Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost August 22, 2021



Pastor Jonathan's Corner for August 22-28

In these weeks in-between sermon series, we look at passages from God's Word on the topic of family relationships. This Sunday, the focus is on the Epistle reading from Ephesians 5... which I'll leave for Pastor Zach to bring us this weekend (thank you, Pastor Zach!). A related topic for husbands and wives and the God-ordained relationship between Christ and Christ's Church is the topic of what we might call "selective hearing." The selective hearing issue between husbands and wives, children, and parents (in other words, all members of the family) reminds me of my dear departed grandmother. We would all see Granny at holidays when we were visiting. Like Yours Truly's today, Granny's hearing wasn't good then. She wore a hearing aid and often required people speaking to her to lean in close to make out what they were saying. But if the

Our Creator and Redeemer would have us live the examined life, led by His Spirit. Are we listening? Thank God that the day the prophet Isaiah envisioned would one day draw near in Jesus! Because of Jesus, the paradox of the deaf hearing and the blind seeing would be fulfilled: first in Jesus' miraculous healings, during His earthly ministry. But also, Jesus' death, our God would reconcile broken people like us to Himself and to one another (2 Cor. 5:16-21). Listening to that message is even better than tuning in to a conversation about the best desserts in the world! There is no telling where that adventure of learning will take us. There are no boundaries to the growth God brings about in the hearts of those humbled to be led by Him.

Permanent Camera Installation Report

conversation turned to "sweets" or anything related to the dessert choices following dinner, she somehow always heard the conversation! I don't mean to imply that she wasn't truly hearing impaired —she was— but her behavior reflected a universal human trait: when we feel we are hearing something that we think we WANT to hear, our listening ability gets mysteriously "better."

The prophet Isaiah reveals today that God's people were guilty of an extreme form of selective hearing. You might even say they were deaf to what God wanted to teach. They would live out each day, going through the motions, letting what was pressing crowd out what was important. And this would go on and on until the trials of life upended their priorities. Sound familiar?

Church Council President Barry Needle and I have worked with the RLC Church Council in drafting a detailed explanation of the recommended permanent camera and screen installation for the main sanctuary and Family Life Center. This information will be presented in a congregational meeting to be held August 29th at 1:00 PM. Before finalizing the plan, we ask for your input! Once you've received the information and have had a chance to review it thoroughly, I invite you to reach out to me or to Barry with your thoughts. Many thanks in advance for engaging with us in this process.

Pastor Jonathan

Updated Mask Rules Due to Current COVID Conditions in Wake County:

We have implemented the following measures to promote as healthy an environment as possible on our church campus.

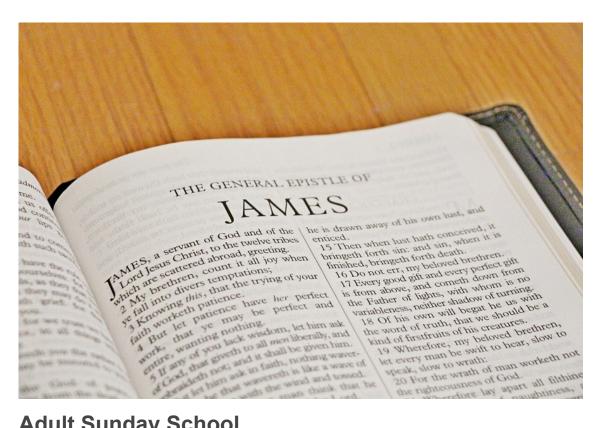
- Masks will be required for all worshippers, including those who are fully vaccinated, with the exception of: (1) small children under 2years of age, (2) any disabled persons unable to remove a mask themselves, or (3) those separated from the main seating area of worshippers (e.g., inside the chancel area, or on the Family Life Center stage, etc.);
- Children, youth, and adults leading activities (either worship or Sunday School) for these cohorts will be required to wear masks indoors (unless divided by large space, see first bullet, above);
- This masking rule would also apply to Bible study groups or any church gatherings indoors comprised of 10 or more people;
- Regarding use of the church offices during regular office hours
 (Monday-Friday, 9:00 am-3:00 pm) the requirement to wear a mask

would apply only to those who are not fully vaccinated;

 We will check conditions on a weekly basis and relax this rule as soon as conditions warrant.

Distribution of the Lord's Supper will continue as it has over the last several month with a direct distribution from pastors and worship assistants to communicants. All worship leaders are fully vaccinated. Events on the church calendar will go forward as planned unless announced otherwise.

Please continue to check this space regarding any changes to our overall worship and events schedule. As always, your cooperation, flexibility, love for your neighbors, and prayers on behalf of our shared life together are much appreciated! God will see us through these challenging times.



Adult Sunday School

James is arguably one of the toughest books to read in the Bible. It can seem at times to be all Law and no Gospel, with little in it to bring hope and joy. Yet God has an important message for us through James, especially with the present challenges to in-person fellowship that people all over the world are facing! In this kick-off study of the fall season, starting September 12 at 9:30 am, we will be taking a deeper look at the book of James. We will see what James has to say about living in a Christian community and how we are used

by God there to build each other up for service. We will also be using Dietrich Bonhoeffer's Life Together as an aid to grow in a deeper understanding of what it means to be the Church in our world today. Register for this new class, teamled by Pastors Jonathan and Zach, by clicking here.

Pray for Haiti

On Saturday, August 14, a magnitude 7.2 earthquake struck the Caribbean nation of Haiti, with the earthquake's epicenter located near the city of Les Cayes on the Tiburon Peninsula.

The situation in Haiti is complex, with economic and political instability, corruption, rampant violence and criminal activity. Accordingly, the LCMS does not recommend that any individual or congregation attempt to provide aid directly to recipients within Haiti. Such efforts, though well-intentioned, have the potential to harm rather than help.

The most prudent course of action, toward the best stewardship of aid resources, is to work through established agencies such as LCMS

Disaster

Response and our trusted RSO partners. Contact LCMS Disaster
Response (<u>Icms.org/disaster</u>) for more information, and please keep the
people

of Haiti, and those who are providing care for them, in your prayers.



Thank You!

Christmas in July was a big success! In addition to the donated items, we are sending \$1,145 to Safe Families and \$630 to Families Together in gift cards and monetary donations collected.



Flowers placed on the altar in celebration and thankfulness to God for 50 years of marriage by Terry and Sandy Brummeyer.

To order altar flowers for your favorite date, use this link: https://bit.ly/3iFkHii or call the office at 919-851-



Congratulations to Matt and Brittany McGrady upon the birth of their son, Evan Michael, on August 7, 2021.

And congratulations to Elliott and Holly Canupp upon the birth of their son, Charles, on August 17, 2021.

Our prayers of joy and gratitude are with them as they celebrate this blessing!

Celebrations Singers will begin practice on Tuesday, September 7.

We will start out singing at one Saturday evening service from

September

through November. All are welcome to join us as we start to return to serving the congregation in song. For more info, contact Don Martin through RCB or church office (office@rlcary.org, 919-851-7248).



Monday Night Women's Bible Study

Take Heart: God's Comfort for Anxious Thoughts Beginning Monday, September 13 from 7:00-8:00 pm

Real life can be a real mess.

Feelings of anxiety can attack, overwhelm, and drag us down. We want to turn away from others and rely on ourselves to escape the situation. But God will not let go of you. He will meet you in the midst of your darkness, in the place where you think you are farthest from Him.

Author Lindsay Hausch is no stranger to real-life struggles with anxious thoughts. She knows that, even with the power of God's grace, overcoming anxious thoughts is not as simple as praying enough or having enough faith. Instead, the struggle can be a training ground for spiritual growth. God's love for you is present.

Books are available through Amazon, Concordia Publishing House (cph.org), christianbook.com. For more information, contact Jamee Thieme through RCB.



Information Session

Youth Confirmation at RLC is a 2-year program that traditionally begins ("Confirmation 1") at Grade 7 and finishes at Grade 8 ("Confirmation 2"). After a pandemic year, we recognize that some flexibility in Grades is warranted - thus our rebranding each class "Confirmation 1" and "2."

If interested in finding out more about Confirmation in 2021-2022, attend an information session on Sunday, August 22 at 1:00 pm in Room 151, Family Life Center.



There will be a short meeting on Sunday, August 29 after the 11:00 am service to discuss Sunday School and Children's Church.

If you can't attend but are interested in helping, contact MaryAnn Unger.

Click for Children and Family

Ministry



Click for Student Ministry

Again this school year, RLS' weekly chapel service will be livestreamed through the church's YouTube channel. Please feel free to join us online! Chapel is held on Wednesday mornings at 8:40 am.



This year's theme is You Are the Light of the World (Matthew 5:14-16).

For more information, <u>rlscary.org</u>.

Lion's Tale - August 15, 2021



Openings are available in our 5-year-old (including Transitional Kindergarten), 4-year-old, 3-year-old, 2-year-old classes.

To enroll, email <u>office@rlpcary.org</u> or call 919-851-7270.

Tours available. For more information, <u>rlpcary.org</u>.



Prayers of the Church (click here)

Worship Bulletins





Attendance and Giving

Church Calendar