

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

August 2, 2026



Statue of St. Paul at the Vatican (Photo courtesy of Creative Commons)

Pastor's Corner for August 2-8, 2026

The Most Incredible Love Story (Romans 9:1-8)

In recent weeks the blockbuster movie "The Odyssey" has opened up nationwide. It retells, on the big, IMAX-size screen, one of the oldest love stories of all time. It is the story of Odysseus and Penelope, husband and wife of Ithaca, whose relationship is tested by an interval of some twenty years spent apart. Odysseus spends ten years fighting in the Trojan War and another ten on his voyage back home again. What happens in that 20-year interval makes up much of what takes place in Homer's epic poem. It may seem strange that an ancient story about two people with odd names would be so popular these days. But after just 12 days, the movie "The Odyssey" has already been seen by over 40 million people worldwide and grossed over \$700 million. Loving and being loved speaks a kind of universal language. Maybe that's because to love

and be loved is what every human being truly NEEDS.

In our Epistle reading this weekend we do not find St. Paul invoking the word “love.” Nevertheless, his words typify an incredible brand of love that would never have stirred his heart were it not for Jesus Christ. St. Paul has just spent the previous portion of Romans speaking at great lengths about the depth of God’s love for humanity in Christ Jesus, His Son. Jesus, Paul says, was God’s “atoning sacrifice” (Rom 3:25); in Christ Jesus, God declares sinners “not guilty” (5:1, 6-8); though humanity lives in rebellion against God, there is “now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus” (8:1). No wonder, then, that when St. Paul turns his attention to those who do not know Jesus as the Son of God—indeed, when he considers many of his own kinsman who pursued and persecuted him as a follower of Jesus—he says, “I could wish that I myself were cursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my people” (9:3). Love for his own enemies, because of Christ, drove Paul to yearn that he himself might be damned if it meant that his fellow Jews—the very people who persecuted him—might be saved. But Paul, ordinary man that he was, could never love another person to the extent that he would become that kind of substitute. That brand of love would fall to Paul’s Savior—our Savior—to accomplish! The true story of Jesus giving up His life and dying an eternal death in our place is the most incredible love story ever told. Because loving and being loved is so important to what it means to be alive—our God came into our world to enable us to do just that. Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law by becoming a curse, for us!

How might our lives be different because of this, the world’s most incredible love story? Who are the people in our lives we are called to love? Loving even those who seem to be our enemies is not a sort of love you or I or St. Paul would ever begin to attempt, were it not for Jesus. What difference will the certainty of being loved by God in Christ make in the way you face others in your world? As you answer that question again this week, may the incredible love of God for you be your strength!

Peace and joy in Christ,
Pastor Jonathan

Prayers of the Church

Gracious God,

We give thanks to You for our Resurrection Lutheran Church community that You have rooted in Your overflowing grace and guided by Your Word in this place since 1978.

We come before You, praying that You will continue to gift us to be a beacon of Your light and saving hope in Jesus Christ.

May our *Faith in Action* campaign be guided by You for the growth of Your kingdom. Help us make Your love known to those who need to know the love of Jesus.

We pray, Heavenly Father, that You will raise up faithful stewards of Your gifts and laborers for Your harvest.

In Jesus' holy name, we pray.
Amen.



You are cordially invited to attend our

***FAITH IN ACTION* CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF EVENT**

**Sunday, August 16 at 12:30 pm
Family Life Center**

Enjoy food, fun, and fellowship!

Families are encouraged to attend together and enjoy the children's activities being planned.

We will also be debuting our newly produced campaign brochure and video.

Gifts will not be solicited during this time.



[Click Here to RSVP by Sunday, August 9](#)

To learn about other various and beneficial ways that gifts can be made to our campaign, please also plan to attend our **Creative Giving Seminar on Tuesday, August 18** at 7:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Questions? Contact Pastor Jonathan Blanke (jonathan.blanke@rlcary.org) or Mike Heffner, Campaign Assistant (mike.heffner@rlcary.org).



Baptized on Sunday, August 2 at 9:30 am

Brooke Rhiann Smithson

born August 20, 1999,
daughter of Mario Andres Giammattei and Laura Ann Giammattei.

May God's blessing be upon Brooke Rhiann as she grows in her baptismal grace.



[Sign Up for Altar Flowers!](#)

Celebrate Christmas in July and Help Local Charities!

Last collection is this weekend, August 1-2.

Christmas trees are outside the Sanctuary and Family Life Center 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. 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!



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

The Next Coffeehouse for Special Needs Adults

Friday, August 14

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 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/3VAatWW0

The next Coffeehouse is **Friday, August 14** from 7:00-8:30 pm in the Family Life Center. The *Back Porch String Band* will be playing for us.



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

Empty Nesters' Week at Camp!

Want to escape the heat and humidity while uplifting your spirit? Come to the Empty Nesters' Week at Camp Linn Haven in Linville, North Carolina from **August 8-14**.

This LCMS facility will provide bed and bath in cabins, meals, and spiritual enrichment with friendly campers.

For more info, brochures are available in the Narthex or call 919-270-7914. Registration forms available in the church office.

DivorceCare

Resurrection will be hosting a DivorceCare support group **starting August 17** through November 16. This 13-week program supports people who are going through separation and/or divorce and provides practical tools offering

more than support —it also offers the love and presence of Christ.

Sessions will be held in Room 140 on Monday evenings from 6:30-8:30 pm. Workbooks are required to get the most benefits and are available when participants register at [DivorceCare - Divorce Recovery Support Groups](https://www.divorcecare.org/divorce-recovery-support-groups). Select “Find a Group” and look for the group hosted by Resurrection Lutheran Church.

Contact Sue Campau through RCB, or the church office (919-851-7248, office@rlcary.org) for more details, or to volunteer with helping facilitate and greet participants.



Men's Summer Fellowship Series



Fun time had by all at the July gathering!

Stay connected over the summer.

Join us for our **Wednesday, August 19** event at 6:30 pm in Cary at BJ's Restaurant and Brewhouse (5707 Dillard Drive).

All men invited. Do not have to eat or drink to attend.

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

Personalized Health Counseling

Stewardship of Life & Health

Navigating healthcare questions, medications, or life transitions can feel overwhelming and confusing. To help support our church family, the Stewardship of Life & Health group at Resurrection Lutheran Church is offering Personalized Health Counseling.

This initiative connects you directly with healthcare workers in our own congregation to provide guidance, answer basic questions, and offer coaching. The coaching does not replace your primary or specialty care but can offer compassionate support as you go through difficult health care decisions. The areas of counseling and coaching are:

- Medication Management and Education
- Hospice and Palliative Care
- Complex Diagnoses / Illness
- Lactation / Newborn Health
- General Health and Nutrition
- Fitness and Active Living

Getting started is simple:

Step 1: Email your question, name, and contact information to lifeandhealth@rlcary.org.

Step 2: A healthcare team member will respond within one week to set up a follow-up call.

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.

Via de Cristo Weekend at Camp Agape September 17-20

Is it time in your life for a Spiritual renewal? Are you looking for a way to feel closer to God and grow in your Faith? Do you want to want to learn more about God's Grace? A great way to grow in your faith is to attend a Via de Cristo weekend.

The weekend begins on Thursday evening and ends late on Sunday afternoon. During that time, you will attend chapel each day, sing lots of great songs, hear from lay people and clergy on how to grow in your faith, walk and serve Christ. Let's not forget the great food and snacks.

There are many people in our church who have attended a weekend who would love to share their experience. If you are interested in attending a weekend or have questions about Via de Cristo, please feel free to contact Lynne Hoffman through RCB, or the church office (919-851-7248, office@rlcary.org).





Children and Family Ministry News

Register for the 2026-2027 School Year!

We pray that you had a fun and relaxing summer! The Children and Family Ministry team is beginning to prepare for a year of fellowship and fun! Register here:
[Children's Sunday School Registration](#)

Important Dates!

- Volunteer Info
- Meeting: August 23 @ 12:15 room 151

Blessing of Learners and Teachers:
Aug 29 and 30 all services

First Day of Sunday School: September 13

Blessing of Learners & Teachers

Learners and educators will be called forward during all worship services to receive a blessing for the upcoming school year!

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these".
Matthew 19:14



You are invited to serve!

Help little ones learn about the love of Jesus! Help support families as they grow in faith! Serve in Children's Ministry! Many volunteers are needed in several areas: Sunday school teacher, substitute teacher, Nursery care provider & Children's Church leader.

Contact: Erika Hulse at erika.hulse@rlcary.org for more information on ways to serve!



Children's Sunday School Registration

[Children's Sunday School Registration](#)

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

RLC YOUTH SCHEDULE



AUG 16 **Faith in Action Luncheon**
Have lunch then help w/clean up
Plan on an hour after event

AUG 19 **Confirmation Meeting for Youth and Parents**
7pm

AUG 23 ***Open House in the Warehouse**
All Middle School & High School Youth
and Parents @ 1 - 3 pm

*Youth Adult Leader Meeting
3 - 4pm

AUG 30 **1st High School Youth Group**
6:30 - 8:00pm



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

Resurrection Lutheran Preschool



RLPreschool is NOW Enrolling for 2026-27!

Enroll your child in a nurturing preschool focused on learning through play, igniting a love of learning as they launch their educational journey!

JOIN NOW

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

Resurrection Lutheran School



rlscary.org

Junior Kindergarten-8th Grade

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

Latest Lion's Tale

WORSHIP SERVICES

Traditional Worship
in Sanctuary

Saturday, 6:00 pm
Sunday, *8:00 & 9:30 am

Praise Worship
in Family Life Center

Sunday, *11:00 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 W orship 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 W eek's Visual Faith Sheet

This W eek's Visual Faith Children's Bulletin

W eekly Attendance

In-Person Worship Attendance:

Saturday, July 25

6:00 pm - 53

Sunday, July 26

8:00 am - 75

9:30 am - 150

11:00 am - 111

Total In-Person Worship: 389

Views of Online Worship at RLC's YouTube Channel:

Sunday, July 26

8:00 am - 113

11:00 am - 35

Total Online Views: 148

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 – August 2, 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 July 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
- Our New Stephen Ministers as They Support Our Church Family
- For the Recent Rain
- Grateful for New Job
- Lasting Relationships
- Jacob Heffner's 28th Birthday

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
- Hayes, Belle, Childhood Cancer
- *Clinton Peterson
- Khari Otten
- Henry, Grandson of *Mark and *Pat Otten
- Tommi
- Lorrie Muller, Cancer Treatment
- Addison
- Mike Hodgin
- 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, Recovery
- *Sue Sanders
- Carolyn, Continued Healing
- Evelyn Bloom
- Alison, Cancer Treatment
- Kale, Stomach Cancer Treatment
- Tracy
- Glenda Moser
- Elissa Moss
- Beckie Mitchem
- *Vern Ebert
- Richard Staley
- Karen, Carly, Grayson, Paul, Devin, Anita, Breeann, Ethan, DeeAnn, Sally, Kathy, Kay, Van, Gary, Shirley, Catherine, Matt, David, Susan, Brittany, Mr. B, Mrs. B., Pam, Donna, Linda, Addison, Lilly, Gabby, Jim, James, George, Gary, Trudy, Walter, Gene, Lois, Joe, Herbi, Jeri, Julie, Virginia, Bill, Darlene, Brad, Jeff, Jack, Sandy, Bill

For Comfort

- Family and Friends of Catlin Pruitt, Husband of Kelly, Father to Dominic, Camden, Connor, Emma
- Family and Friends of Joe Erhart
- Family and Friends of John Haraminac, Husband of Judy

For Provision, Peace, Strength, and Patient Endurance

- Persecuted Christians
- World Peace
- Cambodia Lutheran Church
- 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 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
- 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 - For Safe Return
- *Cheryl Roth
- Keith Whitehurst
- Steve Skog, and His Mother Mary Taking Care of Him
- Disability Awareness Sunday - Bless the Ministries that Support Those with All Disabilities
- People Displaced by Wildfires in France and Spain
- Daughter Conceive

- Brother's Surgery
- Guidance in Direction for Cancer Treatments
- DivorceCare Participants

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
- Our Capital Campaign Process, and Thanksgiving for Campaign Team Assembled

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
- Cross-Cultural Mission Engagement Team
- Long-Term Impact of Leadership Training, Sponsored by RLC for Pastors, Teachers, and Lay Leaders of the Cambodia Lutheran Church
- Cambodia Mission Trip Team for February 2027
- 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.*