

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

July 5, 2026



Pastor's Corner for July 5-11, 2026

Celebrate Freedom! **(Matthew 11:25-30)**

Happy Independence Day! This weekend, we celebrate the 250th anniversary of our nation, a day to celebrate the freedoms that we have, the greatest of which is the opportunity to openly worship the Savior of the world, may we never neglect this great freedom. As a nation founded on, and proud of, its freedoms, we're all familiar with the phrase, "it's a free country", probably having heard it from or said it as a child. A kid is told to do something, and they answer with a smart-alec grin, "it's a free country, I can do what I want." We certainly have many reasons to celebrate our country this weekend, and I pray you take the opportunity; it doesn't take long before we realize that "free country" doesn't mean "I can do what I want." There are rules to follow and consequences if we don't follow those rules.

Is the same true in our relationship with Jesus? For many of us, our relationship with Jesus starts with the joy of freedom. We celebrate that we are free from our sins, free from the tyranny of satan, free from the burden of guilt. Then we are taught the 10 Commandments, we start reading more of the Bible for ourselves, and we can feel like a disenfranchised young adult the first time we pay our own taxes. I thought belonging to Jesus was free?! What's up with all these rules?! Is Jesus loving and forgiving, or is He a taskmaster and burden-giver??

Depending on your season in life, it can be hard to see Jesus as a place of rest and freedom, but that's exactly how He describes Himself. **"Come to me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest"** (Matthew 11:28). One of our favorite verses from the Bible can also be a challenge because we struggle with finding rest. We look for a rule to follow that will give us rest, something to contribute to enter that rest, but that's not the point. This rest is not something we work for or towards, it is living in a relationship with the Savior of the world. Reed Lessing says it like this, "One of the biggest problems in our Christian life is that we begin with a relationship, then revert to rules. We reduce the joy of relationship to routine and a dull regime."

"Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart and you will find rest for your souls" (Matthew 11:29). These are words of relationship, not a rule or routine to follow. Jesus is offering us a way of living with Him. Does He give us things to do? Sure He does, but notice that Jesus is "gentle and lowly", better understood as "gentle and simple at heart." Our simple and gentle Savior gifts us with true freedom that lasts forever, will never fade or weaken, but will only grow in its beauty and greatness. Now that's something to celebrate!

Installation of Resurrection Lutheran Church's Newest Stephen Ministers



We were privileged at RLC last weekend to install our newest Stephen Ministers: Stu Shaw, Betsy Moll, Pat Smith, and Deb Gebbia

May God continue to be at work through each of them...and all of our Stephen Ministers...to enrich our care for one another!

If you are interested in learning more about what Stephen Ministry is doing, [Stephen Ministry | Resurrection Lutheran Church](#).

Your celebrating brother in Christ,
Pastor Zach Sarrault

Prayers of the Church



Baptized on Sunday, July 5 at 9:30 am

Kennedy Morgan Aiello

born May 16, 2026,
son of Nicholas Francis Aiello and Alison Kensmoe Aiello.

Godparents are Jacob Robert Kensmoe, Jacqueline Brooke Kensmoe, Andrew Michael Kensmoe, and Britney Ann Kenmoe.

May God's blessing be upon Kennedy Morgan as she grows in her baptismal grace.

Summer Adult Bible Study Opportunity

***Last* Our Singing Faith: God's Word in the Lutheran Service Book**

Sundays, 9:30-10:30 am ~ June 7-July 5

Fellowship Hall

You're familiar with the parts of the hymnbook that we use on any garden-variety Sunday morning — but are you aware of all the hidden treasures the hymnal contains? No? Then come explore the Lutheran Service Book with us! Over the next five weeks, we will look at the LSB and how it helps shape our worship together as servants of the risen Christ!

Each Sunday morning, we will look in-depth at that week's Hymn of the Day and how it places the very words of the Bible on our lips. Also, we will take a closer look at the parts of the LSB that often go unnoticed. Led by Vicar Chris Reed.

Copies of the LSB will be provided. Please bring something for notetaking and your singing voice!

Our Singing Faith :
God's Word in the
Lutheran Service Book

Led by Vicar Chris Reed

Each Sunday through July 5
from 9:30-10:30 am
in the Fellowship Hall



**Come learn about the great hymns of the faith as we
open the hymnal and lift our voices together!**



[Sign Up for Altar Flowers!](#)

Celebrate Christmas in July and Help Local Charities!

Christmas trees will be outside the Sanctuary and Family Life Center **starting July 4th weekend** with "ornaments" highlighting specific needs requested by the following organizations:

Families Together (familiestogethernc.org)

Mission Statement: We believe every family deserves a home, and children should never have to wonder where they're going to sleep at night. This is why we connect families to stable homes as quickly as possible - and why we remain connected with them to ensure that they begin the process of bettering their lives.

Safe Families for Children (SFFC) (safe-families.org)

Mission Statement: SFFC hosts vulnerable children and creates extended family-like support for families facing a crisis through a community of compassionate volunteers to keep children safe and families together.

Gateway Women's Care (gatewaywomens.care)

Mission Statement: We are committed to serving women and men in the community by providing medical, educational, and support services and resources related to pregnancy and sexual health without condemnation or manipulation.

Below is a link for those who might want to shop via Amazon for Gateway Women's Care. We ask that you do NOT send your purchase directly to Gateway but send the order to your home, and then bring it to church and place it under one of the trees.

[Amazon List for Gateway Women's Care](#)

Please take an ornament (or two!) and place the unwrapped gifts with the tag attached under the trees any weekend in July. The last collection weekend will be August 1-2.

Gift cards can be put in the boxes under the tree, in the offering plates, or dropped off in the church office.

Thank you for helping us serve people in need in our community!

INKs | Income, No Kids

A group of young adults with no children have formed a new small group where they plan to gather for fun, fellowship, and community at various times and places throughout the year.

Their first outing to Topgolf was a fun time, enjoyed by all who attended. Keep an eye out for their next adventure!



Contact Kevin Kuhl through RCB, or the church office (919-851-7248, office@rlcary.org)



The Crandall Family would like to thank the congregation for their prayers, support, and many acts of kindness after Van's recent emergency triple bypass surgery and initial recovery.

Emmaus Way Walkers

The Emmaus Way Walkers have started their summer hours; plan to meet at **8:30 am** in the Java Jive parking lot (across from the church).

All are welcome! Bring your kids and dogs for light exercise, coffee, and conversation.

Contact Lyle Malotky through RCB, or church office (office@rlcary.org, 919-851-7248).

The Next Coffeehouse for Special Needs Adults

Friday, July 10

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 with us! Our special needs guests love to attend, 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. The next Coffeehouse is **Friday, July 10** from 7:00-8:30 pm in the Family Life Center. The *Kudzu Ramblers* will be playing for us. Sign Up: bit.ly/3VAtWWO



Contact Brenda Peterson through RCB, or church office (office@rlcary.org, 919-851-7248).



RESURRECTION
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Stewardship of Life & Health

Personalized Health Counseling

Stewardship of Life and Health group at RLC can connect you to health-care workers in our congregation to provide guidance and education for questions on your health.



MEDICATION REVIEW & EDUCATION

Dosage, Side Effects, Interactions, Management Strategies



PALLIATIVE & HOSPICE SUPPORT

Pain Management, Emotional Comfort, End-of-Life Planning



COMPLEX & CRITICAL ILLNESS

Navigating Diagnoses, Treatment Options, Chronic Condition Care



LACTATION & NEWBORN HEALTH

Breastfeeding Support, Infant Care, Postpartum Wellness



GENERAL HEALTH & NUTRITION

Dietary Guidelines, Wellness Check-ins, Preventive Health



FITNESS & ACTIVE LIVING

Exercise Plans, Mobility Support, Staying Active

HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS



1. SUBMIT YOUR QUESTION

Submit basic question, name, & contact method



2. GET CONNECTED

Response in one week to schedule call

READY TO GET IN TOUCH?

SUBMIT QUESTIONS TO: lifeandhealth@rlcary.org



The program provides support, advocacy, and education only. This does not replace your primary medical care or emergency services

Submit questions to lifeandhealth@rlcary.org

Men's Summer Fellowship Series



Fun time on June 9th at the Tap Station!

Mark your calendar for our next event on **Wednesday, July 22!** Join us at Aviator Brewery (688 Brewery Drive) in Fuquay Varina starting at 6:30 pm.

Stay connected over the summer! All men invited. Just show up — you do not have to eat or drink to attend.

Contact Tom Gebbia at mens-ministry@rlcary.org.

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.

LCMS U

Check out this article from the LCMS Southeastern District highlighting the start of the college ministry at NC State.

[A Place to Gather for College Students - Southeastern District, LCMS](#)

Mark your calendars for their first meeting of the 2026 Fall semester on **Friday, August 21!** Open to all area college students, not just NC State.



Questions? Contact Joe Steiner through RCB, or Pastor Alan Shaw at alan.shaw@rlcary.org.

Children and Family Ministry



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

Youth Ministry

Middle School and High School



Thank you to all the youth that served at Vacation Bible School!

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

Resurrection Lutheran Preschool

Thank you, **Diane Hooper**, for your 28 years of faithful service at Resurrection Lutheran Preschool! Wishing you all the best in your well-deserved retirement.



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

Resurrection Lutheran School

Once a Lion, Always a Lion!

We are thrilled to celebrate Resurrection Lutheran School Class of 2020 alum, Liesl Tran, on being named a 2026-2027 Philip Merrill Presidential Scholar at the University of Maryland!



This prestigious honor recognizes outstanding academic achievement and gives scholars the opportunity to honor the teacher who had the greatest impact on their educational journey. Liesl selected former RLS teacher Mrs. Jenny Hundertmark as the teacher-mentor who most influenced her academic success.

Mrs. Hundertmark taught English Language Arts and Religion at Resurrection Lutheran School, where she inspired students through her passion for learning, commitment to excellence, and unwavering dedication to helping each student reach their God-given potential. Although she has retired from teaching and is

beginning a new chapter, her legacy continues through the many students whose lives she touched.



Congratulations to both Liesl and Mrs. Hundertmark on this incredible honor! We are so proud of Liesl's accomplishments and grateful for the faithful teachers who make a lasting impact on generations of students.

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

Latest Lion's Tale



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 - Lynne Hoffman

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, June 27

6:00 pm - 53

Sunday, June 28

8:00 am - 87

9:30 am - 149

11:00 am - 100

Total In-Person Worship: 389

Views of Online Worship at RLC's YouTube Channel:

Sunday, June 28

8:00 am - 75

11:00 am - 36

Total Online Views: 111

Financial Update - Fiscal 2024/25

May 2026

Budgeted Giving to Date: \$1,402,200

Actual Giving to Date: \$1,459,583

Current Over/(Under) Giving: \$57,383

Budgeted Expenses to Date: \$1,393,333.33

Actual Expenses to Date: \$1,313,771

Current Under/(Over) Spend: \$79,562.33

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 - July 5, 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, 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

Cassie Melsom

Those Prayed for on June 28, 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
- Vacation Bible School Director and Volunteers
- Resurrection Lutheran Preschool Summer Camps
- Birth of Henry Parker Hulse, Parents Harrison and Sarah Hulse, Grandmother *Erika Hulse, Uncle *Spencer Hulse
- Rain!
- Hymn Bible Class, Led by *Vicar Chris Reed
- Congratulations to Branden and Libby Logsdon Fournier on Their Wedding at RLC on June 27
- For New Job
- Aryana's 5th Grade Graduation

For Healing

- *Kim Goss
- All Those Who Have Illnesses - COVID, RSV, Flu, Viruses

- Blind Ministry Guests - Helen Rice-Lyles, Daria Radford, Mary Williams, Judy Dean, Kathy Stegall, Norma McCord
- *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
- 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 Treatment
- Carli, Recovery from Addiction
- Donna Day, Pancreatic Cancer Treatment
- Dave Koester, ALS, and Wife Ruth
- *Trudy Haertling, Physical Therapy
- *Dennis Merrill
- *Cecilia Brown, Rehab and Recovery
- *Sue Sanders
- Carolyn, Continued Healing
- Evelyn Bloom
- Alison, Cancer Treatment
- Kale, Stomach Cancer Treatment
- Debbie Parker, Healing
- Tracy
- Susan Richard
- Steve Cottle, Healing
- DeAnn, BreeAnn, Ethan, Pam, Kathy, Jean, Gaylon, Sonny, Ricky, Gary, George, Trudy, Gene, Walter, Gwen, Kimberly, Karen, Carly, Grayson, Paul, Johnny, Greg, Libby, Greta, Cecilia, Van, Don, Tracy, Alison, Carolyn, Oscar, Jodi, Jenny, Lynda, Donna, Lily, Mary, Tim, Addison, John, Robbie, Gabby, Keith, Shelby, Clint, Sylvia, Ashley, Joann, Elaine, Denise, Gloria, Virginia, Bill, Darlene, Jeff, Brad, Kelly, Mark, Brittany, Joe, Julie, Jeri, Herbie, Rose, Karen, David, Eric, Brenda, Josh, Jack, Sandy

For Comfort

- Family and Friends of Don Breiler, Uncle to *Breiler Family
- Family and Friends of Thomas Wayne Igoe, Father of *Jennifer Rundle

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
- 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
- Service Members Deployed
- Those Enduring Marriage Struggles and Families in Turmoil, Resolutions
- Those Seeking Jobs and Career Changes
- 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, 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
- Kathy Siemon and Her Family
- Help for Drug Addicts
- Teenagers Struggling with Their Mental Health
- *Benjamin Heffner, Study Abroad in Japan, Returning on July 28
- Aunt Cathy's Care

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
- 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.*