

# CrossTalk March 2019

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

## Church Office Staff

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**CrossTalk Publisher**  
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**Preschool Director**  
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**Preschool Aide**  
Karen Dunn

**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>, 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Teachers**  
Caitlin Everhart  
Anna Schack

**Before Care**  
Lillian Swain

**School Support Staff**  
Betty Ward  
Lisa Mulkey

## Revelation for Lent

*Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.. (Revelation 1:3)*

Lent is now upon us. During these 40 days, which begin with Ash Wednesday (March 6), we will be focusing on the seven letters written to the seven churches of Revelation. Those words of revelation from Jesus are just as relevant to us today, even though two thousand years of time separate us. The sinful condition of our heart keeps reminding us of our need for a Savior!

On account of our inherited sin (original sin), actual sin is committed by us. Some are sins of omission; others sins of commission. Consequently, chilling words will be addressed to each of you as I impose ashes: *Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return.*

Thankfully we look ahead to the time when *Alleluias* will resound in the sanctuary, for Easter lies ahead. Resurrection is ours because of all Christ has done for us: living a perfect life, exchanging his righteousness for our sin, dying our death, and raising us to a new life.

Permit me to share some historical background. The Book of Revelation was written by John likely during the reign of the Roman Emperor Domitian, a great persecutor of the church. The seven churches to whom letters were addressed are all situated in the same area of present-day Turkey. Each church had problems that were magnified by the on-going persecution. Yet each church had something for which it was commended, except Laodicea. No matter which sin was plaguing congregations of a particular region, Apostle John's main concerns were that believers would forsake Christ and return to idolatry of one sort or another.

Because the churches lay in proximity to one another and because each letter ends with the words *hear what the Spirit says to the churches*, each church likely read not only its own letter but also those of its sister congregations. What happens in one place can happen in another...and does...all down through the ages! All churches face the threat of deadly sins such as leaving Christ, their first love; growing fearful of persecution; falling prey to idolatry; succumbing to immorality; and becoming lethargic, neglectful, and complaisant.

John's letters were delivered by angels, most likely by that church's pastor as he read the letter aloud to his congregation. The word *angel* means *messenger*. In keeping with the spirit of that intent (See Malachi 2:7), I will take on the role of the angel, delivering the homily as we visit each of the seven churches. Together we will soberly consider the deadlier sins, repent of them, and cling to Christ so that we partake of eternal life.

~ Pastor Rich

# A BIG "THANK YOU" TO...

- Pastor thanks everyone who sent cards and reached out to him for his birthday. He really appreciated it.
- Thank you to our members for assisting our members when in need.
- To the Food Pantry for all the work they do to help the families in our community.

## March Birthdays & Anniversaries



4 Bob Craven  
10 Alex Ervin  
12 Scott McGregor  
Brenda Montecalvo  
16 Chuck Dahle  
Mary Norden  
Noelle Wiebeck  
18 Steve Roberts  
19 Edward Hoecker  
Marty Patterson  
22 Kaleb Whitt  
23 Bill Lambacher  
25 Ivis Cassity  
27 Susan Motter  
28 Nicky Kuziak  
29 Duane Wiebeck

1 Mary Lue Rizzotte  
Howard Romaker  
3 Michelle Dahle  
10 Becky Krieger  
12 Patricia Arnold  
Addison Inskeep  
Kelli Inskeep  
14 Sydney Ryman  
Taya Henderson  
17 Judy Lemmon  
David Petersen  
Owen McGuffey  
18 Sherry Whitt  
Patty Arnold  
19 Beryl Boggess  
21 Dakota Roy  
25 Ivis Cassity  
Blake Vollrath  
30 Brad Reid  
31 Homer Ryman



21 Brian & Dakota Perks  
31 Dave & Lynn Petersen

# Elders Article

**Valentine's Day:** 2019: 19.7 billion dollars was spent, 58 million pounds of chocolate was purchased. The average American spent \$146.84.

**St Patrick's Day-** 4.4 billion dollars is projected to be spent, 33 million party goers, Irish and non-Irish and the like will take to the streets in search of fun, and 13 million pints of Guinness will be consumed during this holiday.

**Easter-** 18.4 billion dollars will be spent and 81% of Americans will celebrate Easter, with the average American spending \$150. 11 million Easter lilies will be purchased and 16 billion jellybeans will be consumed.

So what do these holidays have to do with this article? Why would I even mention this here? I got to thinking of all the time that it takes people to prepare for just a few of the usual holidays that we typically celebrate not to mention the amount of money we fork out! Imagine if you would, what would change in this country or this world if people would take time out of their schedules to spend the same amount of time in the Word of God. Imagine if the same 81% of those that celebrate Easter would volunteer in homeless shelter or a soup kitchen. Image what that could do, or ponder what a difference it would make if we spent only half as much money towards feeding the hungry as we do on Valentine's Day.

***"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21 NIV).*** Matthew is telling us not to store up our treasures on earth with things, but to store treasures up in heaven where they cannot decay. We are called to bear much fruit! We are called to be disciples, to strive to fulfill the great commission. ***"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Matthew 28:19-20 NIV).***

I am reminded once again about the frailty of life. Having lost both parents now, I reflect on their lives and ponder the legacy they hoped to leave. Did they put so much into the holidays and forget the true meaning of most of them, or did they use the holidays to bring family closer together? Did they work their whole lives to leave a bunch of money so that they could better the lives of their children? Am I doing the same? I would ask this of you: Do you live your life in the secular world so much that you lose sight of the Great Commission? Have you lost your way in this world and in all that it has to offer? Have you lived your life for Christ in a humble and forgiving way? It is all too easy to forget what is most important.

There is a song by Steve Green **“Find Us Faithful”** that begins the first verse with:

We're pilgrims on the journey  
of the narrow road,  
and those who've gone before us  
line the way.  
cheering on the faithful,  
encouraging the weary,  
their lives a stirring testament  
to god's sustaining grace.

And continues in the chorus with:

o may all who come behind us  
find us faithful,  
may the fire of our devotion  
light their way.  
may the footprints that we leave,  
lead them to believe,  
and the lives we live  
inspire them to obey.  
o may all who come behind us  
find us faithful.

To the end of our lives .... What then shall be our focus? What is the legacy of our lives? Are we celebrating the love and salvation of Christ so that others are drawn to Him? Or are we celebrating the holidays on earth with everyone else?

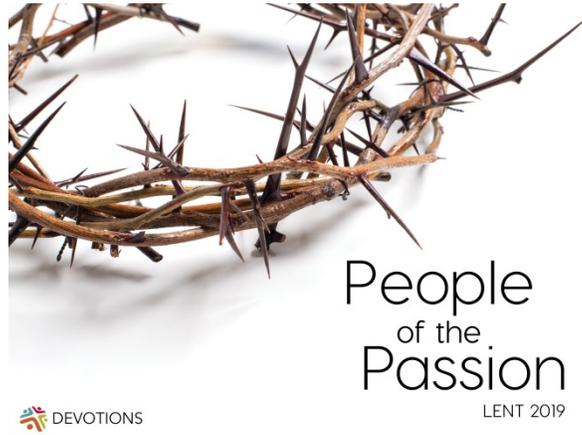
I pray that we have all thought just a little more of the blessings we have been given. Hopefully we are loving others around us just a little more, just a little longer. May we realize that our lives are worth living and so much more because of the Lamb and His sacrifice.

***“I have come that they might have life, and have it to the full” (John 10:10b NIV).***

So now, in the months ahead, remember what our purpose is on earth. Remember to stay rooted in the one true faith, grounded in HIS word and guided by the life he lived so long ago. My prayer for you is that as you continue to seek Him, that He reveals Himself to you in a very personal way. A way in which He will be glorified.

~Randy Schwarz

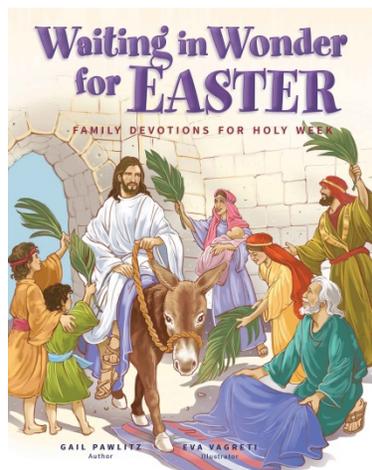
## Lenten Devotions



Subscribe to the Lutheran Hour Ministries' *People of the Passion*, at <https://www.lhm.org/lent> so that you might have this devotional e-mailed to you throughout Lent and the Holy Week. You will see God working through the lives of ordinary people to achieve His ultimate aim: our salvation in Christ, the sacrificial Lamb.

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## Family Devotions



Lent is a time of preparation, wonder, and anticipation. As your family waits for Easter, you can focus on the real reason we celebrate this most wonderful, most amazing day.

This collection of fifteen daily devotions, Bible verses, activities, and prayers will guide your family through the days leading up to Easter. Each day features something to read, something to say, something to do, and something to pray.

Quick, easy, and meaningful, these devotions will get your heart ready for Jesus. He is risen!

# GETTING TO KNOW OUR RISEN CHRIST FAMILY

## MEET THE WINDEKNECHT FAMILY

Eric and Amy Windeknecht and their children reside in the Tipp City area. They have been coming to Risen Christ for almost a year. They saw our church when they happened to pass it on their way to Clifton to see the Clifton Mill Light Display. And aren't we delighted they decided to make a visit and check us out!

Both Eric and Amy grew up in central Iowa and were high school sweethearts. In college, Amy studied to be a Sonographer and, after graduating from Mercy College in De Moines, worked at doing baby ultra sounds. Eric graduated from Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa with a degree in Engineering. They were married in 2004 following college graduation.

Eric and Amy moved to Ohio when he came to work as a production manager at Nordec-Minster, a company that makes presses in Minster, Ohio. They liked Tipp City and decided to make their home there.

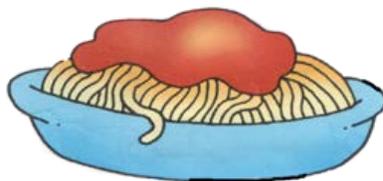
Jackson is their oldest son and he is 12 and in middle school. He enjoys playing soccer and basketball. Ava came along next and she is 9 years old and in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. She loves Girl Scouts and will be selling their cookies soon. Their youngest is Brooklyn and she is 7 years old. She likes soccer too. Their dad just happens to coach soccer.

Amy is a full-time mom and is involved in the children's school activities and the PTA, and at Risen Christ she works in our Sunday School with the puppets. Eric enjoys golfing and coaching soccer.

When asked what they like most about Risen Christ they said it's the family-like atmosphere they feel here. The Windeknechts attend the 8:00 worship service and we hope you will make an effort to get to know them.

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## Spaghetti Lunch Thanks



Thanks to all who participated in the high school youth fundraiser, Spaghetti Lunch, on Jan. 27. The meal was delicious! The meal generated donations of \$420 which will be applied towards the LCMS National Youth Gathering trip in July, to Minneapolis, MN. Six of our RCLC youth will attend--- Christina Kaiser, Scott Tursic, Ben McKee, Owen McGuffey, Nicky Kuziak, Reed Dahle.

# 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, March 2, 2019 – 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 soon so that we will know how many are coming. For more information ask Sara Hale, 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.



## Stewardship

**Select your Action Team for 2019**

We have updated the Thrivent Action Team list so you can sign up to use your \$250 card to help pay for events at Risen Christ Church and School.

Posted in the Narthex are lists for Church and School separately to aid in your selection. All information you need to complete the application is shown. Also listed is the leader that will take care of supervising the project.

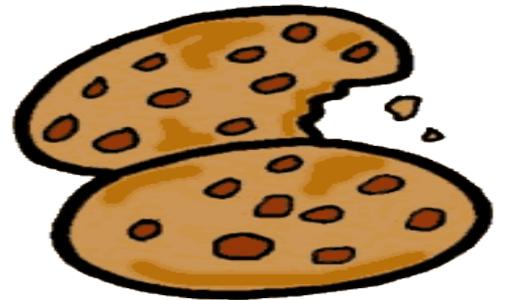
Your participation in the project is not expected but should you wish to help please contact the leader upon giving him/her your card. Please see me should you need any help in completing the Thrivent card application on line or have other questions.

Note there are several projects that need cards during March and April. Now is a good time to get these cards to purchase supplies in a timely manner. We appreciate your help toward our goal of \$20,000 Thrivent dollars available to Risen Christ.

# International Friendship Center

The first ever International Friendship Center housed at Concordia-Oakwood, is having an open house on Thursday, March 14 from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Adults and families from other countries are the special guests. From this open house, the IFC volunteers hope to gain insight into our international friends' needs so that by the end of March, classes may form to meet those needs (ESL class, conversational English, citizenship, mentoring, cooking class, sewing class...). The IFC and relationships formed there will be a natural bridge to share the Gospel. This is a joint project through the four Dayton Area LCMS congregations (Bethlehem, Concordia, Emmanuel, Risen Christ) and our local POBLO Missionary, Adreel George and his wife, Sahreem. The IFC needs various kinds of volunteers to make this a success. Won't you consider serving? You'll be blessed! The IFC needs volunteers to staff Welcome/Registration Table, Refreshments, Child Care, Adult English Class, Activities and other (not only on the Open House date but others as well). See Kathy Tursic or Rev. Ken Keuker with questions.

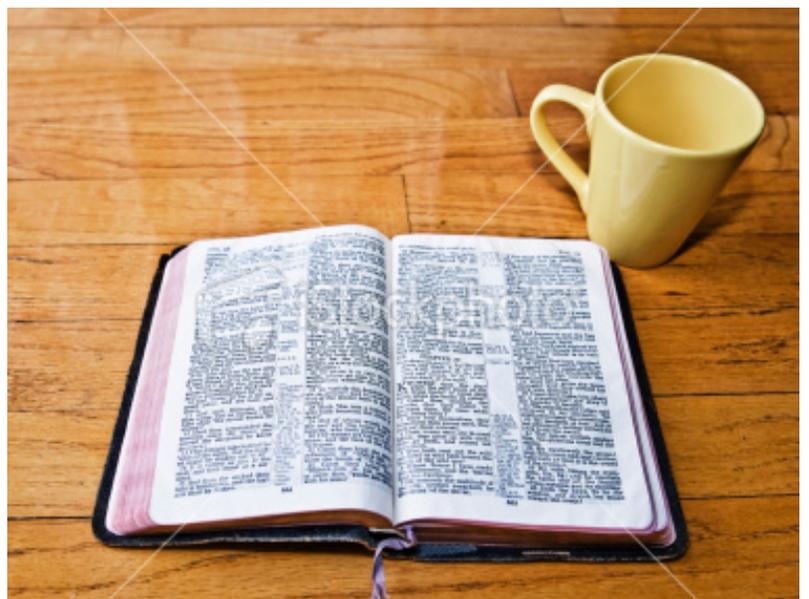
**FOR THIS OPEN HOUSE ON 3/14**---RCLC has agreed to provide cookies and punch. Please bring donations of 2-4 dozen cookies (preferably homemade but store bought is fine, too) to church by 4:00 p.m. WEDNESDAY MARCH 13. Put them in the tub specially marked "For IFC" tub in the Narthex.



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## Wednesday Night Women's Bible Study

The newly formed Wednesday Night Women's Bible Study is off to a good start! It's a nice mix of various ages. We decided to follow the 2 year plan to read through the Bible. We meet every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month, though we are taking time off for Lenten worship services on Wednesdays. Each week we pre-determine the portion of text we will discuss the next time. We're still in Genesis, so it's not/never too late to join! Contact Kathy Tursic with questions.



# Scriptures for March 2019



**March 3**

**The Transfiguration of Our Lord**

Old Testament: Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Epistle: Hebrews 3:1-6

Gospel: Luke 9:28-36

Psalm 99

**March 10**

**First Sunday in Lent**

Old Testament: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Epistle: Romans 10:8b-13

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

Psalm 91:1-13

**March 17**

**Second Sunday in Lent**

Old Testament: Jeremiah 26:8-15

Epistle: Philippians 3:17-4:1

Gospel: Luke 13:31-35

Psalm 4

**March 24**

**Third Sunday in Lent**

Old Testament: Ezekiel 33:7-20

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

Psalm 85

**March 31**

**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

Old Testament: Isaiah 12:1-6

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Psalm 32

## VERSE OF THE MONTH – March 2019

“We implore you on behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God. For our sake He  
made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so  
that in Him we might become the  
righteousness of God.”

*2 Corinthians 5:20b-21*

# March 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
*HC Holy Communion					1	2 School Open House 10 am-1 pm
3 8 am Worship 9:30 am Bible Class 10:45 am HC Worship 6 pm Confirmation	4	5 9:45 am Women's Bible Study 5:00 pm School Board	6 7 pm Ash Wednesday Communion Service	7	8	9
Daylight Savings Begins 10 8 am HC Worship 9:30 am Bible Class 10:45 am Worship 6 pm Confirmation	11 6:30 am Men's Bible Study	12 9:45 am Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm Ministry Team Leaders	13 6 pm Lenten Meal 7 pm Lenten Service	14 6-8 pm International Friendship Center Open House at Concordia	15	16
17 8 am Worship 9:30 am Bible Class 10:45 am HC Worship 6 pm Confirmation	18	19 9:45 am Women's Bible Study 12-2 pm Food Pantry 7:00 pm Board of Directors	20 6 pm Lenten Meal 7 pm Lenten Service	21 8:30 am Preschool Coffee	22	23 CrossTalk Articles Due
24 8 am HC Worship 9:30 am Bible Class 10:45 am Worship 6 pm Confirmation	25 6:30 am Men's Bible Study	26 9:45 am Women's Bible Study 7:00 pm Elders Meeting	27 6 pm Lenten Meal 7 pm Lenten Service	28	29	30
31 9:00 am Bible Class 10:00 am HC Worship 11:30 am 5th Sunday Pot Luck 6 pm No Confirmation		<b>Spring Break</b>				

## Those serving us in the month of March 2019

### 8:00 a.m. SERVICE

	<b>Elder</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Reader</b>	<b>Altar Care</b>	<b>Sound Board</b>
3/3	Randy Schwarz	Stephen Wiebeck	Chandra Shrader	Greg Shrader Chuck Bern Keith Vollrath	Gene Baumgardner		Scott Tursic
3/10	Jamie McGuffey	Kaden McGuffey	Linn Silliman	Rich Silliman Gene Baumgardner Ed Berg	Chuck Bern		Steve Rutledge
3/17	Bob Craven	Blake Vollrath	Lynn Petersen	Paul Bok Philip Sears Steve Rutledge	Chuck Dahle		Kole Vollrath
3/24	Philip Sears	Isabel Brown	Ed Berg	Dave Petersen Chuck Bern Steve Rutledge	Eric Martin		Wiebecks

### 10:45 a.m. 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>
3/3	Randy Schwarz	Ethan Cunningham	David Arnold	Homer Ryman Bob Craven Denny Norden	Bob Craven		Wiebecks	John Bacevic & Denna Johnson
3/10	Jamie McGuffey	Joey Koval	Patty Arnold	Phil Hawkins David Arnold Homer Ryman	Becky Krieger		Sarah Bussell & Bob Craven	Dave Thomas & Dave Petersen
3/17	Bob Craven	Alex Ervin	Judy Lemmon	Denny Norden Phil Hawkins David Arnold	Beth Ervin		Bob & Reed Dahle	Deny Norden & Beryl Boggess
3/24	Philip Sears	Colin Linderman	Phil Hawkins	Bob Craven Homer Ryman Phil Hawkins	Randy Schwarz		Scott Tursic	Steve Rutledge & Deb Rutledge

### 10 am Service

	<b>Elder</b>	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Greeter</b>	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Readers</b>	<b>Sound Board</b>	<b>Counters</b>
3/31	Rob Hunt	Jackson Windeknecht	Chandra Shrader	Rich Silliman Philip Sears Bob Craven	Keith Vollrath		