirts, bumper stickers, billboards. He is everywhere!

What's the purpose of all these images of Jesus? What do we hope they accomplish? I imagine that most folks would simply say that it's just what you do during Christmas. The manger is a pleasant decoration, a celebration even of Christ's birth. Maybe a sanctified answer would be that we hope it can point people to the real meaning of Christmas, that Jesus was born as God in the

flesh, come to save us from our sins. But is that evident from just a wooden statue in my front yard? Is the manger scene enough to create faith?

Faith in Jesus as the Son of God is what we need to have a relationship with Him. It is what all people need and, whether they know it or not, it is what all people are looking for. We all want to have faith in Jesus, but we can go looking in all the wrong places. Even John the Baptizer was looking for faith. When he was in prison, he started hearing about Jesus and wondered if this Jesus guy was in fact the Son of God. Maybe we could say that he started observing “manger scenes” and wondered what the big deal was, so he went right to the source, sending some friends to ask Jesus if He was in fact the Savior.

You have people in your life, we all do, that are looking for Jesus. All the manger scenes of the season are part of their normal routine, and they probably don’t even think twice when they see them, but you know why they are there. Those manger scenes are put there as an opportunity for you to tell a story, for you to tell them about the Savior of the world for them. As Christians (little Christ’s), we have one job this side of eternity, to tell others of Jesus’ Word and Work.

That’s what John needed to hear. Jesus told John’s friends, “Go and tell John what you hear and see” (Matthew 11:4). How does faith grow? Simply from the seed of Jesus’ Word and Work. How do people know about that Word and Work? Simply from people like you and me. Ever since Jesus’ first Advent 2,000 years ago the work of His people has always been the same, go and tell others what you hear and see from Jesus. So, the big question is, who is Jesus sending you to “go and tell” today?

Your sent brother in Christ,
Pastor Zach Sarrault

Please note, there will be no Sunday School for adults and children this week.

Jan Wozniak is recovering in Indiana following a fall in November. If you would like to send greetings to her, please contact the church office for her address.

Prayers of the Church

Resurrection Lutheran Church cordially invites all active RLC members to take part in an online survey from Sunday, December 14 through Sunday, December 21 regarding a possible capital campaign in the New Year.

Please watch for an email with a link to the survey to be delivered early in the morning of the 14th. I invite you to read the Preliminary Case Study explaining the perceived needs and expected costs for a campaign like this posted on our church website prior to taking the survey.

I know it is a busy time of year, but we value your feedback.

Many thanks in advance for sharing your thoughts with us and for keeping the Preliminary Study report preparation in your prayers!

Love in Christ,
Pastor Jonathan Blanke



[For full listing of the Advent services, click here.](#)

*Live stream available on YouTube [@ResurrectionLutheranCary](#).

Please note, some Wednesday evening activities will operate on an adjusted schedule for Advent. There will be no dinners served in December.



Adult Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday Morning

No Holy Communion

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 am ~ October 26-December 21

Fellowship Hall

Ian Glenn

Using Luther's Small Catechism and the Bible, this class will be focused on the Lutheran understanding of Holy Communion, where it comes from in the Bible, and what we can learn about it from the early church writers. There will also be discussion on the similarities and differences between the Lutheran understanding of the sacrament with those of other Christian denominations in an effort to help prepare participants for discussions that might arise in day-to-

day life. It is hoped that participants will gain a richer understanding and appreciation for the sacrament of the Lord's Supper and how it has shaped Christian worship throughout the centuries. Bring your Bible and Luther's Small Catechism. Some will be available.

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

No Christian Parenting During Advent

Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00 pm

Room 240, Family Life Center

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

Men's Ministry

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

Room 245, Family Life Center

Tom Gebbia

On **December 17**, we will end the year with the traditional **Potluck and Tool Gift Exchange**. Plan to join us in Room 245, Family Life Center, at 6:30 pm.

***Last* Sacred Marriage**

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 pm

October 29-December 17

Room 251, Family Life Center

Pastor Alan Shaw

Whether you are married now or plan to be someday, this workshop will look at marriage as much more than a union between two people. It is a spiritual discipline ideally suited to help you know God more fully and intimately. *Sacred Marriage* shifts the focus from marital enrichment to spiritual enrichment in ways that can help you love your mate more.

Whether it is delightful or difficult, your marriage can become a doorway to a closer walk with God. Everything about your marriage – from the history you and your spouse create, to the love you share, to the forgiveness you both offer and seek – is filled with the capacity to help you grow in Christ's character. Books will be provided.

[View the Christian Education Booklet, Fall 2025, Session 2](#)

Men's Breakfast



Saturday, December 13

8:00 am

Fellowship Hall

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

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



Surviving the Holidays

Join us for a Surviving the Holidays seminar and discover helpful ways to deal with the hurt of divorce and separation during the holiday season.

Resurrection Lutheran Church

100 W. Lochmere Drive, Cary NC 27518

Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 2:00 pm

Room 151 in Family Life Center

Register here: find.divorcecare.org/ministries/178938



divorcecare.org/holidays

Register here: find.divorcecare.org/ministries/178938

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

• **YOUNG FAMILIES** •
gathering



Join us on
Sunday, December 14 at 4:00 pm
at the Home of Ian and Derica Justice
(3816 Olde Waverly Way, Fuquay-Varina)
for Food, Fellowship, Fun and a
White Elephant Gift Exchange!

Please bring a dish to pass and White Elephant Gift.
(two gifts per family - one for kids and one for adults)

RSVP to Ian and Derica Justice, or Pastor Zach.

**Reaching Out with the Love of Christ
to All People through Advent Offerings**

Each season of Advent, RLC designates ministries to support in reaching out with Christ's love to all people. This year, the following organizations were chosen:

Meals on Wheels

Meals on Wheels of Wake County provide our homebound and senior neighbors with a nutritious hot meal, along with a check-in and visit. Their services provide the opportunity for seniors to continue living well nourished,

independent and safe lives, in their own homes and communities.

Learn More: [Meals on Wheels Wake County](#)

Warmth for Wake

Warmth for Wake is a seasonal energy assistance outreach program that is sponsored by Wake County Health & Human Services. The goal of the program is to provide assistance to low-income residents of Wake County during the coldest winter months with firewood or space heaters.

Learn More: [Warmth for Wake](#)

Please use the Advent Offering envelopes or indicate 'Advent Offering' on memo of checks.



Christmas Worship Services

December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

3:00 pm

For Families with Young Children, Interactive Lessons and Carol Singing

4:30 pm

Traditional Christmas Carol Family Worship with Special Pre-Service
Musical Offerings by Students

6:00 pm

Candlelight Service with Contemporary Settings of Traditional Carols and
Holy Communion in Family Life Center

8:00 pm

Candlelight Service with Traditional Christmas Carols with Brass Ensemble,
Sanctuary Choir, and Heavenly Handbells
(Live Stream on YouTube)

10:00 pm

Candlelight Service with Traditional Christmas Carols and Holy
Communion

December 25 ~ Christmas Day

10:00 am

Festival Celebration of Holy Communion with Christmas Carols

Stephen Ministry



Stephen Ministry is a listening ministry focused on confidential care for those struggling with any number of life issues from grief to depression to loneliness to anxiety. We are there to walk alongside and support.

And we need you to prayerfully consider becoming a Stephen Minister. If you are up for the challenge, the next class starts **January 4, 2026**. Ask the pastors to link you up with a Stephen Leader or email us at stephenministry@rlcary.org. We'll see you in class!

The Coffeehouse for Special Needs Adults

Friday, January 9

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 as a volunteer! Our special needs guests love to attend these events, and we need lots of volunteers to make them feel special and loved. The monthly Coffeehouses happen every 2nd Friday, January-November.

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/3VAAtWWO

The first Coffeehouse of our 24th season is **Friday, January 9** from 7:00-8:30 pm in the Family Life Center. *The Lochnuts* will be performing for us.



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

Children and Family Ministry News December 2025

Upcoming Events:

December 12 - Parents Night Out 6-9 pm in the gym

December 14 - No Children's Sunday School

December 14 - Young Family Gathering at the Justice Family Home 4 pm

December 19 - Moms Night Out

December 24 - Christmas Eve Family Interactive Service 3 pm

December 28 & January 4 - No Children's Sunday School

January 7 - Kidz Live and Parenting resume 6-7 pm FLC

January 11 - Children's Sunday School resumes 9:30-10:30

* MERRY *
CHRISTMAS



Oh what fun it is to see all that is happening in Children's Ministry!



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

It is hard to believe we have come to the end of our calendar year, and Christmas is upon us already. I hope that in this season of busyness and distraction you can make the time to focus on the joy and hope that this season brings.

Wednesday night Advent services are a great way midweek to take a breath and focus on the reason for the season, Jesus.

December 14:

No Sunday School for Middle and High School, 9:30 am

High School Youth Group, 6:30-8:00 pm

Christmas Party and Gift Exchange!



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.*



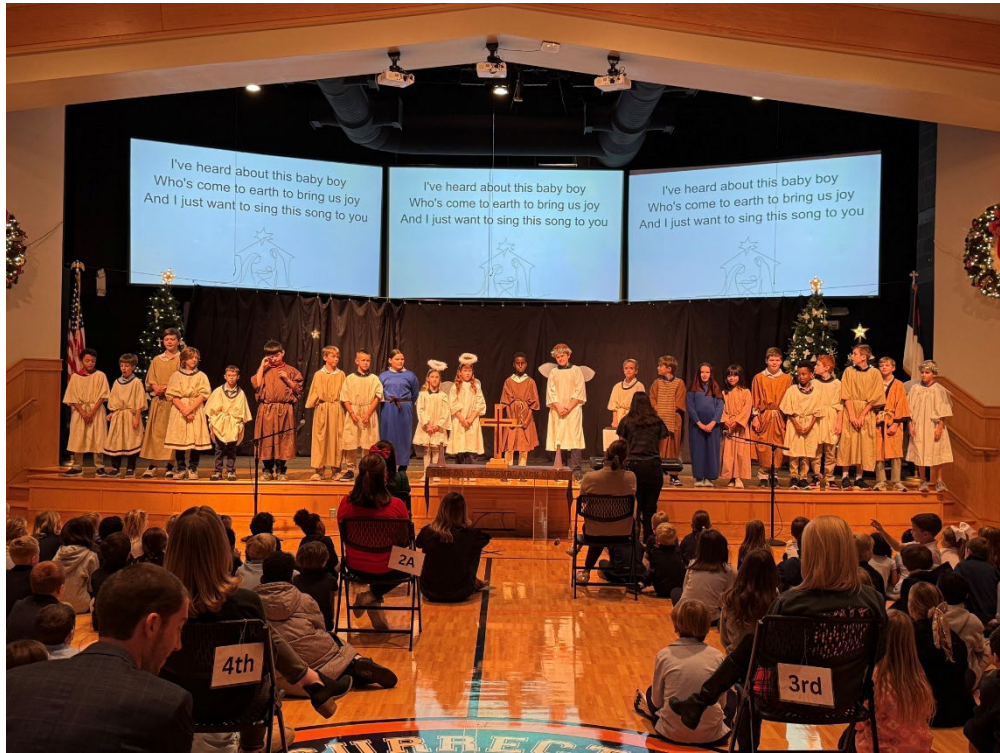
+ Classes for children 2-years-old
thru 5-years-old **+**

office@rlpcary.org
919.851.7270



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

Resurrection Lutheran School



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.

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.

This Week's Visual Faith Sheet

Weekly Attendance

In-Person Worship Attendance:

Wednesday, December 3

6:00 pm - 144

Saturday, December 6

6:00 pm - 49

Sunday, December 7

8:00 am - 125

9:30 am - 192

11:00 am - 97

Total In-Person Worship: 607

Views of Online Worship at RLC's YouTube Channel:

Wednesday, December 3

6:00 pm - 76

Sunday, December 7

8:00 am - 137

11:00 am - 31

Total Online Views: 244

Financial Update - Fiscal 2024/25

November 2025

Budgeted Giving to Date: \$589,000.00

Actual Giving to Date: \$605,259.90

Current Over/(Under) Giving: \$ 16,259.90

Budgeted Expenses to Date: \$633,33.33

Actual Expenses to Date: \$578,288.45

Current Under/(Over) Spend: \$ 55,044.88

Questions? Contact finance@rlcary.org.

Church Calendar



100 W. Lochmere Drive, Cary NC 27518

rlcary.org

919-851-7248 | office@rlcary.org

Prayers of the Church – December 14, 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, Paul Batt,
*Geoffrey Wiggins, Caitlyn, Mark Zimmerman, Justus Nicolai, Alex Fernandez

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, Emily, *Alison Whatley, Joe Huley, Lyn Becksford

For Expectant Moms

*Renee Guerin, *Melaney Unger Campos, Hannah Peterson, Sarah Hulse

Those Prayed for on December 7, 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
- Birth of Katie Ann Shaw, Proud Parents *Kevin and *Alyssa Shaw

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, Kathy Stegall
- *Greta Nelson
- Pastor William Otto, Cancer Treatment and Surgery
- *Pam Dickson
- *Stephanie Ford
- Betty, and Others with Dementia
- *Mindy Stephani, Healing and Restoration

- Terrie Johnson, Mother of *Jen Kirby
- *Alison Whatley
- Bryon, Recovery from Brain Injury
- Carrie Heilman, Cancer Treatment, Daughter-In-Law of *John and *Virginia Heilman
- Clare Roberts, Recovery, Mother of *Michelle Wood
- *Charlie Shiel
- *Charlotte Raines
- Cynthia Wyse
- Brian Gorneau, Recovery from Accident at Home
- *Fern Frusti
- Deb, Sister of *Pam Dickson
- Tyler, Recovering from Burns, and His Family Supporting Him
- Belle and Hayes, Childhood Cancer
- *Clinton Peterson
- Kathy Mitchell
- Khari Otten
- Tommi
- Ryan
- Henry, Grandson of *Mark and *Pat Otten
- Makayla
- Carli
- Kyler
- Dee Dee Morris, Restoration
- *Yvette Crawley, Healing and Recovery
- Lorrie Muller, Cancer Treatment
- *Cheryl Roth, Healing and Rehab
- *Jan Wozniak, Healing and Rehab
- *Amelia Sarrault, Surgery and Recovery
- Patrick Tray, surgery and recovery
- Julie, Sheila, Carly, Karen, Carol, Fran, Kathy, Jackie, Matt, Knox, Nove, Brianne, Kay, Bob, Roz, Darrell, Tina, Brittany, Olevia, Larry, Jessica, Stacy, Fatma, Baby Keyaan, Johnny, Ray, Scott, Gia, Joe, Jeri, Herbie, Gabby, Charlotte, James, Mark, Gary, Walter, Gene, Lois, Melissa, Marcus, Jan, Porsha, Amelia, Victor, Linda, Ruby, Leanne, Paul, Kelly, Carrie, Bill, Virginia, Jake, Amanda, Eric, Billy, Steve, Gavin

For Comfort

- Family and Friends of Nancy Birner, Aunt of *Dave Birner
- Family and Friends of Bernell Ebert, Brother of *Vern Ebert
- Family and Friends of Griffin Tilton, Especially Grandparents *George and *Chris Johanson

For Provision, Peace, Strength, and Patient Endurance

- Persecuted Christians, Especially Nigeria
- People Around the World Affected by Natural Disasters and Weather Events
- Families and Businesses Recovering in Western NC
- Safety and Thanksgiving for People Helping with Recovery Efforts
- People of Ukraine, and All Those Who Serve to Support Them

- 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 Wozniak
- Jan and Rich Bloom
- *Ginny and *Ed Koren
- *Meredith A.
- *Fran Xenakis
- *Carol Mitchell
- Our Government and Leaders
- Those Enduring Marriage Struggles and Families in Turmoil
- Those Seeking Jobs and Career Changes, and Federal Workers, Especially Rose
- Victims, Families, and Communities Suffering with Gun Violence
- Dorothy Conners
- *Jim and *Thelma Rhodes
- *Anita Moore
- *Rundle Family
- Marion Cecconi, Mother of *Lecia Roberts
- *Kathy Rihani
- Those in Process of Selling and Purchasing Homes
- Jeri Breitsprecher, Mother of *Sue Campau, Recovery and Guidance for Her Family
- For the Director Search at Resurrection Lutheran Preschool
- Safety for Hunters
- Mike, Business
- First Responders
- Our Sons to Find Christ and Healing

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
- Pastor Jon Richter, Discernment in Serving
- Resurrection Lutheran Church and Schools Staff
- Area Pastors and Schools Staff
- Our Stephen Ministers
- Our Caring Presence Ministry
- Divorce Care Program, Beginning Early 2026

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 12/12/25