

# First Sunday After Christmas

December 28, 2025

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*Pastor's Corner for December 28-January 3*

**"Abba! Father!"**  
**(Galatians 4:4-7)**

The post-Christmas season can be a little bit of a drag. Everything starts to empty out. Slowly, but surely, Christmas lights get taken down, family and friends go home or don't call as much, presents that were once new and exciting become old and mundane, and the Christmas tree and decorations are removed. Our homes, neighborhoods, and even our church go back to looking normal. All of this can make us feel a little empty, as if God's work at Christmas really was just a celebration, something that only happens once a year and then that's it. As we trudge back into, what can seem empty to some but certainly routine for many, normal life, it can be easy to forget what the celebration was all about.

But the promise is still true, and God is still working! If the promise is true and God is still working, then we are far from empty, instead we are full of God and

His work in us, for us, and through us. The promise is still true that our God is and always will be Immanuel, He is God with us!

*And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" (Galatians 4:6)*

God is with us through His Holy Spirit that He has sent into us just as He sent His Son into the world. The Spirit is continuing the full work of Jesus Christ, always pointing us to the cross and our heavenly Father to remind us that we are united with God for all eternity, having been made children of the heavenly Father. There is nothing empty about that! Just because the lights and the tree are put away, presents may lose their allure, and family go back home, doesn't meant that God is done doing His Christmas work. The Holy Spirit causes the promise of Jesus to be born in us every day, as every day we wake up as baptized people of God. With the Holy Spirit in us, we cry out with that Spirit, "Abba! Father!" in joy that He will never leave us empty but always fill us with His gifts of love and eternal life!

Your filled brother in Christ,  
Pastor Zach Sarrault

Please note, the church office will be operating on a limited schedule this week.  
Happy New Year!

**Prayers of the Church**

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[\*Sign Up for Altar Flowers!\*](#)

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## Adult Bible Study Opportunities

### **No** Sunday Morning

#### **New** Christianity's Influence on American Literature

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 am ~ January 4-February 15

Fellowship Hall

Larry Cameron

A nation's culture is defined in large part by its literature. Since many of our earliest settlers came seeking freedom to practice their Christian faith, much of what they wrote reflects a rich Biblical heritage. Writers in following generations continued that tradition.

We will examine poetry and prose selections from more than a dozen famous American writers, including Anne Bradstreet, John Greenleaf Whittier, Countee Cullen, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Stephen Crane. This study will reveal how widespread, and enduring has been the Bible's influence on our literature.

All materials will be provided in each session. Please bring your Bible as we trace the links between Scripture and each literary selection. Some will be available.

### Tuesday Morning

#### **No 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.

#### **No Wednesday Evening ~ Supper & Scripture**

No Wednesday evening activities for this week, December 31.

Supper & Scripture will resume on **Wednesday, January 7** with dinner, adult Christian education classes, Confirmation, youth events, and music ministry rehearsals.

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## 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](mailto:stephenministry@rlcary.org). We'll see you in class!

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## Appalachia Service Project

### The ASP Experience

Appalachia Service Project provides one of the most rewarding structured service opportunities in the nation —bringing thousands of volunteers from around the country to Central Appalachia to repair and replace homes for low-income families.

Since 1969, ASP has made homes warmer, safer, and drier for families and provided transformational service experiences for volunteers. Learn more: [Appalachia Service Project | Mission Trips in Appalachia](#)

Resurrection Lutheran Church participated in ASP Summer Mission Trips in

years past. Kevin Kuhl (Former ASP Youth Team Member, Current Adult Leader for High School, Youth Ministry) is interested in reviving this popular servant event again.

There will be two ASP Interest Meetings held on **Sunday, January 4** at 12:30 pm in Room 240, Family Life Center, and **Wednesday, January 7** at 7:00 pm in The Warehouse, Room 253, Family Life Center. You only need to attend one.



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**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/3VAAtWW0](http://bit.ly/3VAAtWW0)

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](mailto:office@rlcary.org)).

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## 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.

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## 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](mailto:erika.hulse@rlcary.org) or 919-851-7248, ext. 62.

## Youth Ministry

Middle School and High School



*Happy New Year!*

**December 28:**

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

No High School Youth Group, 6:30-8:00 pm

Questions? Contact Jenny Piontek, Youth Director,  
at [jenny.piontek@rlcary.org](mailto:jenny.piontek@rlcary.org) or 919-851-7248, ext. 24.

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





## 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 1 – 4** (9:15-12:30)

**June 8 – 11** (9:15-12:30)

**June 15 – 18** (9:15-12:30)

RLChurch VBS June 22-26

Neighbors, friends, & family welcome!

*Look for Brochures & Registration forms in January*

## Mark Your Calendars!

**email- [office@rlpcary.org](mailto:office@rlpcary.org)**

**call- 919-851-7270**

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

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## Resurrection Lutheran School



Former RLS Teacher, Kathy Siemon  
with the last class she taught –  
current 8<sup>th</sup> graders.



**rlscary.org**  
Junior Kindergarten-8<sup>th</sup> Grade

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

### Latest Lion's Tale

## WORSHIP SERVICES

Traditional Worship  
in Sanctuary

Saturday, 6:00 pm  
Sunday, \*8:00 & 9:30 am

Praise Worship  
in Family Life Center

Sunday, \*11:00 am

*\*Services Live Streamed to YouTube*

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

## RLC W orship 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](mailto:office@rlcary.org) for assistance.

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## This W eek's Visual Faith Sheet

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## W eekly Attendance

### In-Person W orship Attendance:

Wednesday, December 17  
6:00 pm - 84

Saturday, December 20

6:00 pm - 54

Sunday, December 21

8:00 am - 138

9:30 am - 197

11:00 am - 72

**Total In-Person Worship: 545**

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

Wednesday, December 17

6:00 pm - 57

Sunday, December 21

8:00 am - 97

11:00 am - 47

**Total Online Views: 201**

## **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](mailto:finance@rlcary.org).

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## Church Calendar



100 W. Lochmere Drive, Cary NC 27518

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

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



## Prayers of the Church – December 28, 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**

\*Melainey Unger Campos, Hannah Peterson, Sarah Hulse

### **Those Prayed for on December 21, 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
- New Office Assistant, Evy Suskin
- Birth of Annabelle Guerin, Proud Parents \*Zachary and \*Renee Guerin
- Christmas Music Festival Sunday, Bells, Choir, Orchestra, and Director Bob Unger

#### **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
- Carli
- Kyler
- \*Yvette Crawley, Healing and Recovery
- Lorrie Muller, Cancer Treatment
- \*Cheryl Roth, Healing and Rehab
- \*Jan Wozniak, Healing and Rehab
- \*Amelia Sarrault, Healing
- Patrick Tray, Surgery and Recovery
- Sheila, Cancer Treatment
- Helen Houser
- Bruce, Jan, Sheila, Carly, Fran, Barb, Jackie, Megan, Ben, Jim, Kathy, Ed, Daivd, Catherine, Stella, Bill, Shirley, Bonnie, James, Mark, Gary, Walter, Gene, Lois, David, Meliss, Marcus, Kelly, Mary, Keith, Sharon, Asley, Carrie, Virginia, Paul, Tina, Billy, Sandy, Joe, Jeri, Herbie, Jacke, Amanda, Jim, Nancy

#### **For Comfort**

- Family and Friends of Patricia Meinzer, Mother of \*Stacy Miller

#### **For Provision, Peace, Strength, and Patient Endurance**

- Persecuted Christians
- 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
- Victims, Families, and Communities Suffering with Gun Violence
- Dorothy Conners
- \*Jim and \*Thelma Rhodes
- \*Anita Moore
- \*Rundle Family
- Marion Cecconi, Mother of \*Lecia Roberts
- 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
- Congregation Preliminary Study for Possible Capital Campaign
- Resolution of Discord in Families
- Heating Affordability for Families in Need
- Family Out of Work
- Jaret, Custody/Divorce Issues

#### **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 12/26/25*