

# The Nativity of Our Lord

## December 25, 2022

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*Pastor's Corner for December 25-31*

### **God's Sign Language for a New Year (Isaiah 52:7-10)**

Japan Lutheran College in Tokyo, Japan, where I once served as Associate Professor of New Testament Studies, became the first university in Japan to ever enroll a full-time student born completely sight and hearing impaired. I remember the first time I encountered this young man, Mr. Atsushi Mori. I was intrigued by the way he communicated with the world. Because he was unable to see ordinary sign language, it was necessary for him to have an interpreter sign words directly into his hand. This way he could literally “touch” what was being said. He also had

an important gadget that he took everywhere he went. A small machine, about as large as a small tablet computer, would translate printed matter into a refreshable braille display, a small pad on his computer containing moveable pins that would allow him to feel the braille rendering of words that he was unable to see or hear. Of course, technology alone was unable to provide everything Mr. Mori needed in the way of a user-friendly experience at the college. But those who had opportunity to work with him soon learned that with some adjustments it was possible not only to communicate with him... but to work with him as he prepared to be an advocate for the deaf-blind community in Japan, the vocation to which he had been called.

One reason Jesus Christ was born was so that God might have a new way to communicate to a world that could not have otherwise understood or received Him. We know our faith is founded upon the Word of God. The Word of God brings Life. The Scriptures record how God brought forth the created world out of nothing but words. "Let there be life!" God said it, and it was so. Yet in the broad sweep of salvation history, humankind was not left to live by mere words alone. The prophet Isaiah speaks on Christmas Day about those who would proclaim "good news" regarding God's reign (7). This good news about the reign of God was applied by St. Paul to none other than Jesus Christ Himself (Rom 10:14-17). Jesus-- God's own dear Son, the Word made flesh, would not only speak God's Word, He would also be born and live as God's "sign language" to a broken and dying world. That sign language started in a manger in Bethlehem... but it didn't end there! It vividly depicted the picture of God's love poured out through a dying, crucified man on the first Good Friday. It felt strangely alive through a stone-cold tomb that stood open and empty on the first Easter morning. That's why the manger and the resurrection cross align in our church sanctuary-- the first thing we see as we gather there on Christmas day! And the Word made flesh still comes to us in the lives of flesh-and-blood people, even when we feel we can't see or hear or sense God stirring at all. Through the miracle of the first Christmas, we find Life-- or perhaps we had better say, Life has found us. That is what keeps Christmas special not only on December 25... but all the way through 2023 and beyond.

My prayer for all of us as we turn the page of the calendar from 2022 to 2023 is that we might not only enjoy a safe and meaningful Christmas... but a Life-filled

New Year, too. Join us again as we gather at the manger in the weeks ahead, giving thanks to God together, for what Life (because of Jesus!) has in store.

Once again, a very Merry Christmas to you all!

**Celebration of Life in Christ for Don Schautteet December 28 at 2:00 pm**

Resurrection Lutheran Church members and friends are invited to attend a Memorial service for Don Schautteet at RLC this coming Wednesday at 2:00 pm as we give thanks to God for Don, praise God for the gift of eternal life that Don now enjoys, and find comfort together in Christ Jesus.

**New Sunday Morning Bible Class Begins January 8 at 9:30 AM**

Sunday School and Adult Bible class is on vacation December 25 and January 1. I invite you to join Pastor Alan in January for a 6-weeks Bible study on personal peacemaking, starting up with the beginning of Sunday School/Adult Bible classes on Sunday morning, January 8. Pastor Alan writes: "Our study leads us to understand the basic truths about personal peacemaking from Scripture. We are each given the responsibility to serve as peacemakers. This study will focus on understanding conflict, our responses to conflict, and a simple model we can follow as ambassadors for reconciliation."

**Special Voters' Meeting on January 8 at 12:30 PM**

We will have a Special Voters' Meeting on January 8 at 12:30 PM to call one of three candidates. These candidates have been recommended by the RLS School Board Call Committee to the RLC Council. We will also receive congregational approval of two people (one pastor and one layperson) to vote on behalf of RLC for LCMS Synod President for the next triennium. Hope to see you all there!

Peace and joy in Him,  
Pastor Jonathan

The church office will be closed on Friday, December 23 and Monday, December 26.

## Prayers of the Church

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She will bear a son,  
and you shall call  
*his name Jesus.*

for he will save his people  
from their sins.

Matthew 1:21

### Worship Services

**December 24 ~ Christmas Eve**

**3:00 pm** - For Families with Young Children in Sanctuary  
featuring Interactive Lessons and Carol Singing

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

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

**8:00 pm** - Candlelight Service in Sanctuary  
Traditional Christmas Carols with Resurrection Brass Ensemble,  
Sanctuary Choir, Heavenly Handbells  
*\*live stream*

**10:00 pm** - Candlelight Service in Sanctuary  
Traditional Christmas Carols and Holy Communion

### **December 25 ~ Christmas Day**

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

### **December 31/January 1 ~ New Year's**

**6:00 pm** - New Year's Eve Service with Holy Communion in Sanctuary

**10:00 am** - Traditional Sunday Service with Holy Communion in Sanctuary

No Sunday School, Adult and Youth, on December 25 and January 1.



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

Pastor Jonathan, Pastor Zach, Pastor Alan, Bob, Chris, Jenny, Erika, Margaret,  
Linda, Susan, Garrett, Bill, Charlie, and Matt

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Baptized on Saturday, December 24 at 4:30 pm

**Lionel Robert Blanford**

born September 12, 2022,

son of Griffin Stuart Blanford and Courtney Hoffmeister Blanford.

Godparents are Allison and William Brown.

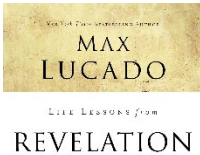
*May God's blessing be upon Lionel Robert as he grows in his baptismal grace.*

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### **Weekly Bible Study Opportunities**

- **Monday Night Women's Bible Study**  
No classes on Mondays, December 26 and January 2.

We begin a new study on **Monday, January 9** from 7:00-8:00 pm (in-person and via Zoom). Class will run through March 27. Join us for Max Lucado's *Life Lessons from Revelation*, a 12-session study on the book of Revelation. The apostle John writes about an amazing vision he saw while in exile that gave him a glimpse into heaven.



Key Themes are God has a plan and a future for the world, God will be ultimately victorious over evil, there will be a final accounting for our faith and our lives, and there is a better world in store. Books are available through Amazon and [christianbook.com](http://christianbook.com). A digital version is also available through Amazon. For more information, contact Jamee Thieme through RCB.

- **Men's Ministry Weekly Study and Fellowship**

We will not meet on Monday, December 26.

In January 2023, both Monday and Wednesday night men's groups will be invited to join the Wednesday night adult study group for a special topic and speaker.

- **Tuesday Morning Bible Study and Fellowship**

We will resume on Tuesday, January 3.

- **Wednesday Night Adult Christian Ed**

New study begins on **January 4**, 6:30-7:30 pm, in the Fellowship Hall. Details to follow.

- **Men With Kids**

No class on Wednesday, December 28.

In January 2023, both Monday and Wednesday night men's groups will be invited to join the Wednesday night adult study group for a special topic and speaker.

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## Meeting Notice

Special Voter's Meeting  
Sunday, January 8 at **12:30 pm**  
Family Life Center Gym

Agenda includes Resurrection Lutheran School Principal Call  
and Confirmation of Voters for LCMS Presidential Election

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## Offering Envelopes for 2023

The company that provides our Offering Packets has had production problems and our order will be delayed. Generic envelopes will be available at the entrance to worship. Please add your name to the envelope for recording purposes. Online and mobile donation options are not affected. Thank you – Finance Team

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## Children and Family Ministry





K.I.C.K.S. (Kids In Christ Keep Shining)  
provides fun and fellowship for kids in 3rd-5th grade.

Merry Christmas!  
Erika Hulse, Children's Ministry Director  
[erika.hulse@rlcary.org](mailto:erika.hulse@rlcary.org)

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## Student Ministry

Middle School and High School

Here's what's coming up:

- **Why do we serve?** [Check out our Mission Video!](#)  
Registration for Middle School and High School Mission Trips are happening now!
- **Activities will resume** on Wednesday, January 4 and Sunday, January 8, 2023!





Merry Christmas and many blessings to you all,  
Ms. Jenny, Youth Director  
[jenny.piontek@rlcary.org](mailto:jenny.piontek@rlcary.org)



## Resurrection Lutheran Preschool

### Preschool Punchline:

At RLP's Chapel, the story of the birth of Jesus is shared with both words and wooden figures. As a 3-year-old was entering the sanctuary and looking around, he said, "I wonder what that wheelbarrow is for?" It was the manger.

*Merry Christmas from RLP!*



Resurrection Lutheran Preschool | 919-851-7270 | [rlpcary.org](http://rlpcary.org)

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## Resurrection Lutheran School

*Merry Christmas from our home to yours!*



Resurrection Lutheran School | 919-851-7271 | [rlscary.org](http://rlscary.org)

Latest Lion's Tale

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# WORSHIP SERVICES

Traditional Worship  
in Sanctuary  
Saturday, 6:00 pm  
Sunday, \*8:00 & 9:30 am

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

*\*Services Live Streamed to YouTube*

## Online Worship Bulletins

For online services, 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 December 24

Visual Faith for December 25

Attendance and Giving

# Church Calendar



100 Lochmere Drive West, Cary NC 27518

[rlcary.org](http://rlcary.org)

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

*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, Henry Otten,  
Michael Flannery, \*Helen Campbell, \*Lena Licciardi, Paul Batt, Peter and Esther Kuo, \*Geoffrey Wiggins,  
Marc and Elizabeth Langefeld's Baby Adoption, Caitlyn, Mark Zimmerman, Justus Nicolai,  
Beverly Kunitsky

**Ongoing Cancer Treatments**

\*Mike Allen, Anne Price, \*Gary Ferro, Angie Price, Alison Zieglmeier, Carol Diliberto, Roseanne Candiello,  
Jackie, Linda H., Kathy Siemon, Scott Brinkley, \*Bill Xenakis, Linda, Jimmy Ketner, Hope Mackelprang,  
Melissa Huntsman, Sue, Kathy, Glenn Wagner, Pamm Haley, Judy Dean, Bryan Reilly, Bob,  
Cheryl Schlage, Dennis

**For Expectant Moms**

Laura

**Those Prayed for on December 18, 2022**

**Thanking God Today**

- Our RLC Family
- Family Celebrations and Time Together, Anniversaries, Birthdays
- The Season of Advent
- Safe Travels
- Our Many Blessings
- New Baby, Maija Jensen, Daughter of Linka Jensen, Granddaughter of Pastor Dave and Beth Schleusener, Great-Granddaughter of \*Robert and \*Marie Bruce (Prayers for Healing for Mom and Baby, Born Early)
- God's Provision
- Ben's Graduation

**For Healing**

- \*Becky Berger
- \*Kim Goss
- All Those Exposed to COVID, with COVID, and Recovering from COVID
- Blind Ministry Guests - Maria Barker, Judy Dean, Sheila McNair, Linda Jones
- \*Brendan Nigg



- Terry Park
- \*Marty Stephani, Recovery from Surgery, and \*Mindy
- \*Suzi Heffner, Recovery
- \*Eve Sommers
- Cheryl Schlage, Mother of \*Danielle Altieri
- Julia Neese, Recovery
- Diane Bean
- Roger Robbins
- Jerry Crueger
- Bruce Klevenow, Brother of \*Ralph Klevenow
- Marty, Brendan, Maija, Linka, Alice, Ken, Donald, Mary, Bill, Victor, Ellen, Sarah, Julian, Shelby, Roy, Jaime, Marty, Sue, Those with Flu, Andreis, Sean, Doug, Garrett

### **For Comfort**

- Family and Friends of \*Pam Brown, Wife of \*Peter, Mother of \*Isabella
- Family and Friends of Deanna, Aunt of \*Terri Nance
- Family and Friends of Virginia Danilowicz, Mother of \*Michael Danilowicz
- Family and Friends of Steve Frank, Brother-In-Law of \*Paul Smith
- Family and Friends of Ted Pocock, Grandfather-In-Law of Hannah Peterson
- Family and Friends of Mattie Corbett
- Friends and Family of \*Doug Spitz, Especially His Wife, \*Cheri
- Friends and Family of \*Don Schautteet, Especially His Wife, \*Jackie

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

- People of Ukraine, And All Those Who Serve to Support Them
- Persecuted Christians
- Uganda Lutheran Church
- Resurrection Lutheran School Principal Candidates and Ongoing Call Process
- All Those Supporting Family Members with Caregiving Needs
- Call Committee for DCE
- \*Randi and Barry Munns
- Annie Ruth Ford, \*Dennis Ford's Mother
- \*Eric and \*Jill Hammergren
- \*Pam Dickson
- \*Bruce and \*Annette Kennedy
- \*Jan and Paul Wozniak
- Jan and Rich Bloom
- Stuart and Sue Sanders, and the \*Boyer Family
- Our RLC Uganda Team Preparing for February 2023 Mission Trip, Discernment Regarding Travel
- College Admission Process for Students and Their Families
- A joyous Time of Year, However We Need to Remember, It Might Be Difficult for Many
- Glenn Wagner and Family, for Glenn's Healing, Brother of \*Dawn Leister
- Our RLC Staff and Musicians During This Time of the Year
- A Missionary

**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 and Faith, and Their Families
- Resurrection Lutheran Church and Schools Staff
- Area Pastors and School Staff
- Our Stephen Ministers

**For Our Missionaries**

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

*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 12/22/22*

## Attendance and Giving – December 25, 2022

### In-Person Worship Attendance

#### Wednesday, December 14 - O Antiphon

6:00 pm - 92

#### Saturday, December 17

6:00 pm - 50

#### Sunday, December 18

8:00 am - 127; 9:30 am - 209; 11:00 am - 73

**Total In-Person Worship: 551**

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

#### Wednesday, December 14 - O Antiphon

6:00 pm - 65

#### Sunday, December 18

8:00 am - 245; 11:00 am - 42

**Total Online Views: 352 views**

### General Fund Giving and Spending - October 2022

	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Receipts	\$ 102,909.98	\$ 403,555.22
<u>Total Disbursements</u>	<u>\$ 113,708.91</u>	<u>\$ 413,211.60</u>
Receipts Less Disbursements	\$ -10,798.93	\$ -9,656.38

Last Week's Offerings: \$39,654.92

Average Weekly Giving for 2022/23: \$22,419.73

Average Weekly Giving Budgeted for 2022/23: \$26,908.65

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 12/22/22*