

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 26, 2021



Pastor Jonathan's Corner for September 26-October 2

The Gift of Contentment (James 3:13-4:10)

This week in James's Epistle we see envy giving rise to the most destructive kinds of conflicts. Remember the two sons of Adam and Eve: Cain and Abel? Cain was a "tiller of the ground," Abel a keeper of sheep. Both brothers no doubt wanted to be a success. So, when Abel's sacrifice of firstlings offered in faith is accepted by God (Heb. 11:4) —and Cain's is not— Cain turned green with envy. He burned red with anger! He lured his brother into a field and killed him. Unlike Adam and Eve, who recognized their wrongdoing but blamed it on others, Cain, fully aware of what he did, lies about it (Gen 4:9). It's as if he can somehow make the consequences of

taking his brother's life just go away.

Envy need not result in murder to fully reveal its corrosive effects. Something called "social media envy" apparently shadows Facebook and Instagram users. There is now academic literature dedicated to the connection between social media usage, envy, and depression. Coveting what others have can lead to confusion as we wonder why a person with the same illness we have has recovered while we have not. It can reduce another human being we see every day to a person whose job we want once he or she retires and moves on. It can reduce a sibling to a mere competitor, a person with whom we vie for our parents' attention, someone with whom we contend for what we feel is the rightful share of "our" inheritance. The words of St. James apply: "You covet something and cannot obtain it. So, you engage in disputes and conflicts" (4:2).

It isn't enough to seek peace. The deeper, more difficult issues of our own cravings and unruly emotions need to be recognized and dealt with too. But that isn't possible for people with feet of clay like us. Humanly speaking we have no desire to follow James' counsel to "humble [our]selves." Like Cain, we are inclined to act on our impulses rather than rely on the Spirit's help to manage them. But the Good News is that even though we cannot overcome all the destructive outcomes born of pride and coveting... the Son of God, Jesus Christ, can and did! Jesus did not choose to align himself with the powerful and successful and beautiful people of his day. Jesus was "a friend of tax collectors and sinners." Jesus gave up his life and died for all. He did it to save us from our sins... including our sins of pride and envy. That doesn't mean we don't still strive to grow in the area of humility. That doesn't mean we always rest in the assurance that God loves and receives us just as we are... rather than the people we want to be or are envious of becoming! No. But receiving Jesus Christ himself again in God's Word and Sacrament this weekend means receiving the presence of the One whose success is now our success. It means welcoming the One in whom we have been forever friended by God. That —and nothing else— can give us the serenity, ultimately, to be content with what we have. That alone enables us to be true family and friends —not competitors— with those around us.

May the Spirit of the living God so lead us, always!

Community Building Among RLC Households Continues (Part 2)

Thanks to the efforts of many RLC volunteers, we now have 25 geographic zones covered by those who are building community with phone calls and invitations for prayer requests from all RLC member households (both active and inactive). Our newest community builder:

Zone 25 (South Raleigh, Garner: 27603, 27529 area codes): Dorothy Conners

If you receive a phone call or email from any one of our community builders who are holding you and your neighbors in their prayers, please don't hesitate to respond. We are grateful for their service!

Next Session of The Great Sending Meets Virtually This Week Thursday, September 30 at 7 PM

The second opportunity to gather virtually to discuss our ongoing reading of *The Great Sending* occurs this coming Thursday, at 7 PM, via Zoom. We will discuss Study 3 ("Christ Crucified"), Study 4 ("A Christ for All People"), and Study 5 ("Jesus Is the Son of God"). As always, please read and pray over the discussion questions for each study as we strive to apply the texts to ourselves and our congregation. Consider how our congregation is currently aligned with God's Mission, what we can repent over and ask for God's help to do differently, and what specific things we can do together moving forward as people through whom "God's heart for the world" is beating. I hope to see you there!

Love and joy in Christ,
Pastor Jonathan



Host Family

Host Families voluntarily take in children for short periods of time. They are screened and approved by Safe Families for Children staff.

Safe Families for Children was launched with the intent to renew the lost art of biblical hospitality. We want to mobilize the church to think differently about welcoming a stranger into your home. It is radical, far different from the lifestyle with which we may be accustomed. Our faith commands us to be hospitable and as we move out of the pandemic the practice of hospitality is needed now more than ever.

Two of the main goals of Safe Families are to prevent child abuse and decrease the number of children unnecessarily entering foster care. Many families, even when they are doing 'all the right things' are just one crisis away from major instability in their lives. What is it we're disrupting? The prevalence of forced removals versus voluntary action taken on behalf of the family themselves as they attempt to seek help. We need people like you to join Safe Families, share our mission, and become the mission.

If you are looking for a truly rewarding and challenging experience, consider becoming a Safe Families **Host Family**. You will make a lasting impression on a child in need and possibly change the trajectory of a family in crisis. Host Families serve as the backbone of the Safe Families movement. Without families

opening their homes and opening their hearts, we could not care for vulnerable children in our communities.

To learn more, [Be a Host Family - Safe Families for Children \(safe-families.org\)](https://www.safe-families.org) or contact Dan and Jennifer Shaltanis.



*Prayers
of the Church*

[click here](#)



Worship Bulletins

[click here](#)



Bible Study Opportunities for Adults

- **Epistle of James/Life Together Study**
Weekly on Sundays at 9:30 am in the Fellowship Hall, Led by Pastor Jonathan and Pastor Zach, September 12-October 10
Register: <https://bit.ly/3yErxfm>
- **Men's Ministry Study and Fellowship**
Weekly on Mondays at 7:00 pm in Room 240 Family Life Center, Led by Tom Gebbia, Ongoing
Register: mens-ministry@rlcary.org
- **Monday Night Women's Bible Study**
Take Heart: God's Comfort for Anxious Thoughts, Weekly on Mondays at 7:00 pm, Online via Zoom, Led by Jamee Thieme and Sharon Hahne, September 13-December 13

Register: Jamee Thieme through RCB or office@rlcary.org

- **Tuesday Morning Bible Study and Fellowship**
Weekly on Tuesdays at 10:30 am in the Fellowship Hall and via Zoom, Led by Pastor Jonathan and Pastor Zach, Ongoing
Register: office@rlcary.org
- **Patterns of Evidence: The Exodus**
Weekly on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm in Room 151 Family Life Center, Led by Mindy Stephani, September 13-December 13
Register: office@rlcary.org
- **Men with Kids**
Video Bible Study Weekly on Wednesdays at 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall, Led by Tom Gebbia
Register: mens-ministry@rlcary.org
- **The Great Sending: God's Heart for the World Beating through You**, Monthly Every 2nd and Last Thursday at 7:00 pm via Zoom, Led by Pastor Jonathan
Register: office@rlcary.org

For more detailed class descriptions of these Bible study opportunities, rlcary.org/ministries/christian-education.



Youth Sunday School

Join us for Sunday School from 9:30-10:30 am! We are excited to have Youth Sunday School again in-person. All classes are held in Family Life Center.

- 2-4 year olds with Sandy Wuori in Room 134
- Kindergarten-1st Grade with Eydee Persson in Room 131

- 2nd-3rd Grade with Stephanie Shaeffer in Room 133
- 4th-5th Grade with Kelly Zadow in Room 132
- 6th-8th Grade with Tom Kolb and Troy Hirt in Room 246
- 9th-12th Grade with Jenny Piontek in Room 253 (The Warehouse)

Children, 4 years and older, are asked to wear masks for Sunday School.

If you have any questions, contact MaryAnn Unger, Director of Children and Family Ministry, at maryann.unger@rlcary.org.

GIVE PLUS⁺

Online Giving ~ The GivePlus mobile app is ending and switching to a new, free Vanco mobile app, effective September 30, 2021. If you use GivePlus, please download the new Vanco mobile app from the Apple App store or Google Play store and search for Resurrection Lutheran Church, Cary NC. Your existing username and password will stay the same and all scheduled recurring gifts will process as planned. If you have questions, email Carol Bostick [here](#).



For more information regarding the Children and Family Ministry, rlcary.org/ministries/children-and-family-ministry.



We are bringing
back acolytes!

Being an Acolyte allows our youth to be actively involved in serving at RLC. If you would like for your child to be on our acolyte list, please let us know. All confirmation students will go through acolyte training on Wednesday, October 6, but will only be added to the acolyte list with parent's permission. Being an acolyte is an easy way to earn an hour of service time and be actively engaged during worship.

IGNITE
September Events

Warehouse Wednesdays:
Sept. 15, 22, 29

Youth Group:
Sunday, Sept. 26
3:00pm - 4:30pm
Warehouse

Sunday School
Room 246
9:30am - 10:30am

Contact Ms. Jenny with questions
jenny.piontek@rlcary.org



The National Youth Gathering (NYG) deadline has been extended by LCMS. If your youth is interested, please reach out to Jenny.Piontek@rlcary.org.

For more information regarding Student Ministry, including event calendars for Ignite (middle school youth group) and Breakaway (high school youth group), rlcary.org/ministries/student-ministry.



Tanya Johnson

Tanya Johnson has graciously offered to manage a group order of **magnetic name tags**, as shown. Cost is \$10 and payment can be made to the church office or placed in the offering plates. If interested, email Tanya [here](#) and include your full name.



The Staff of **Resurrection Lutheran Preschool** welcomed children and their families back a few weeks ago for the 2021-22 preschool year!

Blessing of the Children

Every child and their teachers receive a blessing from the Pastors and Miss Diane near the beginning of each preschool year. Pastor Jonathan and Pastor Zach joined me this year to pray for and with the children. We pray for safety to

and from preschool, while playing on the playground, new friends, and to have fun while they are learning at RLP. We thank God for the food He provides us at lunch and snack, and for His beautiful creations.

Preschool Punchlines Return!

3-year-old: "I'm not very nervous anymore because my teachers take really good care of me."

Registration for the 2021-22 Preschool Year Continues

Openings are available in our **transitional-kindergarten** (young 5-year-old), 4-year-old, 3-year-old, and 2-year-old classes. Email office@rlpcary.org or call 919-851-7270 to enroll or schedule an individual tour.



Resurrection Lutheran School staff and students participated in **TEAL TUESDAY** on September 21 to show love and support for Mrs. Kathy Siemon. September is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month.

RLS Spirit Gear is available online at rlsfall21.itemorder.com/sale through October 3. \$2 of every item sold goes back to help support PSO programs. Orders will be delivered to RLS for distribution 2-3 weeks after the sale closes.

RLS Lion's Tale - September 19, 2021

In-Person Services

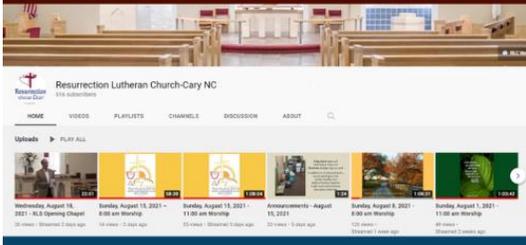


Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
Saturday, 6:00 pm
Sunday, 8:00 am and 9:30 am

Praise Worship
in the Family Life Center
Sunday, 11:00 am

Live Stream Worship

Sundays at 8:00 am, 11:00 am



Connect through our YouTube channel at
youtube.com/ResurrectionLutheranChurchCaryNC
or through our website at
rlcary.org/about-us/online-worship.

Visual Faith for September 26

Attendance and Giving

Church Calendar