

First Sunday After Christmas

January 1, 2023



Pastor's Corner for January 1-7

Reality Check

(Matthew 2:13-23)

Christmas Day has come and gone. We have a new year... a new opportunity to begin another chapter of life! If you're like millions of Americans, you might be in the midst of a reality check. Maybe it's the bills coming due for presents that were purchased to create "the dream Christmas" for someone. Or maybe it's the beautiful new tech gadget you got that doesn't live up to the hype. Or maybe it's the salt and sludge all over your car after driving out of town and through (what seemed like it, at the time) a Winter Wonderland. Or maybe it's being back in the office after a killer vacation. That empty space in your living room where the tree used to be... is now just a pile of needles! We are still in the season of Christmas... at least until January 6. But whatever magic and warmth the holiday might have had wears off— sooner or later— and we're all left with life back in the "real world" again.

The story of Herod and the young boys Herod put to death in our text for today is a more vivid kind of reality check. Sure, there was much about the birth of Jesus for Mary to treasure in her heart (Luke 2:19). Yes, the vision of angels in the night sky singing “Glory to God in the Highest” seems an almost magical portent of God’s peace unfolding on earth. The image of shepherds bending the knee at the manger inside the Christmas crèche reminds us of the love of God poured out on the humble outsider. But the reality of the situation was that Jesus, King that he was, was born into a world of power politics. The hard truth is that God’s Son came into a broken, violent, and dangerous world. It would be nice to take a little time at the crèche with the baby Jesus, Mary, Joseph, the shepherds and the sheep. We don’t want to hear the angel hovering above the nativity coming down from his perch, taking Joseph aside and whispering in his ear, “Listen, you guys have to get out of here.” But Herod and the power politics of Jesus’ day make a reality check necessary. Sin is the real-world problem that does the same today.

Maybe on the first day of 2023 a reality check from the God who calls his own out of Egypt (Matt 2:15) is just what we need to ready us for what is around the corner. The coast is never really “clear.” Yet despite the darkness that is in the world, there is no need to stay in hiding for those who look to the right arm of the Lord to win the battle over the Enemy. The same God that rescued Israel from their taskmasters in Egypt called Jesus and his family out of Egypt. That didn’t mean that Israel or Jesus would have it easy. But just as God turned Pharaoh and Herod into unwitting participants in the course of salvation history, he turns suffering and despair today into a display of His glory and strength tomorrow. That’s the REAL reality! That’s our confidence again in this new year, as our God of mercy goes with us.

New Bible Study and “Faith Conversation” Begins January 4: Challenging Conversations

In continuation of a topic first raised at an RLC Mens' Breakfast "Pastors' Forum" last spring and brought up again this past fall, we will take 4 weeks in January during our Wednesday Night Workshop (6:30 to 7:30 PM) to explore how to be faithful disciples of Christ in challenging conversations and circumstances. Join us as we strive to better understand the theologically faithful view of marriage and sexuality as well as consider real-world examples of how faith is impacted by LGBTQ+ life. Practical guidance on how to embody the love of Christ toward sexual

and gender minorities, identify situations of unconscious bias, and live and speak with ethical integrity on these topics will be shared. Many thanks to Dr. Bruce M. Hartung, professor emeritus at Concordia Seminary St. Louis, for joining us via Zoom for our sessions on January 4 and 25. All are welcome.

Celebration of Life in Christ for Doug Spitz Saturday, January 7 at 1 PM

Resurrection Lutheran Church members and friends are invited to attend a Memorial service for Mr. Doug Spitz at RLC this coming Saturday at 1:00 PM as we give thanks to God for Doug, praise God for the eternal inheritance Doug has now received, and find comfort together in Christ Jesus, our Lord of Life.

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

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!

A very blessed 2023, to all of us!

Pastor Jonathan

Worship Services This Weekend

December 31, 6:00 pm

New Year's Eve Service with Holy Communion in Sanctuary

January 1, 10:00 am
Traditional Sunday Service with Holy Communion in Sanctuary

No Sunday School, Adult and Youth, on January 1.
And the church office will be closed on Monday, January 2.

Prayers of the Church



Baptized on Saturday, December 31 at 6:00 pm

Sabrina Nicole Schwadron

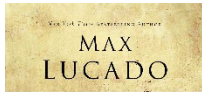
born August 2, 2011,
son of Michael Richard Schwadron and Jill Ann Schwadron.
Godparent is Carrie West.

May God's blessing be upon Sabrina Nicole as she grows in her baptismal grace.

Weekly Bible Study Opportunities

- **Monday Night Women's Bible Study**
No class on Monday, 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.



LIFE LESSONS FROM
REVELATION



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. A digital version is also available through Amazon. For more information, contact Jamee Thieme through RCB.

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

For the first four weeks of January, the Men's Weekly group is asked to consider joining the Wednesday Night Adult Study starting on **January 4** from 6:30-7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The topic is *Challenging Conversations*. Dr. Bruce M. Hartung, Professor Emeritus at Concordia Seminary St. Louis, will join us via Zoom for two sessions. Pastor Jonathan will lead the other two sessions. All are invited!

The Men's Weekly will start back up on Monday, **January 30** from 7:00-8:15 pm in Room 240, Family Life Center.

- **Tuesday Morning Bible Study and Fellowship**

We will resume on Tuesday, January 3.

- **Wednesday Night Adult Christian Ed**

New study, *Challenging Conversations*, begins **January 4** from 6:30-7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall with Pastor Jonathan. (See description above in Pastor's Corner)

- **Men With Kids**

For the first four weeks of January, the Men with Kids group is asked to

consider joining the other Wednesday Night Adult Study starting on **January 4** from 6:30-7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The topic is *Challenging Conversations*. Dr. Bruce M. Hartung, Professor Emeritus at Concordia Seminary St. Louis, will join us via Zoom for two sessions. Pastor Jonathan will lead the other two sessions. All are invited!

Men with Kids will start back on Wednesday, **February 1** from 6:30-7:30 pm in Room 246, Family Life Center.

Sunday Morning Adult Christian Ed Class

Join us for a new study, *Blessed are the Peacemakers*, on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:30 am starting **January 8** with Pastor Alan Shaw in the Fellowship Hall!

This 6-week Bible study on personal peacemaking will run through February 19. 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.



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

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

The Coffeehouse for Special Needs Adults
Friday, January 20, 2023
(Note the Date)

We thank all our volunteers who help us to have wonderful Coffeehouses! We couldn't do it without our faithful volunteers. Please come join us! Our special needs guests love to come, and we need lots of volunteers to make them feel special and loved. We need Setter Uppers at 5:00 pm (both food and room), Servers at 6:30 pm, and Cleaner Uppers at 8:30 pm.

Sign Up: <https://bit.ly/3kqoHGN>

The first Coffeehouse of 2023 is **Friday, January 20** from 7:00-8:30 pm in the Family Life Center Gym. Jim Linn's Band, *A Touch of Brass*, will play for us!

Questions? Contact Brenda Peterson through RCB or the church office (919-851-7248, office@rlcary.org).

TRIANGLE FAITH.ORG

*“Are you ready to become
a better witness?”*

**Saturday, January 28
2:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

**Resurrection Lutheran Church
100 W. Lochmere Dr., Cary, NC**

Building Bridges Not Barriers

Join with other Christians in a conversation that helps to engage with those in the Latter Day Saint (Mormon) community. This event is being hosted by Resurrection Lutheran in Cary in partnership with Jordan Lutheran Church, Apex and Truth in Love Ministry.

The Build Bridges Not Barriers workshop will provide a foundation on LDS (Latter Day Saint) belief and practice and abundant applications of how to engage in conversations with truth and love. Mark Parsons, the vice president of Truth in Love Ministry, brings an expert and current perspective to this conversation to equip us for ministry.

TriangleFaith.org is a cooperative effort of congregations in The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod that seeks to bring the message of forgiveness to the greater Raleigh Triangle community.



Mark Parsons

**Vice President
Truth in Love Ministry**

Mark Parsons is the Vice President of Truth in Love Ministry and heads up their Communications Team in Nampa, Idaho.

Truth in Love Ministry is a Christian ministry devoted to proclaiming Christ to Mormons and empowering Christians to witness. In addition to offering time-tested training, we provide ongoing support. This includes person-to-person mentoring as well as websites with pages of practical tips, strategies, and witness stories.

www.tilm.org



Children's Ministry

JANUARY 2023 NEWSLETTER

KICKS

KICKS - Kids in Christ Keep Shining is for 3rd - 5th graders. Please look for emails with details about monthly events. We look forward to seeing your child(ren) there!

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children's Church is at the 11:00 a.m. Contemporary Service. Children are dismissed after the Children's Message for crafts, games and Bible stories.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Children's Sunday School classes will resume on January 8th and continue through May 21st. Classes are from 9:30 am to 10:30 am.

Classrooms can be found in the Resurrection Lutheran School building in the following rooms:

Pre-K: room 132

K & 1st grade: room 134

2nd & 3rd grade: room 131

4th & 5th grade: room 133

Join us for stories, games, crafts, music and more!



Questions? Contact
Erika Hulse at
erika.hulse@rlcary.org

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!

Ms. Jenny, Youth Director
jenny.piontek@rlcary.org

Resurrection Lutheran Preschool

Resurrection Lutheran
PRESCHOOL class Offerings for **2023-24** 

Around
\$23
for a 3-4
hour day of
preschool
includes:

✦ Classes for children 2-years-old thru 5-years-old ✦

- * Co-Teaching Teams develop a 'learning through play' environment
- * Developmentally age-appropriate, hands-on, child-centered experiences
- * Balance of social/academic opportunities
- * Experienced, nurturing, dedicated Staff

NON-Refundable Registration Fee = \$215 / \$415 for 2 children (checks payable to RLP or cash)

Drive-Up Drop-Off/Pick-Up
(for ALL ages)

LUNCH every day for ALL classes (provided by parents)

office@rlpcary.org 919.851.7270

Children in 3-year-old & older classes must be independently toilet-trained.

Invites you to
Transitional-Kindergarten (T-K) Informational Sessions

We are pleased to offer the following sessions for families to learn about RLP's T-K program. Attendance is optional and not required in order to register for T-K.

T-K TEACHERS Session
Thursday, January 5th @12:30 pm
T-K Room #112

Opportunity for conversation about our program with our T-K teachers in their classroom.

T-K from a PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE
Thursday, January 5th @7:00 pm
T-K Room #112

- Hear first-hand benefits and reasons for 'gifting an extra year' to your child (including down the road- 3rd grade, middle/high school, college).
 - Conversation with former T-K parents for families "weighing options" and "on-the-fence" regarding sending a child to T-K us. kindergarten.
 - Wake County Kindergarten teacher shares expectations of students & a typical 'day in the life of a kindergartner.'
 - Opportunity for conversation with RLP's T-K teachers about our program.
-

Is My Child Ready for Kindergarten?
Tuesday, January 10th @7:00 pm
Fellowship Hall at RLP

Wake Co. Kindergarten teachers share expectations of students & a typical 'day in the life of a kindergartner.'



Families may enroll their children upon completing a tour.

Tours dates for the 2023-24 Preschool year:

January 5 (Fri) @11:00 **January 18 (Wed) @9:45**
January 9 (Mon) @10:00 **January 19 (Th) @11:00**
January 11 (Wed) @11:00 **January 23 (Mon) @12:45**
January 12 (Th) @10:00

Resurrection Lutheran Preschool | 919-851-7270 | rlpcary.org

Resurrection Lutheran School



Resurrection Lutheran School | 919-851-7271 | rlscary.org

Latest Lion's Tale

WORSHIP SERVICES

Traditional Worship in Sanctuary	Praise Worship in Family Life Center
Saturday, 6:00 pm	Sunday, *11:00 am
Sunday, *8:00 & 9:30 am	

**Services Live Streamed to YouTube*

Online Worship Bulletins

For online services, connect through our YouTube channel at
youtube.com/ResurrectionLutheranChurchCaryNC
or through our website at
rlcary.org/about-us/online-worship.

[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 1, 2023

*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 25, 2022

Thanking God Today

- Safe Travels, Especially During the Holiday Season
- Our RLC Family
- Family Celebrations and Time Together, Anniversaries, Birthdays
- Our Many Blessings
- December Graduates and Graduations
- Glenn, home from the hospital
- RLC Staff, Volunteers, Musicians, and All Who Contributed to Our Advent and Christmas Worship and Other Church Events

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
- *Eve Sommers

- *Marty Stephani, In Rehab, and *Mindy
- *Suzi Heffner, Recovery
- Cheryl Schlage, Mother of *Danielle Altieri
- Julia Neese, Recovery
- Roger Robbins; Jerry Crueger; Bruce Klevenow, Brother of *Ralph Klevenow
- Linka Schleusener Jensen and New Baby Maiija
- Randi, Olevia, Bill, Sharon, Alice, Jeffrey, Taylor, Eric, Mara, Sue, Connie, Pastor Teklu, Brendan, Jaime Doug, Marty, Joe, Karen, Gary, Jack

For Comfort

- Family and Friends of Mattie Corbett
- Friends and Family of *Don Schautteet, Especially His Wife, *Jackie
- Friends and Family of *Doug Spitz, Especially His Wife, *Cheri
- Friends and Family of Jim Kerns
- Friends and Family of Michael Taylor, Cousin of *Ron Taylor

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 January 8 Meeting
- 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

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 12/30/22

Attendance and Giving – January 1, 2023

In-Person Worship Attendance

Wednesday, December 21 - Outdoor Carols

6:00 pm - n/a

Saturday, December 24

3:00 pm - n/a

4:30 pm - n/a

6:00 pm - 79

8:00 pm - n/a

10:00 pm - n/a

Sunday, December 25

10:00 am - 82

Total In-Person Worship: 161

Views of Online Worship at RLC's YouTube Channel

Saturday, December 24

8:00 pm - 185

Total Online Views: 185 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: \$56,317.16

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
- 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.

Updated 12/30/22