

CrossTalk January 2021

Risen Christ Lutheran Church

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Well! That is behind us! Finally! I thought that we would never see the end of it. It just kept going and going and going.....

2020. The year that changed the world. The year that changed our lives. The year that destroyed hopes and dreams. The year that saw thousands and thousands of lives cut short. The year that changed how we worship and how we interact with one another. The year that changed how we shop and how we eat out. The year that saw political divisions grow wider and deeper. The year that.....Is now behind us.

2021 – will it be any better? So far, it looks as though it is going to be more of the same, and in many ways, worse. So now what do we do? Is this our new normal?

In the third chapter of Genesis, we see Adam and Eve sinning against God and changing the future of all humanity, of all creation. As God confronts them and He lists for them some of the many changes that would now come forth because of their disobedience.

“To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.” And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” (Gen. 3:16-19 ESV)

Then God kicked them out of Paradise. In the next chapter one of their children killed the other out of jealousy.

Several millennia later, here we are. Still dealing with the effects of their rebellion. Still reeling from the consequences of sin. 2020 has magnified many of those consequences: Disease, death, discord, dissension, destruction, disputes, discrimination, and devastation of seemingly every sort.

So, what does this say for 2021? Are we to simply give up? Are we to put down our head and hands in defeat? Are we to have no hope for tomorrow? Where do we go from here?

The simple answer is this – keep moving forward, from one day to the next. Not giving up. Not abandoning hope for better days. The world continues to be broken and we will continue to have problems of various sorts. But we have God’s gracious power to cling to and His mighty hand to lean on in the midst of many struggles.

The Apostle Peter writes to Christians who are struggling from persecution and homelessness because of their faith writes,

“Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world. And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you. To him be the dominion forever and ever. Amen. 1 Peter 5:6-11 ESV

We will see some things get better in 2021. We will see some things continue to be the frightful mess that they are. We might even see some things get worse in this fallen world. But as God’s church we get to be the light in the darkness. We get to hold out the hope of Jesus. We get to spend more time in His Word and worship (in various forms) so that we grow in faith even through this tumultuous season of misery.

As your pastor, I challenge each of you to decide to spend more time each day than in times past in the following areas:

Prayer,
Study of God’s Word,
Contemplation of what His Word means for you each day,
Looking for and acting on opportunities to make a positive difference,

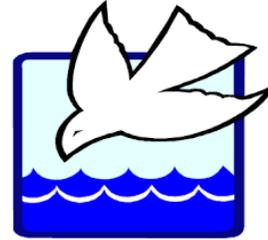
Risen Christ Lutheran Church and School is established for and then live together in faith, we will see His mighty hand work powerfully and gloriously in this fallen, fighting and frightened world.

“You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16 ESV

LIVE IN THE LIGHT AND BE THE LIGHT!

Pastor Brad Viken

January Birthdays & Anniversaries



1 Jo Baumgardner
10 Terry Calkins
11 Jerenia Rucker
Adam Henderson
Gayle Roberts
13 Jeff Kaiser
14 Chandra Shrader
15 Marcella Caskey
Lindsey Koval
Bill Patterson
18 Patty Arnold
Tyler Ackley
22 Richard Davis
23 Courtney Whitt
26 Mary Lou Rizzotte
Robert Dahle
28 Charles Bern
29 Linnea Matusak
30 Amy McGuffey
31 Charles Cunningham
Ken Kueker

5 Dorothy Lambacher
9 Kelsey Vollrath
12 Sarah Bussell
Adam Henderson
13 Rachae Henderson
29 Jim Mote
30 Adam Schwarz
31 Terry Calkins



No Anniversaries this month

Elders Article

Greetings from the little town up north. I hope this finds you in good spirits and in good health. I am going to keep my article short and sweet.

After the year we have all endured I find it very fitting to quote **Ecclesiastes 3**, "*To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven. A time to be born and a time to die, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to break down, and a time to build up. A time to weep, and a time to laugh, a time to mourn, and a time to dance. A time to cast away stones, a time to gather stones, and a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing. a time to get, and a time to lose, a time to keep and a time to cast away. A time to rend and a time to sew, a time to keep silence, and a time to speak. A time to love, and a time to hate, a time of war, and a time of peace.*"

I feel this scripture can pretty much touch all of our lives especially during the current time. Take any part of it and apply it in your life today, and I am sure it will fit. May God find you where you are, pick you up and give you peace. May the new year bring you more laughter, embracing, healing, love and dancing. Wishing you a blessed 2021!

Jamie McGuffey



A Time For Everything

Ecclesiastes

3:1-8

2021 LWML CONVENTION

January 2021

Renewed Strength as we begin a new year. We pray that our strength will be renewed to continue the race to Lexington, Kentucky, and the 2021 LWML Convention. A marathon can dehydrate us and make us thirsty and hungry. We grow weary. The Living Water, the Bread of Life, the Sacraments, prayer, hearing and studying God's Word, all give us that renewed strength to continue the race toward the goal of bringing all plans to completion. We pray for God's blessings on this convention; that the Lord supplies volunteers from the Host Convention Districts, Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio, to serve in one of the 500 plus positions available. Go to the LWML Indiana District website, www.lwmlindiana.org to find the Call for Workers! Volunteer Application Form and share the form with others. Workers are needed in all positions. Check the positions where you want to serve by marking them first choice, second choice, etc. Download the form and send or email to Penny Letterman at the address on the form as soon as possible. By volunteering at least eight hours, you will receive a generous discount on your registration fee. You will receive a special registration form along with the discount coupon in a Worker's Packet. Have you ordered your LWML Convention Logo Polo Shirt? Download the order form at www.lwmlindiana.org and order before the March 1, 2021, deadline. See the winter issue of the Lutheran Woman's Quarterly for convention information. DO select a hotel from the options in the Quarterly.

Thank You from Helen Craig



I would like to say thank you to all our wonderful Risen Christ family for all the kind thoughts and prayers and gifts during Don Craig's recent brief illness and following his death on Dec. 4, 2020.

Office Help



RCLC School will be back in session mid- January. We will really need office/school helpers then. At least four of our helpers will not be available to help until Spring, due to travel plans. Please consider helping at least a half day. The teachers need help with making copies and sorting. Becky and Kathy also need help; with filing, copies, sorting and errands. And Pastor Brad will need help with many tasks while he is moving into his office. The office needs help answering the phone and taking care of anyone who needs to come into the church/office. Please consider helping. Contact Denna Johnson, 937-568-4904 or johnsonslampshop@woh.rr.com.

Thank You!



Many thanks to all of you who participated in the Christmas Card Connection project. We have \$150 for our CWEFT-Thailand mission and have sent over 200 cards! Redesigned (and some new) cards for all types of occasions (e.g. birthday, congratulations, get well, sympathy, anniversary, holidays, thinking of you, praying for you, etc.) are available in the narthex. Donations for these cards are designated to CWEFT. Take time to send a personal card—especially to those that you have not seen for some time. It feels good to be remembered—especially during this pandemic time.

The Sisters in Christ

GREETINGS LADIES OF RISEN CHRIST



For several years now it has been one of our mission projects to pack “goody” boxes for our college students and shut-ins. We would like to continue this worthwhile project and surprise our college students and shut-ins again this year. Traditionally, we have met together for a delicious breakfast and coffee and have a brief devotion. Then we packed the boxes.

As with many other activities this past year, we need to change our “traditional” format. Sadly, we will not meet as a group, but need help with:

1. **Let us know** if your son or daughter **attends college classes** and give us their **address** on campus, or, if they live at home while attending classes, we can mail it there.
2. **Provide snacks that will be packed and sent.** You might bring things like snack size individual packages of cookies, candy, ramen noodles, raisins, popcorn, posit-its, gum, etc. **There will be a collection box in the narthex.**
3. Empty shoe boxes for mailing.
4. Our target time for assembling and mailing packages is Feb. 4 at 2:00. If you would like to be part of packing boxes, please contact Patty Arnold at 937-325-3304. All are welcome! Join us in the school library.

Thank you!

Sisters in Christ

Scriptures for January 2021



Verse of the Month – January 2021

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (ESV)

January 3

Second Sunday after Christmas

First Reading: 1 King 3:4-15

Second Reading: Eph. 1:3-14

Gospel: Luke 2:40-52

Psalm 119:97-104

January 10

The Baptism of Our Lord

First Reading: Gen. 1:1-5

Second Reading: Rom. 6:1-11

Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

Psalm 29

January 17

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

First Reading: 1 Sam. 3:1-10

Second Reading: 1 Cor. 6:12-20

Gospel: John 1:43-51

Psalm 139:1-10

January 24

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Second Reading: 1 Cor. 7:29-31

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

Psalm 62

January 31

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

First Reading: Deut. 18:15-20

Second Reading: 1 Cor. 8:1-13

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

Psalm 111

January 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					New Year's Day 1	2
3 9 am Sunday School 10 am HC Worship	4 School Resumes (online)	5	6	7	8	9
10 9 am Sunday School 10 am HC Worship	11	12 5 pm School Board Meeting	13	14 School Resumes (in person)	15	16
17 9 am Sunday School 10 am HC Worship	18 MLK Day School Closed	19 11 am-1 pm Food Pantry 7 pm Board of Directors	20	21	22	23 10 am Leadership Planning Event
24 9 am Sunday School 10 am HC Worship	25	26 7 pm Elders Meeting	27	28	29	30
31 9 am Sunday School 10 am HC Worship						

Those serving January 2021

10:00 am

	Elder	Greeter	Ushers	Reader	Altar Care	Sound Board	Counters
1/3	Randy Schwarz	Sara Hale	Dave Petersen Greg Shrader Chuck Bern	Greg Shrader	Deb Rutledge	Duane Wiebeck	John Bacevic & Denna Johnson
1/10	Rob Hunt	Sharon Heilmann	Chris Kitt Homer Ryman Denny Norden	Chris Kitt	Deb Rutledge	Steve Rutledge	Dave Thomas & Dave Petersen
1/17	Philip Sears	Dawn Wells-Kitt	Dave Petersen David Arnold Steve Rutledge	Duane Wiebeck	Deb Rutledge	Bob Dahle	Beryl Boggess & Denny Norden
1/24	Randy Schwarz	Ruth Willfong	Ed Berg Sam McKee Steve Roberts	Eric Martin	Deb Rutledge	Duane Wiebeck	Steve & Deb Rutledge
1/31	Rob Hunt	Patty Arnold	Chris Heilmann David Arnold Keith Vollrath	Jo Baumgardner	Deb Rutledge	Duane Wiebeck	Steve & Deb Rutledge