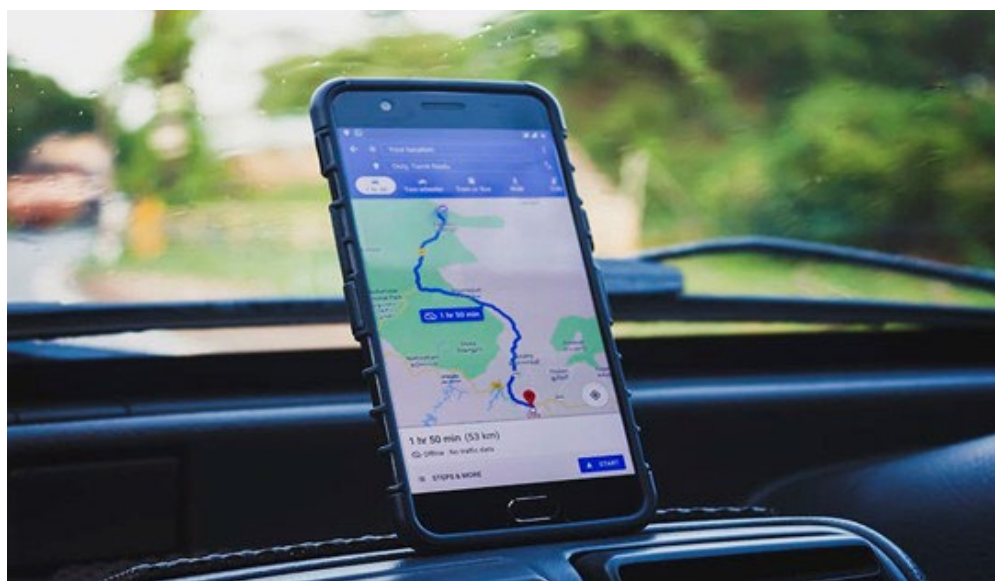


Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 3, 2026



Pastor's Corner for May 3-9, 2026

GPS Not Needed (John 14:1-14)

Ever wondered what Jesus' disciples must have thought when they heard Him say He would "go and prepare a place" for them in His Father's house...but didn't say how, or even where He was going? All anyone knew was that Jesus was going away. He spoke in His characteristically mysterious way: "Let not your hearts be troubled! Believe in God. Believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go...I will come again and take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going." Thomas was confused: "Lord, we do not know where You are going. How can we know the way?" Good old Thomas. He asked the questions I would have wanted to ask had I been there! It seems Thomas and the others got impatient with Jesus as

they groped in the dark for understanding. It didn't help that they were worried and confused about what the future held for them.

You and I live centuries after the death, and resurrection of Christ. We have hindsight that comes from faith in Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins. We know God loves us. And we love Him! But aren't there also times we can relate to the disciples who wished they knew where Jesus was going and where He was taking them? Are there times we get impatient with God and wish a Waze or a Google Maps or a MapQuest app could track our progress and give us updates about unforeseen hazards and detours up ahead on our faith journey?

When the Blanke children were small, the weekly vacation day was always another adventure in the car to a new park or beach or attraction or landmark near our home. Nobody would ask, "Dad, where are we going today?" They just piled into the car. It was enough to know that Dad knew where everybody was headed! The mood in the car was not based on ETAs or red lines vs. blue lines on a smart phone. It was based on the relationship of child to parents. Simple. No one wondered if it would all be OK. They just trusted it would be.

Jesus does not want us to get caught up in the particulars of what lies around the corner. Instead, he says, "You already know the Way." How is that, Jesus? "I AM...the Way, the Truth, and the Life!" Jesus not only prepared the way for us to go home to the Father by going away to a cross to die...by sleeping in a tomb as the dead man He would be...by rising from the dead and living forever! He was and is our Way home. Striding calmly and confidently into the future is not so much about knowing the route ahead of time. It is all about realizing we are passengers in a car where Jesus is at the wheel.

No GPS? No worries! All that truly matters is...Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Peace and joy,
Pastor Jonathan

Prayers of the Church



It is with great sadness and in Christian love and hope that we remember our sister in Christ, **Irene Daehnke**, was called to rest with Jesus on September 25, 2025. A Celebration of Life in Christ will be held on **Saturday, May 2** at 11:00 am in the Sanctuary. Our prayers remain with her family at this time.



Adult Bible Study Opportunities

Sunday Morning

Echoes of Easter: Living the Resurrection Every Day

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

Fellowship Hall

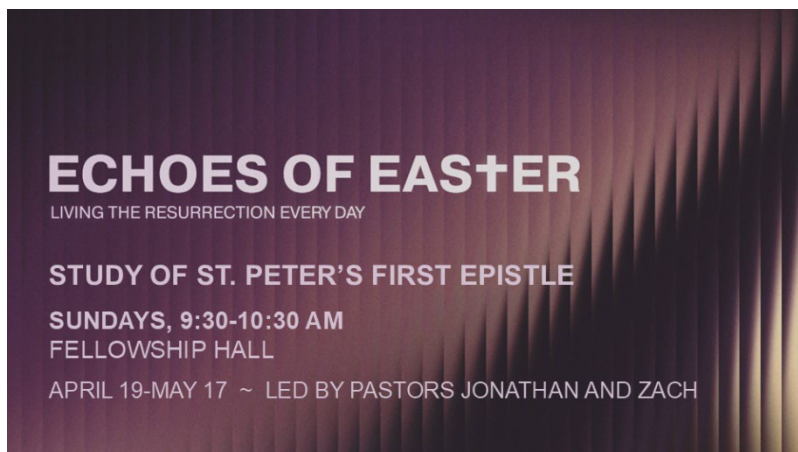
Pastor Jonathan Blanke and Pastor Zach Sarrault

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

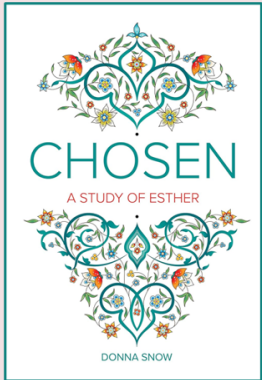
Women of the Word (WOW) - Chosen: A Study of Esther

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, 919-851-7248.



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

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/3VAtWWO

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).



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.

Following Naomi

The Following Naomi group will be having their end of year meeting on **Thursday, May 14**. This will be a luncheon at Lucky 32 Southern Kitchen (7307 Tryon Road, Cary) at 2:00 pm.

We will meet again on Thursday, September 10.

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

• **YOUNG FAMILIES** •
gathering



Join us on
Sunday, May 17 at 4:00 pm
at the home of Pastor Zach and Kelsey Sarrault
(7529 Faith Haven Court, Willow Spring)
for food and fun for everyone!

Please bring a side dish and/or dessert to share.

RSVP to Pastor Zach or Kelsey Sarrault.

Blind Ministry

Once again, we thank **Enrigo's Italian Restaurant** in Waverly Place for so generously providing the food for 60 guests and volunteers for our last Blind Ministry dinner. We appreciate their generosity and yes, the food was delicious!

Please consider them when you like to go out to eat and enjoy a good meal in a very nice atmosphere. Tell them that you are from our church!

Graduating?

Please contact the church office with high school and college graduate information **by Wednesday, May 27**. We will highlight our graduates in the June newsletter. We request the graduate's name, school graduating from, and any future plans. Email susan.moore@rlcary.org or call 919-851-7248, ext. 33.

High School Graduates, please mark your calendars for the weekend of June 7-8. We will be recognizing our high school graduates in all services.

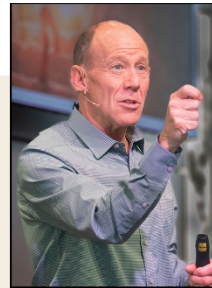
**TRIANGLE
FAITH.ORG**

**Tuesday, June 9 & Wednesday, June 10, 2026
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

309 Holleman St., Apex, NC

Genesis: From Creation to Chaos, to God's Plan to Restore All Things

The Book of Genesis takes us from Creation to chaos to God's plan to renew all things in Christ. This workshop will help participants read the rest of the Bible more missionally and Christologically.



Dr. Reed Lessing

Professor of Theology and Ministry,
and Director of The Center of
Biblical Studies at Concordia
University, St. Paul, Minn.

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."

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

Resurrection Lutheran Preschool

**Enroll NOW for
2026-27**

Resurrection Lutheran
PRE SCHOOL

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

Resurrection Lutheran School

This week was a special one at RLS as players from NC State Football Team, along with Coach Roper, were in our First and Second Grade classrooms reading to our students in each room. A great way to start the day, our students loved every minute of it!



rlscary.org
Junior Kindergarten-8th Grade

rlscary.org | 919-851-7271 | contact@rlscary.org

Latest Lion's Tale

WORSHIP SERVICES

Traditional Worship in Sanctuary	Praise Worship in Family Life Center
Saturday, 6:00 pm	Sunday, *11:00 am
Sunday, *8:00 & 9:30 am	

**Services Live Streamed to YouTube*

For online services, connect through our YouTube channel at
youtube.com/@ResurrectionLutheranCary
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:

Saturday, April 25

6:00 pm - 46

Sunday, April 26

8:00 am - 85

9:30 am - 140

11:00 am - 120

Total In-Person Worship: 391

Views of Online Worship at RLC's YouTube Channel:

Sunday, April 26

8:00 am - 108

11:00 am - 63

Total Online Views: 171

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.

Church Calendar



100 W. Lochmere Drive, Cary NC 27518

rlcary.org

919-851-7248 | office@rlcary.org

Prayers of the Church – May 3, 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, Lyn Becksford

For Expectant Moms

Sarah Hulse, Alison Aiello

Those Prayed for on April 26, 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
- New Members Joining Our RLC Family
- Call Process for *Robin Hester as Resurrection Lutheran School Principal
- RLC Day of Service (Operation Inasmuch) Volunteers on Saturday, April 25
- Birth of Noa Rose Owen Foxman and Her Family
- John Leuenberger's 90th Birthday
- Birth of Elizabeth
- Bud and Teri's Anniversary
- Zachary's 26th Birthday

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 Hodgin
- *Carol Klevenow, Pain Support
- Justin Shellaway, Brain Tumor Surgery
- Carli, Recovery from Addiction
- Donna Day
- Dave Koester and Wife, Ruth
- *Trudy Haertling, Physical Therapy
- Dennis Merrill
- Gene, Lois, Walter, Trudy, Bruce, Karen, Carly, Grayson, Paul, Carrie, Ethan, BreeAnn, DeeAnn, Alexa, Brittany, Sam, Sandy, Linda, Gaylon, Ricky, Linda, Lee, Greta, Becky, Johnny, Jim, Adrianna, Sandra, Donna, Pam, Van, Gabby, George, Gary, James, Walter, Addison, Gordon, Shim, Dave, Lydia, Virginia, Bill, Darlene, Anna, Kelly, Jack, Gigi

For Comfort

- Family and Friends of Clarence Williams

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 Much Needed Rain
- Lonely Elderly
- Captain Suzie

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
- Our Capital Campaign Process

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 5/1/26