

# Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 26, 2026

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*Pastor's Corner for April 26-May 2, 2026*

## **Pursued by God's Mercy (Psalm 23:6)**

I enjoy asking people what their favorite Old Testament Psalm or part of a Psalm might be. What is mine? I don't have only one! But if I had to choose, the last verse of Psalm 23 would certainly be on my short list. It is usually translated: "Goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever." That word "follow" is faithful to the straightforward meaning of this passage: Yahweh's goodness and mercy goes where we go. But a translation a little closer to the original Hebrew is the word "pursue" or "chase." We have a God whose goodness and mercy are not only reflected in His care for us throughout our lives. That same goodness and mercy also even pursue or chase after us when we lose our way and find ourselves going 180 degrees in the opposite direction! There are times we are sheep who

need our Shepherd's goodness and mercy almost in spite of ourselves.

But I'd even go one step further in talking about this verse to mention another reason why it's one of my favorites: God's "goodness and mercy" in Psalm 23:6 are personified. THEY are the ones who do the pursuing and chasing! That reminds me that there is One in whom we experience the goodness and mercy of God IN THE FLESH. That Person is, of course, our Good Shepherd Jesus Christ. We often hear the encouragement, and so we should, that we, the "sheep" of the Good Shepherd, are to look up...that we are to keep our eyes on Jesus (see Hebrews 12:2). But isn't it wonderful to know that even when we lose that focus...even when we wander off in the opposite direction...even when we follow the sheep in front of us and are in danger of wandering off the proverbial cliff...Jesus our Good Shepherd chases us down! He hoists us up on His shoulders and carries us home. It's a good thing, too. Our lives depend on it!

Praise be to God that our Good Shepherd laid down HIS life for us, that he might take it up again as our resurrected and glorious Lord.

Alleluia, Christ is risen!

Peace and joy,  
Pastor Jonathan

**Prayers of the Church**

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## RLC Day of Service

Operation Inasmuch

**April 25, 2026**

*“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”*

Matthew 25:40

This Day of Service is a way for us to put our faith into action and make a difference in the life of others!

The event starts at 8:00 am in the Family Life Center with a breakfast prepared by the RLC Men’s Group and time of fellowship. After breakfast at 9:00 am, we split out into our groups to complete our service. End time is noon or earlier, if the project is completed. Some groups will stay on campus while others will travel. There will be activities for all age groups.

One of our projects is to collect nonperishable food for a food bank in Raleigh named *With Love from Jesus*. The food collection barrels will be in the Narthex and the Family Life Center to collect these food items. The following items are requested: peanut butter and jelly, canned vegetables, canned fruit, canned soup, canned tomato sauce, rice (1 pound), pasta (1 pound), and dry cereal.

[Check out this video](#) of RLC's Day of Service (Operation Inasmuch) from last year in April 2025!

For more information, email [HumanCare@rlcary.org](mailto:HumanCare@rlcary.org).

There are paper forms available in the Narthex for you to sign up, or use our digital signup at [Day of Service 2026 Sign Up](#), or scan this QR code:



## Saturday, April 25

We will use the Taize format of worship for the Saturday, 6:00 pm service.

A darkened setting with candles, singing of short ostinato refrains of Biblical and liturgical phrases, periods of quiet for reflection, the celebration of communion, readings, and sermon.

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# Mission & Ministry Presentation Cambodia

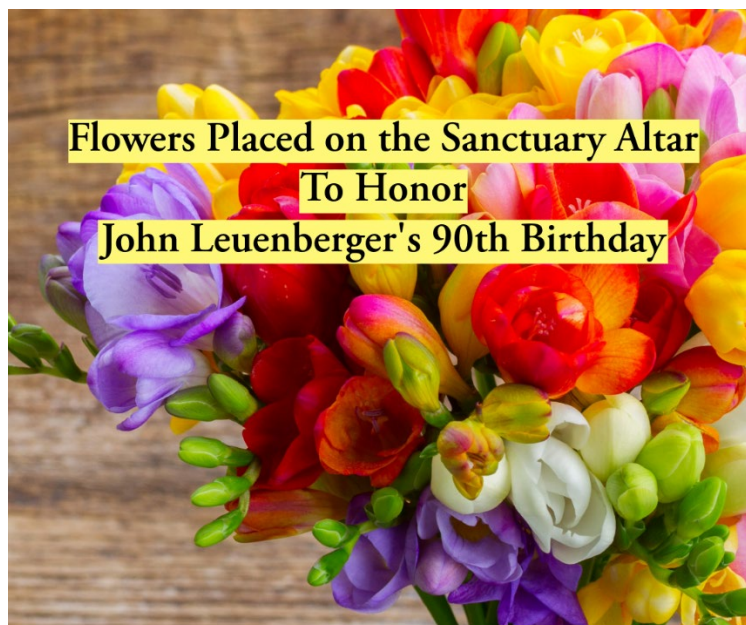


Sunday, April 26 from 9:30-10:30 am  
Fellowship Hall

All invited!



Presented by Paul Brandt and Erika Hulse



Flowers Placed on the Sanctuary Altar  
To Honor  
John Leuenberger's 90th Birthday

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

### Sunday Morning

#### **No Echoes of Easter: Living the Resurrection Every Day**

**Sundays, 9:30-10:30 am ~ April 19-May 17**

Fellowship Hall

Pastor Jonathan Blanke and Pastor Zach Sarrault

Christian author N. T. Wright once said that because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ the Church is meant to be a "small working model" of God's new creation. That would not be a bad way to approach 1 Peter!

Starting Sunday, April 19 we will begin a 4-week study of St. Peter's first epistle to discover again the difference Easter makes for our daily lives. Reading verse-by-verse through 1 Peter, who do we find we are, in light of our new birth as the baptized children of God? What does it mean to "live the resurrection" each and every day? We will explore these questions and many more which God will use to lead us to live in the light of Jesus' Easter Life today and every day.

Resource: 1 Peter, (the Bible), with miscellaneous handouts provided.



## 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

### **Women of the Word (WOW) - Chosen: A Study of Esther**

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

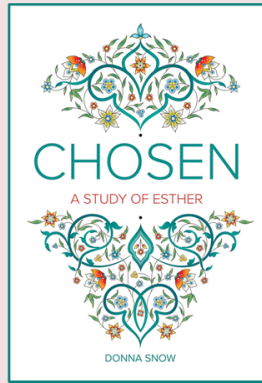
January 7-**May 13**

Fellowship Hall

Jamee Thieme and Study Leader, Shane Jarvis

You're invited to study the Book of Esther. The setting: A lavish feast in the opulent Persian Empire. The event: a beauty contest. The plot: save a nation from annihilation. In this study, see that God's presence is ever abundant in your life, and that God gives you the courage to live fearlessly as Esther did. Learn the historical context of the Book of Esther to enrich your understanding of God's Word.

The book, *Chosen: A Study of Esther* by Donna Pyle is available for self-purchase. A Zoom group version of this will be available on Mondays, 7:00-8:00 pm.



**Women of the Word (WOW)**  
**Chosen: A Study of Esther**

**Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 pm**

(Fellowship at 6:45 pm)

Fellowship Hall

January 7-May 20

Led by Shane Jarvis

See that God's presence is ever-abundant  
in your life, and that God gives you  
the courage to live fearlessly as Esther did.

**Men's Ministry ~ Joseph: Carpenter of Steel**

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

**April 8-May 6**

**Room 240, Family Life Center**

Tom Gebbia

Our current study is *Joseph: Carpenter of Steel* by Rev. Gregory Seltz. The man driving the Christmas story in this Bible study is none other than Joseph, the foster-father of Jesus. Join us as host Rev. Gregory Seltz, Speaker for The Lutheran Hour, sheds light on one of the New Testament's unsung heroes in *Joseph: Carpenter of Steel*. Adding historical perspective to this study is scholar and best-selling author Dr. Paul L. Maier.

Joseph is a man appointed by God to do extraordinary things. Written by LHM's Theological Editor and Writer Pastor Wayne Palmer, this four-part study examines the fascinating life and times of this New Testament "average Joe" in rich and absorbing detail. "In researching and writing this Bible study my respect and admiration for our Savior's foster-father has grown amazingly," Palmer said.

It might be hard to swallow that your betrothed is with child -- and by the Holy Spirit no less. But that would be only the first of many things Joseph would have to deal with. Beyond that bombshell, there was the inconvenient trek to Bethlehem with the pregnant Mary to fulfill the census, finding a suitable place for the baby to be born, later trekking down to Egypt to escape Herod's

homicidal directive and, finally, the no-little matter of raising the Son of God!

Plan on a Potluck Gathering for our last weekly gathering of the season on Wednesday, May 13!

Questions regarding any of our Christian Education offerings can be directed to the leader noted or the church office at [office@rlcary.org](mailto:office@rlcary.org), 919-851-7248.

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### **Report from the Human Care Committee**

The mission of the Human Care Committee of RLC is to share the love of Christ by being good stewards of God's Gifts and providing resources and services to those in need; locally, nationally, and globally. The committee makes recommendations to the Church Council regarding how to spend the 10% tithe from the General Fund.

As the fiscal year nears its end, the committee is requesting input from the congregation regarding organizations that receive our donations. Please reference the church budget (In RCB, Under My Groups, Select Entire Church Group, Choose the latest Expense Statement) for a list of current organizations we support.

If you have knowledge of and/or volunteer with an organization that would align with our objectives and you wish to bring them to our attention, please contact our committee at [HumanCare@rlcary.org](mailto:HumanCare@rlcary.org) or call the church office. We welcome your input.

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## The Next Coffeehouse for Special Needs Adults

Friday, May 8

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 come to 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), serving folks at 6:30 pm, and cleaner uppers at 8:30 pm. Sign Up: [bit.ly/3VAtWW0](https://bit.ly/3VAtWW0)

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

Contact Brenda Peterson through RCB to learn more, or the church office (919-851-7248, [office@rlcary.org](mailto:office@rlcary.org)).



# Men and Women's Breakfast



**Saturday, May 9**  
**8:00 am**  
**Fellowship Hall**

Come gather for fellowship, food, and message.

**All welcome for this Pastor's Forum!**

Contact Tom Gebbia at [mens-ministry@rlcary.org](mailto:mens-ministry@rlcary.org).

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## Contribution Statements

The Finance Dept. has recently emailed Contribution Statements. Please check for accuracy. If you have not received yours, email [finance@rlcary.org](mailto:finance@rlcary.org). Thanks!

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## **Jordan Lutheran Church**

### **Caring for Survivors of Sex Trafficking Gathering**

Apex Police Department Chaplain Kara Matthews will lead a presentation on her work with survivors of sex trafficking in the Raleigh area. Kara is an ordained Methodist pastor and a doctoral student at Campbell University on the subject of Church's response to sex trafficking.

**Monday, April 27 from 7:00-8:30 pm**

at Jordan Lutheran Church  
CC Jones Community Building  
309 Holleman Street, Apex

This event is being sponsored by the Men's Group at Jordan Lutheran Church.

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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



**Resurrection Lutheran Church  
Vacation Bible School**

**June 22-26  
9 am - 12 noon**

**4 year olds to 5<sup>th</sup> graders**

**\$10 per child**

**Questions?  
erika.hulse@rlcary.org**

**Register to participate  
or volunteer here** → 

**RAINFOREST  
FALLS**  
Exploring the Nature of God

Register for VBS: [bit.ly/3NapWKZ](https://bit.ly/3NapWKZ)

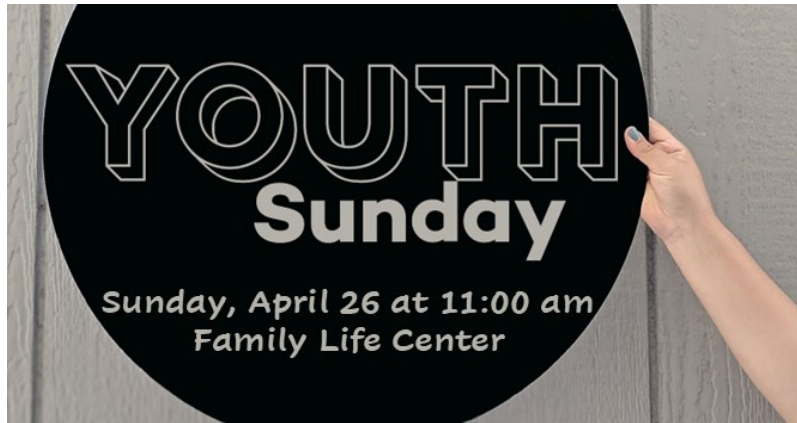
Questions? Contact Erika Hulse, Children and Family Ministry Director, at [erika.hulse@rlcary.org](mailto:erika.hulse@rlcary.org) or 919-851-7248, ext. 62.

**Youth Ministry**  
Middle School and High School

**Sunday, April 26:**

Sunday School for Middle and High School, 9:30-10:30 am

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



All events, unless noted, held in The Warehouse, Room 253, Family Life Center.

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**

Enroll NOW for  
**2026-27**

Resurrection Lutheran  
**PRESCHOOL**

Registration is now open!

+ Classes for 2's, 3's, 4's,  
young 5's- including TK +

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

Class openings are currently available  
for the **2025-26** preschool year.



**Resurrection Lutheran  
Preschool**

**3-year-olds to  
Rising kindergarteners**

(children 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!**

**REGISTER NOW!**



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

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## Resurrection Lutheran School

Our 8th graders enjoyed a wonderful trip to Williamsburg! We are thrilled for this time of learning, exploring, and building memories together.



[rlscary.org](http://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**

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For online services, connect through our YouTube channel at [youtube.com/@ResurrectionLutheranCary](https://youtube.com/@ResurrectionLutheranCary) or through our website at [rlcary.org/about-us/online-worship](http://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](mailto:office@rlcary.org) for assistance.

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# This Week's Visual Faith Sheet

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## Weekly Attendance

### In-Person Worship Attendance:

Saturday, April 18

6:00 pm - 62

Sunday, April 19

8:00 am - 107

9:30 am - 149

11:00 am - 107

**Total In-Person Worship: 425**

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

Sunday, April 19

8:00 am - 118

11:00 am - 37

**Total Online Views: 155**

## Financial Update - Fiscal 2024/25

### March 2026

Budgeted Giving to Date: \$1,166,600

Actual Giving to Date: \$1,187,800

**Current Over/(Under) Giving: \$21,200**

Budgeted Expenses to Date: \$1,140,000

Actual Expenses to Date: \$1,087,912

**Current Under/(Over) Spend: \$ 52,088**

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 – April 26, 2026

*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

Sarah Hulse, Alison Aiello

#### Those Prayed for on April 19, 2026

#### 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, and Those Who Serve
- Safe Birth of Twin Girls, Lily and Rose, Grandparents \*Brenda and \*Grant Peterson, and Parents Hannah Peterson and Tom Pocock
- 8th Grade Confirmation Students' Faith Statements
- Resurrection Lutheran School Baptism
- \*Keith and \*Yvonne Braswell's 70th Wedding Anniversary!
- Stephen Ministry Class of 6 Students Nearing Completion

#### For Healing

- \*Kim Goss
- All Those Who Have Illnesses - COVID, RSV, Flu, Viruses
- Blind Ministry Guests - Maria and Jeff Barker, Linda Jones, Judy Dean, Miriam Delgado, Helen Rice-Lyles, Nancy Waggoner, Kathy Stegall
- \*Greta Nelson

- Pastor William Otto
- \*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
- Clare Roberts, Recovery, Mother of \*Michelle Wood
- \*Charlotte Raines
- Cynthia Wyse
- \*Fern Frusti
- Deb, Sister of \*Pam Dickson
- Tyler, Recovering from Burns, and His Family Supporting Him
- Hayes, Childhood Cancer
- \*Clinton Peterson
- Khari Otten
- Henry, Grandson of \*Mark and \*Pat Otten
- Tommi
- Lorrie Muller, Cancer Treatment
- \*Cheryl Roth
- Carolyn, Progress in Rehab and Discharge Plan
- Addison
- Mike Hodgkin
- \*Carol Klevenow, Pain Support
- Justin Shellaway, Brain Tumor Surgery
- Carli, Recovery from Addiction
- Donna Day
- Dave Koester and Wife, Ruth
- \*Trudy Haertling, Physical Therapy
- Marie, Cancer Treatment
- Karen, Carly, Grayson, Paul, DeAnn, Breann, Ethan, Gloria, Sandy, Sam, Kathy, Bill, Gary, Kim, Arabella, Tim, Justin, Red, Brian, Carlton, Kevin, Keith, Sam, Anne, Jewel, Eric, Skylar, Timmy, Shirley, Kari, Ken, Addison, Gabby, Kelly, Areeg, Mark, Jessie, Tina, James, Susan, Gordon, Walter, Gene, Lois, George, Gary, Trudy, Maria, Michelle, John, Eric, Shim, Jack, Rose, Herbie, Jeri, Julie, Jake, Virginia, Steve, Joe, Laverne, Bill, Darlene, Jeff, Sandy

#### **For Comfort**

- Family and Friends of Jeff Haggerty, Brother of \*Wendy Busby

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

- Persecuted Christians
- World Peace
- 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 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, Especially Doug
- 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 the Process of Selling Homes for Aging Parents, Plus Related Family Matters
- Jeri Breitsprecher, Mother of \*Sue Campau, Managing Mental Decline and Guidance for Her Family
- Resolution of Discord in Families
- Peaceful Resolution to War with Iran, People of the Middle East Being Affected by Bombings
- Safety for \*Daisy Morris' Son, Daughter-In-Law, and Grandson in Dubai
- That We Trust the Lord is Working for Our Good in Our World Today
- Dick Huffman and Family
- Jack Simpson and His Family, Father-In-Law of \*Kim Simpson
- Heather Whitehurst
- For Good Test Results
- For Safe Travels
- For Phone Line to Get Fixed
- People of Lebanon
- Rain
- Stephen Ministry
- Our Deployed Troops
- Sons to Find and Accept Jesus

**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
- 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 Caring Presence Ministry
- DivorceCare Program, Completion of Class

#### **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
- Thanksgiving for Recent Mission Trips to Cambodia, Especially for Pastor Jonathan Blanke, Paul Brandt, and Erika Hulse
- Discernment for Cross-Cultural Mission Engagement Team for Future Mission Trips
- Kairos Prison Ministry

#### **For Our Missionaries**

- JP and Aimee Cima, Cambodia  
[Click Here for the Latest 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 4/24/26*