

The Baptism of Our Lord

January 8, 2023



Pastor's Corner for January 8-14

It Works!

(Matthew 3:13-17; Romans 6:1-11)

This weekend we read and think about Jesus' baptism. While Jesus' baptism was an important event all by itself, it's impossible to think about it and give thanks to God for the love that went into it without also giving thanks to God for the baptism each one of us receives. In our baptism God claims us as His own— all because of what Jesus started in Jordan's River and completed on Calvary's cross.

What exactly did Jesus start on the day of His baptism? You get a sense of it in John's confusion over why Jesus should come to him to be baptized. Jesus had no sin. Unlike all the others coming to be baptized by John, Jesus had nothing to confess. There was no obvious reason for Him to get His feet muddy or His clothes soaked in the Jordan River. When Jesus approached John like all the others, you can understand why John would clarify: "I need to be baptized by You... and do You come to me?" Yet Jesus' answer said it all: "Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Or as The Message has it, "Do it. God's work, putting things right all these centuries, is coming together right now in this baptism." Jesus' baptism was the beginning of God's work of putting everything right... it was how God started to get a broken world to "work" as He had originally intended.

OUR baptisms, by contrast, are the means for the God who gets a broken world to work through Christ to be at work in each of us! St. Paul writes: "All of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death. Therefore, we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life." Those who remember American theologian Joseph Sittler say he used to talk about a time he was in Jerusalem and his car broke down. Naturally, he took his car to a mechanic there to have it fixed. When the mechanic had finished and started up the engine to hear it running perfectly, he said, "Tzadik!" "Tzadik" (צד'יק) is the Hebrew word in the Bible often translated as "(It is) righteous." In the context of the broken car, the word means simply: "it works!"

At the beginning of this new year, this new week, and even any new day throughout this year, knowing we are renewed in Christ Jesus and in Him are made "to work" is a great way to live. Thank heaven that no matter what tomorrow may bring, by the gift of our baptism we "walk in NEWNESS of life"!

Pulse of the Church Survey Administered, Starting This Weekend

This weekend, we invite all RLC members to take part in an anonymous, churchwide survey intended to guide us in knowing where to invest our energies for service and mission in 2023. Whether you [connect via the link here](#) (also sent

via separate email) or via the QR code posted in worship bulletins this weekend, please take the 10 minutes required to fill out and submit the survey. The survey will be live and open for you to take from now until January 14.

**Bible Study and “Faith Conversation” Challenging Conversations Continues,
January 11**

Thanks to all who came out to join us and Dr. Bruce Hartung this past Wednesday as Dr. Hartung “set the table” for our Wednesday evening sessions on “Challenging Conversations” in the month of January. This Wednesday, January 11, we will be discussing the relationship between Christ and culture. We will consider the practical implications for working and living with integrity as Christians in a world where diverse views of sexuality are in play. As always, all are welcome! I invite you to join us.

Celebration of Life in Christ for Jim Kerns Saturday, January 14 at 1 PM

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

Epiphany peace and joy,
Pastor Jonathan

Prayers of the Church

**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.



**Ambassadors
of
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



Congratulations to
Don Martin and Elizabeth Morgan
who were married on Thursday, December 29, 2022.

May they dwell in God's presence forever.
May His true and constant love preserve them.



A Memorial Service for our brother in Christ,
Doug Spitz
to be held at Resurrection on Saturday, January 7 at 1:00 pm.
Reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall.
Our prayers are with his wife, Cheri, and their family at this time.



Baptized on Sunday, January 8 at 8:00 am

Lucas Bader Noreen

born on August 23, 2021,
son of Bradley Daniel Noreen and Megan Bader Noreen.
Godparents are Scott Bader and Hallie Hartley.

Magnus Warren Noreen

born on November 20, 2021,
son of Douglas David Noreen and Ainslee Elizabeth Noreen.
Godparents are Bryan and Paige Noreen.

Logan Charles Noreen

born on October 6, 2022,
son of Bryan Harold Noreen and Paige Purcell Noreen.
Godparents are John Purcell and Audrey Bowden.

May God's blessing be upon these boys as they grow in their baptismal grace.

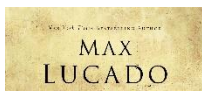


Update on Marty Stephani - He is improving but gradually. He would love to have visitors and here are the best times to visit: late morning after 10:00 am and mid-to-late afternoon. He is in the Rex Rehab in Apex at 911 South Hughes St. His room number is 919-363-5954. There is no time at the present when he is estimated to be released and will go home. Prayer is most welcome.

Weekly Bible Study Opportunities

- **Monday Night Women's Bible Study**

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. 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 for the first four weeks of January, please consider joining the Wednesday Night Adult Study with Pastor Jonathan that started on January 4 from 6:30-7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The topic is *Challenging Conversations*.

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 study the coming Sunday Scripture lessons from 10:30-11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall with Pastor Jonathan Blanke and Pastor Zach Sarrault.

- **Wednesday Night Adult Christian Ed**

Challenging Conversations began on January 4 from 6:30-7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall with Pastor Jonathan and will run through January 22. (See description above in Pastor's Corner)

- **Men With Kids**

We will not meet for the first four weeks of January, please consider joining the other Wednesday Night Adult Study with Pastor Jonathan that started on January 4 from 6:30-7:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall. The topic is *Challenging Conversations*.

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

**If you would like to pick up your poinsettia,
please do so by Wednesday, January 11.**

**They are all in the Narthex.
Any remaining will be donated.**



Pizza Night
Wednesday, January 11



Join us *one* Wednesday night per month from 5:45-6:15 pm in the Family Life Center for pizza! Everyone is invited. Cost is \$2 per slice. You can pay at the door but must have order placed by Tuesday, January 10.

Click [HERE](#) to make your reservation.

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).

Sanctity of Life

We, Resurrection Lutheran Church, observe the sanctity of life every day. However, January is the month we place more emphasis on it in order to remind ourselves and others of the significance of life. By life we mean all stages of life. We are concerned about poverty, hunger, suicide, euthanasia, abortion; as all these and many others impact our lives and the lives of those around us. Scripture tells us how precious life is and we are instructed to nurture it.

We, as a Church, do many things to promote the sanctity of life, whether it be building bunk beds, providing needed support through the Love Fund, Stephen Ministry, reaching out through the Coffeehouse, Blind Ministry, Middle School Mission Ministry, and in so many other ways. Annually we conduct a fundraiser for Gateway Women's Care via a baby bottle campaign. Gateway Women's Care is a local pregnancy resource ministry offering compassion, hope, and non-judgmental help to women and men facing unplanned pregnancy. This free support enables those considering abortion to make informed decisions and to know there are realistic alternatives.

Gateway also offers post abortive care and education for women and men suffering from a past abortion. Many of Gateway's volunteers and staff are post abortive and want to help others in this situation. Gateway is a Christ-centered ministry and shares the Gospel with those clients who want to receive it.

We will share more about what Gateway provides as we get closer to the start date of our baby bottle fundraiser, which will be Sanctity of Life weekend, January 21/22.

Food & Fellowship for the Blind



Resurrection's Ministry for
the Visually Impaired meets

Friday, January 27 from 5:30-7:30 pm
in the Fellowship Hall

Contact Annette Langefeld-Kennedy to learn more and for volunteer needs
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

Happy New Year RLC Youth!

Everything comes back this week!

IGNITE
Middle School

Open Warehouse:
January 4, 11, 18, 25
6:00-6:30pm

Connection
Cafe/
Sunday School
Sundays @
9:30am

Youth Group:
January 8th @
1:30-3:00

JANUARY 2023

BREAKAWAY
High School

JANUARY

Youth Group:
Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29
6:30-8:00pm

Connection Cafe
Sundays @ 9:30am

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

Resurrection Lutheran
PRESCHOOL

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.'

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

Resurrection Lutheran School

A special thanks to Cary Living readers for voting RLS *BEST PRIVATE SCHOOL!*



Resurrection Lutheran School offers a safe, nurturing and academically rich educational experience in a Christ-centered environment.

*Thank you for voting us the
"Best Private School" in Cary.*



100 West Lochmere Drive, Cary, NC 27518
919.851.7271 | rlscary.org
admissions@rlscary.org

Now accepting applications for 2023-2024 school year.
Contact admissions@rlscary.org to arrange a tour today!

Latest Lion's Tale



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 8, 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 January 1, 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
- Roger Robbins; Jerry Crueger; Bruce Klevenow, Brother of *Ralph Klevenow
- Linka Schleusener Jensen and New Baby Maiija
- Randi, Bill, Olevia, Sharon, Bernice, Virginia, Karen, Gary, Carolyn, Alice, Brendan, Marty, Ellen, Glenn, Yolanda, Ken, Donald, Grandpa Boone, Stuart

For Comfort

- Friends and Family of *Doug Spitz, Especially His Wife, *Cheri
- Friends and Family of Jim Kerns

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
- Guidance in Seeking a Career

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

*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.*

Attendance and Giving – January 8, 2023

In-Person Worship Attendance

Saturday, December 24

3:00 pm - n/a

4:30 pm - 157

6:00 pm - 79

8:00 pm - 275

10:00 pm - 84

Sunday, December 25

10:00 am - 82

Total Christmas In-Person Worship: 674

Saturday, December 31

10:00 am - 61

Sunday, January 1

10:00 am - 138

Total In-Person Worship: 199

Views of Online Worship at RLC's YouTube Channel

Saturday, December 24

8:00 pm - 221

Total Online Views: 221 views

General Fund Giving and Spending - November 2022

	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
General Receipts	\$ 115,529.57	\$ 519,084.79
<u>Total Disbursements</u>	<u>\$ 102,887.30</u>	<u>\$ 516,598.90</u>
Receipts Less Disbursements	\$ 12,642.27	\$ 2,485.89

Last Week's Offerings: \$23,380.39

Average Weekly Giving for 2022/23: \$23,594.76

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 1/6/23