

# The Ascension of Our Lord

May 17, 2026

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*Pastor's Corner for May 17-23, 2026*

## **"Seeing" Jesus (Luke 24:44-53; Ephesians 1:15-23)**

This week in worship is all about the followers of Jesus no longer seeing Him in the usual places and in the usual ways. Jesus' first followers had gotten used to seeing Him while they were fishing, as they gathered for a meal, or as they received His teaching. They had witnessed—some, from a distance—His death on a cross. And who among them would ever forget seeing with their own eyes their Teacher and Friend resurrected from the dead! But today we remember how that all changed with Jesus' ascension. Once the cloud had hidden Jesus from their sight (Acts 1:9) the disciples would no longer see the Lord they loved. Jesus would still be with them. But after His ascension they would now see Jesus with the "eyes of their hearts enlightened" (Eph 1:18)! Jesus had prepared them for that day by opening their minds to the Scriptures so that they might

see Him in them (Luke 24:44-45). And God's Word is still the key that connects Jesus' followers to Himself after his ascension. It is the very place ordinary disciples like you and me "see" Jesus!

Ever run across a familiar Bible passage and felt that something you were experiencing in life at that moment made the verse seem personal or fresh? Maybe because of some life event you were led to intone a quite "Amen" to a "Hallelujah!" you ran across in a Psalm. Or maybe a measure of suffering that had only been an abstract thought up until the moment you experienced it made something you heard or read about it in the Bible suddenly become real. The eyes of our hearts "see" Jesus in the forgiveness spoken over us by a pastor, in the love of a friend who briefly alludes to a Bible verse in a prayer spoken for us, and in the shared bread and cup of Holy Communion that Jesus' Word assure us IS His very body and blood. They are not just words. They are the promises of One who now sits at God's right hand and to whom all authority in heaven and on earth now belongs.

This week the busy school years at Resurrection Lutheran Preschool and Resurrection Lutheran School each wind down the year with closing ceremonies. In the middle of life changes that come with kids growing up...the new vistas enjoyed on summer vacations...or the future possibilities we envision for ourselves or our families...the Jesus the eyes of our hearts continue to see goes with us!

Peace and joy,  
Pastor Jonathan

**Prayers of the Church**

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Baptized on Sunday, May 17 at 9:30 am

## Sean Michael Garza

born November 29, 1998,  
son of Michael DeRodes Garza and Sandra Lara Garza.

*May God's blessing be upon Sean as he grows in his baptismal grace.*

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## Mites of Missions

We will be collecting Mites for Missions at all services this weekend, **May 16 and May 17**. Please place your gifts in the large purple Mite Box in the Narthex near Sanctuary Worship.

Gifts can also be made by check, payable to RLC, and mailed directly to Donna Krupcale, % Resurrection Lutheran Church, 100 W. Lochmere Drive, Cary NC 27518.

The large Mite Box is always available at the Welcome table in the Narthex for gifts anytime during the month.



*Thank you for supporting the mission grants of Lutheran Women in Mission!*

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## **Adult Bible Study Opportunities**

### **Last 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.



**Last 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.

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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• **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.

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### 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](mailto: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.

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## Food & Fellowship for the Blind



Resurrection's Ministry  
for the Visually Impaired meets

**Friday, May 29**

5:30-7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall

Contact Annette Langefeld-Kennedy to learn more and for volunteer needs, 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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# Voters' Meeting

Sunday, June 7 at 12:30 pm  
Sanctuary

- Approval of RLC, RLS, and RLP Budgets

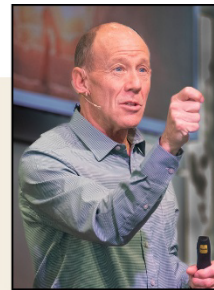
**TRIANGLE  
FAITH.ORG**

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.

## The Next Coffeehouse for Special Needs Adults

Friday, June 12

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 attend 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/3VAatWWO](https://bit.ly/3VAatWWO)

The next Coffeehouse is **Friday, June 12** from 7:00-8:30 pm in the Family Life Center. *The Every Voice Choir* will be singing 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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## LCMSU

Our last meeting this semester was a wonderful time as we joined in a very competitive game of Spoons, sent our seniors off with a blessing, and joined together in worship.



Even though we are starting the summer, it is never too early to start thinking about next semester.

I am excited to announce that Joseph Steiner will be taking the reins and leading LMCSU @ NCSU this fall. This will allow the group to continue providing the fellowship and worship that any student needs. As of now, LCMSU will still be meeting at the NC State Study Center though we are waiting for final confirmation. And as always, the group is open to college students from NCSU, Duke, UNC, and other local colleges, as well as young adults in the area.

Save the date for the first meeting of the 2026 Fall semester on **Friday, August 21!** There will be food and games before the evening closes with "Evening Prayer" and Holy Communion. We will also be installing Joseph Steiner at this meeting. Look for more details as we get closer to the date from Joseph.

Thank you all again for making LCMSU a part of your college life!

- Jonathan Madler

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## Children and Family Ministry

A colorful poster for 'Rainforest Falls' Vacation Bible School. The central graphic features a waterfall in a lush jungle with various animals like a toucan, a monkey, a frog, and a leopard. The text 'RAINFOREST FALLS' is written in large, stylized letters, with 'Exploring the Nature of God' below it. The poster includes information about volunteer meetings and a QR code for registration.

**Serve at Vacation Bible School**  
June 22-26, 9 am to 12 noon

Need more information??  
Attend a VBS Volunteer  
Info Meeting

There will be 2 identical volunteer info meetings!  
You pick one!  
Sunday, May 17 at noon -OR-  
Tuesday, May 26 at 7 pm.  
Both will be held in the FLC room 151.

We are in need of volunteers & would love to have you join the Rainforest Falls VBS team!!

\*additional help before is needed, too!

VBS Volunteer Meeting  
If you signed up to serve at VBS, this meeting is for YOU!!  
Thursday, June 4 from 7-8 pm in the Church Fellowship Hall.

VBS registration for participants & volunteers!



Register for VBS (Participants and Volunteers): [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.

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## Youth Ministry

Middle School and High School

**Sunday, May 17:**

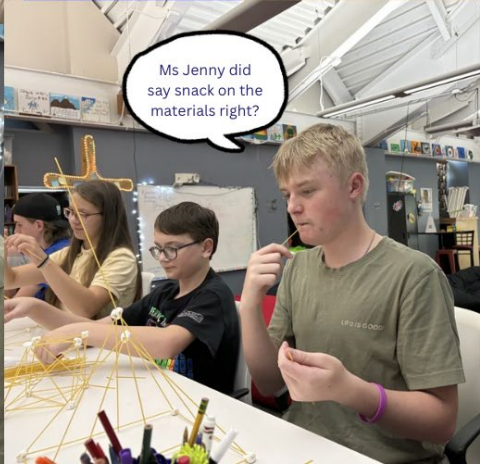
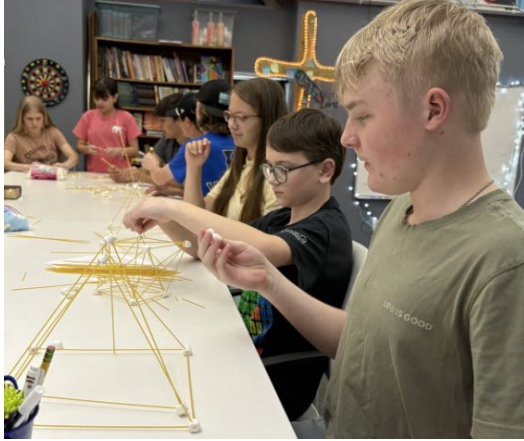
**Last** Sunday School for Middle and High School, 9:30-10:30 am

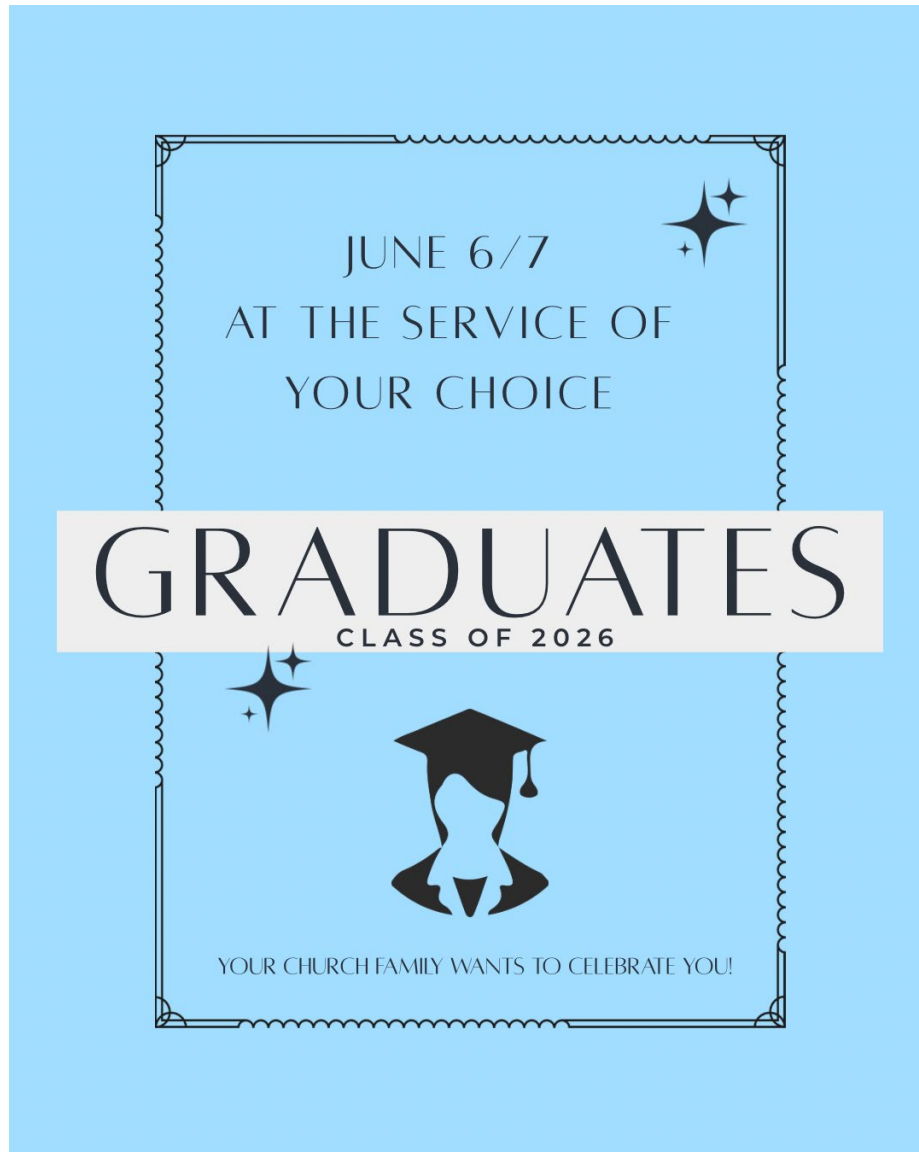
High School Youth Group, 6:30-8:00 pm





DLC Youth





Please email Jenny to confirm you will be in worship and what service you will be attending, so you can be recognized. If we are not expecting you, you may be missed.

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



**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!**



[Check out this awesome reel about the Day in the Life of a Preschool Teacher!](#)

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

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## Resurrection Lutheran School

Our STEM and Art Night was a tremendous success, bringing together students, families, teachers, and community members for an evening of creativity,

innovation, and showcasing STEM and art projects.

We are so grateful to everyone who attended, donated materials for the make-and-take station, and supported our evening in so many ways.

Our RLS spirit and enthusiasm made the night both meaningful and memorable!



STEM and Art Night 2026



[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 - Lynne Hoffman**

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, May 9

6:00 pm - 40

Sunday, May 10

8:00 am - 93

9:30 am - 187

11:00 am - 111

**Total In-Person Worship: 431**

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

Sunday, May 10

8:00 am - 115

11:00 am - 62

**Total Online Views: 177**

## Financial Update - Fiscal 2024/25

### April 2026

Budgeted Giving to Date: \$1,284,400

Actual Giving to Date: \$1,308,074

**Current Over/(Under) Giving: \$23,674**

Budgeted Expenses to Date: \$1,266,666.67

Actual Expenses to Date: \$1,196,641.00

Current Under/(Over) Spend: \$70,025.67

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 – May 17, 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 May 10, 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
- Confirmands Confirmed on May 3
- Teacher Appreciation Week
- End of the Academic Year
- College Graduates and Their Families
- Recent Rain Showers
- Cyndi's Birthday
- Mother's!

#### 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, Belle, Childhood Cancer
- \*Clinton Peterson
- Khari Otten
- Henry, Grandson of \*Mark and \*Pat Otten
- Tommi
- Lorrie Muller, Cancer Treatment
- \*Cheryl Roth
- Addison
- Mike Hodgkin
- \*Carol Klevenow, Pain Support
- Justin Shellaway, Brain Tumor Surgery
- Carli, Recovery from Addiction
- Heather Whitehurst
- Donna Day
- Dave Koester and Wife, Ruth
- \*Trudy Haertling, Physical Therapy
- \*Dennis Merrill
- \*Cecilia Brown, Rehab and recovery
- \*Sue Sanders
- Carolyn, Hospitalized
- Aunt Ruth, Heart Procedure
- James, Gary, George, Trudy, Karen, Carly, Grayson, Pavi, DeAnn, Breann, Ethan, Fran, Kathy, Barb, Jim, Sharon, Knox, Nove, Brianne, Ros, Bob, Julie, Linda, Gaylon, Ricky, Charlotte, Becky, Johnny, Megan, Ben, Pam, Donna, Megan, Gabby, Amanda, Gene, Lois, Walter, Virginia, Bill, Darlene, Madi, David, Bob, Tom, Tim, Jack, Sandy, Shim, Joe, Jeri, Herbie, Julie, Jake, Amanda, Eric, Mara, Christina, Natalie

### **For Comfort**

- Family and Friends of Pamela Ashmore, Sister of \*Jeff Ashmore
- For Former RLC Member, Carolyn Smith and Her Family on Death of Son
- Family and Friends of Vada Ewald, Mother of \*Jennifer Bolte

## **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
- 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
- Jessie and Andres, Marriage

## **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
- 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 5/15/26*