

CrossTalk August 2017

Risen Christ Lutheran Church
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Rhythm

[B]ut the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. (Exodus 20:10)

Rhythm, my friend and mentor Steve W. Smith notes, is God's way of helping us live resilient lives. When practiced, rhythm is transformational in that it shows us how to thrive, experiencing life to its fullest.

Rhythm is built into all of creation, being experienced as days, seasons, and years which govern not only how animals but also we humans behave. We get up in the morning and sleep at night. Jobs that disrupt that natural rhythm command higher pay. In our area county fairs dictate how many families spend their time and schedule their vacations.

The rhythm of life is poetically explained in Psalm 104:19-23. There the last verse notes how work is to cease at evening. That's the part many find difficult! Though we live in a 24/7 world, we were never created to function in one. We were created to work in one span of time and to be off and rest in another. Our violation of God's rhythm has thrown us out of sync, leaving many busy people frantically searching for more balance in their lives.

Living in such a breathless condition is a result of our bent ways of perceiving reality. Seeking balance, as anyone who has sought to achieve it can attest, doesn't work. The concept of a balanced life does not appear in the Bible. Rather, in God's Word we find rhythm in life, which was lived out by Jesus and modeled by those in the early church. Church spires had bells which rung out at regular predictable times of the day, calling people to pray. Rhythm offers a kinder, gentler way to live. It leads to shalom, a sense of well being in all areas of life. Life is meant to be enjoyed, not endured!

Rhythm ultimately hinges on the Sabbath, which God Himself created for us who were created in His image. The Sabbath is God's promise that he cares deeply for us. Isaiah (58:13-14) encourages us to live in this grace, ensuring that we worship the Lord on that day and enjoy the world and people around us. There we will find joy!

So, as summer comes to a close and a new school and Sunday school year are about to begin, let's ask the Spirit to help us get back into the rhythm of weekly worship and to fill us with the joy of salvation.

Shalom,

Pastor Rich

A BIG "THANK YOU" TO...

- A hefty thanks to Kole and Blake Vollrath and Scott Tursic for moving a bunch of VBS items to the shed.
- A big thank you too to Revs. Kueker and Dobbins for leading services, which allowed me to enjoy Andrew's wedding and the wilderness of Canada with Scott.
- A special thanks to Greg and Chandra Shrader for stepping up to head up Outreach.
- With that move the Treasurer's spot opened up. So, thanks are also due to Steve Rutledge for picking up the books in the interim and to Sarah Bussell for her willingness to serve the rest of Greg's term as Treasurer.

August 2017 Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 3 Rob Hunt
Garrett Perks
Sharon Perks
- 6 Sara Hale
- 8 Lily Wells Kitt
- 10 Grace Bennett
Susan Gallagher
- 11 Dennis Dobbins
- 14 Kelsey MaGregor
- 15 Kaitlin Musick
- 19 Homer Ryman
- 22 Norma Kettler
- 24 David Thomas
- 26 Manfred K Rembold
Alisha Ervin
- 29 Kristina Vollrath
- 30 Rick Miller

Baptism Birthday

- 2 Steve Ritledge
- 9 Dennis Norden
- 15 Johnny Kuziak
- 20 Nathan Bern
Rebecca Reid
- 21 Matthew Buck
- 28 Sandi Click
- 31 Jan Craven



Wedding Anniversary

- 3 Chris & Sharon Heilmann
John & Margie Kuziak
- 9 Brad & Rebecca Reid
Jim & Marti Brueggeman
- 14 Chuck & Mickey Dahle



Spot the Spirit

Pastor Dave Luecke of Royal Redeemer (North Royalton, OH) will help us launch our Rally Day with a special spiritual emphasis. His new book is *How to Spot the Spirit's Work in Your Life*. After preaching in the morning, he will lead four sessions of presentation and small group discussion that raise awareness of the Spirit's presence and power in our own lives plus that of our congregation.

The workshop will begin at 12:30 and be finished by 5:00 pm. Lunch will be served. Consider participating if you want to

- Renew excitement from recognizing the Spirit at work.
- Increase the effectiveness of your witness to others.
- Have several hours of Christ-based small group fellowship.

Please sign up on the Spot the Spirit sheet on the old altar in the Narthex so that we can plan lunch accordingly. Thank you.

Rally Day - August 20 

Mark your calendars! Rally Day is set for August 20th. This is the day we celebrate and kick-off the start to the new year of Sunday School for both adults and children. The fun begins at 9:30. Children will meet their Sunday School Teachers and adults will hear about new classes being offered for them. Children will participate in special activities and our tradition balloon launch will be at 10:20.

In addition, Rev. David Luecke (from LCMS congregation Royal Redeemer, in North Royalton, OH) will be our guest preacher on Rally Day. He will also facilitate several afternoon workshops based on his book, *How to Spot the Spirit's Work in Your Life*. Lunch will be provided. See the sign up sheet on the old altar in the Narthex. There is also more info there about Rev. Luecke and his book. Come, be refreshed and learn to spot the Holy Spirit at work in you, the lives of your loved ones as well as our own congregation!

Elders Article

Greetings from the little town up north, I hope these words find you in a good place. My thoughts and prayers are with you all in hopes that your struggles will soon subside and you find peace in your life. May we all pray for those who are in need, weather physical or emotional, that they find and have the strength to carry on.

My article comes to you with a lot of random thoughts, as I have been away from church on vacation seemingly for a long time, although vacations are never long enough. My family and I take vacation every year to a little town called Ashtabula, in the far North east corner of the state, to a LOMO camp called Camp Luther. If God himself did not touch these few acres with his own hand, I would be shocked. Generations of families come back to this same spot every year, to sweat it out for a week; no TV, no Internet, no AC, barley any phone service, and no hot water in the cabin, which quite frankly is fine with me!

The generations that come back to that heaven on earth spot, live there life through the same lens as we do; Love of God, family, friendship, and most importantly each other. As it is called Camp Luther and is predominantly attended by those of the Lutheran faith, there are those who attend other churches who come back every single year. When you arrive and meet and greet each other, it's as if you have never been apart, your conversations pick up seemingly right where they left off. The camp has been referred to in the past as a cult camp and jokes run amuck by the locals as I have been told. But it stops no one from making the journey back, some from as far as Georgia and Florida, or even China, and Africa.

As you can tell, my family and I love this place, we only go one week of the year and our daughter Kayla has worked at the camp for the past two summers.

So what happened to my random thoughts I opened with, it brings me back to our little church and a problem we all seem to notice, the lack of attendance in the service. My thoughts started really churning after our service this past weekend on the book of Matthew and the parable of the weeds and the wheat.

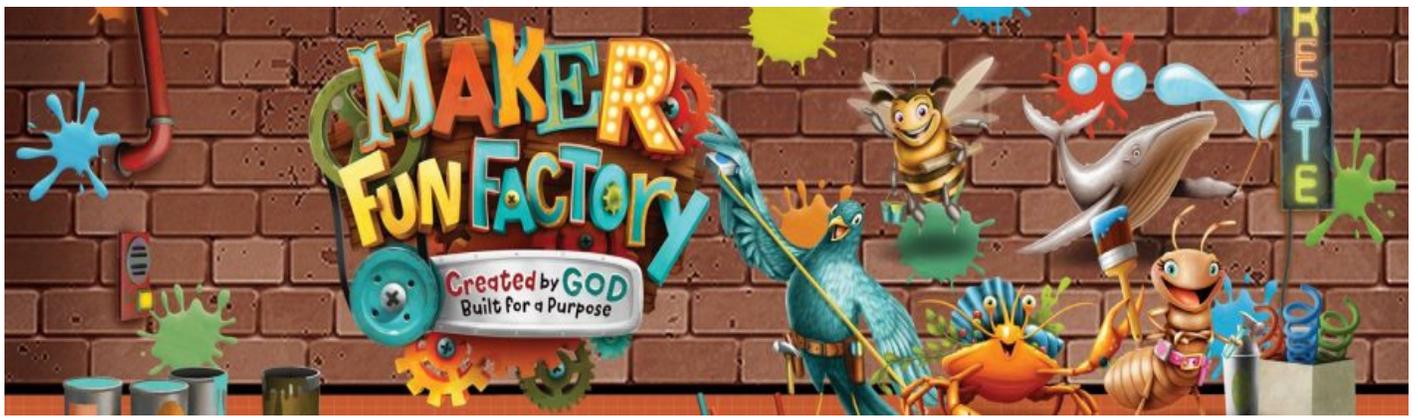
I cannot help but wonder about our own congregation and how many of us are weeds, and which ones are the wheat.

As being appointed by my peers as a new elder, I even question why or how I arrived at this point in my life, and sometimes why I said yes to the position. In my short time I have been exposed to the good and the not so good sides of church. While it's not the first time, as I was on the board of my other church, it still gets me that we are all Christians and we go to the same church, and most live a few miles away, but just can't seem to make it on Sunday morning. While I am not perfect by any means, and many of you hardly know me, and partially to my own failure as a leader in the church, I have not lived up to my expectations or the roll I agreed to in every possible way.

Which brings me, in a roundabout way, back to my randomness and the main point to my article. I am not a writer, not a perfect Christian, not a perfect anything most days. Many of you know very little of my history or what and who I am, which is also true for me in regard to you. Which, if you think about it, is kind of sad. The people who drive for hours and days to get back to that little camp seem to have a better relationship than some of us do. Yet we are all family, following the same ideology, love of God, family, and each other. I guess the only thing left to decide is if you are a tall weed or a tall stalk of wheat. Most of the time I look in the mirror and ask myself the same question.

May God bless you all.

-Jamie McGuffey



VBS 2017

Maker Fun Factory - Created by God Built for a Purpose

This year's VBS was great fun! A total of 73 different kids (26 were from RCLS elementary and 12 were RCLS Preschool) came and learned that they were created by God and built for a purpose.

The congregation helped build the foundation of fun for VBS by bringing in "before and after" photos for the search and find *God's Masterpiece ... Me!* wall. What a fun way to begin the decorating and see our members!

Each night's adventure began in the sanctuary with songs, a skit, Bible verse, Bible Point, and a video of the Bible Buddy of the day. The kids then attended four different stations (Bible Discovery, Games, Imagination Station, and Kid Video/Snacks) to learn more about the night's theme. The kids headed by to the sanctuary for Funshop Finale to sing songs, review the lesson by watching a video featuring some of the kids acting out the Bible story, and experiencing experiments like the Atmospheric Accelerator.

A HUGE Thank you to each and every person that helped to make VBS fantastic! Whether you volunteered or donated, you were following your purpose to glorify our Lord to the kids who came through our door. We couldn't have done it without you!

2017 VBS Volunteers

Kathy, Tyler, and Dylan Ackley

David and Patty Arnold

Jo Baumgardner

Will Bauer

Kenny Bennett

Chuck and Laura Bern

Natalie Boehmer

Paul Bok

Matt and Christine Buck

Marcella Caskey

Bob and Reed Dahle

Jeannie Day

Beth, Alisha, and Alex Ervin

Gary Hale

Lynn Henman

Rob and Kim Hunt

Kelli Inskeep

Denna Johnson

Noah and Jonah Jordan

Dawn Wells-Kitt, Dakota Roy, and Isabelle Kitt

Rob, Lindsey, and Joe Koval

Margie Kuziak

Judy Lemmon

Erika and Colin Linderman

Owen and Kaden McGuffey

Brandon Metz

Rick Miller

Lisa Mulkey

Kaitlin Musick

Sydney Pepin

Dakota, Rebekah, Garrett, Wesley, and Lacey
Perks

Becky Reid

Steve and Deb Rutledge

Kylee and Noah Schafer

Randy Schwarz

Phillip and Linda Sears

Lillian Swain

Pastor, Kathy, Scott, and Kelly Tursic

Celeste Whitehead

Duane, Noelle, and Stephen Wiebeck

Parenting is Heart Work

(Set to begin September 11)

RCLC is blessed to be a recipient of the Ohio District's New Ministry Outreach Grant! The grant will be used to fund a series of parenting courses that will run each fall for the next three years. The grant application process began last year based on an informal needs analysis of the families of RCLS (school). Parents, teachers, staff and congregation members shared their insights with the Outreach Team. With much prayer, it was decided to pursue this New Ministry Outreach Grant. In keeping with our mission statement, "Enriching and renewing lives by bringing Christ to our community," it is especially fitting that we focus on the school families that step into our building everyday! Of course, congregation members and their families are also welcome to participate.

Fall 2017---8 classes, Parenting is Heart Work (course for parents and their children that emphasizes guiding and molding positive behavioral changes based on Biblical principles). Facilitators: Pastor Rich and Kathy.
See <http://www.biblicalparenting.org/default.asp> Click on Parenting is Heart Work book icon for more info.

*A meal each week plus babysitting (for children under 4 years) will be provided. The adults have their own class while the children (ages 4-15) have their own companion class that mirrors the principles being explored in the adult class.

Parenting Classes for the next two years will be:
Fall 2018---4 classes on computer/internet safety
Fall 2019---6 classes on financial literacy/budgeting

Stay tuned for ways that you can help! Meals? Babysitting? Children's class? Advertising? Prayer Partners? Next year's facilitators? You are blessed to be a unique blessing to others! Let Kathy Tursic know how you'd like to be involved in this new, exciting project!

GETTING TO KNOW OUR RISEN CHRIST FAMILY

Meet Celeste Whitehead

We would like to welcome Celeste as our new Office Manager/Secretary at Risen Christ. She and her family reside in the Enon area. She was born in Clark County, however as she grew up, she lived in Scotland and Maine. After her brother came along they continued to move around, living in Virginia, Florida and Mississippi because she was a "Navy Brat." Her dad was a Torpedoman in the United States Navy. They moved back to this area where she attended Northwestern High School and Clark County JVS where she studied Dental Assisting and graduated from there with her Dental Assisting and Radiology License.

Celeste married her husband, Brian, in 2014. They are the parents of a little girl named Mara (age 2), and a son, who passed away at birth, named Brock. They also have an American Bull Dog/Collie mix named Tommy. Celeste's husband, Brian, has MS (Multiple Sclerosis) and works at Wright Patterson Air Force Base as a Contractor doing Video Telecommunications.

Celeste enjoys spending time with her family, playing with her daughter and reading during her "down" time. She and her husband often host a "game night" with their friends and family.

We hope you will stop by the church office and meet Celeste and give her a warm welcome.

FAMILY AND YOUTH INITIATIVES THANKS US

Family and Youth Initiatives showed their appreciation to Risen Christ for participating in the Mother's Day flower sale this year.

"Our Family Youth Initiative Parenting Program encourages their clients and youth to be responsible, have respect, and look toward long term goals. Each of the nine programs is specialized to give them the tools they need to understand God's vision for their lives. We are grateful that you have chosen to share in this vision and support our mission. Your partnership with us will help our clients and the youth that we serve and will help us change the culture within our communities. Thank you."

Sincerely,

Pat Banaszak, Executive Director



RCLC EVENT PICTURES NEEDED

We have begun a project to update our RCLC history presentation, which we show new members and during special events. The current one hasn't been updated for over 10 years. If you have RCLC related pictures that you think are less than 10 years old and that we might be able to use, please put them on a thumb/pen drive and give to Bob Craven. You will get your drive back once we've downloaded the pictures. Thank you for your support.





Scriptures for August 2017

August 6

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-5
Second Reading: Romans 9:1-5 (6-13)
Gospel: Matthew 14:13-21
Psalm 136:1-9 (23-26)

August 13

First Reading: Job 28:4-18
Second Reading: Romans 10:5-17
Gospel: Matthew 14:22-33
Psalm 18:1-9

August 20

First Reading: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
Second Reading: Romans 11:1-2a,
13-15, 28-32
Gospel Matthew 15:21-28
Psalm: 67

August 27

First Reading: Isaiah 51:1-6
Second Reading: Romans 11:33-12:8
Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20
Psalm 138

VERSE OF THE MONTH – August 2017

Lift up your eyes to the heavens, and look at the earth beneath; for the heavens vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and they who dwell in it will die in like manner; but my salvation will be forever, and my righteousness will never be dismayed

Isaiah 51:6

August 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
*HC Holy Communion		1 9:45 am Women's Bible Study	2	3	4	5
6 8 am Worship 9:30 am Bible Class 10:45 am HC Worship	7 4:30 pm TOPS 6 pm LifeGroup	8 9:45 am Women's Bible Study 5 pm School Board Meeting 7 pm Ministry Team Leaders	9	10	11	12
13 8 am HC Worship 9:30 am Bible Class 10:45 am Worship 2 pm Golf Outing	14 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 4:30 pm TOPS	15 9:45 am Women's Bible Study 12-2 pm Food Pantry 7 pm Board of Governors	16	17	18 CrossTalk Articles due	19
20 RALLY DAY 8 am Worship 9:30 am Bible Class 10:45 am HC Worship 12:30 pm Spot the Spirit Workshop 7 pm Sr High Youth Grp	21 4:30 pm TOPS 6 pm LifeGroup	22 9:45 am Women's Bible Study Back to School Outreach Event 6-7 pm School Orientation 7-8 pm Ice Cream Social 7 pm Elders	23 8:30 am School's Boo-Hoo Breakfast	24	25	26
27 8 am HC Worship 9:30 am Bible Class 10:45 am Worship	28 6:30 am Men's Bible Study 4:30 pm TOPS	29 9:45 am Women's Bible Study	30	31		

THOSE SERVING US IN THE MONTH AUGUST 2017

8:00 SERVICE

	Elder	Acolyte	Greeters	Ushers	Readers	Altar Care	Sound Board
8/6	Denny Norden	Benjamin McKee	Ed Berg	Greg Shrader Gene Bumgardner Paul Bok	Jo Bumgardner		Scott Tursic
8/13	Jamie McGuffey	Lacey Perks	Chandra Shrader	Chuck Bern Keith Vollrath Ed Berg	Helen Craig	Deb Rutledge	Steve Rutledge
8/20	Randy Schwarz	Wesley Perks	Hellen Craig	Rich Sillman Dave Petersen Paul Bok	Bob Craven		Duane Wiebeck
8/27	Jim Perks	Alisha Ervin	Linn Sillman	Greg Shrader Philip Sears Steve Rutledge	Chuck Dahle	Deb Rutledge	Duane Wiebeck

10:45 SERVICE

	Elder	Acolyte	Greeters	Ushers	Readers	Altar Care	Sound Board	Counters
8/6	Denny Norden	Kylee Schafer	David Arnold	Homer Ryman Chris Heilmann Bob Craven	Beth Ervin	Sara Hale	Duane Wiebeck & Noelle	Deb Rutledge & Denna Johnson
8/13	Jamie McGuffey	Noah Schafer	Patty Arnold	Denny Norden Rick Miller Jessica Draganic	Chris Heilmann		Bob Craven & Sarah Bussell	Dave Thomas & Dave Petersen
8/20	Randy Schwarz	Alex Ervin	Judy Lemmon	Phil Hawkins Jim Bruggemen Jon Linderman	Rob Hunt	Sara Hale	Bob & Reed Dahle	Beryl Boggess & Denny Norden
8/27	Jim Perks	Kyle Heilmann	Phil Hawking	David Arnold Greg Shrader Rick Miller	Anthony Montecalvo		Garrett & Dakota Perks	Steve Rutledge & Chris Heilmann