

Second Sunday After Christmas

January 2, 2022



Pastor's Corner for January 2-8

The Grace to Grow in a New Year (Luke 2:21; 40-52)

Christmas day has come and gone again, for another year. Whether you were able to celebrate with us at Resurrection on Christmas Eve/Christmas Day or were visiting with family and friends out of town, I pray that the day was an opportunity to gather with those you love and to reflect and give thanks for the gift of the Christ-child... the blessing of the King of the manger! We continue a bit longer in what the church calendar refers to as "Christmastide" ... lasting from Christmas Eve until Epiphany, January 6. At our house, the tree and the lights stay up (at least)

until Epiphany! But whether you never put a tree up/opened presents to begin with, are already putting everything away, or will leave everything in place a little while longer, the fact is that the trappings of the season are a temporary thing. The trees and tinsel, the reunions and special music must soon disappear.

The end of 2021 and beginning of 2022 naturally cause us to reflect on the passage of time, the year that has passed, and the possibility of new beginnings. The past cannot be redone. The challenges and joys of the future are yet unknown. Our hopes and fears for the new year are answered in Jesus (a name meaning "God saves!"), whom we encounter this week as a 12-year boy old lingering in the temple to engage the teachers there. Jesus was faithful to His earthly parents Mary and Joseph. Jesus was especially faithful to His heavenly Father in winning our salvation. We make each new beginning, including the beginning of a New Year, in the renewed hope that can only come from a God of mercy who saves... who rescues us from the curse of the Law through a Savior who Himself "grew and became strong, filled with wisdom" (2:40). How will 2022 enable us, children of God in Christ Jesus, to grow? I can't wait to find out. Come what may, we have the grace of God to lean into, together. This week, and every week, we celebrate a God who *saves*.

The Omicron Variant and In-Person Activities at Resurrection Lutheran Church

As the number of COVID cases continues to grow across our county and state, there are a few points I'd like to share with all of you:

- We have received reports from a handful of RLC church members that they recently tested positive from COVID. If the virus is impacting you or your family, I encourage you to let us know so that we can be praying for you and doing what we can to support you.
- If you are experiencing symptoms that cause you to think twice about attending church events in person, please play it safe and stay at home. We continue to livestream worship services at 8 and 11 AM which you can view from our YouTube Channel ([Resurrection Lutheran Church-Cary NC](#)) or via our church Facebook page.

- Please familiarize yourself with CDC guidelines (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/your-health/quarantine-isolation.html>) regarding when to test and how long to maintain physical distance from others in the event you might have been exposed to the virus. If you have any questions, I encourage you to reach out to us in the church office.
- NC state officials report that the omicron variant will be the predominant COVID strain in our state by the first week of January. It will likely peak by the end of January. For now, we will maintain our current masking policy (masks strongly urged for all who are able to wear them, regardless of vaccination status) for all in-person worship and events. As an added precaution for in-worship activity, those distributing Holy Communion are currently doing so masked.

We are blessed to be experiencing this most recent set of circumstances with the availability of vaccines that allow life to go on as usual for many of us. An active worship life (either in-person or virtual) is the best way to maintain a sense of normalcy, connectedness with others, and to receive the grace of God in Christ Jesus. As always, I invite you to reach out to me at any time with your feedback or concerns.

God's abundant grace be yours today... and throughout the New Year!
Pastor Jonathan



Prayers of the Church

[click here](#)



Worship Bulletins

[click here](#)



There will be a Saturday, 6:00 pm Worship on January 1.
Though no Sunday School, adult and youth, on January 2.

Wednesday Night Workshop resumes on January 5.
This includes Confirmation classes, new First Communion class, new Adult Christian Ed class (Patterns of Evidence), but no Open Warehouse for Middle School Youth.

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



**COFFEE &
Fellowship**

Join us Sunday at 10:30 am
in Room 151, Family Life Center!



**Ladies Fellowship
Luncheon**

Wednesday, January 5
at 11:30 am

O'Charley's
101 Ashville Avenue, Cary

RSVP
through RCB

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

Student Ministry

I hope you have all had a safe, healthy, and wonderfully blessed Christmas leading into the New Year. I am excited to see what 2022 has in store!

We still have a couple of spots available for the **Mission Trip**, if anyone is interested. **Open Warehouse** for Middle School will resume on Wednesday, January 12, not January 5. 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.

Camp Agape, Fuquay-Varina

Camp Agape in Fuquay-Varina is in need of a new part-time bookkeeper. This is an hourly position, 15-20 hours per week. Non-profit Quickbooks experience preferred. Contact accounts@agapekurebeach.org for more information.

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

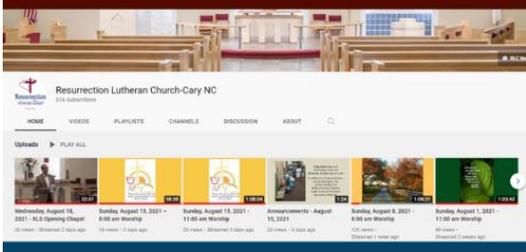


Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary
 Saturday, 6:00 pm
 Sunday, 8:00 am and 9:30 am

**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 January 2

Attendance and Giving

Church Calendar



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

Prayers of the Church – January 2, 2022

*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 26, 2021

Thanking God Today

- RLC Music Ministry and All Our Gifted Musicians
- Safe Travel and Time with Family
- Tim Jenkins, Making Steps in Recovery
- Our Many Blessings

For Healing

- Those with COVID
- *Pam Dickson, *Randi Munns, *Bill Boyer
- Timmy, Justin, Red, Brian, Dave, Mark, Keith, Carlton, Carol, Anne, Anna, AnnMarie, Skylar, Tim, Cathy, Eddie, Linda

For Those Recovering from Surgeries and/or Procedures

- *Sandy Parks

For Comfort

- Family and Friends of Joanne Brennan, Friend of *Sharon Hahne
- Family and Friends of Roslyn Roberts, Mother of *Ray Roberts
- Family and Friends of Wilma, Cousin of *Sharon Hahne

For Provision, Peace, Strength, and Patient Endurance

- For the Work of the Call Committee for Principal, Next Steps in Process
- Travel Mercies for All Traveling, Including *Harry and *Carolyn Roberts, *Mindy and *Marty Stephani
- Areas in the Midwest Affected by Damaging Tornadoes, High Winds
- Family Member with Biopsy
- Persecuted Christians
- Lutheran Church Uganda

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

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 1/3/21

Attendance and Giving – January 2, 2022

In-Person Worship Attendance

Wednesday, December 22 ~ Outdoor Candlelight Service

6:00 pm - 74

Friday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

3:00 pm - 116; 4:30 pm - 95; 6:00 pm - n/a; 8:00 pm - 203; 10:00 pm - 88

Saturday, December 25 ~ Christmas Day

10:00 am - 74

Sunday, December 26

9:30 am - 60

Total In-Person Worship (12/20-26): 710

Views of Online Worship at RLC's YouTube Channel

Friday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

8:00 pm - 263 views

Sunday, December 26 (No Live Stream)

8:00 am - 0 views 11:00 am - 0 views

Total Online Views: 263 views

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: \$35,428.62

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 1/3/21