

## Third Sunday after the Epiphany

January 23, 2022

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*Pastor's Corner for January 23-29*

### **Sanctity of Human Life Weekend (Psalm 139:13-14; John 3:16)**

Sanctity, according to Miriam-Webster's dictionary, is the quality of being holy, very important, or valuable. So, we take a moment this weekend to recognize that all human life— not just the beautiful and strong— but ALL human life, each and every person created in God's image, is sacred. Sanctity of Human Life Sunday has historically been associated with the pro-life movement, which has personal significance for me. Two close family members of mine were both adopted as infants, both born out of what might be called "crisis" or "unplanned" pregnancies. It is only proper to lament the tragic outcomes that occur when children still in the

womb are viewed as somehow less sacred than others. But as important as a clear-eyed accounting of the problem in our world today might be, our goal for this weekend is not to remain focused on the tragedies themselves. It is, rather, to shine the light on the One who not only creates all life, “knitting [us] together in [our] mother’s womb” (Psalm 139:13), but also loves all life— so much that He gave His only-begotten Son, that “whoever believes in Him might not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16). Though hate, violence, greed, fear, and yes, the depersonalization of life can and do denigrate the sanctity of it in any number of ways... God’s recreation of us in Christ Jesus has declared us, sinners that we are, to be temples of the Holy Spirit. God has gifted us to be people who reverence life and by the power of the Spirit within us, strive to be people of integrity in the ways we honor and uphold life, too. How might we do that together? Here’s one idea: In the weeks ahead, I invite you to learn more about Gateway Women’s Care and consider taking home a baby bottle to support their work with a financial contribution. Stay tuned for other opportunities to foster the sanctity of human life at RLC in the months ahead.

### **Church Council Recognition Next Weekend (January 29/30), Due to Wintry Weather Last Week**

We offer up a prayer of thanksgiving for all servant leaders on our Church Council, but especially for the new faces on the Council for 2022: Mike Hahne, Michael Heffner, Jon Huddle, and Lori Jannings. Together with our present Council members (Michael Haertling, Erika Hulse, Jamie Measmer, Barry Needle, and Lisa Snyder) they will be recognized in our worship this weekend. If you see them in worship, please offer up a greeting and a word of thanksgiving for their service.

### **New Start Date for Winter Edition of “This Is the Church”: February 6**

Starting February 6, at 9:30 AM, we are pleased to offer a new 5-session class on the fundamentals of the Christian faith, team-led by Pastors Jonathan and Zach. While this is being offered to interested newcomers to our church who are considering church membership, it is open to anyone who might like to review or inquire about what we believe, teach, and confess as Christians. For more information or to register, please reach out to me at [jonathan.blanke@rlcary.org](mailto:jonathan.blanke@rlcary.org).

## RLC Nursery Available Again Starting This Weekend, January 22-23

After a brief hiatus, the RLC nursery is once again staffed and available each Sunday from 9:15 to 10:45 AM.

### Suitcases Needed

Would you like to fill a concrete need that will support the mission of the church worldwide? RLC missionaries Megan and Mark Mantey have requested three used standard-sized suitcases (i.e., neither oversized nor carry-on) to be donated for carrying Lutheran study Bibles to Uganda for use at the Uganda Lutheran seminary. Please be advised that suitcases donated cannot be returned. They need not be beautiful or in perfect shape, but they do need to have working zippers or clasps intact that are able to make the journey. If you have a bag to donate, please be in touch with the church office ([office@rlcary.org](mailto:office@rlcary.org)).

Peace and joy in Christ,  
Pastor Jonathan



*Prayers  
of the Church*

*Worship Bulletins*

[click here](#)

[click here](#)



### All We Need is Love

Do we overuse the word love or do we not use it enough? As Christians, do we grasp the immensity of the love that God has given us and the love that we are

called to give to others? Throughout the rest of January and into February, we will be taking a closer look at 1 Corinthians 12-13 and three specific stories from Luke's gospel that will guide us as the Body of Christ in the ways that the love of God unites us as His children, as well as how it sends us into service to one another and to those God has placed around us. God is love. He is a love that is greater than anything that we could ever imagine, and He is the love that makes us one as the Body of Christ for the Mission of Christ to bring love to the world.

**January 23 - All We Need Is Love, 2: A Perfect Arrangement  
- 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a**

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**Sanctity of Life**

The baby bottles have arrived and we “kick-off” our baby bottle fundraiser this weekend, January 22/23, in support of Gateway Women's Care. This is the ninth year that Resurrection Lutheran Church has partnered with Gateway in a baby bottle fundraiser. Why do we do this? There are 495 reasons for our involvement. Last year, 495 women, through Gateway, chose LIFE for their unborn babies.

We talked last week about the services Gateway provides for expectant parents (men and women), but they also provide post abortive care and education for women and men suffering from a past abortion. Many of Gateway's volunteers are post abortive and want to help others in this situation. Gateway is a Christ-centered ministry and shares the Gospel with those who want to receive it. Gateway receives no government or taxpayer aid. They rely mostly on Christians and churches like Resurrection to keep their doors open. Through these donations, Gateway has been able to expand from its main location in Raleigh and open additional centers in Durham and Chapel Hill. Gateway does its part and now we need to do our part. After Services, starting this weekend (January 22/23), baby bottles will be available in the Narthex. Please take a bottle home with you and fill it with coins or bills or checks. Talk to your children about the reason for the baby

bottle and why you are giving. Talk to family members, friends, neighbors, and give them the opportunity to take part. There will be a collection basket available in the Narthex through February 20<sup>th</sup>.

If you are donating by check, please make the checks payable to Gateway Women's Care and, if you are mailing your checks, mail them to Resurrection, but make sure they are payable to Gateway.

Whether you are able to financially support this fundraiser or not, please continue your prayers for the unborn and their parents. You also might want to add to your prayers, God's blessings and protection for the many thousands who are taking part in Marches for Life across the country.

If you would like to become involved or learn more about what we are doing in respect to the Sanctity of Life, please feel free to contact Pastor Jonathan, Kathy Rihani, Fran Xenakis, or Bill Xenakis.

Remember, "GOD CHOSE YOU." (John 15:16)

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## Saturday, January 29

We will use the Taize format of worship for the Saturday, 6:00 pm service.

A darkened setting with candles, singing of short ostinato refrains of Biblical and liturgical phrases, periods of quiet for reflection, the celebration of communion, readings, and sermon.

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**Sunday Morning  
Adult Christian Education Class**



**Sundays, 9:30-10:30 am**

We will be looking at three short letters (books) of the New Testament; Paul's letters to Philemon and to Titus, and Jude's letter to the early Church. Why these three letters? The short answer is, "Why not!" They are somewhat neglected in our reading of Scripture, but they contain some important messages and warnings for us as a Church. Philemon has drawn criticism over the years because of its apparent failure to attack the issue of slavery within Christianity. We will look at this issue as well as a possible explanation of why this letter was included in the New Testament. Jude and Titus contain warnings to the early Church about heresies that were infiltrating the Church; these same heresies we may find still exist today.

Led by Bill Xenakis. No need to register, just join us on Sunday mornings in Room 240, Family Life Center!



Welcome, **Dax Thomas St. Laurent**, born on January 18, 2022 (8 lbs. 21 in.)!  
Proud grandparents are Mike and Roberta Danilowicz.

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## Praying for Our Active-Duty Military Members and Their Families

RLC is continuing to make a list of our active-duty military members, including children of RLC members who may not be members. We want to remember them all by name in our regular weekly prayers, especially when they are deployed. If you are a member of our Armed Forces, or if you have children who are on active duty, we ask that you provide the names to our church office at [office@rlcary.org](mailto:office@rlcary.org) or pass on the information to our church volunteer helping maintain the list, [Bill Douglas](#).

Bill is also a member of our **Veterans Lunch Crew**, who would welcome any active-duty military to their monthly luncheon when you are able. This Small Group meets at 12:00 pm on the first Wednesday of the month at IHOP, 1301 Kildaire Farm Road, Cary. **Next meet-up date is Wednesday, February 2 (please note day and location change).**

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## Children and Family Ministry



We have started to plan for **Vacation Bible School (VBS)** in June. If you are interested in helping with decorations, crafts, snacks, teaching, music, etc., contact [maryann.unger@rlcary.org](mailto:maryann.unger@rlcary.org).

**K.I.C.K.S (Kids In Christ Keep Shining), 3rd-5th grade Youth Group:** Next event is *Love on Friday, February 11* from 6:00-7:15 pm in the Fellowship Hall. One of the activities will be creating cards for our shut-ins.

To learn more, [rlcary.org/ministries/children-and-family-ministry](http://rlcary.org/ministries/children-and-family-ministry).  
Contact [MaryAnn Unger](#), Director of Children and Family Ministry, with any questions.

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## Student Ministry

Our **Ignite Youth Group** event that was cancelled last weekend is rescheduled for **Saturday, January 29** from 1:30-4:00 pm.

Connection Cafe (Sunday School for High School) is cancelled for this week, but unless the weather does not cooperate, we plan to have Breakaway Youth Group on Sunday evening.

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](http://rlcary.org/ministries/student-ministry). Contact [Jenny Piontek](#), Youth Director, with any questions.

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## Resurrection Lutheran Preschool

Our staff is vaccinated and wear masks. We partner with our families to keep everyone Healthy Together.

Openings for this year, 2021-22, are still available. And we have begun registering for next year, 2022-23. There are classes for children, 2-5 years, including a transitional-kindergarten class.

Join our family today! Email [office@rlpcary.org](mailto:office@rlpcary.org) or call 919-851-7270 to enroll or schedule an individual tour.

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## Resurrection Lutheran School

Learn more about RLS (Junior Kindergarten - 8th Grade) at Resurrection Lutheran School ([rlscary.org](http://rlscary.org)).

[Current RLS Lion's Tale](#)

*In-Person Services*

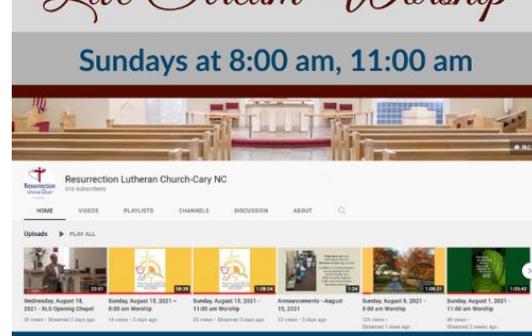


Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary  
Saturday, 6:00 pm  
Sunday, 8:00 am and 9:30 am

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

[Visual Faith for January 23](#)

[Attendance and Giving](#)

[Church Calendar](#)

## Prayers of the Church – January 23, 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, \*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**

Kate, Amy, Lynn

Please pray for the success of the Gateway Baby Bottle Fundraiser, but more importantly, let us continue praying for the unborn and their parents.

### **Those Prayed for on January 16, 2022**

#### **Thanking God Today**

- New Babies for Family Members
- \*Mindy, Relief for Back Pain
- New Bible Studies
- \*Linda Crandall, Recovery
- Family Member, Negative Biopsy Results

#### **For Healing**

- All with COVID
- \*Bill Boyer
- \*Marty and \*Mindy, Knee Pain
- \*Becky Berger

#### **For Those Recovering from Surgeries and/or Procedures**

- \*Baby Nathaniel Illsley
- \*Marilyn Hahne
- \*Sam Huddle

#### **For Comfort**

**For Provision, Peace, Strength, and Patient Endurance**

- RLS and RLP Leadership, Staff, and Families
- For Work of Call Committee for RLS Principal, Next Steps in Process
- Living with Challenges of Life During COVID
- \*Pam Dickson
- Richard Johnson, In Hospice
- Families Losing Homes to Wildfires in Colorado
- Mattie Corbett and Family
- Connie
- Fernley Wagner (Hospice), Wife Sara, and Their Family (\*Dawn's Father)
- RLC Coffeehouse - Decisions About Reopening in February
- \*Daisy, Waiting for Surgery

**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 1/20/21*

## Attendance and Giving – January 23, 2022

### In-Person Worship Attendance

#### Saturday, January 15

6:00 pm - 52

#### Sunday, January 16

8:00 am - 0; 9:30 am - 0; 11:00 am - 0

*Due to inclement weather, in-person services were not held.*

**Total In-Person Worship: 52**

### Views of Online Worship at RLC's YouTube Channel

#### Sunday, January 16

8:00 am - 223 views                      11:00 am - 0 views

*Due to inclement weather, the 11:00 am service was not held.*

**Total Online Views: 223 views**

### General Fund Giving and Spending - December 2021

	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Receipts	\$ 185,588.19	\$ 704,719.59
<u>Total Disbursements</u>	<u>\$ 124,812.25</u>	<u>\$ 632,328.07</u>
Receipts Less Disbursements	\$ 60,775.94	\$ 72,391.52

Last Week's Offerings: \$10,953.22

Average Weekly Giving for 2020/21: \$27,104.60

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](http://rlcary.org/ministries/online-giving)
- Download the Vanco Mobile app, search for Resurrection Lutheran Church, transfer funds from your checking or savings account to RLC

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

*Updated 1/20/21*