

CrossTalk

January 2022

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Risen Christ Lutheran Church and School

Enriching and renewing lives by
bringing Christ to our community.

Pastor Brad's Goals for 2022



- **Theme for 2022: CHosen, Empowered and Sent to Serve (CHESS)**
 - **You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, John 15:16a ESV**
 - See also 1 Pet. 2:9+, Eph. 1:4+, Rom. 8:28+, Deut. 7:6+, Matt 22:14, 2 Thess. 2:14+, Col. 1:10, Gal. 5:22-23, Jer.17:7+, Matthew 28:18-20, others

GOALS, ETC FOR 2022

- **Discipleship:** Worship plus 2 – see all members are involved in regular worship plus at least two other things in the ministry of the church
 - See small group Bible studies form and meet regularly in homes for study, prayer, and fellowship with at least 50 people involved.
 - See at least 80% of our faith family involved in Daily Bible reading and Prayer.
 - Re-establish a strong Sunday school for all ages
- **Worship:** See worship practices returning to “Normal” with at least 65 in worship at each Sunday service.
 - Have at least 15 children for children’s messages.
 - Baptize at least 10 adults and 10 children and see them be regular in worship, fellowship, and study

- **Outreach:** See the church involved in at least 3 community outreach events during the year, while forming a culture that invites and accepts those who might be different.
 - Have “Friendship Sunday” twice during the year (Inviting a visitor for worship) (Feb. 6)
 - See at least 50 new members in worship
 - Establish regular internet devotionals and a blog that draws outside following as well as strengthens our current faith family.
- **School:** See a culture change that has the church embracing the ministry of the school and the school embracing the ministry of the church. **(We are not separate)**
 - See church members and school members working together on new projects/events/activities at least three more times during 2021-22 school year
 - See at least 5 new families from school attend worship with is regularly
 - Baptize at least 7 kids from the school



**You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you
that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide,
John 15:16a ESV**

Pastor Brad

January Birthdays and Anniversaries



1 Jo Baumgardner

10 Terry Calkins

11 Jerenia Rucker

Gayle Roberts

13 Jeff Kaiser

14 Chandra Shrader

15 Marcella Caskey

Lindsey Koval

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

29 Jim Mote

30 Adam Schwarz

31 Terry Calkins



ELDER'S ARTICLE

Greetings for the New Year

In the holiday season, as families get together (mine included), there is ample opportunity for conflict. And by the same token, there is an opportunity for forgiveness. Family, whether it is our close blood relatives or our church family, they are too important for passive forgiveness. Each of us must be the one to make forgiveness an active event, the one to take the first step in reconciliation. *“Be kind to one another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you.”* *Ephesians 4-32.* Forgiveness is more than just thinking to yourself-“I forgive”. Forgiveness is an action, a completion of an act. If I say “I forgive you” and don’t meet you face to face and demonstrate that forgiveness, I haven’t completed the act of forgiveness.

In this season of hope, remember to forgive and extend that forgiveness. Be active with forgiveness, spreading the joy and hope of salvation that comes in the birth, death and resurrection of Christ Jesus.

In His Service,

Gene Baumgardner, Elder

David Arnold



Easter Choir: Easter is April 17th in 2022. We are planning to organize an Easter Choir for the coming Spring. If you are interested in being a part of this, please contact Lynda Viken (760-792-2880) or Randy Schwarz. We need to get an idea in the next month, so we can plan accordingly, work out practice scheduling and order music. You don’t need to be an opera singer to sing in the choir.

Thank you.

Lynda Viken



RISEN CHRIST
Lutheran Church

Vice President Tidbits

As we begin a new year I am reminded of my commitment to be a good steward of the gifts God has given me.

The article, included in this newsletter, by Thrivent President Terry Rasmussen says it all for me and I thought you would enjoy reading. I encourage you to review your commitment to Risen Christ using the gifts God has bestowed to you.

We are embarking on new territory through the direction and leadership of Pastor Brad. Your support is essential to accomplish the 2022 goals Pastor has set before us. I am really excited to be a small part of this program and look forward to helping achieve meaningful results. Please join me as we go forward.

Communication

Several improvements to our website are now in place to aid sharing news and information with members and friends. The calendar is updated on a regular basis as changes occur and has become the master church calendar. The Prayer Request module has been improved and will include all current requests. We are working to live stream all worship services to both YouTube and Facebook. All recorded services can be accessed by a link on our website. I ask you to bring to our attention any errors or omissions you notice. Please let us know if you would find additional information useful.

I wish everyone a blessed New Year. I appreciate your comments and help and look forward to a productive New Year with your support.

Yours in Christ,
John Bacevic
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937-882-4023



January Bible Study on Sunday Mornings: Starting on January 16, Pastor Brad will begin a series called **“Chosen By God—Why Did God Choose Me?”** “Who are the elect? This study will discuss the biblical mystery of election and encourages readers to anticipate the joys of heaven. The chapter titles are: **1.** Who are the Elect!, **2.** Why some, Not Others?, **3.** Hasn’t God already Called the Shots?, **4.** Pressing on to what is ours. Join us as we begin the fascinating study.

Home Bible Studies: Risen Christ is organizing a handful of Small Group, Home Bible Study Groups. These groups will initially meet twice monthly in the homes of those who wish to be part of the groups and to host. These studies will be led by lay people, non-pastor members of this congregation. This is a chance for learning, growing, prayer, building closer bonds, meeting, and making new friends and even confidants, and so much more. The title of the first Bible study series is: **“Ask, Seek, Knock—Take it to the Lord in Prayer.”** The matter of prayer is profoundly important for the Christian—and this study is designed to assist in building and strengthening our prayer lives. The titles of the four sessions are: **1.** The power to Pray, **2.** Trusting His Answer, **3.** Praying with One Will, **4.** Your prayer Matters. Stay tuned as we get signup sheets out in January and get rolling on this great opportunity.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: We are also planning to restart Sunday School, starting on January 16 as we have had several visitors in recent weeks, all looking for Sunday School for their kids. While we do not currently have many kids attending, we are going to go with the “build it and they will Come” approach—trusting God plan for His church in this place. YES! We need more helpers for this important ministry.

Discovering your gifts

Note from John Bacevic - I wanted to share with everyone a great article in the latest issue of Thrivent magazine by Terry Rasmussen President.

“I remember my excitement as a child when my brother, sister and I would burst into the family room on Christmas morning. We couldn't wait to open our gifts. Later as a parent, I experienced the joy that came with watching my children open gifts selected especially for them.

At Thrivent, we believe humanity thrives when people make the most of all God has given them: their talents, time and financial resources. This is a good time to step back and think about how you can use all of your gifts in the coming year.

The gift of **Time** is ever-present. We use it every second we're alive. Are you aware of how you're allocating these precious minutes? Are you using your time in a way that reflects your values and beliefs? Are those you love the recipients of your time? Spending time intentionally is a wonderful way to make your life more meaningful.

The gift of **Talent** can go underutilized. If you're not fully aware of your talents, you may not even know how to share this gift with someone. Take time to discover your talents. Then, think about who could benefit from your unique skills. Maybe it's your employer, your church or a nonprofit you care about. Spend some time considering how sharing your talents is part of living out your purpose.

The gift of **Financial Resources** looks different for each person. And the good news is, you don't have to have excessive amounts of money to use this gift. At Thrivent, we believe money is a tool to live a life of purpose. Are you using this gift as a tool? Are you planning wisely for the future, preparing for the unexpected, and using your resources to make a difference? Before the end of the year, consider how you want to use this gift thoughtfully.

I am grateful for each one of you. My prayer for you this season is that you'll experience the joy and gratitude that comes with seeing your gifts clearly and using them purposefully.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!”

Terry Rasmussen, President

Sisters in Christ Christmas Luncheon and Secret Sister Revealing

Thank you to all who attended and helped prepare our Sisters in Christ Christmas Luncheon on December 4 at Teaberries. Sara Hale shared the interactive devotion “Happy Birthday, Jesus” by having surprise items in boxes throughout the room. Lynn Peterson provided background music and revealed the secret sisters (and told a few secrets about them). Kelsey Vollrath and Dorothy Lambacher could not attend, but sent sweet letters about how much they appreciated their secret sisters. The ornament exchange “The Left/Right Nativity Story” brought much laughter. Sara Hale also provided the wonderful goodie bags, cookies and candy, balloons, etc., etc. Kelly Tursic saved the day by bringing her clarinet and led us in singing Christmas carols while Beryl Boggess closed the luncheon with prayer. ***What a blessing that we could worship, laugh, sing, eat, and visit with one another!***



Singing, Exchanging Ornaments, Enjoying One Another!





Scriptures for January 2022

January 2
Second Sunday after Christmas

First Reading:

1 Kings 3:4-15

Epistle Reading:

Eph. 1:3-14

Gospel:

Luke 2:40-52

January 9
The Baptism of Our Lord

First Reading:

Is. 43:1-7

Epistle Reading:

Rom. 6:1-11

Gospel:

Luke 3:15-22

January 16
Second Sunday after the Epiphany

First Reading:

Is. 62:1-5

Epistle Reading:

1 Cor. 12:1-11

Gospel:

John 2:1-11

January 23
Third Sunday after the Epiphany

First Reading:

Neh. 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Epistle Reading:

1 Cor. 12:12-31a

Gospel:

Luke 4:16-30

Verse of the Month – January 2022

Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through the fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

Isaiah 43:1b-2 (ESV)

January 30
Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

First Reading:

Jer. 1:4-10

Epistle Reading:

1 Cor, 12:31b—13:13

Gospel:

Luke 4:31-44

January 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 New Year's Day
2 9 am Sunday School 10 am HC Worship Mite Box Sunday	3	4 7 pm Ministry Team Leaders	5 9 am Chapel (PS-1) 9:30 am Chapel (2-6) 1 pm Chapel (PS) Classes Resume	6 6:30 pm-7:30 pm Scout Pack Meeting	7	8
9 9 am Sunday School 10 am HC Worship Commissioning of Church Leaders	10	11	12 9 am Chapel (PS-1) 9:30 am Chapel (2-6) 1 pm Chapel (PS)	13 Monthly Pastors Meeting 6:30 pm-8:30 pm Scout "Roundtable" Leaders Meeting	14	15
16 8 am Traditional Service 9:15 am Bible Study 10:45 am Contemporary Service	17 CrossTalk Articles Due No School Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	18 11 am-1 pm Food Pantry 7 pm Board of Directors	19 9 am Chapel (PS-1) 9:30 am Chapel (2-6) 1 pm Chapel (PS)	20	21	22
23 8 am Traditional Service 9:15 am Bible Study 10:45 am Contemporary Service	24	25 7 pm Elders Meeting	26 9 am Chapel (PS-1) 9:30 am Chapel (2-6) 1 pm Chapel (PS)	27	28 School Science Fair	29
30 9 am Sunday School 10 am HC Worship 5th Sunday Potluck	31					

Those serving January 2022

10:00 am

	Elder	Greeter	Ushers	Reader	Altar Care	Sound Board	Counters
10 am Combined Service							
1/2	Philip Sears	Chris Kitt	Homer Ryman Dave Petersen Steve Rutledge	Jo Baumgardner	Deb Rutledge	Duane Wiebeck	John Bacevic & Denna Johnson
1/9	Randy Schwarz	Sara Hale	Ed Berg Sam McKee Chuck Bern	Chris Kitt	Deb Rutledge	Steve Rutledge	Dave Thomas & Dave Petersen
8 am Service							
1/16	Rob Hunt	—	—	—	—	Duane Wiebeck	—
1/23	David Arnold	—	—	—	—	Duane Wiebeck	
10:45 am Service							
1/16	Rob Hunt	—	—	—	—	Bob Dahle	Beryl Boggess & Denny Norden
1/23	David Arnold	—	—	—	—	Duane Wiebeck	Steve & Deb Rutledge
5th Sunday							
1/30	Gene Baumgardner	Dawn Wells- Kitt	Denny Norden Keith Vollrath Chris Kitt	Chuck Bern	Deb Rutledge	Duane Wiebeck	Steve & Deb Rutledge