



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2021

From the Pastor

Jesus Christ...Savior for the Nations

(Luke 2:1, 14, 32)

Greetings one and all... and Happy New Year! Though it might feel like we need to do everything a little earlier this year due to rising costs and supply chain issues, my "Happy New Year" greeting isn't intended to mark the passing of 2021 to 2022. It's a reminder that we're already in the "New Year season" of the CHURCH: the season of Advent. As we go from one church year to another, we turn our attention from Mark's Gospel to Luke's. As we do, we find an important emphasis we will see over and over again in 2022: Jesus Christ, whose coming we again prepare for, is our Savior and the Savior of the world! He is a Savior for all nations.

If you've ever had the chance to spend Christmas in another part of the world, you know how meaningful your celebration of the Christ child can be. Whether "Boxing Day" in Nigeria or "Christmas Cake" and Christmas/New Year's Jule and I have had the privilege of experiencing the joy of other nations as they welcome the Savior of the world again each year. Though much of what Christians do to celebrate Christmas is the same worldwide, it's enriching to learn about the special observances of each nation firsthand and to share our own traditions with them. This year at RLC, in the weeks of Advent that lead to Christmas, we'll be hearing from RLC members and friends who are immigrants to the United States as they describe something from their own traditions and life experiences regarding the birth of the King. Keep an eye out for these articles in RLC's weekly announcements. There is also a family devotional available for you to pick up when you come by church called, "How Do They Celebrate Christmas?" Together with each daily Bible verse you'll discover a Christmas tradition observed somewhere in the world that you and your children can learn more about.

Worship Schedule

Decorative graphic with a pink ribbon and a green leaf shape containing the following text:
Saturday
6:00 pm in the Sanctuary
Sunday
8:00 am in the Sanctuary\*
9:30 am in the Sanctuary
11:00 am
Praise Worship
in the Family Life Center\*
\*Live Stream

Dates of Interest:
Hanging Greens . . . . . Dec 1
Old North State . . . . . Dec 8
RLP Nativity Play . . . . . Dec 9
Christmas Music . . . . . Dec 12
Congregational Mtg . . . Dec 12
Holden Eve. Prayer . . . Dec 15
RLP/RLS Break . . . . Dec 20-31
Outdoor Service . . . . . Dec 22
Christmas Eve . . . . . Dec 24
Christmas . . . . . Dec 25

# Bible Study Opportunity

## Monday Night Women's Bible Study

Mondays, 7:00 pm

January 10-February 14, 2022

Contact: Jamee Thieme



### A New Song:

**I Have Set My King on Zion** will reflect on the time and place of God's fulfillment of the Messiah and wonderful, incredible, eternal reign of our Savior-King.

This Bible study provides six weeks of stories — faith narratives — based on Biblical Psalms, and includes daily individual and weekly group Bible studies, prayers, hymn stanzas, and journaling space.

Psalms of the Messiah explores Psalms 2, 20, 21, 45, 72, and 98.

Copies can be purchased through Amazon, Concordia Publishing at [cph.org](http://cph.org), or [ChristianBooks.com](http://ChristianBooks.com).

Why do we focus on Jesus Christ, Savior of all nations this year? You can't help but see that emphasis throughout Luke's Gospel, beginning with what we often call "the Christmas story." Jesus' birth occurs in the context of Caesar Augustus's decree that "all the world should be registered" (Luke 2:1). The Savior's birth was connected with an event impacting ALL of the immediate, inhabited world—especially as this related to the "nations" of the Roman Empire. Next, the angels who announce the birth of the Savior sing "Glory to God in the highest" and "Peace on earth" among men of goodwill (2:14). Their song is not the exclusive domain of one nation or another—but is for all the earth to hear. And who can forget the words of Simeon in the Jerusalem temple, the first time Jesus is brought there by Joseph and Mary: "My own eyes have seen the salvation which You [O Lord] have prepared in the sight of every people: a light to reveal You to the nations and the glory of Your people Israel" (2:30-32)? We say these words together at the close of funerals and memorial services... remembering that it wasn't only for the nation Israel that Jesus came to suffer, die, and rise again. It was also for each and every one of us—"Gentiles" or citizens of nations outside of Israel, though we may be—that the Son of God Jesus Christ first came. His gift of eternal salvation is intended for all. And of course...St. Luke did not invent the idea of Jesus as Savior of the world. It was all a part of God's plan from the very beginning. The reason God chose Abraham and Sarah and promised to make of them a great nation was so that One from that nation would be the means that "all families of the earth" might enter [God's] blessing (Gen. 12:3).

Philip Jenkins, author of books like *The Next Christendom*, likes to talk about the amazing variety of people within the worldwide Church. He asserts that no religion on earth has the manifold cultural expressions of one faith that we find in Christianity. Jesus said about his death on a cross, "I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself" (John 12:32). Though it is always an imperfect thing on this side of eternity, the miracle of the many members who make up one Body... is that it is Christ's body.

No matter what customs we observe in preparing for and celebrating the birth of our Savior this year, we remember that Jesus is the reason for the season. Let's look for a way to not only learn about how others welcome the Christ child, but also opportunities to share our own welcome of a Savior for all nations with the people of the nations around us.

A very blessed Advent and Christmas season to you all!  
Pastor Jonathan





## Worship Services

<b>December 1</b>	Wednesday, 6:00 pm*	Hanging of the Greens Service in Sanctuary
<b>December 5</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent</b>	
<b>December 8</b>	Wednesday, 6:00 pm*	Featuring Old North State Brass in Sanctuary
<b>December 12</b>	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent</b>	8:00 am*, 9:30 am Christmas Music Festival in Sanctuary with Chorus Accompanied by Orchestra
<b>December 15</b>	Wednesday, 6:00 pm*	Holden Evening Prayer in Sanctuary
<b>December 19</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent</b>	
<b>December 22</b>	Wednesday, 6:00 pm	Outdoor in Circle Entrance with Lighting of Christmas Tree (family friendly)

**Worship Times: Saturday 6:00 pm and Sunday 8:00 am\*, 9:30 am, 11:00 am\* (praise)**

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### December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

<b>3:00 pm</b>	<b>For Families</b> with Young Children, Featuring Interactive Lessons and Carol Singing
<b>4:30 pm</b>	<b>Traditional Christmas Carol Family Worship</b> with Special Pre-Service Musical Offerings by Resurrection Music School Students
<b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>Candlelight Service</b> with Contemporary Settings of Traditional Carols and Holy Communion in Family Life Center
<b>8:00 pm*</b>	<b>Candlelight Service</b> with Traditional Christmas Carols and Resurrection Brass Ensemble, Sanctuary Choir, Heavenly Handbells
<b>10:00 pm</b>	<b>Candlelight Service</b> with Traditional Christmas Carols and Holy Communion featuring Instrumental and Vocal Offerings

### December 25 ~ Christmas Day

<b>10:00 am</b>	<b>Festival Celebration of Holy Communion</b> with Christmas Carols featuring Anno Domini Quartet and Gloria Singers
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Live Stream  
Services Indicated  
with Asterisk\*

## Stephen Ministry

Now is the time to consider attending Stephen Ministry class! To keep Stephen Ministry going strong, we need congregation members who are willing to answer Jesus' call to be trained as lay caregivers, called Stephen Ministers. This distinctively Christian training includes a variety of topics such as listening, assertiveness, maintaining boundaries in caregiving, and grief, focusing on how to provide care while God cures.

Being a Stephen Minister may be one of the most fulfilling and transformative ministries you will ever be a part of. You will grow spiritually and gain skills to use not only in your caring ministry but also in your everyday relationships with family, friends, neighbors, and coworkers.

RLC's **next training class begins January 9, 2022** and runs through June 5, 2022 (with a break for Easter and Mother's Day). Classes will be held from 2:00-4:00 pm on Sunday afternoons here at the church. We invite you to think and pray about this opportunity. If interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, contact any of the Pastors, Ron Bostick, Jan Boyer, Sue Campau, or Bill Xenakis and we can talk about how you can get started.

## Pastor Alan's Coaching Corner

Happy New Year.... Advent brings about the start of a new church year and January is (unbelievably) right around the corner so I thought I'd take a moment to talk about a popular coaching topic: New Year's Resolutions. I'll just briefly touch on "personal" resolutions and say that coaches make great accountability partners by helping you set realistic goals and staying on course to achieve those goals. So, consider using your in-house coaching partner this year to assist you with those goals.

I'd like to spend just a little extra time on "church year" resolutions. COVID impacted families and the church in multiple ways, but one way that we still feel the effect is in our volunteer opportunities. One of the things I rely on in my life is "routine". If something comes up that breaks my routine, there is a higher chance I will not think twice about it and, over time, may even forget about it all together. (In full transparency, I'm NOT talking about my annual New Year's exercising resolutions... but easily could be.) Pre-COVID, our church stepped up and volunteered whenever we put out a call saying "need some help over here". Today, we see some groups that are coming back to serve, but the volunteers aren't there in the same numbers for various legitimate reasons.

So, I'd like to propose a church year New Year's resolution: find a need in the church and fill that need... not permanently... just for this church year. Try a new service opportunity or recommit to one you used to do. Some opportunities can be done while you're at church anyway, such as Greeters, Ushers, Communion Assistants, Lay Readers, Worship Assistants...and kids... you can earn service hours as Acolytes. They require minimal training and are ALWAYS in need. Some may take additional training up front, like our Stephen Ministers. There is a new class starting in January that I would encourage people to check out. As people learn more about the value Stephen Ministers provide, the more referrals we see, and the more trained Stephen Ministers we need... and the cycle continues. Other ministries are looking for drivers for meal delivery or to take people to medical appointments. The ways you can plug in and serve are seemingly endless.

So... what do you think? Is it time for a church year New Year's resolution? If you said, "here I am, send me" but don't know where to serve, let's do a quick coaching discussion to align your interests with open service opportunities.

Use [this link](#) to go to SignUp Genius or go to [www.signupgenius.com/findasignup](http://www.signupgenius.com/findasignup) and enter my email (alan.shaw@rlcary.org) to find the group and secure one of the time slots. This just helps me plan my time and know if someone is coming so I don't plan a home visit and leave you at the door wondering where I went.

Pastor Alan  
[alan.shaw@rlcary.org](mailto:alan.shaw@rlcary.org)

*Outreach Service to the Community*

## Habitat for Humanity, Lutheran Coalition

Thank you all for a great effort. God's Work, Our Hands!



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## Neighbor to Neighbor

This year, our RLC Knitters and Crocheters delivered 110 scarves, 30 hats, 2 pairs of mittens, and 1 blanket to the local Neighbor to Neighbor program. They were very excited by all of the beautifully colorful items and know they will help keep many families warmer this winter. They extend their sincere thanks for the dedication of our knitters and crocheters.



## Happy Anniversary!

**December 3**

Mike and Katie Riccitiello  
10 years

**December 4**

Alan and Linda Sullivan  
50 years

**December 5**

Cabha and Jen Rufus  
5 years

**December 6**

Grant and Brenda Peterson  
35 years

**December 7**

Vern and Dorothy Ebert  
69 years

**December 8**

Gary and Ellen Frisque  
15 years

**December 19**

Martin and Mindy Stephani  
51 years

**December 22**

Bill and Amie Frisbie  
15 years

**December 23**

Bob and Barb Shimmel  
54 years

**December 27**

Lyle and Sue Malotky  
53 years

Bill and Fran Xenakis  
57 years

## Outreach Service to the Community

### Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Thank you all for a successful Sleep in Heavenly Peace Build Day! On a sunny day, 50 volunteers built 28 excellently crafted beds in just 2 hours. Sleep in Heavenly Peace (Fuquay-Varina) was also thrilled to receive beautiful quilts from The Piecemakers, RLC's Quilting Group, for each bed. What a great day!



## Reaching Out with the Love of Christ to all People through Advent Offerings

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

### Warmth for Wake

Seasonal energy assistance outreach program that is sponsored by Wake County Health and Human Services. The goal is to provide fuel to low-income residents of Wake County during the coldest winter months.

[Warmth for Wake | Wake County Government \(wakegov.com\)](https://wakegov.com)

### MANNA FoodBank

Private, not-for-profit service organization working to end food insecurity in the 16 counties of Western North Carolina, including the Qualla Boundary. MANNA links the food industry to over 200 partner pantries and other human service organizations to get food to thousands of families' tables. MANNA is an acronym, and stands for Mountain Area Nutritional Needs Alliance.

[MANNA FoodBank | Work of Ending Hunger in Western North Carolina](https://www.mannafoodbank.org)

### Lutheran World Relief (Quilting)

Often, when natural disasters strike or war drives families from their homes, our hearts ache with compassion, but we don't know how to help. Lutheran World Relief Mission Quilts is a tangible way to express love to our neighbors in need. Quilts can be used as warm bedding, simple tents, or floor coverings. Each one reflects God's loving presence in a world rife with suffering.

[Quilts | Lutheran World Relief \(lwr.org\)](https://www.lwr.org)

Please use the Advent Offering envelopes or indicate 'Advent Offering' on memo of checks.

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## Student Ministry



Contact [Jenny Piontek](https://www.wakegov.com), Youth Director, for more information regarding Ignite (Middle School) and Breakaway (High School) Youth Groups.



**Resurrection Lutheran  
Preschool**

Diane Hooper, Director

rlpcary.org

919-851-7270

Visit & 'Like' our **Facebook** page:  
**Resurrection Lutheran  
 Preschool**

Follow us on **Instagram**:  
[www.instagram.com/rlpcary](http://www.instagram.com/rlpcary)

Website:  
**rlpcary.org**



**Preschool Punchlines:**

A Transitional-Kindergarten Student sang a song he learned at preschool while walking in to get his Covid vaccine. "I will not be afraid, no troubles out there, for God is near!"

Resurrection Lutheran **PRESCHOOL**  
**ENROLLMENT FOR 2022-23** starts after Thanksgiving

**+** Classes for children 2-years-old thru 5-years-old **+**

*Our program provides a balance of academic and social opportunities by means of our 'learning through play' philosophy in a loving **Christian** atmosphere.*



**For an average of \$23 a day:**

- ... developmentally age-appropriate, hands-on, child-centered experiences
- ... balance of social/academic opportunities
- ... a Co-Teaching Team develops a 'learning through play' environment
- ... experienced, committed, nurturing staff
- ... averaging over 10 years of staffing stability
- ... weekly Chapel & Music for all; Science for 4's & T-K
- ... we partner with families to provide the finest program for children
- ... a loving Christian atmosphere

**Class openings are currently available (2021-22 preschool year):**

in our **transitional-kindergarten** (young 5-year-old), **4-year-old**, **3-year-old**, and **2-year-old** classes.

Email or call to **ENROLL** or schedule an individual **Tour**.  
**office@rlpcary.org**      **919.851.7270**

## PLAYGROUND UPDATE

The wait is over! We are beyond excited to announce that our playground opened for student play on Monday, November 29. We will celebrate this special day with prayers of thanksgiving and plan a celebration and thank you event for our successful Play It Forward Campaign/Playground Project completion at a future date when we can include parents, donors, and all who were involved in the success of this project. We look forward to all enjoying the new playground together!

## PSO UPDATE

Thank you, RLS Families, for all the ways you have supported our school, our teachers, and our community so far this fall. There was an outpouring of support with our Note in the Pocket service project and we are grateful for the strong participation in a project that provides for the needs of impoverished or homeless children in Wake County. We were excited to be able to deliver 3 rolling bins worth of warm clothing, new socks, and new underwear to contribute to the important work of Note in the Pocket!

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

<b>December 9</b>	School Board Meeting
<b>December 17</b>	Early Release at 11:30 am
<b>December 20-31</b>	No School - Christmas Break
<b>January 3</b>	Return to School

*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.*



### Resurrection Lutheran School

Robert Unger  
Interim Principal

Rosie Creasy  
Director of Admissions/  
School Growth

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

### Let Your Light Shine

You are the Light of the World...  
Let your light shine before others,  
so that they may see your good  
works and give glory to your  
Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 5:14a, 16b





# stayCONNECTED

## LIVE STREAM

Join us online for worship live  
Sundays at 8:00 am and 11:00 am!

Connect through our YouTube channel at  
[youtube.com/ResurrectionLutheranChurchCaryNC](https://youtube.com/ResurrectionLutheranChurchCaryNC)

or through our website at  
[rlcary.org/about-us/online-worship](https://rlcary.org/about-us/online-worship).

### Missed the live service?

Watch the worship services  
on our YouTube channel at any time.



## LEARN MORE

[rlcary.org](https://rlcary.org) | [office@rlcary.org](mailto:office@rlcary.org) | 919-851-7248

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Blanke, Senior Pastor  
Rev. Zachery Sarrault, Associate Pastor  
Rev. Alan Shaw, Assistant Pastor

## GIVING

We appreciate your contributions to our congregation.  
Here are the different ways to make your offering:

- Place in offering plate as you exit the worship service
- Mail to 100 Lochmere Drive West, Cary NC 27518
- Online through our church website at [rlcary.org/ministries/online-giving](https://rlcary.org/ministries/online-giving)
- Download the GivePlus+ APP, search for Resurrection Lutheran Church, transfer funds from your account

Questions? Contact [finance@rlcary.org](mailto:finance@rlcary.org).

## SOCIAL MEDIA



[facebook.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary](https://facebook.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary)



[instagram.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary](https://instagram.com/ResurrectionLutheranCary)



[youtube.com/ResurrectionLutheranChurchCaryNC](https://youtube.com/ResurrectionLutheranChurchCaryNC)

Newsletter deadline is the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month.  
Please send submissions to [susan.moore@rlcary.org](mailto:susan.moore@rlcary.org).

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