

Crosstalk February 2019

Risen Christ Lutheran Church
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Celeste Whitehead

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1st Grade Teacher
Heidi Congleton

2nd Grade Teacher
Deb Rutledge

3rd Grade Teacher
Jeff Parks

4th, 5th & 6th Grade Teachers
Caitlin Everhart
Anna Schack
Kelli Inskeep

Before Care
Lillian Swain

School Support Staff
Betty Ward
Lisa Mulkey

Crossing a Line

*The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.
(Psalm 16:6)*

Perhaps you were as horrified as I to learn what a Chinese researcher has done. Dr. He Jian-kui edited the DNA of human embryos and then implanted those into women who are giving birth to the first genetically engineered children.

The process Dr. He used has been used in agriculture to develop genetically modified crops and livestock with the goals of increasing yields and eliminating diseases. Yet most Western nations have forbidden such experimentation in humans, fearing that changes to the human genome may lead to genetic errors and unintended consequences.

Ignoring conventions of the scientific community, Dr. He recruited men with HIV and uninfected women to conceive children *in vitro*. He then “edited” the fertilized eggs to remove a gene associated with generating a protein that allows HIV to infect a cell. Two girls have been born, and another pregnancy is about to come to term.

National Institute of Health director Francis Collins expressed his outrage: *He crossed every line, scientifically and ethically.* Sadly others are crying foul, too, even though they themselves laid the foundation for what he did, and some even “edited” human embryos themselves. Yet they consider themselves morally superior because they killed the developing babies instead of implanting them.

Due to the uproar, Chinese authorities have now “disappeared” Dr. He, so he’s likely not going to be able to continue his experimentation. Nevertheless, has the damage been done? Will something harmful be passed down from generation to generation?

Dr. Gene Veith of Concordia Theological Seminary observes: *The double helix of DNA is reminiscent of the spiral ramps of the Babylonian ziggurats, which may have had a similar design to that of the Tower of Babel. We may be seeing here another technological innovation involving the human desire to be God and the subsequent misuse of language (in this case, genetic language with meaningful sequences that can be “edited”).*

Rejoice that your lines have fallen in pleasant places. Through Christ, sin—that dreaded condition that has corrupted our nature—has been atoned for. No matter what the earthly consequences might be for our “mis-actions,” on the Last Day all things will be set straight. There will be only perfection there. Indeed we have a beautiful inheritance in the New Heavens and New Earth!

~ Pastor Rich

A BIG "THANK YOU" TO...

- Tamara Walters and her grandchildren Austin and Taya for cleaning the kitchen.
- Kim Hunt for sorting through so many items.
- Lillian Swain for stepping in to serve as Financial Secretary
- All our dedicated school teachers.
- Bob Dahle for working as IT lone ranger and his tonto Reed.
- Ladies Bible Study for packing up and hauled excess kitchen items to Salvation Army.
- All who de-decorated after Christmas.
- Ministry Team Leaders for their presentation to the Voters.
- Eric Martin for keeping our sidewalks clean.
- Senior High and their parents for the Spaghetti dinner prior to the voters meeting.
- Voters for support of the high school youth who are attending the National Youth Gathering.

February Birthdays & Anniversaries



3 David Bauer
Owen McGuffey
6 Pastor Rich
7 Rebecca Krieger
13 Sherry Whitt
Colin Linderman
17 David Arnold
22 David Petersen
Blake Vollrath
23 Phillip Hawkins
24 Dorothy Mote
25 Laura Bern
28 Rob Koval



2 Julie Hale
Kole Vollrath
11 Marcella Caskey
Gene Baumgardner
16 Brian Perks
17 Amy McGuffey
24 Ken Kueker
26 Christine Buck



8 Don & Helen Craig
22 Homer & Constance Ryman

Elders Article

ONCE AGAIN, THE BODY OF CHRIST COMES THROUGH – THANK YOU!

As many of you (if not all) know, for several months I've been listed every week on our bulletin insert in the paragraph containing the names of those requesting prayer. This was due to the fact that last June I was diagnosed with stage 4 cancer of the lymph nodes – lymphoma. At the time, my oncologist chose chemotherapy (where chemicals are pumped into the patient to kill off the cancerous cells with the hope that healthy cells won't be too adversely affected) as the initial treatment method. Every 3 weeks I was to undergo a treatment with an evaluation via a PET/CAT Scan after every 3 treatments to see how I was doing. This was to go on for at least 6 treatments.

After the first 3 treatments I went through the scan and the results showed everything was "normal". I was a little afraid of asking what that meant – i.e., normal for someone with or without cancer or for someone who had just completed 3 chemo treatments, or...? It turned out that they couldn't identify any cancerous cells via the scan. However, my doctor wanted me to do another 3 treatments, with a couple month break before another scan just to make sure. Recently I went through another scan and got the results January 18. They were the same as the previous one – I am, evidently, cancer-free.

I share this for a couple of reasons. First of all, I think when we ask someone to pray for us, we owe it to them to keep them apprised of the status of that specific thing. But my main purpose in writing this is to thank each you for the role you may have played in assuring those results. I have been overwhelmed with the support I've received from this congregation. Thank you for the prayers and the encouragement via cards and letters and phone calls. Thank you, Pastor Rich, for bringing me communion when I couldn't get out. Thank all of you who came and cleaned up my yard when I couldn't do that. Most of all, thank God for answering so many prayers.

Finally, I'd like to encourage you who may not be on the prayer chain to consider having your name added to it. Take it seriously when you do. You might also consider taking home the bulletin inserts and praying during the week for those on it.

I'm convinced the Body of Christ has been given all we need to build one another up and I thank God for each of you and for what you provided me.

-- Bob Craven

7 Advantages of Long-Term Church Membership

The best things in life don't come in a hurry. They take time. But they're worth the investment

–Karl Vaters

While we're right to be concerned about church-hoppers and church-droppers, people don't typically go to a church with the plan of leaving soon. Most want to put down roots and stay committed for the long haul.

There's always a core group of faithful people at the heart of every healthy congregation. Our lives and our churches are better because of them.

Here are just a few advantages of staying put in a congregation through the good times and bad:

1. You develop deeper relationships

While it's always nice to meet new folks (and it's God's work on earth to help them connect with your circle of friends) there's nothing like knowing and growing with a group of people over a lifetime, or a major segment of your lifetime.

There are so many life lessons that simply take time to learn. No matter how smart we are or how hard we work, nothing can replace living life with people who know, love and watch out for each other year after year and decade after decade.

There are no shortcuts to deep relationships. You have to put in the time.

2. You're less likely to repeat the same cycles

If we move from church to church we can stay spiritually stuck and not know it. Everything around us has changed, so we don't have to.

If we move from church to church we can stay spiritually stuck and not know it.

It may feel like we're growing deeper, but we may be doing nothing but repeating the same cycles in a new environment. And there's no one in that new church who's known us long enough to spot it, call us on it, or help us get past it.

We can also get stuck when we stay put, of course. But the repetition is more noticeable, which might provide an incentive to grow deeper.

Some of the people I most admire are longtime friends who might seem like little more than everyday churchgoers to everyone else, but I've watched them grow deeper, wiser and kinder year after year.

3. You can be part of the foundation that others build on

Every church needs a foundation to build on. But it's hard to do that when the ground either grows hard (through stubbornness) or keeps shifting (through constant coming and going).

One of the reasons we honor the giants of the faith who came before us is because they laid a foundation when they encouraged, supported and even funded our new, crazy ideas. We honor them when we do the same for those who come after us.

4. You can be a great champion for both stability and change

When a newcomer or young person promotes change in the church, that's expected. And it can be easy to ignore. But when a long-time member champions change, it carries a lot of weight.

In addition to being a landmark of stability, as we saw in the previous point, long-time members can be among the strongest proponents of necessary changes.

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Whenever our church has needed to make significant jumps forward, we've relied as much on the stability, wisdom and support of our older, longtime members as we have on the enthusiasm, energy and passion of those who are young and new.

There's so much concern about the generational divide in churches today. When we stick around a while, we can become the glue that helps bridge that divide.

For more on how to do this well, check out my previous article, [Hey, Boomers! Let's Step Up And Be The Elders The Church Desperately Needs Right Now](#).

5. You can help a healthy church become healthier

The strongest, healthiest churches are the ones that have been around a while, have learned the hard lessons over time, and have adapted to changing circumstances while keeping solid on the essentials of the faith.

That can't happen when there are no long-timers around, or when the long-timers grow hard and stubborn about getting their own way.

But when a healthy church has a mix of newcomers and long-time members all working together for a common vision of the future ... well that's about as good as it gets.

6. You can spot and help fix problems before they get too big

There's no substitute for the eyes of wisdom and experience.

If you've been around a while and are paying attention, you're often able to spot potential problems that the younger, busier church members might not see.

Yes, there will always be stubborn old coots who see problems with everything, and there will always be flighty young people who ignore the sage advice of their elders, but that doesn't have to be the norm.

If you stay steady, supportive, adaptive and kind, young people today are more willing to listen to the advice of their elders than many previous generations were.

The key is to keep positive, be available and pick your battles carefully.

7. You get to see and participate in generational progress

We hear a lot about churches that have grown from small to big in a short period of time. But those churches are few and far between.

The typical church grows slowly and steadily. Over decades, not just a few years.

The typical church grows slowly and steadily. Over decades, not in a couple years.

If you invest a lifetime into a healthy church, you'll get to see a depth of growth that few others will ever have the chance to appreciate.

As believers in Jesus, we're dealing with a timeline that's eternal.

The best things in life don't come in a hurry. They take time. But they're worth the investment.



Risen Christ Lutheran School Needs:

- *Disinfecting Wipes (tubes)
- *Paper Towels
- *Tissues

*Place in container marked school located in the narthex.
THANK YOU!!*

Cookbooks



Anytime something is published there are mistakes. The Risen Christ Cookbook is no different. Even though it was proofread carefully, we have some errors. We apologize for the inconvenience. If the recipe you submitted has an error, please write the correction and the page number of the recipe, and put it in Patty Arnold's church mailbox or email the correction to pattycake911@roadrunner.com and we will print a sheet of corrections which can be included in the cookbooks.



VERSE OF THE MONTH - February 2019

“Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the Lord. Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord.”

Jeremiah 17:5 & 7

Scriptures for February 2019

February 3

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Old Testament: Jeremiah 1:4-10

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 12:31b-13:13

Gospel: Luke 4:31-44

Psalm 74:1-6

February 10

The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Old Testament: Isaiah 6:1-8

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 14:12b-20

Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

Psalm 138

February 17

The Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

Old Testament: Jeremiah 17:5-8

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:12-20

Gospel: Luke 6:17-26

Psalm 1

February 24

The Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

Old Testament: Genesis 45:3-15

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 15:21-26, 30-42

Gospel: Luke 6:27-38

Psalm 103:1-13

February 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
*HC Holy Communion					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8 am Worship 9:30 am Bible Class Confirmation 10:45 am HC Worship 5:00 pm IHN Dinner		9:45 am Women's Bible Study		School Science Fair 6:30 pm Cub Scouts Blue & Gold Banquet		9 am Cub Scout Pinewood Derby
10	11	12	13	Valentine's Day 14	15	16
8 am HC Worship 9:30 am Thrivent Coffee/ Bible Class 10:45 am Worship 6 pm Confirmation	6:30 am Men's Bible Study	9:45 am Women's Bible Study 5:00 pm School Board	7 pm Not a Fan & Ladies Bible Study		No School	CrossTalk Articles Due
17	Presidents day 18	19	20	21	22	23
8 am Worship 9:30 am Bible Class 10:45 am HC Worship 6 pm Confirmation	No School	9:45 am Women's Bible Study 12-2 pm Food Pantry	Best Practice Conference- Phoenix			
24	25	26	27	28		
8 am HC Worship 9:30 am Bible Class 10:45 am Worship 6 pm Confirmation	6:30 am Men's Bible Study	9:45 am Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm Elders Meeting	7 pm Not a Fan & Ladies Bible Study			

Those serving us in the month of February 2019

8:00 a.m. SERVICE

	Elder	Acolyte	Greeters	Ushers	Reader	Altar Care	Sound Board
2/3	Bob Craven	Kelsey Vollrath	Ed Berg	Paul Bok Chuck Bern Steve Rutledge	Greg Shrader		Scott Tursic
2/10	Jamie McGuffey	Blake Vollrath	Lynn Petersen	Keith Vollrath Gene Baumgardner Ed Berg	Kole Vollrath	Deb Rutledge	Steve Rutledge
2/17	Philip Sears	Kaden McGuffey	Chandra Shrader	Rich Silliman Philip Sears Greg Shrader	Linda Sears		Kole Vollrath
2/24	Rob Hunt	Jackson Windeknecht	Helen Craig	Dave Peterson Greg Shrader Chuck Bern	Helen Craig	Jo Baumgardner	Wiebecks

10:45 a.m. SERVICE

	Elder	Acolyte	Greeter	Ushers	Reader	Altar Care	Sound Board	Counters
2/3	Bob Craven	Colin Linderman	Marcella Caskey	Denny Norden Phil Hawkins Homer Ryman	Jon Linderman	Jo Baumgardner	Wiebecks	John Bacevic & Denna Johnson
2/10	Jamie McGuffey	Dakota Roy	David Arnold	David Arnold Bob Craven Denny Norden	Anthony Montecalvo		Sarah Bussell & Bob Craven	Dave Thomas & Dave Petersen
2/17	Philip Sears	Ethan Cunningham	Patty Arnold	David Arnold Homer Ryman Phil Hawkins	Randy Schwarz	Deb Rutledge	Bob & Reed Dahle	Denny Norden & Beryl Boggess
2/24	Rob Hunt	Joey Koval	Judy Lemmon	Denny Norden Phil Hawkins Bob Craven	Duane Wiebeck		Scott Tursic	Steve Rutledge & Deb Rutledge