

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 2026

From the Pastor

November may be my favorite month. There's football season and deer season, it's pretty much guaranteed to be colder, and it has my favorite holiday, Thanksgiving. In our house, all of these reasons also mean family time. They are all things that our household, and broader family, celebrate together, even if it's at a distance at times. November is also fashioned in a way that gives us a great image of the Christian life. The bookends of November are All Saints' Day at the beginning and the start of Advent at the end. These two Church celebrations mirror the start and "end" of our journey of faith, in-between these two celebrations we have November, which is the Christian life.

"**See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are**" (1 John 3:1). This is the great celebration of All Saints' Day. We don't just remember the saints that live in eternity now, we celebrate that we are saints now. By the waters of baptism, we are currently living as saints, washed in the blood of the Lamb, declared righteous and holy in the sight of our Father God. Our entire lives start in those waters of baptism, where God's promise of eternal life, forgiveness, and family. From those waters we journey into the November of daily life.

In our November lives, we have plenty to celebrate! There are holidays, memories, family, victories, and cherished moments. We meet these celebrations with thankful hearts, knowing that it is by the grace of our heavenly Father that we are able to live these moments of joy. In our November lives, we have plenty to mourn. There are holidays, memories, family, failures, and broken moments. We meet these hurts with yearning hearts, knowing that is by the grace of our heavenly Father that we are able to endure through these moments of pain. November is our journey of faith.



Dates of Interest:

All Saints' Day.....Nov 1
Ladies Lunch.....Nov 4
First Communion.....Nov 4
Taize.....Nov 7
Worship in Park.....Nov 8
Veterans Day Holiday....Nov 11
Blood Drive.....Nov 11
Following Naomi.....Nov 12
Coffeehouse.....Nov 13
Men's Breakfast.....Nov 14
Surviving Holidays.....Nov 14
Last Weds. Dinner.....Nov 18
Blind Ministry.....Nov 20
Christ the King.....Nov 22
Thanksgiving Worship...Nov 25
Thanksgiving Holiday..Nov 26-27
First Advent.....Nov 29

Sunday Morning Bible Study

The Prophets: God's Oracles

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

October 18-December 20
Led by Larry Cameron

This series of classes will examine the major themes of the books of the prophets.

Topics include humanity's core problem, God's perfect justice, the goal of restoration, and God's desire for a permanent dwelling place among His people.

The names and titles by which God presents Himself and the key metaphors He uses also reveal much about the God whom we worship.

Those attending need bring only their Bibles.

Additional handouts will be provided.



At the end of November, we come to the beginning of Advent, a celebration that draws our focus not just to the birth of Christ but to His promised return, His second Advent. "**From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for Him**" (Isaiah 64:4). We do not wait alone, but we wait as the Body of Christ, the Family of God, the Church. As we wait together, we live together because we know what is coming. We know Christ is coming back and that when He comes, He comes to bring us to that eternal Home!

As we live from the All Saints' Day of our baptism, waiting for the Advent to come, we live in the joyous anticipation within this Christian-November-Life, living with Christ in His Church as children of God.

Your thankful brother in Christ,
Pastor Zach Sarrault

Please Note These Schedule Changes in Holy Communion at 11:00 am Worship and the Live Stream:

Starting **November 1,** the Holy Communion schedule at 11:00 am will change from its current position at 2nd, 4th, and 5th Sundays to 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays. So Holy Communion for the month of November at the 11:00 am worship will be November 1, 15, and 29.

This allows the balance of Communion/Non-Communion worship live streams to adjust properly once we move to worship live streams at 9:30 am and 11:00 am in November.

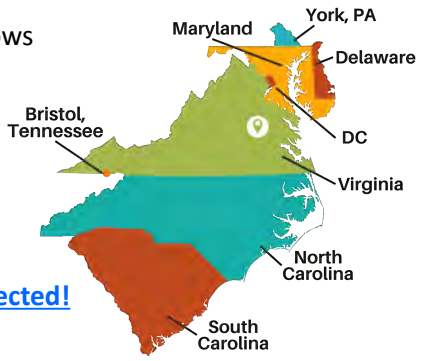
The live stream schedule will change from the 8:00 am service to the 9:30 am service, starting **November 15**.

Resurrection Lutheran is part of the larger Christian witness of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, Southeastern District. The South-eastern District (SED) consists of 208 congregations, 7 states and D.C., and 36 million people within reach — united by one mission: connecting people with Jesus.

Not everyone in our congregation knows they are part of something bigger!

Sign up for SED's *The Connect* and feel plugged in to what God is doing across the district.

[Click here to Stay Connected!]



Stephen Ministry

For All the Saints

Last month our focus was the grief a parent experiences when a child dies. This month, we again turn our focus on grieving the loss of a friend or family member; however, we want to shift that focus to one of thanksgiving as we remember the Church Triumphant and All Saints' Day (November 1st).



We celebrate with all the saints that have passed before us and have joined our efforts with the RLC Veteran's Group to recognize veterans at rest in the RLC columbarium with a wreath. The wreaths are an extension of the mission of Wreaths Across America, which places wreaths on the graves of veterans in December. You can read a full description of their history and mission by clicking here or by visiting their organizational website.

Stephen Ministry is an excellent resource for those experiencing the loss of a loved one and are looking for someone to help process that grief, however it manifests. Over time, a Stephen Minister can use the Christ-centered approach to help them talk through their emotions while looking forward to the hope all Christians share in the resurrection. The resurrection of Christ from the dead is what gives us hope, and it is His promise knowing that we too experience the joy of eternal life, both "now" in promise, and "then" in practice.



As the hymn says (#677 in your pew hymnals, verses 1 and 7) "*For all the saints who from their labors rest, Who Thee by faith before the world confess, Thy name, oh Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia. Alleluia. But, lo, there breaks a yet more glorious day: The saints triumphant rise in bright array; The King of Glory passes on His way. Alleluia. Alleluia.*"

Stephen Ministry is not designed to replace professionally trained grief counselors, but we are well-equipped to support people during challenging times in life. Stephen Ministers are called "Care Givers", but we know that only Christ is the "Cure Giver". It is through Christ's relationship with us that Stephen Ministers can be that safe space for people to express their grief. It is our "ministry of presence" and sometimes all a person needs to know is that they are not alone.

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 and ask about how to make a referral to a Stephen Minister.

STEPHEN MINISTRY

"Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

Galatians 6:2

Adult Christian Education

Weekly Bible Study Opportunities

Monday

DivorceCare

Mondays, 6:30-8:30 pm - Room 140, Family Life Center
August 17-November 16
Leader: Sue Campau

Resurrection is hosting a DivorceCare support group on Monday evenings. 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.

Women of the Word (WOW)

Mondays, 7:00-8:00 pm - Room 151, Family Life Center, and Zoom Option
October 19-November 16
Contact: Jamee Thieme

Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Grace

Each week, we'll discuss portions of the book *Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Grace* by Martha Vanbuskirk. Participants should obtain their own copy of the book, available through Amazon or Concordia Publishing House.

Tuesday

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

Tuesdays, 10:30-11:30 am - Fellowship Hall
September 8-May 25
Leaders: 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

Christian Parenting - Questions They Ask

Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00 pm - Room 240, Family Life Center
September 9-April 21
Leaders: Pastor Zach Sarrault and Erika Hulse, Children and Family Ministry Director

Our kids ask us a lot of questions. Are we prepared to answer them? When was the last time we actually answered these questions for ourselves? As Christian parents, we want to be ready to answer the faith- filled questions our kids give us, answering them in a way that is faithful to God's Word. Who is God? What is the Trinity? When is Jesus coming back? Where is heaven? How do we pray? Why did He allow sin?

Join us and bring your own questions as we grow in God's calling to be Christian parents.

Wednesday

Why We're Lutheran: The Augsburg Confession

Wednesdays, 6:00-7:00 pm - Room 251, Family Life Center
October 14-November 18
Leaders: Matt and Tiffany Oettinger, Pastor Jonathan Blanke

Rooted in Scripture, the Augsburg Confession remains a clear summary of what Lutherans believe and confess nearly 500 years after it was written. In this six-week class, we'll explore together some of the biggest questions of the Christian faith. Along the way, we'll dig into Scripture, discover the fascinating history that shaped the Reformation, and see how Lutheran beliefs compare with other Christian traditions.

Whether you've been Lutheran your whole life or are still wondering what exactly makes a Lutheran, well, Lutheran, join us as we discover why it still matters and what it means for us today.

Suggested Materials:
The Augsburg Confession/Concordia Reader's Edition, The Book of Concord, Complete Book of Concord includes Augsburg Confession - all can be found at Concordia Publishing House (CPH).

Men's Ministry

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 pm (Fellowship at 6:45 pm) - Room 245, Family Life Center
Contact: Tom Gebbia

Nurturing Faith: Journey Through series is a Bible study based on the Project Connect booklet. These four sessions consider each topic, and how we can examine it and navigate through it using God's Word and thoughtful strategies.

October 7 - God's Prophets
October 14 - Nurturing Your Faith: Journey Through Anxiety
October 21 - Bonfire with Devotion at Fire Pit
October 28 - Nurturing Your Faith: Journey Through Depression

Women of the Word (WOW)

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 pm (Fellowship at 6:45 pm) - Room 151, Family Life Center
October 14-November 18
Contact: Jamee Thieme

Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Grace

Each week, we'll discuss portions of the book *Ordinary Lives, Extraordinary Grace* by Martha Vanbuskirk. Participants should obtain their own copy of the book, available through Amazon or Concordia Publishing House.

*Please note, there will be no Wednesday evening activities on November 11 in observance of the Veterans Day holiday, except Heavenly Handbells and Sanctuary Choir.

Pick up or download a copy of the Christian Education Booklet, Fall 2026!

Gifts & Memorials

In Memory of Ed Yerha

Eydee Persson

Worship

Joint Worship in the Park

Join us for the 11:00 am worship service on **Sunday, November 8** in Ritter Park (across Lochmere), including musical offerings by Resurrection Lutheran School students!

And plan to stay for food and fellowship after service. Come worship outdoors in God's creation with us.

Hope you participate in RLC's Annual Dessert Contest! Enter your favorite dessert or volunteer to judge all the yummy desserts. Of course everyone is invited to taste once the judging is finished.

Bring your dessert to Ritter Park for bragging rights by Noon. Contact Kim Simpson to volunteer to be a judge.

Please note, there will be no 9:30 am worship or Sunday school for adults and children. Also, no live stream of 11:00 am service.



Widows Group

Following Naomi

The next meeting for Following Naomi will be on **Thursday, November 12** at 2:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

We'll be watching a DVD of James and Dolley Madison.

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

Stewardship of Life & Health

November Health Focus

Injury Prevention

November 18th is National Injury Prevention Day. Small actions can make a big difference. Together, we can help create a safer church, a healthier home, and a stronger community.

- Practice safe driving: Always wear a seat belt, avoid distracted driving, and obey speed limits.
- Protect our children: Use age-appropriate car seats and seat belts, supervise children around water, and keep medications, cleaning supplies, and other harmful substances out of their reach.
- Look out for older adults: Check for tripping hazards in the home, encourage the use of assistive devices when needed, and ensure that hallways and stairways are well lit.
- Make our church safer: Report loose steps, damaged flooring, poor lighting, or other hazards to church leadership.
- Practice fire safety: Test smoke alarms, review fire escape plans with your family, and keep matches and lighters away from children.
- Use medications safely: Take medications as directed, store them securely, and never share prescription medications with others.
- Prevent sports and exercise injuries: Wear appropriate footwear and protective equipment, warm up before physical activity, and stay hydrated.
- Keep homes and outdoor spaces safe: Use ladders properly, wear protective gear when doing yard work, and use caution when working with tools or equipment.

Happy Anniversary!

November 3
Joe and Ginny Bastante
30 years

November 7
Gary and Nadine Hayden
50 years

November 11
Corey and Angela York
15 years

November 15
Eddie and Janeen Sanders
40 years

November 16
Robert and Joyce Hirt
63 years

November 20
John and Barbara Laskey
55 years

DivorceCare

Surviving the Holidays

Resurrection is hosting an event called, *Surviving the Holidays* on **Saturday, November 14** at 2:00 pm in Room 151, Family Life Center, for the holidays to help those who are struggling with divorce or separation and need support and guidance.

Please prayerfully consider anyone you know who might benefit from this event. While they may be experiencing deep pain and suffering now, joy will come in God's timing. Ask them to join this special holiday event, where we will discuss the hope and healing that God gives.

Flyers available in the Narthex areas of the Sanctuary and Family Life Center with details.

Contact Sue Campau through RCB for more details or to volunteer.



Worship

Thanksgiving Eve Worship



We gather for worship on the eve of this national Day of Thanksgiving with joyful hearts, and we raise our hymns and prayers in gratitude to God for an abundance of blessings. God, in His Grace, has given us all that we need for body and soul. We respond with thanksgiving, recognizing that all we have is from His Grace.

Join us in the Sanctuary for Worship and Holy Communion on **Wednesday, November 25** at 7:00 pm!

Live stream available on YouTube @ResurrectionLutheranCary.

There will be no other Wednesday night activities held.

The church office will be closed Thursday, November 26 and Friday, November 27. Happy Thanksgiving!

Resurrection Women's Ministries

Preparing for Jesus: An Advent Tea

Join your adult sisters-in-Christ for a time of fellowship, encouragement, and faith building, as we prepare our hearts and minds for this upcoming Advent season with an Advent Tea on **Saturday, December 5** from 12:00-2:00 pm in the Family Life Center Gym.



Tickets are $10 each with support from Thrivent Financial. Any excess funds will go towards LWML Mites for Missions.

Please bring your own teacup or mug. Registration deadline is November 15.

Interested in volunteering?
Many hands make light work - thanks for considering!

Registration forms for participants and volunteers are in the church mailboxes. Questions? Contact Dawn Leister through RCB or the church office (919-851-7248, office@rlcary.org).

Music Ministry

Christmas Carol Celebration

A Christmas Carol Celebration accompanied by an orchestra and including the singing of familiar carols - Silent Night, Angels We Have Heard on High, Hark! the Herald Angels Sing, Joy to the World, O Come All Ye Faithful, special music, and narrative; will be presented at the 8:00 and 9:30 am worship services on **Sunday, December 13**.

All youth and adults are encouraged to participate in this exciting preparation for Christmas. Rehearsals for the Christmas Carol Celebration are scheduled for **Wednesdays, 8:00-8:30 pm**. A choral "dress" rehearsal is scheduled for Saturday, December 12 at 11:30 am.

If interested in participating, contact Bob Unger. It's okay to not attend all rehearsals, attend as your schedule allows, than to exclude yourself from participating.



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

First Communion Instruction

There will be a 5-session class starting January 6 for all youth who might be interested in learning about the Sacrament of Holy Communion. These five sessions will serve as preparation for reception of the Lord's Supper in all worship services for any 5th Grader attending services who has already been baptized. Class led by Pastor Jonathan Blanke.

Parents of youth who may be interested or have questions about what to expect are invited to attend a brief information session on **Wednesday, November 4** at 6:00 pm in Room 151, Family Life Center.

Please reach out to Pastor Jonathan at jonathan.blanke@rlcary.org if you have any questions!



Cross-Cultural Mission Engagement

2027 Cambodia Mission Trip

We appreciate all the support for the 2027 Cambodia Mission Team as they prepare to serve alongside our LCMS missionaries in Cambodia this February. Click here to sign up: bit.ly/4e9eiKC

Thank you for partnering with us as we join Christ in His mission to share the Gospel!



Youth Ministry

Middle School and High School

Proverbs 27:17: “Iron sharpens iron.”

The youth had a busy last weekend of October. Youth Late Night was a BLAST! Thank you to Ian and Derica Justice, Katy Johnson, Angela York, Kenny Lynnes, Pastor Alan, Kevin Kuhl, Nicholas Moll, Brennan and Dana Higgins for spending their Friday night with over 40 (loud) youth! This joyous event was attended by RLC, RLS youth, as well as community and friends of youth. They came together to complete challenges, play Nerf and build forts, do a service project, and have a safe, fun event celebrating who we are as brothers and sisters in Christ. Fun in faith!

Then on Sunday afternoon our RLS NJHS Students and our RLC Middle and High School Youth came together to serve the children of RLC, RLP, RLS, and the community at the Fall Festival. They were handing out candy, playing games, helping with crafts and activities, and showing how fun it is to serve. Our youth shared the light of Jesus all weekend! What a joy and blessing and what I am most grateful for.



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





Engaging the Nations

Visual Faith Mission

Did you realize the command "GO" appears over a thousand times in the Bible? Interestingly, the Visual Faith Mission (VFM) theme for 2026, SOJOURN with Jesus, implies going/traveling/walking/following Him. GO and SOJOURN. And, for five of us, GOING and SOJOURNING happened during a short-term mission trip to the Dominican Republic, as we shared VFM practices and resources with God's people in schools, churches, and homes. The mastermind behind this short-term mission trip was VFM Coach and LCMS Missionary Dana Stigdon, who planned an action-packed week for our team.

During our eight days (September 4-12) in the Dominican Republic, we offered four family workshops (focusing on gratitude + visual prayer), met with teachers (sharing VFM's Educator Packet in Spanish), and guided the regional staff in the practice of Prayer of Lament. We were invited to engage in the rhythm of church/seminary life as we celebrated the tenth anniversary of Centro de Misericordia y Seminario Concordia el Reformador, tagged along with Pastor Weber and seminary students as they made weekly home visits, and – as best we could – followed along with the beautiful Spanish versions of the Order of Matins and the Order of Vespers services.

We enjoyed early morning walks at the botanical center, toured Kah Kow chocolate factory, gained a bird's eye view of Santiago via the Teleferico (cable car), and deeply appreciated air-conditioned spaces when we encountered them. Each of the team members was asked to share her thoughts (and favorite photos) as she reflected on this short-term mission experience. We pray this will ignite a spark in the hearts of others in the VFM community to gather a short-term team to GO and SOJOURN with Jesus!

The Visual Faith Mission-Dominican Republic Team included Dana Stigdon, Jamee Thieme, Jenny Long, Amy Rast, and Debbie Yocky. Click here to read their individual accounts!





Preschool News

Our children will experience opportunities that will enhance and expand their ever-increasing eagerness for knowledge.

Our goal is for each child to become comfortable in a non-competitive classroom setting and develop an enjoyable attitude towards school — all in a loving Christian environment.

Resurrection Lutheran Preschool

Elizabeth Lynnes, Director

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

Download the 2026-27 RLP Brochure!

REACHING NEW HEIGHTS IN MATH

There is something especially exciting about the photo below! In our 25th anniversary year, RLS is celebrating another first. These students are members of our first ever Math II class, taught by Amanda Farmer.

When these students graduate in May, they will leave middle school having earned two high school math credits, Math I and Math II.

What an accomplishment and what a wonderful example of the academic opportunities available to our students right here at RLS!

We are proud to offer opportunities that challenge our students, prepare them well for high school, and encourage them to use the gifts God has given them to their fullest potential.

Congratulations to our first Math II class!

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

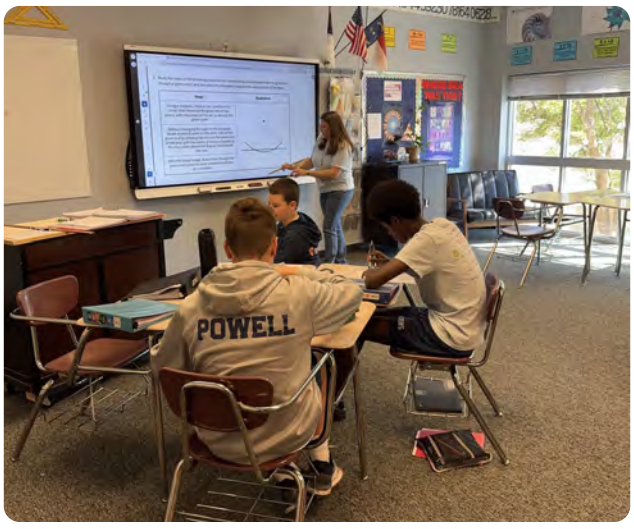
The Scholastic Book Fair is coming! Get ready for a reading adventure with the newest books, bestselling series, and kid-favorite characters. Plus, every purchase earns funds for our school. We can't wait to have you join us!

Monday, November 16-Friday, November 20
8:15-10:30 am and 1:30-3:45 pm in Room 151

To shop the online store, visit the RLS Scholastic Homepage.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

November 2	Dads Do Stuff - Teacher Luncheon
November 8	Worship in the Park, 11:00 am
November 11	No School, Veterans Day
November 16-20	Scholastic Book Fair
November 26-27	No School, Thanksgiving



Resurrection Lutheran School

Robin Hester
Principal

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

Shine like the stars!

Those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the heavens, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

Daniel 12:3

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.



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

or through our website at
rlcary.org/about-us/online-worship

Resurrection Lutheran Church
By Grace Through Faith For Service

LEARN MORE

rlcary.org | 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.

SOCIAL MEDIA

facebook.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary

instagram.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary

youtube.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary

Newsletter deadline is the 20th of each month.
Please send submissions to susan.moore@rlcary.org.