

First Sunday After Christmas

December 26, 2021



Pastor's Corner for December 26-January 1

Prince of Peace (Isaiah 9:6; Micah 5:1-5a)

It is a bit of an irony that a bitter dispute among three major Christian denominations in Bethlehem occurred at the Church of the Nativity and birthplace of Jesus, the Prince of Peace!

You see, a set of rules known as the "Status Quo" set down by the Ottoman rulers of the Holy Land in 1852 prescribes the spaces that Greek Orthodox, Catholic, and Armenian Orthodox Christians can each use for worship in the Church of the Nativity today. The rules require that Greek Orthodox monks be responsible for

opening and closing the church doors each day. At the same time, the Catholics and Armenians are also entitled to hold keys. While sharing of this space between the three groups has always been fraught with difficulty, a clash over the keys began after the church was caught in the middle of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in a bitter standoff in 2002. A group of Palestinian militants fleeing from Israeli troops took refuge in the church and refused to give themselves up for weeks, before the two sides reached a negotiated settlement to the incident. Unable to find their keys at the time, the Franciscans turned to the Armenians who lent them their own. But the Greek Orthodox monks objected to the doors being opened without their permission. And so, they changed the locks! They refused to share keys with their Christian brothers. And the Palestinian Authority had to come in and mediate an end to this stand-off between Christians. I find myself shaking my head in disbelief regarding such behavior on the part of fellow Christians. But how often don't we find ourselves in conflict over situations that could be quickly clarified and even resolved through calm conversation? How quickly an opportunity to work through differences becomes a war between "us" and "them" –whoever "them" might be.

Over 2500 years earlier, the prophet Micah had written this about Bethlehem: "But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days... he shall be the One of peace." The peace brought by the One foreseen by Micah would not end all conflict on earth... not even among those who profess the name of Christ— and that, of course, includes you and me. But the most important work of peace, peace that reconciled a rebellious people to their God, was accomplished by Christ Jesus.

What better way to bring our 4-week focus on Jesus Christ for all nations than to celebrate that God's gift of a Son was for all nations/people of the world? What better way to begin our Christmas celebration this year than to know that we are forgiven and empowered to forgive others? What better way to live out that peace with those closest at hand— our family and friends right at home? The peace of the Lord be with you... this Christmastide and always!

New Mask Guidance to Begin Friday, December 24

Today (12/21) the total daily average of new cases reported in Wake County (383)

is the highest it has been since September 21, three months ago when we were requiring masks for all worshippers and participants in church activities indoors. An even more concerning trend now is the number of hospitalizations of COVID patients and present availability of ICU space in Wake County. Add to these figures the recent rise of a new COVID variant nationally and the number of people travelling to our area from out of town over the holidays and... well, it just seems like a return to new guidance on masks in worship and church activities is the prudent thing to do. I trust that RLC families will continue to make the best decisions regarding face coverings for themselves and those they love. But just so that I can do all I can as your pastor to foster a wholesome and safe environment for those who gather on our church campus indoors— rather than mandate a policy for folks moving forward— I will ask that our church office post a notification at entrances to the church that the wearing of masks "be strongly urged for all worshippers able to wear them, regardless of vaccination status," starting Friday, December 24. This will be for events held indoors and encouraged especially in situations where maintaining personal space between folks is difficult or impossible. Thanks in advance for your cooperation and understanding.

Holy Communion will be offered in worship services this weekend at 6 PM (Family Life Center) and 10 PM (Main Sanctuary) on December 24, on Christmas morning (Saturday) at 10 AM, and on Sunday, December 26 at 9:30 AM. You may also choose to receive the sacrament in smaller groups of 20 people at a via sign up, ahead of time. [Click here to find out more.](#)

Our Newest Community Facilitators Serving RLC Zones 9 and 30

I'm grateful for our community facilitators for zones across our area who make regular phone calls to check in and ask about prayer requests to people of our congregation— both active families and those we have not had the chance to see in person for a while. Our newest community facilitators are as follows:

Zone 9, West Fuquay-Varina and South Holly Springs (Zip Codes 27526 and 27540): Faith Shaw

Zone 30, Southwest Cary (Zip Code 27511 in Central Cary): Keith Leister

If you receive a phone call or email from any one of our community facilitators who

are holding you and your neighbors in their prayers, please don't hesitate to respond. We are grateful for their service! Also, please note that a directory of community facilitators for all zones being served will be published in the New Year.

First Communion Classes for RLC Youth (5th Grade) to Begin Wednesday, January 5 in Room 247

Thank you to those who have registered for First Communion classes at RLC beginning January 5. The classes will run in parallel with Confirmation instruction from January 5 to February 23, from 6:30 to 7:30 PM. Instruction books (*This Is the Feast: Preparing for the Lord's Supper*, CPH) have been ordered and have arrived. If you or someone you know has not yet registered but is interested in receiving more information about the classes and opportunities for Holy Communion among our church's youth, please reach out to Pastor Jonathan at Jonathan.Blanke@rlcary.org.

Advent peace and joy,
Pastor Jonathan



*Prayers
of the Church*

Worship Bulletins

click here

click here





Christmas Worship Services

December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

3:00 pm - For Families with Young Children, Featuring Interactive Lessons and Carol Singing

4:30 pm - Traditional Christmas Carol Family Worship with Special Pre-Service Musical Offerings by Resurrection Music School Students

6:00 pm - Candlelight Service with Contemporary Settings of Traditional Carols and Holy Communion in Family Life Center

8:00 pm - Candlelight Service with Traditional Christmas Carols and Resurrection Brass Ensemble, Sanctuary Choir, Heavenly Handbells

10:00 pm - Candlelight Service with Traditional Christmas Carols and Holy Communion featuring Instrumental and Vocal Offerings

December 25 ~ Christmas Day

10:00 am - Festival Celebration of Holy Communion with Christmas Carols featuring Anno Domini Quartet and Gloria Singers

December 26 ~ First Sunday After Christmas

9:30 am - Traditional Sunday Service with Holy Communion

*Resurrection Lutheran Church
100 Lochmere Drive West, Cary NC
919-851-7248 | rlcary.org*

The 8:00 pm Christmas Eve Service will be live streamed at [Resurrection Lutheran Church-Cary NC - YouTube](#).

There will be no Saturday, 6:00 pm Worship on December 25.
And no Sunday School, adult and youth, on December 26 and January 2.

Church office will be closed on Friday, December 24, Monday, December 27,
and Friday, December 31.

Please check with your group leader for schedule changes over the holidays.



**May the light of Christ continue to shine on you
and your family this season and always!**

*Pastor Jonathan, Pastor Zach, Pastor Alan,
Bob Unger, Jenny Piontek, MaryAnn Unger,
Margaret Hyatt, Linda Merrill, Susan Moore, Garrett Nigg,
Charles Shiel, Bill Werner, and Steve DeLair*

Gifts and Memorials

In Honor of Cynthia Wyse's Retirement, a gift was made to the Pastor Paul Kibler Education Fund by Donna Krupcale.

New Wednesday Night Class

Patterns of Evidence: The Red Sea Miracle 2 raises big questions about Biblical miracles. Introducing the second film in a new two-part series by Patterns of Evidence's award-winning filmmaker, Timothy Mahoney. How could thousands of feet of water be parted at the Red Sea? Or was the sea merely parted by the act of wind in nature, through a shallow Egyptian lake? Mahoney investigates these locations to see if any have a pattern of evidence matching the Bible.



People of faith will be inspired, and skeptics will have much to think about as Mahoney reveals two decades of documentary research including if divers found the remains of Pharaoh's army on the seafloor. This cinematic journey leads him to inquire... "Do miracles still happen today?" Dive Deeper into this riveting evidence for a deep-sea crossing and its impact on our faith. This small group study includes thought-provoking questions that will help you explore key scenes from the film and why it matters today.

This new Wednesday evening class **will begin on January 5** and run for 8 weeks ending on February 23. Meet in Room 151, Family Life Center, from 6:30-7:45 pm. There is no cost, just bring a Bible and study guides will be provided for each class. Mindy Stephani will facilitate this class.

Three Little Books

Bill Xenakis will lead a new Christian Education class on **Sunday mornings starting on January 9**. *Three Little Books* will explore the subject matter of several New Testament books (Jude, Titus, and Philemon...for starters) and apply them to our daily lives.

There is no need to register. Just join us on Sunday mornings at 9:30 am. We will announce the location prior to our first gathering.

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.

When our new Stephen Ministers have completed their training, they will be commissioned and ready to begin their ministry. Working under supervision, these Stephen Ministers will be available to meet weekly with people experiencing grief, illness, job loss, divorce, relocation, and other life difficulties.

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 you're 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.

New Bible Study



Monday Night Women's Bible Study

Mondays, 7:00 pm

January 10-February 14, 2022

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, or ChristianBooks.com. Contact: Jamee Thieme

Children and Family Ministry

Christmas Eve

On Christmas Eve, there are two children focused services at 3:00 pm and 4:30 pm. There will be live animals in the Prayer Garden before each service and Happy Birthday, Jesus! cake after. Leave room in your schedule to enjoy both!

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



Donations gladly accepted 😊

High School and Middle School Youth Love:

- *Capri Suns
- *Candy
- *Individually packaged chips

Need a place for the extra Halloween Candy? We will take it!



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.

Contact [Jenny Piontek](#), Youth Director, with any questions.

Resurrection Lutheran Preschool

offers opportunities and experiences to enrich, expand, and develop a child's ever-increasing accumulation of knowledge in a loving Christian atmosphere.

Classes for ages 2-5 years, including Transitional-Kindergarten program.

rlpcary.org

Resurrection Lutheran School

offers a safe, nurturing, and academically rich educational experience in a Christ-centered environment for Junior Kindergarten-8th grade.

rlscary.org

Tornado Disaster Relief

While we are preparing to celebrate the birth of our Savior, there are many who have stopped their preparations and are now in the midst of the chaos and crisis of severe tornado damage. Their lives have been upended, loved ones have died, their homes are gone, and the reality of what it means to start all over is sinking in. These are difficult days and in the wake of so much destruction, the need for aid is great.

The Mid-South District office is working with LCMS Disaster Response and Lutheran Church Charities to mobilize critical resources. To assist with the relief effort, **the Mid-South District has established a Disaster Relief Fund**. Donations directed to this fund will be used for relief efforts in the tornado-ravaged communities. If you would like to contribute to this fund, you may make a gift online ([click here](#)) or by check payable to the Mid-South District Office, 1675 Wynne Road, Cordova TN 38016. Please note "Disaster Relief Fund" on any gifts sent by check. When donating online, please designate your gift as "restricted" for the Disaster Relief Fund.

For more information regarding the Disaster Response, go to the [Team's Facebook Page](#), the [SED Website](#) or [Facebook Page](#) for more information and ways to help.

Embrace Grace

Grace Lutheran Church in Durham is launching a new ministry/small group called Embrace Grace. This group provides emotional, practical, and spiritual support for single, young pregnant women who find themselves in an unexpected pregnancy. The primary goal of Embrace Grace is to empower the church to be a safe and non-judgmental place for these young women to run to when they find out they are pregnant, instead of the last place they are welcomed because of shame and guilt. It is a 12-week program that teaches them about God's love and grace. At the end of the 12 weeks, they receive a baby shower to honor them for choosing life and to help provide for their baby's needs.

This class is scheduled to begin on **Wednesday, January 5** at 6:30 pm. Grace Lutheran is located at 824 N. Buchanan Blvd., Durham. For more information, email embracegracechris@gracelutheranchurch.net or call the church office at 919-682-6030. For Embrace Grace Ministries, visit embracegrace.com.

In-Person Services

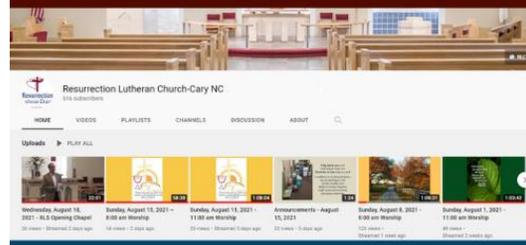


Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
Saturday, 6:00 pm
Sunday, 8:00 am and 9:30 am

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 December 26

Attendance and Giving

Church Calendar



100 Lochmere Drive West, Cary NC 27518

rlcary.org

919-851-7248 | office@rlcary.org

Prayers of the Church – December 26, 2021

*Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence,
so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.
Hebrews 4:16*

We lift the following prayer requests this week:

Ongoing Prayers

*Diane Cuper, *Eve Sommers, *David Brooks, *Anne Altieri, *Charlotte Raines, *Eric Hammergren, *Anita Moore, *John Shaeffer, *Vern Ebert, *Aaron, *Marcus, *Malcolm, *Sandy Nigg, Michael Flannery, *Helen Campbell, Henry Otten, *Lena Licciardi, Paul Batt, Peter and Esther Kuo, Marc and Elizabeth Langefeld's Baby Adoption, *Linda Crandall, *Geoffrey Wiggins, Caitlyn, Mark Zimmerman, Justus Nicolai

Ongoing Cancer Treatments

*Mike Allen, Anne Price, *Gary Ferro, Angie Price, Alison Zieglmeier, Carol Diliberto, Jim Metz, Roseanne Candiello, Janice Sommers, Fernley Wagner, Jackie, Linda H., Kathy Siemon, Joe Kupsky, Scott Brinkley, *Bill Xenakis, Chris McLaughlin, Linda, Mark Raines, Jimmy Ketner, Hope Mackelprang, Melissa Huntsman, Javed, Sue, Kathy

For Expectant Moms

Lija, Kate, Amy, Samantha, Lynn

Those Prayed For on December 19, 2021

Thanking God Today

- RLC Music Ministry and All Our Gifted Musicians
- Safe Travel and Time with Family
- Congregational Meeting on December 12, Outgoing Council Members and Newly Elected Members
- Fernley Wagner (*Dawn's Father), Recovery from Pneumonia, Safe Travel Home to PA
- Our Many Blessings
- Thanks for the Rain
- Baptism of Cordell Reed on December 18

For Healing

- Those with COVID
- *Randi and Barry Munns, Shirley, Wish, Kathy W., Ken, Donald, Gavin, Lynn, Tim Jenkins, Fran, Billy, Julie, Corey, Doreen, Kim, Charlotte, Karen, Connie, Eric, Linda, Sara, Bill

For Those Recovering From Surgeries and/or Procedures

- *Sandy Parks

For Comfort

- Family and Friends of Pete Brown, Friend of *Sue Campau
- Family and Friends of Joanne Brennan

For Provision, Peace, Strength, and Patient Endurance

- For the Work of the Call Committee for Principal, Next Steps in Process
- Areas in the Midwest Affected by Damaging Tornadoes, High Winds
- End of Covid
- Persecuted Christians
- Uganda Lutheran Church
- Employment/Finances

For the Lord's Wisdom, Guidance, Strength for the Health and Well-Being of the People They Serve

- Pastor Jonathan and Juli, Associate Pastor Zack and Kelsey, Assistant Pastor Alan, Faith and Family, and Area Pastors
- Resurrection Lutheran Church and Schools Staff, Youth Leaders

For Our Missionaries

- *Mark and Megan Mantey, Uganda
- Shauen and Krista Trump, Kenya
- JP and Aimee Cima, Cambodia

*Lord Jesus, thank You for Your abiding Presence and saving grace. All is in Your Hands.
We trust You are working all things according to Your good plan and purposes,
and with that trust and confidence, we release these prayers to You. In Your Holy Name, Amen.*

***RLC Members**

Updated 12/22/21

Attendance and Giving – December 26, 2021

In-Person Worship Attendance

Saturday, December 18

6:00 pm - 64

Sunday, December 19

8:00 am - 81; 9:30 am - 97; 11:00 am - 79

Total In-Person Worship: 321

Views of Online Worship at RLC's YouTube Channel

Sunday, December 19

8:00 am - 120 views 11:00 am - 51 views

Total Online Views: 171

General Fund Giving and Spending - November 2021

	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Receipts	\$ 115,120.77	\$ 519,106.97
<u>Total Disbursements</u>	<u>\$ 100,114.28</u>	<u>\$ 507,144.40</u>
Receipts Less Disbursements	\$ 15,006.49	\$ 11,962.57

Last Week's Offerings: \$43,074.85

Average Weekly Giving for 2020/21: \$23,595.77

Average Weekly Giving Budgeted for 2020/21: \$25,735.58

We are grateful for all who are able to maintain financial contributions to our congregation!

There are four ways to make your offering:

- Place in offering plate as you exit the in-person worship service
- Mail to Resurrection Lutheran Church, 100 Lochmere Drive West, Cary, NC 27518
- Online Giving through our church website at rlcary.org/ministries/online-giving
- Download the "GivePlus+" APP, search for Resurrection Lutheran Church, transfer funds from your checking or savings account to RLC

Questions? Contact finance@rlcary.org.

Updated 12/23/21