

# CrossTalk December 2017

Risen Christ Lutheran Church  
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(937) 323-3688 [www.risenchristlcms.org](http://www.risenchristlcms.org)

## *Church Office Staff*

### **Pastor**

Richard Tursic

### **Elders**

Randy Schwarz  
Jim Perks  
Dennis Norden  
Bob Craven  
Jamie McGuffey

### **Office Manager**

Celeste Whitehead

### **CrossTalk Publisher**

Celeste Whitehead

## *School Staff*

### **Administrator**

Rebecca Reid

### **Director of Records**

Kathy Ackley

### **Preschool Director**

Michele Leitch

### **Preschool Aide**

Karen Dunn  
Kelli Inskeep

### **Kindergarten**

Megan Ramsey

### **1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher**

Heidi Congleton

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher**

Deb Rutledge

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher**

Jeff Parks

### **4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher**

Caitlin Everhart

### **5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher**

Anna Schack

### **Elementary Aides**

Kathy Ackley  
Kim Hunt

### **Before/After Care**

Lillian Swain

### **School Support Staff**

Betty Ward

## **Glory to God in the Highest...Among the Lowest**

*And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. (Luke 2:8)*

Advent is now upon us! We will be working our way to the plains of Bethlehem being led by other shepherds of Israel's past.

God habitually visits the "wrong people." Yet those whom the world labels trash, the Lord treats as treasure.

People like shepherds were the nobodies of Jewish culture. They were so ill regarded that they couldn't testify in court. Yet they were the ones whom God elected time and time again to shepherd his people, and they are the first to whom the angels go caroling!

Participate in our midweek services and watch the God of all grace choose these most unlikely characters for key roles in the salvation story, which finds fulfillment in the one born in a manger. Get caught up in the drama because that story involves you!

Jesus is born for everyone, high and low. But as he makes us his own, he makes us like those shepherds. He pushes us down to exalt us and humbles us to lift us up. That baby wraps us in the swaddling clothes of his own lowliness to wrap us up forever in the glorious garments of his salvation!

Each Advent midweek service will begin at 7 pm and last no longer than 45 minutes. Bring your sandals and staff, for we are going to trek through time and space with...

**Shepherd Abraham...Wednesday, December 6,**

**Shepherd Moses...Wednesday, December 13,**

**Shepherd David...Wednesday, December 20,**

**The Bethlehem Shepherds...Sunday, December 24 at 10 am**

And of course we will celebrate the nativity of our Lord during a **traditional candlelight service at 7 pm on Christmas Eve.**

May the Christ child fill you each with glorious joy as you wonder at his humble birth to save the shepherds and other nobodies like you and me!

Pastor Rich

# A BIG "THANK YOU" TO...

- To John Kuziak, Bob Craven, Kathy Tursic, Deb Rutledge and Greg and Chandra Shrader for helping with the Cheri Keaggy Concert.
- To Rich Silliman, Linn Harson, Greg and Chandra Shrader, Paul Bok, Megan Dunham and Pastor Tursic for taking time out of their schedules to help rebuild Houston.
- To Bob Dahle for all the work he has done with the Sr. High Youth.
- To Linda Sears, Kelly Tursic, Nicky and John Kuziak for playing during the Thanksgiving Eve service.
- To Rev. Dobbins for preaching while Pastor Tursic was in Texas.
- The food pantry crew who gave out bags of groceries to 214 people (68 families).

## December 2017 Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays

- 2 Kim Hunt
- 4 Brian Perks
- 5 Kelli Inskeep
- 6 Judith Lemmon  
Megan Dunham
- 8 Addison Inskeep
- 10 Don Craig  
Gene Baumgardner
- 14 Dorothy Lambacher
- 17 Sarah Bussell
- 18 Erika Linderman
- 20 Dawn Wells-Kitt

### Baptism Birthday

- 1 Brenda Montecalvo
- 6 Richard Hockemeyer  
John Arthur Draganic
- 9 Jerenia Rucker
- 10 Mary Norden
- 22 Matthew Rutledge
- 25 Deb Rutledge  
Penny Kueker

### Wedding Anniversary

- 2 Howard & Ruth Romaker
- 18 Dawn & Chris Wells Kitt
- 28 Kelli & Gregg Inskeep



# Elder Article

Greetings from a little town up north, I hope this letter finds you all in good spirits and health.

As we all get ready for the big day that is going to be here tomorrow... what... wait... do you mean... Yes the big guy is a coming, ready or not, you better be checking the naughty list to make sure your name is not there. Believe me that is one list you do not want to be on.

And if you did not know Christmas was coming I can not understand how. Especially considering the Christmas trees have been up in most of the stores since October. Not that you could see them due to the fact there were still giant blow up monsters standing in front of them. I am often confused as to what season it is anymore, as the line between holidays is so often blurred. I guess the seasons have to keep up with technology, as we all know the type writer is so yesterday.

In all seriousness I do struggle with this simple yet complex ideology as to what season people really cherish the most, and I am sure you do as well. So I ask just for one thing from the big guy in the sky this year. Some would think I am speaking of old St Nick, but the season I speak of lasts year round. Its the big guy that we all should celebrate not just one day or season, but 24 -7 365. The real reason for the season, the original gift giver himself Jesus. It is easy to get caught up in the hype and hustle and bustle of the gift giving ways. And that's all fine and dandy to a degree and is part of our life and culture. However I do ask that we all slow down as much as we can and look around and see all the great gifts we already have, that can not be bought in a store or Amazon.com.

And with that I will leave you to your own thoughts of which is your favorite season, and why. Do you see the same as I, and would you like the world to slow down just a bit. And when it does make sure you take the time to look around and see all the gifts God has given us. May your season be merry and your heart full of cheer, share the love we have been given all year.

--Jamie Mcguffey

## Wrap up of Parenting is Heart Work

RCLC was blessed to receive a grant, called the New Mission Outreach Grant (NMOG). Part of the grant was used to offer a parenting course to interested families at Risen Christ Lutheran School. We chose the parent/child paired curriculum called, "Parenting is Heart Work" from the National Center on Biblical Parenting. The class ran weekly from Sept. 11 through October 30. Pastor and Kathy led the parent portion while Becky Reid, Deb Rutledge, Dakota Perks, Erika Linderman and Christine Buck took turns teaching the children's portion of the class. Thank you! We began each evening with a meal. Special thanks to Greg and Chandra Schrader, Denna Johnson, Beth and Alex Ervin, and Ken and Penny Kueker for their help with meal prep and clean up! Many thanks, too, to our babysitters who watched the 2-3 youngest participants, who were under age 4. Those babysitters were: Noelle Wiebeck, Scott Tursic, Kelly Tursic, Wesley Perks, and Colin Linderman.

Approximately 12 adults and 14 children, ages 2-14, came each week for class. Of the adult participants, 3 are members of the church, 8 are not. The adult sessions featured topics presented on video with discussion questions in small groups afterwards. The children's class featured companion topics, full of games and activities. Thanks to our aged 13-14 year olds who helped the kid's class younger participants with the crafts and games (Dakota Roy, Erica Cremeans, Christina Kaiser). Both kid's and adult classes had a main Bible point and scripture verse for each lesson. We learned positive, Biblical ways to correct and mold behaviors in our children and steps to increase bonds in family relationships. One adult participant stated, "I learned just as much about myself as I did about ways to be a better parent." One child participant said, "I learned that I need to stop whining when mom says, 'No', to me when I ask her for something. It's OK." It was a blessing to watch how the Lord worked through the curriculum, participants and helpers to touch hearts. One family expressed interest in joining RCLC.





# Thank you from the Grulke Family

THANK YOU

Dear Risen Christ Friends,

Thank you so much for welcoming us to your church and allowing us to share our ministry with you. We feel honored to have your financial support and prayers as we share in the mission of making God's word accessible to all people. We look forward to visiting again in 3 years and sharing the amazing things God has done! God's Peace, Carol & Kolbert Grulke

## Out of Town Volunteers

### **OUT OF TOWN VOLUNTEERS**

We have had volunteers from near and far - all the way from California to Nebraska and more. We are so grateful for their hard work and generous hearts. In just the month of October we had volunteer teams from seven different states.

Trinity Klein has had the pleasure of meeting many great people from all over, throughout our relief efforts. One team we had the pleasure of working with was Pastor Rich Tursic and his team of eight from Risen Christ Lutheran Church in Springfield, Ohio. While here they worked in a single mom's home. She was so grateful for all their help. The most amazing part of the process was that the mom had been away from church for awhile and now wants to rejoin the Church since being moved by these work crews in her home and seeing God's love at work. Pastor Rich said, "The greatest part of this experience is being able to serve and grow with the people we are helping and being the hands and feet of God."

*"The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O Lord have not forsaken those who seek you."  
Psalm 9:9-10*



# RCLC Kids Sunday School presents, "The Birth of King Jesus!"

Please join the Kids Sunday School for worship service on December 17, 10:00, for "*The Birth of King Jesus!*" All RCLC Sunday School students are invited to participate; preparations have already begun! Our middle school youth will be the main actors with high school youth serving as scripture readers. PreK and elementary kids will be their adorable selves in supporting roles as angels, shepherds and animals. Mark your calendars!!

## Sisters in Christ News

### Spa Day!!

In November, we had the first event for our newly formed Sister's in Christ ministry group. We had a spa day for our church ladies and RCLS teachers. A fun time was had by everyone as we took part in many different activities.

We started our day in the sanctuary with a devotional and then the ladies could choose to have a chair massage, a full table massage, a foot massage or a hand massage. There was information about make-up and essential oils. Blood pressures were taken and info about stress reduction was given. Many ladies left with pretty, painted nails. There was a station where ladies could make and take their own heating/cooling packs and scented bath salt. We enjoyed healthy snacks and refreshing drinks. Each lady received a devotional book and door prize!

The ladies spent a lot of time talking, laughing and getting to know each other. It was a fun, informative relaxing day and everyone is looking forward to the next event which will be a service project in December for our school.

## Midweek Advent Series

For our upcoming Advent season, we'll be using a creative worship series entitled *While Shepherds Watched*. These midweek services will be held on Wednesdays at 7 pm.

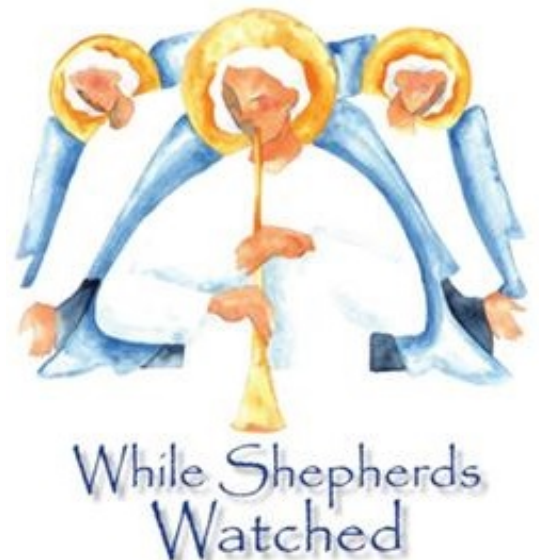
A shepherd looked to the sky, received a promise and believed. His name was Abraham. So begins the first homily of this series which gives a new, insightful twist on what we consider the traditional Christmas shepherds.

**December 6: The Shepherd Abraham**

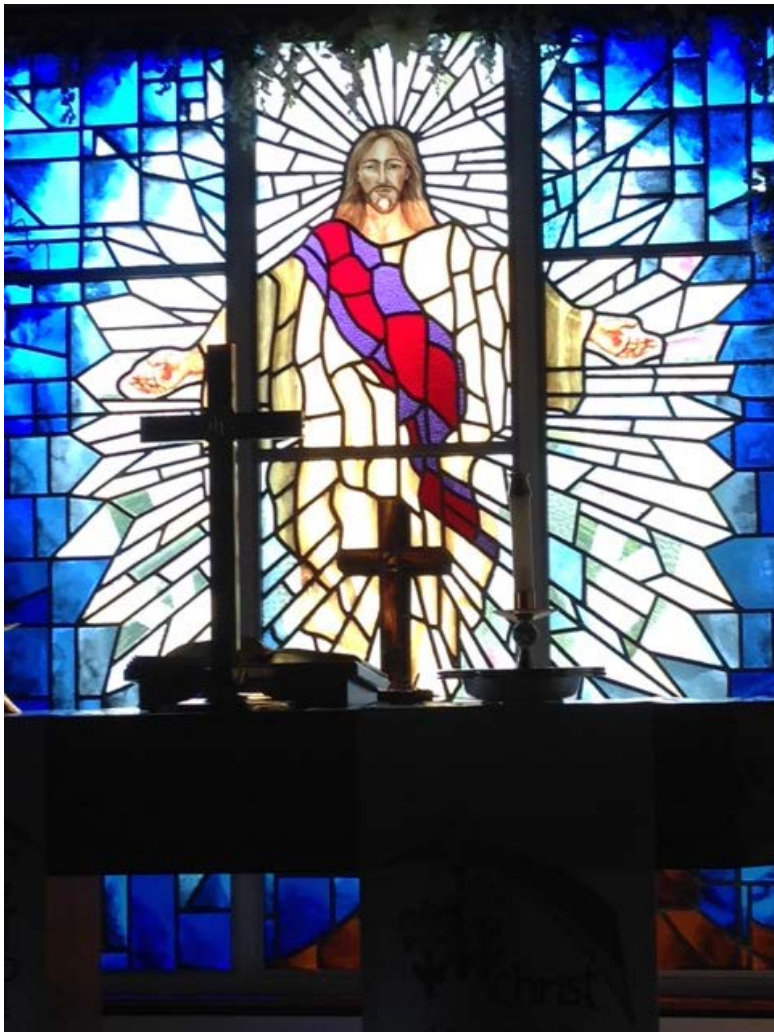
**December 13: The Shepherd Moses**

**December 20: The Shepherd David**

**December 24: The Bethlehem Shepherds (Sunday morning)**



# Scriptures for December 2017



## VERSE OF THE MONTH – December 2017

*For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age.*

**Titus 2:11-12**

## December 3

First Reading: Isaiah 64:1-9

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel: Mark 11:1-10

Psalm 80:1-7

## December 10

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

Epistle: 2 Peter 3:8-14

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Psalm 85

## December 17

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Psalm 126

## December 24

First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:22-25

Gospel: Luke 2:8-12

## Christmas Eve Service

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Epistle: 1 John 4:7-16

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

Psalm 110:1-4

## December 31

First Reading: Isaiah 61:10-62:3

Epistle: Galatians 4:4-7

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

Psalm 111

## New Year's Eve Service

First Reading: Isaiah 30:15-17

Epistle: Romans 8:31b-39

Gospel: Luke 12:35-40

Psalm 90:1-12

# December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
*HC Holy Communion					1	2
3 8 am Worship 9:30 am Bible Class 10:45 am HC Worship 12 pm Christmas Decorating 6 pm Confirmation	4	5 9:45 am Women's Bible Study 5 pm School Board Meeting	6 7 pm Midweek Advent Service 1	7	8	9
10 8 am HC Worship 9:30 am Bible Class 10:45 am Worship 1 pm Caroling to shut-ins	11 6:30 am Men's Bible Study	12 9:45 am Women's Bible Study 7 pm Elders, Ministry Directors and Team Leaders	13 10 am GriefShare 3 pm Preschool Christmas Program 7 pm Midweek Advent Service 2	14 6:30 pm Elementary Christmas Program	15 <b>CrossTalk Articles Due</b>	16 10 am Children's Sunday School Christmas Program Practice
17 9 am Bible Class 10 am Children's Christmas Program ONE Service HC	18	19 9:45 am Women's Bible Study 12-2 pm Food Pantry	20 7 pm Midweek Advent Service 3	21	22	23
24 9 am Bible Class 10 am ONE Service HC 7 pm Candlelight Service	<b>Christmas Day 25</b> <b>OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED</b>	26	27	28	29	30
31 9 am Bible Class 10 am ONE Service 7 pm New Year's Eve Service HC						



## Those serving us in the month of November 2017

### 8:00 SERVICE

	<b>Elder</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Altar Care</b>	<b>Sound Board</b>
12/3	Jim Perks	Stephen Wiebeck	Chandra Shrader	Ed Berg Paul Bok Greg Shrader	Chuck Bern		Scott Tursic
12/10	Bob Craven	Kelsey Vollrath	Helen Craig	Keith Vollrath Philip Sears Dave Petersen	Linda Sears	Deb Rutledge	Steve Rutledge

### 10:45 SERVICE

	<b>Elder</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Altar Care</b>	<b>Sound Board</b>	<b>Counters</b>
12/3	Jim Perks	Ethan Cunningham	Marcella Caskey	Homer Ryman Chris Heilmann Bob Craven	Rob Hunt		Duane & Noelle Wiebeck	Deb Rutledge Denna Johnson
12/10	Bob Craven	Erica Cremeans	Lynn Henman	Denny Norden Rick Miller Phil Hawkins	Chris Heilmann		Duane Wiebeck & Sarah Bussell	Dave Thomas Dave Petersen

### 10:00 Service

	<b>Elder</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Usher</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Altar Care</b>	<b>Sound Board</b>	<b>Counters</b>
12/17	Randy Schwarz	Benjamin McKee	Ed Berg	Gene Baumgardner Chuck Bern Steve Rutledge	Celise McKee		Bob & Reed Dahle	Beryl Boggess Denny Norden
12/24	Jamie McGuffey	Kaden McGuffey	Patty Arnold	Dave Arnold Paul Bok Rick Miller	Helen Craig	Jo Baumgardner	Dakota & Garrett Perks	Steve Rutledge Chris Heilmann
12/31	Denny Norden	Alisha Ervin	David Arnold	Keith Vollrath Bob Craven Paul Bok	Randy Schwarz		Duane Wiebeck	Deb Rutledge Denna Johnson

**Those serving during the Advent Series**

	<b>Elder</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Usher</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Sound Board</b>
12/6	Jim Perks	Dakota Roy	Linn Silliman	Denny Norden Rick Miller Phil Hawkins	Chuck Dahle	Duane Wiebeck
12/13	Bob Craven	Austin Henderson	Phil Hawking	Philip Sears John Linderman Homer Ryman	Linda Sears	Duane Wiebeck
12/20	Randy Schwarz	Wesley Perks	Sharon Heilmann	Ed Berg Paul Bok Greg Shrader	Becky Krieger	Duane Wiebeck

**Those serving during the Christmas Eve Service**

	<b>Elder</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Usher</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Sound Board</b>
12/24	Jim Schwarz	Alex Ervin	Chandra Shrader	Gene Baumgardner Chuck Bern Steve Rutledge	Eric Martin	Duane Wiebeck

**Those serving during the New Year's Eve Service**

	<b>Elder</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Usher</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Sound Board</b>
12/31	Denny Norden	Alisha Ervin	David Arnold	Keith Vollrath Bob Craven Paul Bok	Randy Schwarz	Duane Wiebeck