



Resurrection Lutheran Church

By Grace Through Faith For Service

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2020

Prayers of the Church: (*RLC Members)

Ongoing Prayers

*Diane Cuper	*Eve Sommers	*David Brooks
*Anne Altieri	*Charlotte Raines	Stephanie Samuels
*Eric Hammergren	*Wes Wyatt	Ava Conklin
*Helen Puza	Frank Grace	Helen Wolf
*Anita Moore	*Wilma Brown	Dennis
*Vern Ebert	*Jackson Buser, Working in the Congo	
*Lou Caltrider		

Mike Zimmerman, Son of Mark and Sally, US Navy Deployed, Spain

Ongoing Cancer Treatments

Jeff Marshall	Carol & Frank	Don	Craig
*Mike Allen	Rachel	Bill	Rob
Anne Price	*Gary Ferro	Rene	Beth
Linda Gilson	Angie Price	Alison	Zieglmeier
*Fuad Rihani			

Those Prayed For on March 15th

For the Sick:	Gary	Henry	Audrey	Annmarie
Kimmy Fix	Karen	Janice	Eve	Rosemary
Gloria	John	Arlie	Justin	Brian
Red	Brian	Keith	Carlton	Carol
Anna	Anne	Anita	Mark	Dave
Fuad	Tim	Julia	Wilma	Jean
Debbie	Dasha	Donna	Harold	Gavin

In Celebration of:

RLC	Family	Pam's 70th Birthday
Our Many Blessings		

For Those That Mourn:

Other Requests:

Persecuted Christians	Oromo People	Those in Prison
Uganda Church, Pastors, Leaders		Our Missionaries
All Those Sick with Virus		Healthy Pregnancies
Our Service Personnel		
Second Chances for Missed Opportunity		
Coronavirus Concerns - Pray for Patients, Medical Personnel, Families, Leaders		

Missionaries:

Mark and Megan Mante, Uganda
 Shauen and Krista Trump, Kenya
 JP and Aimee Cima, Cambodia

"That the works of God might be displayed in him"
 John 9:3

"Who sinned?" That was the question Jesus' disciples asked when faced by the unfair reality of a man who had been born blind. Their "logic" makes sense. Why should this one individual be singled out to be "differently abled"? Either he or his parents must have done something so heinously wrong that the outcome became unavoidable. So who was it...the man himself, or his parents? Human logic brought to bear upon the mysteries of life lead to answers that don't work. Jesus knew this. So while not dodging the disciples' question ("it was not that this man sinned, or his parents"), Jesus reframes the mystery on God's terms: "but that the works of God might be displayed in him."

The disciples' question is familiar. Whenever disaster strikes, everyone wants to know why. In 2011 after the tsunami, earthquake, and nuclear disaster struck Japan, I can still remember the mayor of Tokyo at that time, Mr. Shintaro Ishihara, saying that this was a form of divine retribution or "tenbatsu." During my brief time of chaplain internship at a hospital in St. Louis, I met people that were certain that their illnesses were a form of divine punishment. Now that our world is faced with a global pandemic there may indeed be those who wonder what specific sins have brought it upon us. Secular chutzpah? Greed or materialism? Moral/sexual depravity? All of the above?

Honest soul searching in the face of calamity can indeed be a wholesome thing; and any tragedy may indeed instill in sinful folks like us the petition "Lord have mercy!" How could it not? But Jesus would have us know that there is no one error that we can "get right" so as to avoid future disaster. That logic doesn't work. Instead, he turns our attention to how God is at work through and in spite of "disaster." To our question "why," He answers, "So the works of God might be displayed."

What works of God have you seen recently?

Pastor Jonathan



FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 16, 2020

Dear friends and family of Resurrection,

Greetings in the name of our loving Savior. Resurrection Lutheran Church Staff met this afternoon to discuss plans for the next several weeks. As this concerns our congregation's worship life, I wanted to be sure to get word to you as soon as possible.

Here is what will be different, moving forward:

- With the exception of Meals-on-Wheels related activity, all outside group activities on the church property have been discontinued for the foreseeable future.
- As of today (Monday, March 16) our church will temporarily discontinue all "in person" worship services at our church location. (Funeral/memorial services excepted.) This is in response to CDC recommendations and that gatherings of 50 or more be discontinued or cancelled. We will monitor our community status in about two weeks and update you with any changes at that time.
- Midweek Lenten services and weekend worship services will be either live streamed or released for viewing for at least the next two weeks. You may also find other live streamed church content available online through our Southeastern District office at <https://se.lcms.org/live-streaming-congregations/>.
- We are encouraging church staff who are able to do so to work from home, but will maintain regular church office hours 9 AM to 3 PM, Monday through Friday.
- We will be "checking in" once by phone with all older members of our church community over the next few weeks and more regularly with home or institution-bound friends/members. As we care for one another during this time, please check in with each other for prayer and encouragement.
- All on-site, non-worship church activities will be temporarily cancelled. For questions regarding off-site activities, please contact the activity leader or call the church office. (The men's retreat for this weekend will be a service-only event.)

Here is what will stay the same:

- The content of our worship: The music, Scripture Readings, liturgy and messages from our regular mid-week Lenten services and weekend worship services will still be available to you in the electronically available format mentioned above. See our Online Worship webpage at www.rlcary.org/about-us/online-worship.
- Prayers on your behalf: Please continue to use our church website to submit prayer requests at www.rlcary.org/ministries/prayer-ministry and feel free to contact church office with other prayer concerns.
- The opportunity to "gather," albeit electronically: While it will not be possible to gather "in person," we hope to make an easy-to-use videoconferencing platform available that will allow some small groups, Bible studies, and church meetings to continue.
- The forgiveness of sins and tangible reception of Jesus Himself in the Lord's Supper: Holy Communion will *always be available* to anyone who desires it. Please call the church office (919) 851-7248 if you would like to schedule a time for me or a member of our Chaplain Care Circle to visit you.
- An opportunity to meet the pastor at church or in your home: I will maintain a presence in my office at church and will announce videoconferencing "office hours" in the days ahead. If you request a visit or desire to meet up with me during regular hours, please contact the church office.
- Our service to our community which requires your financial support: Please know that when worship services stop our offering income decreases. We are grateful for all who are able to maintain their financial contributions to our congregation! Feel free to mail your donations, download and connect through the "give+" app on your smartphone or other device, or donate through our website at www.rlcary.org/ministries/online-giving.

Though our days change and it is impossible to know what tomorrow will bring, we give thanks that our God is "the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8).

Shalom in Jesus,
Pastor Jonathan

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During this time of uncertainty, we have a beautiful opportunity before us to connect with one another in the **Resurrection Prayer Community**.

I invite you to be a part of this online gathering of the heart. This group -- birthed from our 2019 Transition Prayer Team -- has been created to hold our church family in prayer and to comfort and encourage one another in the weeks, perhaps months, ahead as the virus keeps us from physically gathering together in study, worship, and prayer. Members can interact with one another, adding prayers, devotional thoughts and words of encouragement at any time during the week.

If you would like to be a part of our Resurrection Prayer Community during this time, please let me know by emailing me or by contacting the church office at office@rlcary.org.

Be encouraged! God is with us.

Incoming Prayer Requests – March 20, 2020

Those suffering chronic illness:

- Karin Wolfe, friend of Lori Durnbaugh, fighting cancer
- Lou Caltrider, requested by wife, Elaine
- Carolyn Smith's daughter, Laura, fighting leukemia
- Debbie, nearing her heavenly home
- Ken Eckstein
- Tanya Douglas' mother, fighting lung cancer
- Avery Stevenson, hospitalized child with Cystic Fibrosis

Those recovering from hospitalizations and/or surgical procedures:

- Marty Cullen, requested by daughter, Lisa Whynot, and wife, Emmy
- Dorothy Ebert

Prayers for safety, protection, provision, comfort and peace for:

- Healthcare personnel around the globe, especially for RLC members who are healthcare workers in our local hospitals. Requested by Michele Brake.
- RLC members with family members in virus hot spots around the world. Praying especially for:
 - ◊ Sam Kolb, quarantined, Spain
 - ◊ Jackson Buser, quarantined, Uganda
 - ◊ Luigi Moscatello's mother and family quarantined, Italy
- The elderly, homebound and infirmed, especially:
 - ◊ Ed Norse
 - ◊ Thomas Quetel, requested by wife and caregiver, Jane
 - ◊ Anne Price
- The young, their parents and expectant moms
- Those with compromised autoimmune diseases

Prayers for the Lord's wisdom, guidance, and strength for the health and well-being of the people they serve:

- Leaders in national, state and local government
- LCMS District Leadership
- Pastor Jonathan and Juli, RLC staff, and our area pastors

Thanking God today for:

- His Presence and Love, moving in, around and through our Resurrection Family
- Healthcare workers, first responders and military personnel on the frontlines
- Researchers and scientists working to develop a cure
- Online technology that enables us to stay connected with our church family, individual families, and friends



Children and Family Ministry

Questions you may have regarding any of these programs or events can be directed to the Co-Directors of Children and Family Ministry, MaryAnn.Unger@rlcary.org or Lea.Webb@rlcary.org.

In recent conversations I've had with my family we shared how, at times, everything seems so "normal" and moments later, it can seem like everything is "wrong". This has led me to question, "just how long will we be in this state of confusion?" I listened to Pastor Blanke's message on Psalm 91 which focuses on God being our refuge and strength, a great Psalm that gives us hope. After finishing listening, the word wait kept flowing through my thoughts. So, of course I looked up, "I will wait upon the Lord," Psalm 130:5. The verse continues with, yes I am counting on Him, I have put my hope in His word. New Living Translation.

I intended to send a message to families in these weekly announcements asking how everyone is doing, how I can be of any assistance, to remind families to stay in the word, to use this extra "down" time to have family devotions and prayer time, but reading this verse was a great reminder to me that many of us are very much in a waiting situation. No one truly knows when any of this will change, for the good or bad, and what the final outcome will be. Most likely, life will return to what we know albeit with some recovery and changes that will most likely be in place. I'm sure at some point throughout this process we will all feel some anxiety, fear, frustration, and uncertainty. Psalm 130:5 is a great declaration for all of us Christians to remember and state. While we are waiting on the government, doctors, researchers, and pharmacists to "fix" this problem we are dealing with, we already have assurance that waiting on the Lord is the best solution. The verse goes on to say, "my whole being waits, and in His word, I put my hope." New International Version.

What a gift it is to know that the Savior of our world is trustworthy, He is in control, He loves us, and even today He is working good even when surrounded by so much bad. To be able to put our hope and trust in Him gives us the peace we need to serve others, to comfort our children, to share God's love with our neighbors and throughout our community. We are able to pray for others, doctors, nurses, and all that are doing their best to stop this virus from spreading and negatively impacting our lives. We know that no matter what, we are ok, Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again, and in fact, is with us right now. With that knowledge, we are equipped to deal with whatever may come our way, even Covid-19.

- MaryAnn Unger, Co-Director of Children and Family Ministry, MaryAnn.Unger@rlcary.org



5th Grade Seder Meal Celebration Cancelled

To the 5th grade families that participated in the Welcome to the Lord's Table workshops (First Communion), the Seder Meal scheduled for April 8 has been cancelled.

First Communion

We will update any new information regarding Holy Week as it becomes available.

Maundy Thursday, April 9 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary



8th Grade Confirmation

All 8th grade Confirmation students have been asked to submit a video of them presenting their faith statement. This includes students who have already presented their statements. We would like to give the entire congregation an opportunity to hear all of the faith statements.

Some parents may not want to participate, if you prefer to not have your child's image posted. That is totally fine. If you are willing to submit a written copy that can potentially be shared with the congregation instead of the video, please send it to me.

Thank you to those who have already sent me their video, it is greatly appreciated!

Information regarding the Confirmation Banquet and Confirmation Service will be shared with you when it becomes available. Please do not stress over this, it may be different and not the dates we were planning, but overall, it will be fine.

Send Faith Statements to maryann.unger@rlcary.org, use Google Docs, and give me access to edit.

Kids Connection (Sunday School)

I hope this finds everyone staying healthy and safe! This is a good time for us all to focus on family and our faith. Just because the church doors are shut, our faith is not. If you need any assistance in Children and Family Ministry, please email us.

Here are some fun non-traditional ideas to keep your children connected to their faith and take ownership of their own discipleship. This is also a great way to make memories and new traditions with your family and children.

Let the kids read the Bible to you. Just open the Bible and read where you are. Who knows, you may find a new favorite Bible verse this way. Then have the kids learn a verse and see if they can remember it the next day. If they can, maybe they can have an extra treat or a little extra free time.

Movie Night - We are all watching tv, Hulu, Amazon Prime, Netflix, etc., pop some popcorn and have a family movie night to watch a Christian family movie.

Have a worship dance party - Ask "Alexa" to play kids worship songs or look some up on YouTube. Play "Freeze Dance": play the music, dance away, then stop the music in the middle of a song, and freeze. If you move, you are out. Continue until you have a winner.

Go for a family prayer walk. As you walk the neighborhood, stop and let your children lead a quick prayer for a neighbor, a garden, the weather, each other, etc. The options are endless. And no, you don't have to invite the neighbor, God will listen and know what you are praying for.

Worship Service - Let your kids plan a service. (This may need some parental help.) Some ideas are they can pick a few "church songs" (YouTube search Christian kids music), read a favorite story in the Bible, find a video to go with the story, collect an offering to save and bring to church when we resume, and even act out the story.

As a family, watch the Lenten services and Worship services as they are available from Resurrection Lutheran Church. You can connect from the website at www.rlcary.org/about-us/online-worship.

The list is endless. I would love to hear about any of these options or other fun adventures you enjoy as a family in the coming weeks. Challenge your children to be creative and help the family continue their faith journey during this time of the COVID-19 church closure. Please stay healthy, as this shall pass, and I look forward to hearing about your "Family Bible Time".

Peace to you,

Lea Webb, Co-Directors of Children and Family Ministry, Lea.Webb@rlcary.org

*"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God.
I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10*

From the Worship and Music Ministry:

Feel free to listen to sermons from previous worship services on our website at www.rlcary.org/about-us/sermons.

And don't forget about our musical offerings on the Worship Music page, www.rlcary.org/about-us/worship-music.



Student Ministry

Ignite (6th-8th grades)

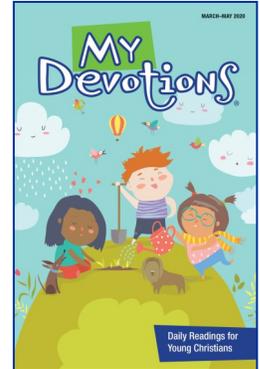
There will be **no Ignite/Middle School events** until further notice.

Rockfish Retreat has been cancelled. Those that have paid for Rockfish will be getting a full refund, as soon as checks can be written. Please be patient as we are unsure when this will occur.

While you are home, I encourage you to take advantage of a **free issue of devotions from CPH.**

From [Concordia Publishing House](#), "Forming devotional habits in older children's lives will help set them up for a lifetime of faith-focused thinking. Devotions are also a way for children to carve time out of their daily routines to reflect on their lives and their own personal relationship with Jesus. The [free issue](#) of *My Devotions* can help kids to explore their faith, whether on their own or in a family setting. Daily stories and Bible readings will keep God's Word in their hearts, even while they are away from a normal classroom setting. Coordinating journal ideas will give time for kids to reflect on the readings and what they mean for their lives."

This issue can also be found on the church website at www.rlcary.org/ministries/student-ministry.



Joyfully,

Ms. LeAnn, Middle School Youth Director - leann.trautman@rlcary.org

Breakaway (9th-12th grades)

I hope this finds all of you well and safely adjusting to your new routines and ways of life. I am sure that there will be growing pains along the way, but I will continue to lift all of you up in my prayers. I will be here for you throughout the challenges we are facing. While there is a lot of uncertainty in the days and weeks to come, we can rest assured in our faith that God is there.

"So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10

There will be **no Breakaway activities** or group meetings until further notice.

Rockfish is cancelled!

Refunds will be processed, but please be patient. Though we are looking to reschedule, it may not be feasible for this school year.

Harrisburg YouthWorks Mission Trip

Paperwork and payment is due by May 1 (as of now). Your cost after fundraising will be sent to you electronically within the next two weeks. All medical paperwork and releases is now done online.



Did you know Breakaway has an Instagram account? We do!

I will be going live with devotions at least 5 days a week to start. You can either watch and join the conversation live, or you can watch the replay later in the day. But you have to be on Instagram! It is a private group, so please request access. This is a special way to keep socially distanced, but **NOT** spiritually distant! *Instagram: rlcbreakaway*

I will be available to you through email (jenny.piontek@rlcary.org), Instagram (rlcbreakaway), Group Me, or text/phone (check RCB). *If you are not a part of any of these, please reach out and I will add you.*

Joyfully His,

Ms. Jenny, High School Youth Director - jenny.piontek@rlcary.org

March 16, 2020

Dear Resurrection Lutheran Preschool Parents,

I hope all of you are able to see this time at home with your families as an opportunity for bonding and growing relationships with each other. I'm sure y'all will come up with fun and exciting things to do together!

At this point, **RLP will be using the days we are closed as our Spring Break.** I continue to work closely with the Preschool Board on contingency plans for making up days.

Tentatively, this means:

IF we are able to return to Preschool in April, we will have classes Monday-Thursday, April 6-9 (originally our Spring Break).

Friday, April 10 (Good Friday), RLP will be closed.

RLP will have classes on the teacher workdays of Monday, April 13 and Friday, May 1.

Again, things can change hour to hour, so please take note of the date and time of my emails.

Prayers for all of our families, as we go through these unknown times together.

Diane Hooper, Director of Resurrection Lutheran Preschool, dianeh@rlpcary.org

In addition to this update, all preschool families received emails from their child's teachers. The two co-teachers were able to connect with one another and provide the parents with website resources and activities to do with their child during the next few weeks while families are at home together. Teachers shared their daily preschool routine, playdoh and oobleck recipes, class songs and daily prayers, encouraging cutting with scissors, writing their names, drawing with crayons and markers, painting on paper and rocks, and enjoying the sunshine and fresh air everyday.

I am so blessed to have such a dedicated and hardworking staff that continue to support and encourage not just the children in their classes, but their families as well. They are truly exceptional ladies and I am thankful for each of them.

RLP Staff: Diane (Director), Jodi (Assistant Director and Science), Pat (Office Assistant), Laura (Special Events), Jennie (Floater), Jennapher (Science), Christina (Music), Susan and Pam (2-year-olds), Terri, Susan, Karen, Kari, Beth (3-year-olds), Karyen, Suzanne, Amy, Melissa, Ellen, Jenn (4-year-olds), Katherine, Jennifer, Susan, Pam (transitional-kindergarten)

A special thank you to the RLPreschool Board for the support the past few weeks, and in the weeks to come!

Carol Bostick, Eydee Persson, Jamee Thieme, Leah Robison, Martha-Page Althaus, Shellie Stow





March 20, 2020

A MESSAGE FROM MR. KOLB

Greetings RLS!

2 Corinthians 12:9 talks of God's grace being sufficient for us even in our weaknesses. It seems the world is experiencing "weakness" right now, but if we trust in God's word in Corinthians, we can be assured that God's grace will be sufficient.

I trust this note finds you and your family well. Quite momentous times we live in right now. Know that the entire RLS staff and I are thinking of and praying for your families.

The first packets of schoolwork should be in your hands as we take our first steps in "distance learning" (DL). Please realize we are as new to this as you are. There will be some fits and starts as we work through the best ways to continue learning from afar. The most important thing to start with is DON'T STRESS! Different teachers put their material out to you in different modes. In middle school students received varied means. Some packets included roughly three weeks of work; others just a few things to get them started.

DON'T STRESS! I know it kind of feels like drinking out of a fire hose right now. Contact your child's teacher(s) should there be confusion, chunk the material into appropriate blocks (you don't need to get it all done in a day), and know that the staff will be filled with grace for you and your students as I ask you to have with us as well.

It is still our hope to be able to follow the plan set forth by our Board of Directors and be back in session at RLS on April 14. Now, this is an ever changing, fluid situation and it seems that new reports are coming out daily. I'm sure it will take a week or more for the situation to come into clarity. The RLS Board continues to meet virtually to keep abreast of the situation and I will strive to keep you as informed as possible.

Finally, be safe and see how God can use you and this time to further His Will in this world for you and your neighbors. If there are additional ways we can help you during this time, do not hesitate to reach out to us. Pastor Jonathan Blanke, Senior Pastor, and the staff at Resurrection Lutheran Church would like to offer any help or guidance you may seek. Let us know. We are here with you in community (even if it is an appropriately "social distanced" community!).

Blessings,

Tom Kolb, RLS Principal - tomkolb@rlscary.org

RLS Email Contacts:

Rosie Creasy - rosiecreasy@rlscary.org

Teachers - "TeacherName"@rlscary.org



Thank You!

RLC donated \$1,386.12 to Gateway Women's Care through our annual Baby Bottle fundraiser!

A message from Gateway,
"We value the many ways in
which you champion the cause
for LIFE."

**Wednesday Night Vespers - March 11**

6:10 pm - 111

Attendance - March 14/15

Saturday 6:00 - 67 Sunday 8:00 - 37
Sunday 10:30 - 55 Sunday 10:45 - cancelled

Total = 159

Sunday School: Cancelled

General Fund Giving and Spending - February 2020

	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Receipts	\$120,140.65	\$846,187.69
Total Disbursements	<u>\$112,251.44</u>	<u>\$839,661.60</u>
Receipts Less Disbursements	\$7,889.21	\$6,526.09
Average Weekly Giving for 2019/20		\$24,887.87
Average Weekly Giving Budgeted for 2019/20		\$25,153.85

**Reaching Out with the Love of Christ
to all People through Lent Offerings**

Each Season of Lent, RLC designates ministries to support in reaching out with Christ's love to all people. This year, the following three organizations were chosen to support:

Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina

is a nonprofit organization that has provided food for our friends and neighbors facing hunger in 34 counties in central and eastern North Carolina for 40 years. The Food Bank is an affiliate member of Feeding America, the nation's leading domestic hunger relief charity. In terms of total food distributed, the Food Bank ranks in the top 15 nationally among 200 Feeding America food banks and first in NC.

foodbankcenc.org

Urban Ministries of Wake County

engages our community to serve and advocate on behalf of those affected by poverty by providing food and nutrition, promoting health and wellness, and by laying foundations of home. urbanmin.org

H. E. R. O. E. S. Care (Homefront Enabling Relationships, Opportunities, and Empowerment through Support)

is a collaborative effort among well established non-governmental organizations (NGOs) designed to provide complete and proactive support for members of all branches of the military and their families through pre-deployment, deployment, family reintegration and post-deployment. The program consists of a network of tens of thousands of trained caregivers and thousands of professional mental health care and service providers working together to provide an unprecedented system of support for military members and their families.

heroescare.org

Please indicate 'Lent Offerings' on your donation.

Learn more about Resurrection Lutheran Church at

www.RLCary.org



www.facebook.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary



www.instagram.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary



www.youtube.com
Search "Resurrection Lutheran Church-Cary NC"

Get the Mobile App for RCB!

Search the App store for Church Community Builder.
The app is called Lead and it is free!

Weekly Announcements Deadline: Thursday
Submit to Susan.Moore@RLCary.org.

100 Lochmere Drive West, Cary NC 27518
office@rlcary.org 919-851-7248