

CrossTalk

September 2022

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Heidi Congleton

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Perspectives for September 2022

“Faith Increased!”

The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” Luke 17:5 ESV

In Luke 17:3-4 we see “And he said to his disciples, **“Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, ‘I repent,’ you must forgive him.”**” ESV

Wow! That is asking a lot. Seven times in one day this brother or sister is called to repentance and he does repent. But then the forgiven one sins again and again and again.... To add to this, there is a constant action of repentance and a plea for forgiveness – which is granted.

Questions arise: Is this repentance genuine? Do I really need to even listen to this person anymore? Do I really have to keep forgiving? Am I enabling this sinner by offering forgiveness again and again? When can I say “No! Enough!” Doesn’t this revolving door process of confession and absolution cheapen God’s grace? Etc...

The disciple’s response to this “repetitive process” is shown in verse 5 as they say to Jesus **“Increase our faith!”**

In this context, I completely understand their response. This seems to be asking a lot!

Martin Luther, in his introduction to the book of Romans writes, **“...faith is God's work in us, that changes us and gives new birth from God. It kills the Old Adam and makes us completely different people. It changes our hearts, our spirits, our thoughts and all our powers. It brings the Holy Spirit with it. Yes, it is a living, creative, active, and powerful thing, this faith.....”**

“Faith is a living, bold trust in God's grace, so certain of God's favor that it would risk death a thousand times trusting in that grace. Such confidence and knowledge of God's grace makes you happy, joyful, and bold in your relationship to God and all creatures. The Holy Spirit makes this happen through faith. Because of it, you freely, willingly, and joyfully do good to everyone, serve everyone, suffer all kinds of things, love and praise the God who has shown you such grace. Thus, it is just as impossible to separate faith and works as it is to separate heat and light from fire!”

That is an intense statement! So, as we seek to understand the perspective of the disciples regarding their individual faith walk, we see that they realize that the faith which gives new life and makes new creations is **not active enough** in their hearts. **If** they would give faith free reign, **if** they would give the Holy Spirit free reign, they would willingly and joyfully forgive the sinful brother. He is saying that **if** faith is working within, we will be different people. We will be guided, not by our own frailties, issues, experiences, prejudices, and attitudes. That is, **IF** we surrender to our faith, thus surrendering to the Holy Spirit. Yes, that is a big **IF!**

(cont. on next page)

Perspectives for September 2022 Cont.

“Faith Increased!”

Thus, the request for an increase. To increase is to **“become or make greater in size, amount, intensity, or degree”**. We see that the disciples are seeing the expectations set before them as redeemed, forgiven believers, and are realizing that they are incapable of meeting this standard. They are realizing that without Jesus working in them, without the Holy Spirit working in them to enable them to forgive as He expects, they will fall short.

Increase our faith! A proper response!

In your daily walk with Christ, you are given the Holy Spirit to lead and guide you to continually look to Jesus for assurance of your salvation, and to strengthen you for the journey. The feast of Holy Communion is given to bring this assurance of forgiveness, to strengthen the faith and encourage the daily walk. Encouraged to boldly trust His promise and to reflect that boldness in your lives. Even when you are challenged with sins and sinners in your life, with adversity, with conflict, with opposition, with struggles of various sorts, you can have faith to endure whatever it may be.

After the disciples ask for more faith, Jesus says, **“If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.”** Luke 17:6 ESV

So – is it a lack of faith that gets in our way or simply a lack of the proper perspective and understanding of faith and the surrender that is the problem? For the average Christian, it is often a matter of seeing the power of God’s promise and presence in life and of realizing that faith is indeed a God action toward the believer to connect to the promise through the Spirit. God gives us these words from the disciples to encourage us, to show you to also know your human limitations and to regularly come again to Him saying, **“Increase my faith.”**

Go back, please, and reread the boldfaced words from Martin Luther in the beginning section. As you read it, stop after each sentence, and ponder those words. Pray over those words. Write down or underline key thoughts for you from those words.

May God **“INCREASE YOUR FAITH each day!”**

Pastor Brad

Thank you to my friends and family here at RCLC for the great honor and blessing I received on the 30th Anniversary of my ordination. I was surprised, and greatly blessed by your love and kindness. May God continue to bless us as we grow together in ministry. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

WHAT ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?

I was asked to lead a Bible study for adult Sunday School and want to share what I learned.

Spiritual gifts are:

Given by the Holy Spirit,

Received by All members of the church (that is, all members receive one or more gifts),

Given to be used within the church (and sometimes to touch people outside the church),

Given to build up the church. 2 Corinthians 1:4-7

Love and compassion, recognition of opportunities and challenges, the ability to listen, and being a risk taker are all examples of ways God equips us to do His work. Not all of us receive each gift, and they are manifested in many ways, but we all have the ability to pass on God's love. *Ephesians 4:7-8*

Discovering what your gifts are and how to best use them to praise God and build up His (our) church is the challenge we **all** face. Prayer, pastoral counseling and Bible study will go a long way toward helping us discover our gifts. *Colossians 3:15-17*

One of the elders' current goals is to have weekly Sunday School for children and adults starting September 11. What spiritual gift do you have that might be shared to reach this important goal???

Praise God and Share the Word,

Gene Baumgardner

(The title of the Bible study is "Concerning Spiritual Gifts" by Nadasdy and Doyle from the Concordia Publishing House Discipleship Series. I have copies and/or a download I would be happy to share!)





RISEN CHRIST
Lutheran Church

Vice President Tidbits

Sound Booth

As we continue to improve operation of the sound booth it appears the optimum configuration is for one person to monitor the sound with another to turn the slides and monitor the streaming. Makes everything much easier. We are updating instructions with larger photos to provide better visibility. Consider volunteering to advance slides or keep track of the microphone sound levels. Johnny Bacevic will provide training until you are comfortable. Should you want a closer look prior to making a commitment, visit the sound booth during worship service. You will always be welcome.

November Elections

The final 2023 slate for presentation to the voters for approval at the next congregation meeting is:

VP – John Bacevic, Treasurer – Sarah Bussell,
Member at Large – Becky Krieger.

Business Manager

Steve presented the latest LCEF mortgage rates and the Board approved to continue with the adjustable rate.

The security and fire alarm project is under review. All vendor quotations not in place.

Stewardship

Denna Johnson and Marcella Caskey will co-chair Stewardship. We welcome Marcella to the Stewardship Team. Church financial status will be communicated once a quarter via church blast and worship service announcement.

Yours in Christ,

John Bacevic

johnbacevicjr@msn.com

937-882-4023

Stewardship Report

Something to ponder from the Missouri Synod Stewardship Series.

Ephesians 4:28 "Let the thief no longer steal, but rather let him labor, doing honest work with his own hands, so that he may have something to share with anyone in need." God gives us honest work to do so that we can be a blessing to others. That's how so many of God's blessings go. He gives to us so that we in turn can be a blessing. He graciously us calls into the midst of His own work in the world.



Sisters in Christ

Sister in Christ are going to host the Miami Valley Zone LWML Fall Christian Retreat on Saturday October 15, 2022, from 9am to 12 pm. Watch for more details.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

The Sisters in Christ want to thank you for all the donations for the Toolkit Project. What a blessing for our school! On Sunday, August 21, 2022 we packed 24 bags of school supplies for the teachers and staff, **plus there was a box filled with all the extra supplies for the school year.** Praise GOD for all the donations, helping hands and fellowship!



The 24 Finished Bags—We had extra supplies in another box that we will be giving to the school!



Outreach Team

Greetings Congregation:

At the recent yard sale at the church we grilled over 100 hot dogs, and gave out ice cream, water and popsicles to the patrons of the event. This was a way of bringing Christ to the community. We also had some of the people come to church the next Sunday.

Food Pantry

Our numbers are coming up and increasing about 2 families a month. We are giving out more food. We have increased the amount of groceries from 2 bags to 3 bags. It should be noted that we have new people operating the Pantry. Besides Chandra and I, Chuck and Laura Bern have stepped up and are picking up the groceries from Second Harvest. They are also putting the signs up in the community the week before. Robin and Jeff Ford, Eric Martin and of course Denna Johnson are helping pack and distribute the bags of groceries. Phil and Linda Sears also helped out this month. Chandra and I do the ordering and securing funds to purchase the groceries. I was sent an email from Second Harvest about the prices for hams and turkeys this year. If we do both for Thanksgiving and Christmas, it will cost about the same as a Thrivent card for each holiday. The monthly bill for food is averaging about \$80 dollars and has increased with inflation. It would be appreciated if anyone in the congregation is looking for a good use of their Thrivent card for a donation. Our clients are all appreciative of the groceries. Unfortunately, we cannot feed the masses on a few fish and some loaves of bread as Jesus did.

Some of the other activities that are coming up soon include "Cookies and Coffee for Parents" also known as Boohoo/Yahoo on the first day of school, September the 1st. Trunk or Treat will be on October 28th in conjunction with the school. We are looking at some way of having debit cards for the pastor to give out when approached by people needing gas money.

Chandra and Greg Shrader



Connection/Assimilation

We have been working together with the Outreach team. Our objective is to get church members active in all functions of these committees.

Projects that we have completed thru July 2022.

1. On January 30, a fifth Sunday pot luck — we served 71 people who were in attendance.
2. In March, we served five (5) soup and bread suppers on each Wednesday in Lent with an average attendance of 15-18 people.
3. June 25 our teams cooked and served 125 hot dogs, provided water, and ice cream cups for the LWML garage sale. We received many positive comments from those in attendance. We have since then had at least two people wishing to join Risen Christ Lutheran Church.
4. On July 31, we served our 5th Sunday pot luck and had a special program to honor Pastor Viken for his 30 years as a Pastor. The food provided by many was excellent. A choir formed, practiced, and sang a song based on one of his favorite Bible verses—Acts 4:12.

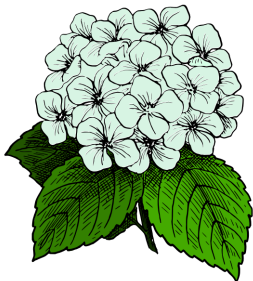
Our next scheduled event to be held is on **September 1** where we will serve cookies, juice, and coffee to the parents dropping off children for their first day of school.

For the Assimilation Function Our team is happy to report that we have three new future members, who are awaiting the membership class, and have already accepted new roles to help us and for them to get to know us.

Peg Bessler has helped out with building new banners for LWML garage sale and also an outside banner for the announcement that shows when our food pantry is to be opened. She is also active in programs for our Church school.

Irvin and Karen McWhorten have sung in our choir. Irvin is also a Sound Engineer, and is now helping with our continuing efforts for improvements in our sound system.

People in our church seem to be waiting for a personal call or discussion **and** an invite to join committees and provide us much needed help. When we asked directly for help, people have almost always said yes.



If you have any interest in volunteering in assisting us in either committee, please contact us: Philip.sears@att.net,
216-346-4319
Philip and Linda Sears

Risen Christ Lutheran School Report

The 2022-23 school year has begun! We are overjoyed to welcome 21 preschoolers, 95 elementary students and 25 staff members. Risen Christ congregation members are always welcome and encouraged to volunteer for the school. There are several different volunteer roles, some that involve working with students and some that do not. We are currently looking for a strings teacher, a baking club leader, a garden club leader, library support volunteers, lunchroom helpers, recess helpers, reading tutors, math tutors, office support, afterschool clean-up support and grounds maintenance. If you would enjoy participating as a school volunteer, please contact Rebecca Reid at 937-323-3688 x 11.

*For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
Ephesians 2:10*

Tippy Toe
Marble Grab—
Field Day
May 2022



Hello to my Risen Christ family!!

First, I want to thank you all for your continued patience as I get the office organized.

Second, I want to let you know that things are going to be changing. You may have already noticed somethings being different with the PowerPoints, the bulletins, etc. I hope none of these changes are painful for anyone...unless you're a Packer fan...(SKOL VIKINGS) Also....I'm kidding.

Third, I want to extend an invitation. I have heard from a few people that the church office used to be a hub of activity. People used to come into the office when they had a few minutes to volunteer, or if they simply wanted to talk. I am hoping we can get back to this.

Finally, I can't change things or fix things if I don't know there is a problem. Let me know how I can help you. Let me know how I can help the church.

I love you all and appreciate you all. Thank you for praying for me and my family. I hope we can grow and learn from each other, and I'm excited to see what the future holds for Risen Christ Lutheran Church.

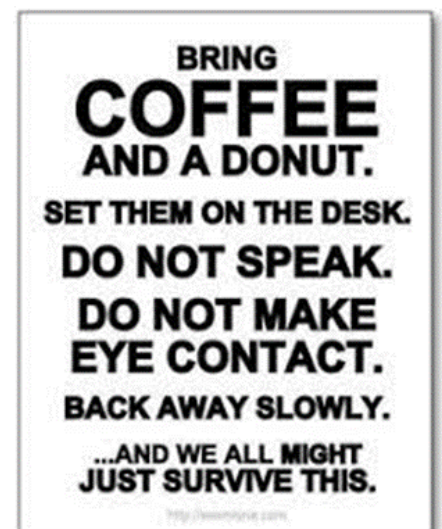
With love,

Bethany Viken

Risen Christ Lutheran Church

Office Manager

churchofficemanager@risenchristlcms.org



Risen Christ church family,

We thank God for you and your faithful partnership through BIB this year.
May He continue to increasingly use this ministry in the hands of His church
to practically proclaim Christ's love to the vulnerable in our community.

Your sister,

Adelaide Sutter

Pregnancy Resource Clinic of Clark County



Rally Day, September 11, will be the beginning of Sunday
School for all ages. Classes begin at 8:30 am every
Sunday.

What do you call a priest who becomes
a lawyer?

A father-in-law

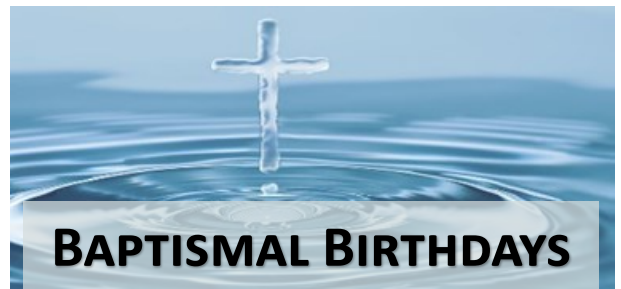
What is a dentist's favorite hymn?

Crown him with many crowns.





1	Kathy Ackley
	Denna Johnson
2	Isabel Brown
	Aaron Schwarz
6	Marti Bruggeman
7	Julie Hale
8	Ed Berg
10	Linda Thomas
11	Wesley Miller
	Rebekah Perks
	Brittany Reid
12	Ethan Cunningham
	Kaden McGuffey
13	Beth Ervin
17	Dakota Roy
20	Paul Bok
22	Kylee Schafer
	Noah Schafer
23	Reed Dahle
27	Joey Koval
29	John Kuziak
	Linn Harson Silliman



1	Kim Hunt
5	Charlotte Group
9	Rob Hunt
	Anthony Montecalvo
11	Marti Bruggeman
	Susan Gallagher
12	Norma Kettler
	Rebekah Perks
15	Manfred Rembold Sr.

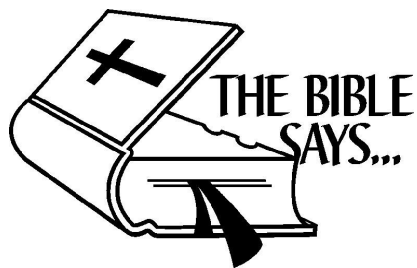


		Years
13	Duane & MaryAnn Wiebeck	36
14	Steve & Gayle Roberts	49
18	Rich & Linn Silliman	18
20	Sam & May Lou Rizzotte	54
27	Bugs & Marcella Caskey	19



- Sep 2 — National Food Bank Day
- Sep 5 — Labor Day
- Sep 11—National Patriot Day
- Sep 16—National POW/MIA Recognition Day
- Sep 18—Air Force Birthday
- Sep 27—National Day of Forgiveness

Scriptures for September 2022



Verse of the Month

This is good, and it is pleasing in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

1 Timothy 2:3-4

DID YOU
KNOW



Assuming your Bible is 1000 pages long (not counting study notes), and you read a page every 5 minutes, it should take you 84 hours or just under 3 and a half days to read it all! Start now!!

September 4

The Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading:

Deut. 30:15-20

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 1

Epistle Reading:

Philemon 1-21

Gospel:

Luke 14:25-35

September 11

The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost/Rally Sunday

First Reading:

Eze. 34:11-24

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 119:169-176

Epistle Reading:

1 Tim. 1:5-17

Gospel:

Luke 15:1-10

September 18

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading:

Amos 8:4-7

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 113

Epistle Reading:

1 Tim. 2:1-15

Gospel:

Luke 16:1-15

September 25

The Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading:

Amos 6:1-7

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 146

Epistle Reading:

1 Tim 6:6-19

Gospel:

Luke 16:19-31

	Elder	Greeter	Ushers	Reader	Altar Care	Sound Board	Counters
9/4	Gene Baumgardner	Mary Lou Rizzotte	Dave Petersen Lynn Petersen Marcella Caskey	Jim Perks	Jo Baumgardner	Linda Sears & Johnny Bacevic	John Bacevic & Denna Johnson
9/11	Randy Schwarz	Brenda Montecalvo	Ed Berg Greg Shrader Philip Sears	Anthony Montecalvo	Mycah Viken	Steve Rutledge & Johnny Bacevic	Dave Thomas & Dave Petersen
9/18	Rob Hunt	Marcella Caskey	Anthony Montecalvo Brenda Montecalvo Denny Norden	Kelly Tursic	Deb Rutledge	John Bacevic & Bob Dahle	Beryl Boggess & Denny Norden
9/25	Gene Baumgardner	Sara Hale	Chuck Bern Laura Bern Jo Baumgardner	Keith Vollrath	TBD	Kristina Vollrath & Steve Rutledge	Steve & Deb Rutledge

If the day you are scheduled does not work for you, please let the Church Office know ASAP. If possible, please find someone to fill the position for you.

September 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 st day of School 1	2	3
				<i>Cub Scout Pack 909 Pack Meeting 6:30pm- 7:30pm</i>		
Holy Communion 4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8:30 am Bible Study 9:45 am Contemporary Service	Labor Day	7 pm Ministry Team Leaders		9:00 am Monthly Circuit Pastors Meeting		
Holy Communion 11	12	13	14	15	16	17
8:30 am Bible Study 9:45 am Traditional Service		3:30 pm School Board Meeting				
Mite Box Sunday Rally Sunday						
Holy Communion 18	19	20	21	22	23	24
8:30 am Bible Study 9:45 am Contemporary Service		11 am-1 pm Food Pantry 7 pm Board of Directors Meeting	Cross Talk Articles Due			
Holy Communion 25	26	27	28	29	30	
8:30 am Bible Study 9:45 am Traditional Service		7 pm Elders			Crosstalk Published	