



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAY 2026

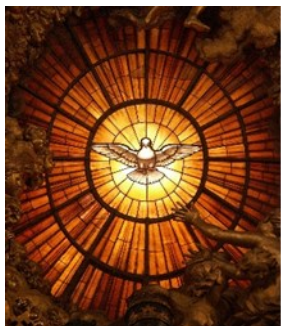
From the Pastor

What Living Water Looks Like

(John 7:37-39)

You don't have to live in Wake County these days to experience a water shortage. I recently ran across this: "100% of the Southeastern United States is experiencing either abnormally dry or exceptional drought conditions." You might be watering your lawn less often these days. You are no doubt following the do-not-burn notices and refraining from the occasional fire pit circle at night. But there is no shortage of "living water" all around! This month at Resurrection Lutheran Church we have people who stand before us as living and walking object lessons of what living water is! Jesus once invited anyone who thirsts to come to Him and drink, for "everyone who believes in me, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water" (7:38). If you show up here in the month of May and just look around, you will see living water from the beginning of May to its end.

May begins with Confirmation weekend. Let me remind you what Confirmation does and does not do. In our church tradition, Confirmation is not a Sacrament or a Means of Grace. We don't believe that those taking part in the Confirmation Rite this weekend will somehow be made essentially DIFFERENT people than they were before they got here. But Confirmation DOES provide an opportunity for individual Christians to make a personal, public confession of their faith and a lifelong pledge of fidelity to Christ. For our youth it follows upon a formative time of deep and intentional instruction in the essentials of the Christian faith. That's why Confirmation Day is a very special day for RLC young people and their families. It is a special day for all of us as their



**Dates of Interest:**

Confirmation Sun.....	May 3
RLS STEM Art.....	May 5
Ladies Lunch.....	May 6
Coffeehouse.....	May 8
Combined Breakfast ...	May 9
Following Naomi .....	May 14
Young Families .....	May 17
RLS 8th Graduation...	May 19
Pentecost .....	May 24
Memorial Day.....	May 25
Blind Ministry.....	May 29
Taize.....	May 30
Holy Trinity.....	May 31

# Sunday Morning Bible Study

## Echoes of Easter: Living the Resurrection Every Day

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 am  
Fellowship Hall

April 19-May 17

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!

We continue this 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.

Led by Pastor Jonathan Blanke and Pastor Zach Sarrault.

brothers and sisters in Christ. It is a special day because it is a day they point back to the day of their baptism and say... "THAT was the day living water began to flow in my heart. THAT was the day I became connected in a mysterious and powerful way with my Lord Jesus Christ. THAT was the day I was crucified with Jesus, buried with Him into his death, and raised to new life with my risen and ascended Savior!" The work of the Holy Spirit that was begun in each of them is what they say "yes" to as they, together with all of us, say, "I believe."

May ends with a special day of recognition and commissioning for Resurrection Lutheran School Principal Robin Hester. Robin first came to RLS in 2017 as a teacher of religion and athletic director. Since then, she has served at RLS as Dean of Students, become a member of our congregation, and begun serving as RLS principal in 2023. RLC members voted to call Robin as a commissioned Minister of Religion and principal of Resurrection Lutheran School at our special voters' meeting last month (April 19). At the end of the month (May 31) we will make it all official in a special Rite of Commissioning in all services. I can't wait to join all of you in seeing this day for which we have been praying finally come to pass! Robin joins the ranks of all who have heard the call of the Holy Spirit and have answered "Here am I! Send me!"

Without the refreshment of living water that comes as a gift from Jesus Himself, life would be a spiritually dry and barren wasteland. But by the grace of God in Christ Jesus, we have been empowered by His Spirit. His very own living water flows from within us! And that living water is not able to just well up and stay inside each of us. It is not to be contained! It can't help but flow out and into a dry and dusty world.

What does the living water that Christ gives look like? May is a great month to answer that question by taking a look around.

The Spirit of Christ in each of us is just what God uses to bring life to a world in need.

Peace and joy in Christ,  
Pastor Jonathan



## Stephen Ministry

### And Knowing is Half the Battle

GI Joe – the “great American Hero” – is an icon from 1980’s children’s cartoon television. I did not follow the show, but I remember the theme song. And if you watched the show, you may also remember the public service announcements that were shown at the end. They usually involve kids about to do something they shouldn’t, like get into a car with a stranger or run onto cracking ice to help a friend who was trapped on a pond (yes, I streamed about 7 examples on YouTube to refamiliarize myself with them). The “Joe” saved them just in time and told them what they should do if it happens. The kids said, “Now we know” and the “Joe” always said – say it with me – “And knowing is half the battle.”

In today's fast-paced world, it's easy to feel overwhelmed by the pressures and challenges that life throws our way. Whether it's personal struggles, work-related stress, or unexpected crises, knowing what support resources are available can make a significant difference in how we navigate tough times. It can be the difference between feeling isolated and finding the help you need to overcome the challenges. But sometimes, we don't know what resources are available, or perhaps we feel too overwhelmed to think about it, or we don't want to “burden” someone else by asking for help. Additionally, today adds the complexity of AI, which can quickly suggest resources, but can also replace the personal contact and support that brings us out of isolation.

That’s where your Stephen Ministry team can be a useful resource. Stephen Ministers are trained to recognize when the scope of need is beyond their ability to assist. At those times, they can recommend various other resources to you and even help you contact that resource as a first step. If the Stephen Minister does not know where to turn, we help you find out while maintaining confidentiality to your specific circumstance.

If you or someone you know is struggling, don't hesitate to reach out to the Stephen Ministry program. They are there to help, and you don't need to be a member of Resurrection to receive support. Now you know... and knowing is half the battle.

[To learn more about Stephen Ministry at RLC, click here.](#) If you or someone you know who could use a listening partner, consider emailing the Stephen Leader team at [stephenministry@rlcary.org](mailto:stephenministry@rlcary.org) and ask about how to make a referral to a Stephen Minister.



*“Carry each other’s burdens,  
and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.”*

*Galatians 6:2*

## Weekly Bible Study Opportunities



### Tuesday

#### **Tuesday Morning Bible Study and Fellowship**

Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 am — Fellowship Hall — September 2-May 19

Leaders: Pastor Zach Sarrault, Pastor Jonathan Blanke

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

#### **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 13

Contact Jamee Thieme or 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.

#### **Men's Ministry - Joseph: Carpenter of Steel**

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 pm (Fellowship at 6:30 pm) — Room 240, Family Life Center — April 8-May 6

Leader: 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.

Small Group

The Piecemakers

The Piecemakers, RLC's quilting group, creates hand-tied quilts that are blessed and shipped to Lutheran World Relief (LWR). Quilts are valuable tools in LWR's relief work to end poverty, injustice, and human suffering. To recipients, they are a symbol of God's love and compassion.



**SIERRA LEONE**

In a country where half of women never attend school, your congregation's support is changing lives — like those of 12-year-old Kadiatu and her mother Aminata. Through an innovative program that addresses root barriers and identifies high-risk girls, both mother and daughter are now pursuing an education. Your compassion helps neighbors like them stay in class, break the cycle of poverty and build futures defined by potential.



**UNITED STATES**

Your compassion profoundly impacted neighbors facing disasters across the U.S. — including 60,000 quilts, 76,000 kits and over \$1 million in cash grants. Through local partners, we are building more resilient communities and creating safety nets for vulnerable families. In Mississippi, you reached 1,500 families with quilts and kits after catastrophic flooding, including this woman in the Delta region.

(Photo Credit: Mississippi Food Network)

# THANK YOU

for your unwavering generosity!

## RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH

Your **9 years** of consecutive support and faithful compassion saves and empowers lives. No matter the distance, **YOUR LOVE** surrounds our neighbors most in need.

Thank you for walking in faith and being a steward of Christ's love.

*Daniel Speckhard*

**Ambassador Daniel Speckhard**  
President and CEO, Lutheran World Relief



**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF**

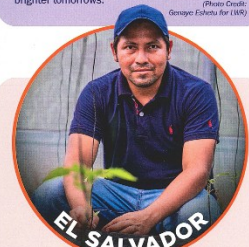
**Until your love reaches every neighbor.**



**BURKINA FASO**

The generosity of your congregation helped Zoungrana move from a life of unpredictability to one of security. With a small investment in training and five hens — made possible by your kindness — Zoungrana now runs a successful poultry farm of 120 chickens. Her children are attending school, and she can afford medical care. Because you walk alongside them, neighbors like Zoungrana are thriving today and are empowered to create brighter tomorrows.

(Photo Credit: George Fashu for LWR)



**EL SALVADOR**

Cristian Ernesto Romero grew up working the land alongside his father. But over the years, the once-reliable springs on their property began to dry up, threatening crops and livelihoods. With your congregation's support, he learned about water management and disaster risk reduction — then shared his knowledge with others. As a result of his efforts, his community has prioritized protecting their natural resources — and revitalized their livelihoods in the process.

(Photo Credit: Luis Tobar for LWR)



In Burkina Faso, Zoungrana once struggled to make ends meet. Your congregation's generosity — and a few hens — changed everything. With five hens, a rooster, training and your support, her business has now grown to 120+ chickens. She can afford school and medical fees and is more resilient to future uncertainties. Because of you, hope is multiplying worldwide.

# THANK YOU

Dear People of Resurrection Church, Thank you for your long standing commitment to loving our neighbors around the world. We are deeply grateful for your partnership.

In Gratitude  
Rev Cathy Dahersh



Feel free to join The Piecemakers every Tuesday, 1:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

If you are interested in sewing a quilt top, there are simple quilt kits available.

Contact Linda Merrill.

Human Care

RLC Day of Service

Thank you to all who participated in a very successful Day of Service (Operation Inasmuch)!



Great job, Jan! Your leadership is appreciated. Delicious breakfast enjoyed my all provided by Men's Ministry!



The Piecemakers' Quilters Completed 20 Quilts for Lutheran World Relief

Card Making for Missionaries and the Military





The Caring Thread  
Knit and Crochet Newborn Hats and Scarves

Project Linus - 10 Volunteers Made 12 Blankets



Working with Families Together



Loaded Bibles and Christian Books and  
Off to Prison Alliance!



Food Collection for  
With Love from Jesus



Resurrection Lutheran Campus Landscaping

Thank you to Gary and Kristi Grabow for keeping our grounds looking good all year round!

*"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

# Gifts & Memorials

## *In Honor of Elam Justice*

For Gifts and Memorials

Larry and Debbie Adams

*In Honor of  
John & Deanna Leuenberger's  
65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
and for  
John's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday*

For the Campus Maintenance Initiative (CMI)

Clinton and Patty Peterson



## Cross-Cultural Mission Engagement Team (CCMET)

### Mission Minute



On Sunday, April 26, Paul Brandt and Erika Hulse of the CCMET presented an informative session of their recent mission trips to Cambodia.

In case you missed it, a viewing of the session will be available soon.

If you are interested in learning more regarding mission work in Cambodia or about the Cross-Cultural Mission Engagement Team (CCMET), please reach out to Erika Hulse at [ccmet@rlcary.org](mailto:ccmet@rlcary.org).

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## *Widows' Group*

### 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](mailto:office@rlcary.org), 919-851-7248).



## Outreach to the Community

### Food & Fellowship for the Blind

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!

These social events take place on the last Friday of every month from 5:30-7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. Our dedicated volunteers play a crucial role in this initiative by providing transportation to the visually impaired, preparing and serving food, and assisting with setup and cleanup. Our next event will be **Friday, May 29**.

Contact Annette Langefeld-Kennedy to learn more about the Blind Ministry or the church office ([office@rlcary.org](mailto:office@rlcary.org), 919-851-7248).

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## Concordia Seminary

### Vicarage Assignment

After years of preparation and a Call Day filled with joy at Concordia Seminary, Harrison Hulse received his first assignment as a Vicar to Grace Lutheran Church in Winter Haven, Florida!

Harrison Hulse, son of Children and Family Director Erika and brother to Live Stream Producer Spencer, is excited for this new chapter of his life. He is eager to get settled in Winter Haven with his wife (and baby on the way) later this summer.



## Happy Anniversary!

**May 8**

Leo and Char Magiera  
61 years

**May 10**

Steve and Sandy Carpenter  
57 years

**May 11**

Clinton and Patricia Peterson  
58 years

**May 17**

Mike and Sharon Hahne  
51 years

Michael and Lynda Witcher  
40 years

**May 18**

Kevin and Lindsey Kuhl  
5 years

Don and Bernice Sonstroem  
63 years

**May 23**

Fran and Kathy Blanchard  
51 years

**May 24**

Chuck and Theresa Murray  
30 years

John and Terri Nance  
45 years

**May 27**

Ian and Derica Justice  
20 years

**May 28**

Devin and Heather Hilldale  
10 years

# TRIANGLE FAITH.ORG

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

## **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. Based upon Dr. Lessing's forthcoming Concordia Publishing House (CPH) commentary, this workshop will help participants read the rest of the Bible more missionally and Christologically.

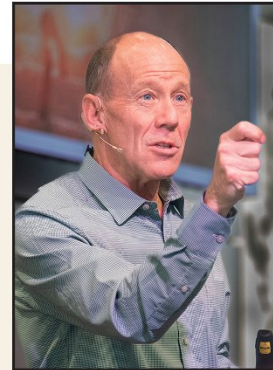
Have you ever wondered how the book of Genesis . . .

- Functions as the foundation for the rest of the Bible?
- Presents the creation of the world?
- Is missional through and through?
- Paints a beautiful picture of Jesus?
- Helps us understand God's plan for our lives?
- Gives rock-solid hope in times of confusion and pain?

## **Workshop Location**

**Hosted by: Jordan Lutheran Church  
Location: 309 Holleman St., Apex, NC**

*TriangleFaith.org is a cooperative effort of congregations in The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod that seeks to bring the message of forgiveness to the greater Raleigh Triangle community.*



## **Dr. Reed Lessing**

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

Dr. Reed Lessing is the Edwin F. and Esther L. Laatsch Chair of Old Testament Studies, the Pre-Seminary Director, and the Director of the Center for Biblical Studies at Concordia University, St. Paul. With over twenty years of parish ministry and fourteen years as a professor at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Dr. Lessing is well-positioned to provide biblical resources for leaders in the LCMS and beyond. He is the author of six commentaries in the Concordia Commentary Series, has written two books on the Old Testament and co-authored "The Messianic Message" (Concordia Publishing House) and "Prepare the Way of the Lord" (Concordia Publishing House).

## Youth Ministry

### Middle and High School

Youth Sunday was a hit! So excited that SO many youth participated! Our group is young and super active, and what a blessing from God. There were so many players involved and ***EVEN IF***, it was a great reminder for all that God is with us always.

As the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego was read from Daniel, we hear about their deep faith in God, no matter if they are supposed to die in the fiery furnace or if they were supposed to live, they would remain faithful always to their God. Our blessings surround us each and every day. Like glitter, it just sticks, Jesus' great love for us sticks, unconditionally even through all of our even if's. [Watch the service here!](#)

I want to take this moment to thank those that were a part of this service:

- ◇ Greeters: Eva, Jonah, Case, Fiona, Liam, Cadence, Sophia, and Logan
- ◇ Ushers: Case, Elam, Owen, Emerson, and Adult Supervisor Ian Justice
- ◇ Readers: Sophia, Logan, and Fiona
- ◇ Children's Message/Skit: Logan, Emerson, Lily, Sophia, Cadence and Adult Supervisor Kim Breiler
- ◇ Testimonies: Josh and Avery
- ◇ Youth Musicians: Avery, Emily, Temperance, Austin, and Brendan
- ◇ Adult Musicians: Vicar Chris Reed and Ryan Johnson
- ◇ Photographer: Matthew Rundle
- ◇ Pastor Zach Sarrault and Pastor Jonathan Blanke, Erika Hulse, Mike and Suzi Heffner, Sandy Wuori for your support.



And now we get ready for all of our May events and plan ahead to celebrating our Seniors!

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



**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** → 

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



**Resurrection Lutheran  
Preschool**

Diane Hooper, Director

rlpcary.org

919-851-7270

office@rlpcary.org



**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.



**3-year-olds  
to Rising kindergartners**  
(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!**

## 8TH GRADE TRIP

Our 8th Graders recently returned from a meaningful and memorable trip to Virginia where learning truly came to life. Throughout their time in Jamestown, Yorktown, and Colonial Williamsburg, students stepped into history, deepening their understanding of our nation's beginnings in a hands-on and engaging way.

## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

The Parent Prayer Team is hosting a gathering for all parents and students, teachers and friends of RLS on **Thursday, May 7** from 7:45-8:15 am on the playground. This is a wonderful opportunity to gather as a full school community to pray for our school, families, city, and country.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- May 4-8** Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 5** STEM & ART Night
- May 7** PSO Spirit Day at Burrito Shack
- May 19** 8th Grade Graduation, 6:00 pm
- May 20** Kindergarten Graduation, 6:00 pm
- May 21** Field Day
- May 22** Last Day of School - Special Release, 11:00 am



### Resurrection Lutheran School

Robin Hester  
Principal

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

Come Grow With Us:  
Rooted in Christ.  
Growing in Grace.

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

2 Peter 3:18

*Mission:*  
Resurrection Lutheran School is committed to educating generations of children in the training and instruction of the Lord. Because of this commitment, we will provide a Lutheran educational experience that is Christ-centered, as well as academically focused for children in junior kindergarten through eighth grade.



# stayCONNECTED

## WORSHIP

**Join us for worship!**

Saturday, 6:00 pm

Sunday, 8:00 am\*, 9:30 am, and Praise 11:00 am\*

\*Live Stream Services

Connect through our YouTube channel

[@ResurrectionLutheranCary](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCResurrectionLutheranCary)

or through our website at

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



**Resurrection  
Lutheran Church**

By Grace Through Faith For Service

## LEARN MORE

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

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Blanke, Senior Pastor

Rev. Zachery Sarrault, Associate Pastor

Rev. Alan Shaw, Assistant Pastor

Christopher Reed, SMP Vicar

## GIVING

We appreciate your contributions to our congregation. Here are the different ways to make your offering:

- Place in offering plate during worship
- Mail to 100 Lochmere Drive West, Cary NC 27518
- Through [Online Giving](#)
- Download the Vanco Mobile app to transfer funds from your account

Questions? Contact [finance@rlcary.org](mailto:finance@rlcary.org).

## SOCIAL MEDIA



[facebook.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary](https://facebook.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary)



[instagram.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary](https://instagram.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary)



[youtube.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary](https://youtube.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary)

Newsletter deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Please send submissions to [susan.moore@rlcary.org](mailto:susan.moore@rlcary.org).

100 LOCHMERE DRIVE WEST, CARY NC 27518