

CrossTalk January 2018

Risen Christ Lutheran Church
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Or is it?

“Vanity of vanities”, says the Preacher. “Vanity of vanities! All is vanity”. Ecclesiastes 1:2

Last year I was encouraging all of you to read your Bible daily. Those, who are following the reading plan I gave out at that time, are now in the Book of Ecclesiastes and came across the verse above and have heard Solomon say over and over again: *This too is vanity*. That statement is hardly uplifting. In fact, it’s downright depressing. Or is it?

Certainly Jewish leaders struggled with this book and debated whether or not it should be included in the canon. What many saw were just pessimistic words—a type of fatalism or stoic philosophy.

However, the difficulty is largely resolved when taking into account another recurring phrase in this book of wisdom: *There is nothing new under the sun*. That Hebrew idiom is referring to contemplations which leave God out of the equation and seek to explain everything in a completely humanistic way.

When one tries to find fulfillment in the fleeting pleasures of this life, he or she is doomed to failure. Life on that level always ends in vanity (emptiness and meaninglessness); yet too many people in each generation are looking for happiness in the wrong place.

Solomon instead exhorts you and me to *[r]emember also your Creator in the days of your youth*. In short, we’re being told to live on another level. Neither you nor I are the Creator, nor are we even the masters of our own lives. Rather, life is a precious gift from God. Since that is so, ultimate meaning involves the purpose intended by the Giver of Life. Therefore, how you use your talents and abilities and time and wealth matters.

We do not live *under the sun*. Rather, we live *under the Son* whose birth we just celebrated and whose ministry we are going to commemorate throughout the season of Epiphany. Indeed the Lord has made himself manifest in his teachings and miracles, and his light is most brilliantly seen bursting forth from the grave, having paid for our sin and guiding us in the way we are to go.

The Lord has designed the world and everything in it to function according to His wonderful purpose. With the help of the same Spirit whom enlightened Solomon, let us to be wise and resolve in 2018 to use our lives to fulfill that purpose which the Creator has intended for each of us. (What that might mean for us as a congregation we will discuss in our February Voters Meeting.)

Then all is not vanity of vanities. Rather, all is significance of significances.

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5th & 6th Grade Teacher

Anna Schack

Elementary Aides

Kathy Ackley
Kim Hunt

Before/After Care

Lillian Swain

School Support Staff

Betty Ward

A BIG "THANK YOU" TO...

- Rich and Linn Silliman, Colin Linderman, Philip Sears, Scott Tursic, Greg Shrader, Chuck and Reed Dahle, Anthony Montecalvo and Rob Hunt for helping with the Advent drama series.
- Lindsay Koval for organizing the Junior High Youth Caroling.
- Junior High students and parents for caroling to shut-ins.
- Kim Hunt and all those who helped with Ed Hoecker's funeral lunch.

January 2018 Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 1 Jo Baumgardner
- 10 Terry Calkins
- 11 Jerenia Rucker
Adam Henderson
Gayle Roberts
- 13 Larry Motter
- 14 Chandra Shrader
- 15 Marcella Caskey
Lindsey Koval
- 18 Patty Arnold
- 22 Richard Davis
- 23 Courtney Whitt
- 26 Mary Lou Rizzotte
Robert Dahle
- 28 Charles Bern
- 30 Amy McGuffey
- 31 Charles Cunningham
Ken Kueker

Baptism Birthday

- 5 Dorothy Lambacher
- 9 Kelsey Vollrath
- 10 Megan Dunham
- 29 Jim Mote
- 30 Adam Schwarz

Wedding Anniversary

- 14 Aaron & Becky Williams

Junior High Youth Caroling

The Risen Christ Jr. High youth went Christmas Caroling on December 10th to four of our shut ins. Colin Linderman provided accompaniment on his guitar for several of the songs sang. His younger brother, Jonathan, (4 yrs old) did a great job as song leader for our crew and stole the show! Several residents at Elmcroft of Xenia were able to listen and join us in the lobby there around the fireplace.



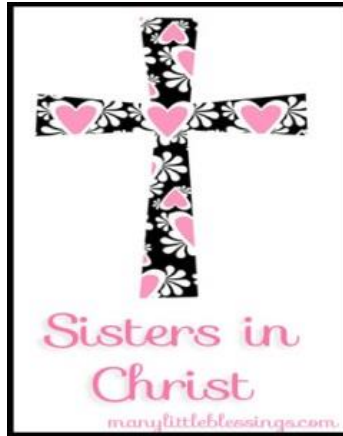
Cookies and Christmas cards were given to each shut in but the kids received a HUGE box of oatmeal and Chocolate chip cookies from Pastor's neighbor, Dave, who lost his leg in an accident.

It was a great day to be able to bless our brothers and sisters in Christ. To see the joy on their faces made the kids so happy that they were able to bless them and make them smile.



Let us all keep our shut-ins in our thoughts and prayers every day.

Sisters in Christ



ATTENTION: Risen Christ Ladies! Mark your calendar now!

It will soon be time for our annual get-together when we pack boxes for our college kids and care packages for our shut-ins. We will gather on:

Saturday, February 24, 2018 – 9:00 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.

We will begin with brunch and a brief Bible Study. Please let us know the addresses for any of our college kids so that we will be able to mail the boxes to them. We are again asking for your donations of goodies such as little packages of cookies, popcorn, candy, crackers, hot chocolate, raisins or nuts, pencils, pens or post-it notes, etc., and things that our shut-ins might enjoy, to be packed in the boxes. The students and shut-ins really appreciate getting these boxes. We will have a sign-up sheet in the narthex at the beginning of February so that we will know how many are coming. For more information ask Sara Hale, Norma Kettler, or Patty Arnold. This event is sponsored by our Sisters in Christ organization and all women and girls in our congregation are included in this group.

Scriptures for January 2018



VERSE OF THE MONTH – January 2018

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Romans 12:1

January 7

First Reading: Genesis 1:1-5

Epistle: Romans 6:1-11

Gospel: Mark 1:4-11

Psalm 29

January 14

First Reading: 1 Samuel 3:1-10

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 6:12-20

Gospel: John 1:43-51

Psalm 139:1-10

January 21

First Reading: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

Psalm 62

January 28

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

Psalm 111

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
*HC Holy Communion	1	2 5:30 pm Girl Scouts	3	4	5	6
7 8 am Worship 9:30 am Bible Class 10:45 am HC Worship 6 pm Confirmation	8 6:30 am Men's Bible Study	9 9:45 am Women's Bible Study 5 pm School Board Meeting via email 7 pm Ministry Team Leaders	10	11	12	13
14 8 am HC Worship 9:30 am Bible Class 10:45 am Worship 6 pm Confirmation	15	16 9:45 am Women's Bible Study 12-2 pm Food Pantry 5:30 pm Girl Scouts 7 pm Ministry Directors	17	18	19 Pastor Rich at LBT Boad Meeting	20
21 8 am Worship 9:30 am Bible Class 10:45 am HC Worship 6 pm Confirmation	22 6:30 am Men's Bible Study	23 9:45 am Women's Bible Study 7 pm Elders	24 CrossTalk Articles Due	25 10 am Science Fair	26	27
28 8 am HC Worship 9:30 am Bible Class 10:45 am Worship 6 pm Confirmation	29	30 9:45 am Women's Bible Study 5:30 pm Girl Scouts	31			

Those serving us in the month of January 2018

8:00 SERVICE

	Elder	Acolyte	Greeters	Ushers	Reader	Altar Care	Sound Board
1/7	Bob Craven	Isabel Brown	Ed Berg	Chuck Bern Gene Baumgardner Dave Petersen	Jo Baumgardner		Scott Tursic
1/14	Randy Schwarz	Colin Linderman	Helen Craig	Keith Vollrath Philip Sears Steve Rutledge	Chuck Bern	Deb Rutledge	Steve Rutledge
1/21	Jamie McGuffey	Benjamin McKee	Chandra Shrader	Ed Berg Paul Bok Greg Shrader	Chuck Dahle		Duane & Noelle Wiebeck
1/28	Denny Norden	Alisha Ervin	Linn Silliman	Rich Silliman Gene Baumgardner Dave Petersen	Helen Craig	Jo Baumgardner	Duane & Noelle Wiebeck

10:45 SERVICE

	Elder	Acolyte	Greeter	Ushers	Reader	Altar Care	Sound Board	Counters
1/7	Bob Craven	Kyle Heilmann	Phil Hawkins	Denny Norden Rick Miller Phil Hawkins	Becky Krieger		Duane & Noelle Wiebeck	Deb Rutledge Denna Johnson
1/14	Randy Schwarz	Dakota Roy	Marcella Caskey	David Arnold Denny Norden Jon Linderman	Scott Tursic		Bob Craven & Sarah Bussell	Dave Thomas Dave Petersen
1/21	Jamie McGuffey	Veronica Heilmann	Sharon Heilmann	Homer Ryman Chris Heilmann Bob Craven	Rob Hunt		Bob & Reed Dahle	Beryl Boggess Denny Norden
1/28	Denny Norden	Alex Ervin	Judy Lemmon	Jessica Draganic Jon Linderman Steve Rutledge	Beth Ervin		Bob Craven & Dakota Perks	Steve Rutledge Chris Heilmann