

CrossTalk July 2022

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Elder's Article

Dreaming of the Greek Isles

I'll be 62 this summer and I have a few things I want to get done in the next few years. You know... bucket list stuff. One of the drops in my bucket is a trip to the Greek Isles. It's the only place overseas that I would be interested in seeing. It will be a long trip. My GPS says that its 5,368 miles to Athens from my house, as the crow flies.

The way I figure it, if I can keep up a steady 4 mph pace for 6 hours a day, I should be able to make it in 260 days while giving myself 1 day a week off to relax. The most direct route will likely take me eastward through the north side of the Appalachian mountains, keeping just south of the Adirondack's. If I plan it out just right I may be able to avoid most of the major rivers getting to the Atlantic coast. My first major swim would begin somewhere around Philadelphia. But looking at the map again, it may be better to stay on land a little longer and head 200 miles further north to Cape Cod. This may cut down a little on the wet part of the trip. The biggest problem I see with the next leg is that I'm not sure I can keep up the 4 mph pace while crossing the Atlantic. It will all depend on the waves.... and if the tendonitis in my left elbow bothers me. The hurricane season can also be, well, unpredictable too. But I suppose I won't have much of a choice but to risk it if I'm going to make it by next summer. That's the best time to be in Greece, you know.

The second leg of the journey will begin when I get to the Gibraltar area of Spain. I'm torn whether I should finish the trek in the waters of the Mediterranean or if I will go ashore and complete the journey on land. If I stay in the water there are a few islands I could spend my one day off a week to rest on. That might be nice. Taking the land option might be nice too. I would need to head north and hug the coast line for about 1,200 miles. As I approach Italy I should be able to stay out of the hardest part of the Alps by heading due east to the north end of the Adriatic Sea. This will get me to the

north end of Greece. Almost there! Only 1,000 mile left to Athens! I'm really looking forward to seeing Greece....

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If I were to attempt attaining my Greece-goal in the fashion outlined above, how far do you think I would get before I felt the pain of my failure? Would I make it through the mountains of Pennsylvania and to the coast? Would I even get out of Ohio? I might make it to Philadelphia but I certainly could not survive the Atlantic. Does the exposure of my foolish thinking indicate that my goal is also foolish and of little value? Of course not. While the chosen path to the goal is obviously foolish, the aspiration to achieve the goal is not. The goal remains worthy of the desire.

My intended analogy is probably obvious. I may never see the Greek Isles as I hope, and that would be okay, but I absolutely desire with everything in me to see the face of my Creator/God and stand in His presence forever. Those with knowledge and experience would tell me that the only way for me to get to Greece is to take a boat or plane. They would explain that it only takes a few days and is no work at all. And so it is with heaven... being forever *with* God and not *without* Him. It too requires no "work." Many would respond to this and say "Nothing good is ever that easy. You have to work hard for everything you get. There is no free lunch. It's not in my personality to let someone else do it. I like doing things on my own, my way. It's the only right way. Besides, I have always liked a challenge. I'll get there. Just watch me!" Does any of that sound familiar. Have you heard others say it, or perhaps have you voiced those words yourself? Eventually, after much wasted effort and heartache, we would all have to admit that it is indeed not even possible to get to Greece, let alone heaven, by doing it on our own.

Adult Sunday School has been studying what God has to say to us as Paul addresses the Saints in Galatia. They had been under the burden of pleasing their pagan gods by doing "stuff" when Paul gave them the Good News that God had redeemed them free and clear. They had traded their chains for the freedom God gives those who simply love and seek after Him. They understood that it is by ***Faith Alone*** that they were saved! After Paul left them, others came in to lead them away from the truth, teaching them that they had to do other types of "stuff" to earn their way to their new God. They were being taught that they now had to satisfy God by obeying all of the Jewish Law and customs. What they did, the harder they worked at it, would serve to please God, and He might be pleased enough to save them. It was all about what they did, to earn what God does. The truth is that God *had* indeed given them the Law, but it was for the express purpose of making it obvious that no one could satisfy it well enough to ever please God enough to decide to save them. The Law made it obvious that it was foolish to think anyone could get to God on their own. It shows that it is all about what God *freely* does for those that call on His name. God is in the business if giving out free plane tickets to Greece, not selling them!

I once heard someone comment in a sermon that “When you get to the end of yourself, you get to the beginning of God.” I believe this. When I admit the truth to myself that it’s just not possible to get to Greece my way, I will then be able to let the cab driver take me to the airport and put me on the plane. Only then will I be able to enjoy the trip, knowing that my dream *will* actually be fulfilled. No doubt. I won’t have to face the disappointment of my eminent failure. It won’t be because of my hard work, but instead because of my willingness to admit the truth that I could never have achieved it by my own hard work. Once I am able to admit the obvious, that no matter how much I think I should be able to do it on my own, that it isn’t even possible, only then will I be able to attain the goal I was after and be able to actually enjoy the free ride.

I can’t possibly fit a 260 day journey to Greece inside a two week vacation window. I suppose I’ll have to wait until I retire for that trip. But my final free plane ticket is one-way and already in my pocket waiting to be used. That will be an all-expense-paid trip, courtesy of my Creator/God. Once I get there, I’m sure I won’t be back! Are you coming too? You know He wants to give you the same trip.

Peace, Always

Rob Hunt

*(GWIB... God's Way Is Best)*

# July Birthdays and Anniversaries



2 Matthew Buck  
 7 MaryAnn Wiebeck  
 8 Jean Hawkins  
 9 Diane Jeanneret  
     Lynn Petersen  
 14 Jamie McGuffey  
     Denny Norden  
     Rebecca Reid  
     Steve Rutledge  
     Rich Silliman  
     Lynda Viken  
 17 Elaina Buck  
     Julia May  
 26 Jan Craven  
     Eric Martin



1 Gabriel Kaiser  
 Ruth Romaker  
 8 Nicky Kuziak  
 12 Courtney Whitt  
 20 John Bacevic Jr.  
     Nate Hunt  
     Keith Vollrath  
 25 Diane Jeanneret



8 Keith & Kristina Vollrath  
 12 Anthony & Brenda Montecalvo  
 15 Thomas & Lisa Mulkey  
 19 Todd & Julia Cremeans  
 23 Gary & Sara Hale  
 25 Terry & Susan Gallagher  
 28 Matthew & Christine Buck



## **Sound Booth**

We continue to improve operation of the sound booth. Still working out the kinks like Jim's guitar being off! Part of the issue is simplifying controls, so the booth person has the time to perform tasks. Thank you for your patience as we get better. Currently there are four individuals taking turns during worship services. Additional people would distribute the workload. Our goal is to get four additional people so that you work only one Sunday a month. Please consider volunteering.

## **November Elections**

This year the VP, Treasurer and Member at Large are up for reelection. The process putting the slate of Board positions together has started. Our goal is to approve candidates for the congregation election by September. Comments should be directed to John Bacevic.

## **Outreach Plan**

As we continue working on our outline and plan, we encourage congregational input. The goal is to align our tasks more closely to the Vision Statement of bringing Christ to our community especially the unchurched. Feel free to communicate your input to any Board member.

## **Security and Fire Alarm System**

Steve Rutledge is hard at work gathering quotes to repair and upgrade our systems. Currently they are separate and need to be integrated. There are three individual iterations as we constructed our facility, many outdated. Once decisions are made going forward Steve will present the plan for approval.

## **Pastor's Laptop**

The laptop is several years old, slow, and not functioning properly. Quotes are being assembled to replace the laptop to better serve Pastor's needs.

Yours in Christ,

John Bacevic

[johnbacevicjr@msn.com](mailto:johnbacevicjr@msn.com)

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## LWML Ohio District Convention

The 29th Biennial LWML Ohio District Convention was held at St Paul Lutheran Church, Napoleon, Ohio on June 17th- 18th 2022. The theme: "LORD OF THE HARVEST"

From Risen Christ Norma Kettler, Sara Hale, and Kelly Tursic our (YWR) Young Women Representative attended. Lillian Swain was planning on going but was under the weather and was unable to attend we missed you Ms. Lillian.

We participated in an awesome opening worship service, reflective Bible study, heard inspiring speakers, chose mission grants, elected new officers, served at servant events, collected monetary donations, and items to help local charities. We connected with friends and made new ones and enjoyed Christian fellowship.

Attending the LWML convention energizes and equips us to take heart the words from Matthew 10: 37-38 when Jesus said to his disciples "the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest." Lutheran Women in Mission take this call seriously and answer "Here am I! Send me." As Isaiah did in Isaiah 6:8



## Risen Christ Students selected for the National Elementary Honor Society



Risen Christ students, Hudson Mertens, Jasper Fugett and Lily Encina-Brosius, were selected for induction in the National Elementary Honor Society. The induction ceremony took place during the school's final chapel and awards ceremony which was held on May 18th. The National Elementary Honor Society (NEHS) recognizes elementary students for their outstanding academic achievement and demonstrated personal responsibility. Through NEHS, students provide meaningful service to the school and community and develop essential leadership skills. Congratulations Hudson, Jasper and Lily!

## Much More Than A Garage Sale!

The Sisters in Christ and the Out Reach/In Reach Ministry joined together to not only have a garage/bake sale, but an opportunity to meet and serve the local community. It began with the Fellowship Hall and Preschool Room stuffed with endless types of treasures.



An added touch was a raffle and a day filled with MUSIC! Many thanks to Jim Mote, Robin and Jeff Ford and a new friend who loves to sing!



As advertised, delicious baked goods were for sale. Who could resist the cakes, pies, brownies, cookies, breads, etc., etc.?



The Out Reach and In Reach Ministry reached the community in other ways. Hot dogs, water, and ice cream, along with New Testaments, Portals of Prayer, bookmarks, a frisbee, information about Risen Christ Church and School were all offered for free. The day provided a time to get to know the community.



The effort of both groups, teens of the congregation, and many other members of the congregation and friends resulted in over \$1,500 for the CWEFT water project and an upgrade for Risen Christ School's playground. The added bonus is connecting with the community. **THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE HANDS THAT MADE LIGHT WORK!**

# Worship Schedule

## July:

- **July 3<sup>rd</sup>:** Contemporary Service
- **July 10<sup>th</sup>:** Traditional Service
- **July 17<sup>th</sup>:** Contemporary Service
- **July 24<sup>th</sup>:** Traditional Service
- **July 31<sup>st</sup>:** Blended Service (church picnic)

## August:

- **Aug. 7<sup>th</sup>:** Contemporary Service
- **Aug. 14<sup>th</sup>:** Traditional Service
- **Aug. 21<sup>st</sup>:** Contemporary Service
- **Aug. 28<sup>th</sup>:** Traditional Service



## Verse of the Month – July 2022

*He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

**Col. 1:13-14 (ESV)**

## Scriptures for July 2022

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>July 3</b><br><b>The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost</b><br><b>First Reading:</b><br>Is. 66:10-14<br><b>Responsive Reading:</b><br>Psalm 66:1-7<br><b>Epistle Reading:</b><br>Gal. 6:1-10, 14-18<br><b>Gospel:</b><br>Luke 10:1-20 | <b>July 10</b><br><b>The Fifth Sunday after Pentecost</b><br><b>First Reading:</b><br>Lev. 19:9-18<br><b>Responsive Reading:</b><br>Psalm 41<br><b>Epistle Reading:</b><br>Col. 1:1-14<br><b>Gospel:</b><br>Luke 10:25-37                |
| <b>July 17</b><br><b>The Sixth Sunday after Pentecost</b><br><b>First Reading:</b><br>Gen. 18:1-10a<br><b>Responsive Reading:</b><br>Psalm 27:7-14<br><b>Epistle Reading:</b><br>Col. 1:21-29<br><b>Gospel:</b><br>Luke 10:38-42    | <b>July 24</b><br><b>The Seventh Sunday after Pentecost</b><br><b>First Reading:</b><br>Gen. 18:20-33<br><b>Responsive Reading:</b><br>Psalm 138<br><b>Epistle Reading:</b><br>Col. 2:6-15<br><b>Gospel:</b><br>Luke 11:1-13             |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>July 31</b><br><b>The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost</b><br><b>First Reading:</b><br>Eccl. 1:2, 12-14; 2:18-26<br><b>Responsive Reading:</b><br>Psalm 100<br><b>Epistle Reading:</b><br>Col. 3:1-11<br><b>Gospel:</b><br>Luke 12:13-21 |

# July 2022

| Sun                                                                                                          | Mon                                        | Tue                                                                   | Wed | Thu                                         | Fri                                 | Sat |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----|
|                                                                                                              |                                            |                                                                       |     |                                             | 1                                   | 2   |
| <b>Holy Communion</b> 3<br>8:30 am Bible Study<br>9:45 am Contemporary Service                               | 4<br><b>Independence Day Office Closed</b> | 5<br><b>7 pm Ministry Team Leaders</b>                                | 6   | 7<br><b>9:00 am Monthly Pastors Meeting</b> | 8                                   | 9   |
| <b>Holy Communion</b> 10<br>8:30 am Bible Study<br>9:45 am Traditional Service<br><b>Mite Box Sunday</b>     | 11                                         | 12                                                                    | 13  | 14                                          | 15<br><b>CrossTalk Articles Due</b> | 16  |
| <b>Holy Communion</b> 17<br>8:30 am Bible Study<br>9:45 am Contemporary Service                              | 18                                         | 19<br><b>11 am-1 pm Food Pantry</b><br><b>7 pm Board of Directors</b> | 20  | 21                                          | 22                                  | 23  |
| <b>Holy Communion</b> 24<br>8:30 am Bible Study<br>9:45 am Traditional Service                               | 25                                         | 26<br><b>3 pm School Board Meeting</b><br><b>7 pm Elders Meeting</b>  | 27  | 28                                          | 29                                  | 30  |
| <b>Holy Communion</b> 31<br>8:30 am Bible Study<br>9:45 am Blended Service<br><b>Church Picnic to follow</b> |                                            |                                                                       |     |                                             |                                     |     |

## Those serving July 2022

*If you are unable to serve during a time you are scheduled,  
please let an elder know and (if possible) find someone to serve for you.*

|             | <b>Elder</b>     | <b>Greeter</b>  | <b>Ushers</b>                                      | <b>Reader</b> | <b>Altar Care</b> | <b>Sound Board</b> | <b>Counters</b>               |
|-------------|------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>7/3</b>  | David Arnold     | Sara Hale       | Ed Berg<br>Lynn Petersen<br>David Petersen         | Eric Martin   | Jo Baumgardner    | Duane Wiebeck      | John Bacevic & Denna Johnson  |
| <b>7/10</b> | Gene Baumgardner | Laura Bern      | Keith Vollrath<br>Philip Sears<br>Jo Baumgardner   | Jim Perks     | TBD               | Steve Rutledge     | Dave Thomas & Dave Petersen   |
| <b>7/17</b> | Randy Schwarz    | Marcella Caskey | Brenda Montecalvo<br>Anthony Montecalvo<br>Ed Berg | Randy Schwarz | Deb Rutledge      | Bob Dahle          | Berly Boggess & Denny Norden  |
| <b>7/24</b> | Rob Hunt         | Patty Arnold    | Chuck Bern<br>Laura Bern<br>Keith Vollrath         | Greg Shrader  | TBD               | Duane Wiebeck      | Steve & Deb Rutledge          |
| <b>7/31</b> | David Arnold     | Lynn Petersen   | Marcella Caskey<br>Denny Norden<br>Greg Shrader    | Kelly Tursic  | Deb Rutledge      | Duane Wiebeck      | Beryl Boggess & Denna Johnson |