

June 2023



RISEN CHRIST
Lutheran Church & School

CrossTalk

Cover art © Kai'Lee White—RCLS Kindergarten

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Risen Christ Lutheran Church and School

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Sunday: Bible Study 9am Services 10am

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MS Social Studies

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PASTOR'S PONDERINGS PT. 1

Cotton Candy

**Magical! Mystical! Marvelous! Magnificent!
Mesmerizing! Mouthwatering!**

"Cotton Candy!" Close your eyes for 10 seconds and say those words to yourself. I would imagine those words cause many of you to go to a place in your past that has you experiencing again that strange sensation of sight, smell, touch and taste. You can probably still feel that strange metamorphosis of that ball of fluff as it sat on your tongue. If you have ever been near as they make it, that smell is most likely etched into your olfactory memory banks. It may bring a smile to your face, or a head shaking, tongue hanging out grunt of "yuck!" That is the **Cotton Candy** experience.

Recently, one of my grandkids came home from school with a quart bucket of **Cotton Candy**. He had no idea what it was, and even though it was watermelon flavored, he had no desire to try it – it just seemed too weird. He poked his fingers into it several times but would not try it. His little sister, the adventurous one, took some into her mouth and after a few seconds, leaned over and spit it into my outstretched hand. It was just too different.

Too sweet, too sticky, too crystalline, too changing, too airy! - Too! Too! Too!

Just simply too much! And too little at the same time. Cotton Candy!

Cotton Candy. All fluff. No substance. Spiritual junk food. No nutrition. No benefit. This can also apply to religious perspective and teachings that are across the world, even in our community.

Spiritual Cotton candy. Of no real benefit, simply a fun, flavorful, somehow satisfying religious experience. Just short-term satisfaction and pleasure.

We have preachers with massive stadium type worship centers who are living like kings because they are willing to ignore the meat of the Bible and teach and preach primarily about the fluff. How to gain wealth, health and happiness continues to be a very popular and profitable message from preachers of varying backgrounds. This message of acceptance sells a lot better than, "You are a sinner! Repent!"

Morality doesn't matter. Truth does not matter. Commitment does not matter. Standing on the meat of God's Word is an alien concept. "Me first! My stuff! Satisfy me!" I matter most. I will only worship a god who lets me be me, my way. Any god who would have me be different or who would tell me that my opinion is wrong is not a god for me. **Cotton Candy**

Taste and
see that
the Lord is
Good,
Blessed is
the one
who takes
refuge in
him.
Ps. 34:8



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS PT. 2

Cotton Candy. All fluff. No substance. Spiritual Junk food. No nutrition. No benefit.

In his second letter to young Pastor Timothy, the Apostle Paul is reminding him of the faith in which he was raised through his family and was clarified through the teaching and mentoring of Paul and the nurture of God's Holy Spirit. Timothy is encouraged in the 6th verse to **stir up the embers of his faith, to kindle again the fire of faith that is in His foundation**, to be better prepared for the challenges ahead in his ministry. Paul reminds him of the laying on of hands that he experienced and the Spirit's presence and power that was given to him.

2 Timothy 1:13-14 says, **"Work to hang on to the pattern of pure teaching that you have heard and learned from me, which are in faith and benevolent love in Jesus Christ. Be on guard to see that, by the Holy Spirit within you, preserve and protect the beautiful deposit that was entrusted to you."**

He knows that Timothy is and will continue to face those who do not agree with him and the teaching of the pure Word of God, with its crushing Law and its life giving Gospel. Paul writes that people are leaving his flock, as some things are getting harder for the Christians in a world that does not like the singlemindedness of the Scriptures.

The world in His day, as in every era throughout history, did not want to hear the truth of God's pure, lifesaving, soul saving word of life. There is a call for compromise, for silence of matters of importance. The attitude that says, "you can have your god as long as you do not interfere with my faith life and focus" permeates every relationship.

"I want those fertility gods. Their worship is more fun, energetic, sexy, and interesting. If I play my religious cards right, I will be as wealthy and healthy and happy as the emperor himself." "You can believe whatever you want about any god and so can I." "I prefer that you focus on those things that make me feel good about myself and my family and not so much about **sin** and **heaven** and **hell**. That stuff has no place in my life." I want to feel good in worship.

Cotton Candy. All fluff. No substance. Spiritual Junk food. No nutrition. No benefit.

Caution! Offensive words ahead!

We are born sinful. We can't fix that. Sin deserves punishment, even condemnation from God. Jesus came to live a sinless life and then to die for the guilt of all sinners ever and everywhere. He set it up that whoever would hear of Him through the Bible and believe His promise would be forgiven and be declared a saint in God's perfect opinion. He did this because our souls needed saving, because our words, thoughts and actions would have us condemned, and we could do nothing to rescue ourselves.



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS PT. 3

To preach Jesus carries with it the teaching of heaven and hell, of judgment and justification, of saints and sinners, of surrender, selflessness, and servanthood, of repentance and restoration. This is offensive teaching, because it states we are less than perfect and that we have done and do things that are worthy of condemnation. These concepts are not always well received, because we are not so keen on the concept of reality, unless it is one which we have invented.

No **Cotton Candy** here. No overly sweet, syrupy nothingness. Just the life-giving Word of life. No warm fuzziness. No sweet sugary fluff. Just truth. For better or for worse. God's truth. **Yes, you can believe whatever you want about whatever makes you feel good. You have that right, that freedom.** But, remember that the only way to be saved is through faith in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. I encourage you to move forward, beyond all the sweet sugary, self-help, prosperity, feel good, anything goes messages that surround each of us, and cling to the hope and promise that is in Jesus Christ. He loves you unconditionally. He wants you to be saved. He wants you to know and trust his promise. His sweet message of salvation is that as you hear His Word and believe His promise, you WILL be saved. Eternity in His perfect paradise is yours. This is the sweetest, most satisfying message that has ever existed.

The following list of scripture is essential for a life of faith. I encourage you to read and work to memorize these verses and the idea behind them. As you read and contemplate these holy Words of God, his Holy spirit will work in your heart and mind as you let Him to draw you close and closer to Him and His love.

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- ◇ **These are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. *John 20:31 ESV***
- ◇ **The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. *Rom 10:8-9 ESV***
- ◇ **Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it! *Luke 11:28 ESV***
- ◇ **All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work. *2 Timothy 3:16-17 ESV***
- ◇ **as it is written: "None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God.... "There is no fear of God before their eyes." *Rom 3:10-11, 18 ESV***
- ◇ **we know that whatever the law says it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be stopped, and the whole world may be held accountable to God. *Rom 3:19***
- ◇ **God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. *Rom 5:8 ESV***
- ◇ **So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." *John 8:31-32 ESV***



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS PT. 4

- ◇ **whoever believes in him (Jesus) may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil.**

John 3:14b-19 ESV

- ◇ **all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,** *Rom 3:23-24 ESV*
- ◇ **The Jailer said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household."** *Acts 16:30-31 ESV*
- ◇ **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me** *Psalms 51:10 ESV*
- ◇ **the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**
Rom 6:23 ESV
- ◇ **by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.** *Eph 2:8-9 ESV*
- ◇ **Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.** *Rom 5:1-2 ESV*
- ◇ **There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.** *Rom 8:1 ESV*
- ◇ **And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."** *Joshua 24:15 ESV*
- ◇ **everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."** *Rom 10:13*

**May these words bring a sweetness to
your mouth, your heart, your mind, our soul.**

Pastor Brad





ELDER'S REPORT PT. 1

Heart to Heart

As you know, Kim and I lost our 35 year old son Matt on March 23 of this year. In this month's article I would like to reshare a portion of what was spoken at his funeral. **My hope is that it serves to reveal a portion of the heart of God and somehow draws you closer in your relationship with Him.** One of the readings our family chose was the account from John 11 of the death of Jesus's dear friend Lazarus. Jesus had intentionally delayed coming to his bedside, letting Lazarus die. When He arrived Jesus found the family overwhelmed by grief, and their pain of loss was obviously felt by Jesus. I would encourage you to read this portion of scripture. It is very revealing.

The following words were shared....

"I want to go back to our last reading about Lazarus. To me, the most striking part of this history is not that Jesus rose Lazarus from the dead, but rather that 'Jesus Wept.' Jesus did not weep out of a sense of personal loss. Jesus knew that Lazarus was going to die. He, in fact, **let** him die..... He flat out tells the disciples this. So Jesus wasn't feeling the pain of separation like we are feeling for Matt, because He knew that He was going to resurrect him (*Lazarus*) and physically see him again. He wept because He saw the pain in the lives of those around him. He wept because He saw the pain of separation that Mary and Martha were feeling. *He* was in agony over the fact that *everyone else* was in agony. He knew, He felt their pain."

"I can relate to that, and maybe you can also. In our situation here today, many of us will sometimes react less to our own pain and more to the pain we see in others. And that's OK. That is good. That is right. Jesus wept for those around Him at Lazarus's grave, and God is weeping *with us* today... as he was yesterday, and will be tomorrow. Tears are healing. God seeks to heal our hearts; He cries with us. That is what is so amazing to me."

"Jesus used the opportunity to show yet again in a powerful way that He was indeed who He had been saying He is.....the Son of God. He took the opportunity to again show His **compassion, mercy and love**... **God's** compassion, mercy and love. That is who God is! God is not a God of cruelty, vindictiveness, unrighteous anger, the instigator of our pain and suffering. This world often paints this picture of Him, but this is not the God that Kim and I have come to know, have always experienced in our life, the God we are experiencing now. He is a God of **compassion, love, mercy**.... and especially a God of **Grace**. This is the God who loves Matt. This is the God who loves each one of you."

"Very shortly after resurrecting Lazarus, Jesus committed God's ultimate act of love, compassion, and grace by sacrificing Himself on the cross of calvary as the payment for everything that separates us from Him. He did this just to reconcile mankind back to Himself, to reconcile Matt to God, to reconcile **you** to God. [This reconciliation and all the benefits of this act of love are available to anyone who would only believe.](#)"

"He loved Lazarus... He loved Mary & Martha, He loved Matt, He loves each of you and me. Jesus loved Lazarus and his family enough to delay coming to him, **choosing** not to come to his **bedside**, but rather to his **grave**. He chose the most powerful way possible to demonstrate His love in that moment. God **chose** to not come to **Matt's** bedside to physically heal him, but He will soon be coming to Matt's grave to raise him, to fulfill His love for Matt, to reconcile Matt back to himself. Matt being healed physically would have gained him only a few more short years here. Although God is a part of our daily lives, He is even more interested in what will last for an eternity."



ELDER'S REPORT PT. 2

"I know that both Kim and I would have given our lives for Matt's if it was possible. But ultimately Kim and I would both rather have it God's way than our own. As we have gotten to know the Creator of the Universe in more intimate ways, we have experienced just how trustworthy He really is. He sees our lives, our future from the perspective of His eternity. We can trust Him. We can rely on Him. We owe everything to Him. That's just the way God is. And we thank Him for the privilege of being Matt, Lee and Nate's mom and dad. We are grateful that He has brought Felicia into our lives through Lee.

"...Nate... told me of a scripture verse he had been thinking about regarding Matt. I want to share it with you.

Psalm 34:8 *Taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!*

"I thank you.... Kim, Lee, Nate and Felicia thank you for opening your hearts and pouring out your love to us. Our family prays that you let God bless you in ways that only He can do!"

Living in Peace... Even In The Storm.

Rob

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



*The LORD is good, a refuge in
times of trouble.*

*He cares for those who trust
in him. Nahum 1:7 NIV*



*In memory of Matt Hunt
May 22, 1987—March 23, 2023*



RISEN CHRIST
Lutheran Church

Vice President Tidbits

Risen Christ Hot Meal Program

Thanks for your continued support of this outreach program. We now have sufficient funds to get through the summer. We would appreciate additional help in the kitchen. Currently about 25 people depend on our meal. Perhaps we should consider expanding our service to shut in's and elder members. Please let me know any comments you can share.

Computer Internet and network

The new server is functioning and files continue to be transferred. Our goal is to complete process by mid June. Thanks for your patience during the transfer of hosting to our in house CPU. There are a few issues with syncing email, IP addresses and other web functions. These are being resolved through Google dependent on their timing. Should you have any questions regarding our IT systems please contact Johnny Bacevic at (937) 505-0032 or webmaster@risenchristlms.org.

Communication

We believe communication at Risen Christ is good but certainly can be improved. We suggest that members contact President, VP or Pastor for questions or comments. During future congregation meetings we intend to provide a brief update of current issues. Church blasts, email, announcements during worship services, our newsletter, website, Facebook etc. appear to be working for our members. A Town Hall type meeting suggestion is under consideration that may be integrated in congregation meetings.

Worship Services

Summer attendance is generally lower due to vacation travel. Current Worship attendance is less than 80 and we believe there would not be a significant increase for two services. In addition, we are experiencing difficulty in staffing ushers, sound booth, communion help etc. for our single service. Our recommendation is to continue with one Sunday worship service until September and review at that time.

Yours in Christ,

John Bacevic

johnbacevicjr@msn.com

937-882-4023



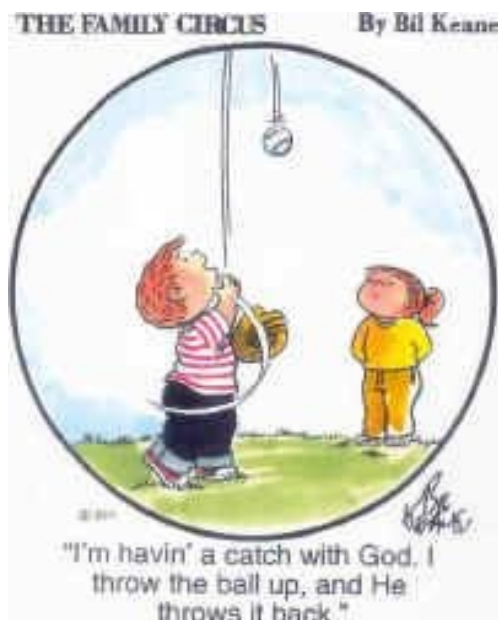


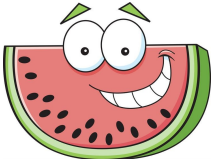
Stewardship Report

“But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.” James 1:22

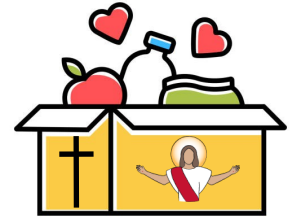
The Word of God is not merely to be heard, but believed. Our faith is implanted and strengthened by the Word of God. As Luther said, “Oh, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing this faith. And so it is impossible for it not to do good works incessantly.” James’ epistle encourages us to examine our lives and come to repentance when we are not living out our faith in sincerity”.

RCLC what are we doing in Christ’s name? What more could we do?





OutReach Report



It has been a very active month for the Pantry. We served 34 families in May for a total of 102 individuals. Our clients needs are great. We had a new customer that was legally blind. He stated that he and his wife could not make ends meet for the first time in their lives. He had never been to a pantry before and really appreciated the help. The majority of our people are senior citizens with many raising their grandchildren. The extra help people were receiving during COVID is now non-existent. Our costs are increasing also. Last month we actually ran out of most of our groceries. This month I doubled up on what we normally purchase and unfortunately did not include any pasta products. About the only veggies were corn and tomatoes.

For June we are requesting boxes of mac and cheese or spaghetti and sauce. The congregation has been very gracious in helping us supply the pantry with items we have not been able to purchase over the last six months. We are trying to supply a family of 4 with 3 days of groceries to help get them to the end of the month.

We would also like to thank Denna Johnson and Steve and Deb Rutledge for Thrivent cards. Your Pantry team includes the Berns, the Sears, Eric Martin and the Shraders.

Enriching and renewing lives by bringing Christ to our community.

Blessings—

Your OutReach Team



Sisters in Christ



A Joy-Filled Tea Party

What a joy to be together! Risen Christ School families, staff, friends, and the Sisters in Christ joined together for a joy-filled tea party. Tables were set with a variety of beautiful tea cups and tea pots and decorated with a vase full of flowers that were later table prizes for the lucky person who had a smiling face sticker under their seat and students received special activity bags. After getting-to-know you activities, the group was ready for “tea and crumpets”—food tables adorned with delicacies such as homemade buckeyes and teapot cookies, mini quiches, chicken salad on naan, etc., etc., etc. coupled with a wide selection of tea bags.

During the skit, “Way Down in My Heart,” Sharon searched for the joy that she had lost. Laura and Sara helped her think of places it may have gone—in the closet? At church (called the Pastor), the refrigerator, etc. They remembered that Sharon’s lost joy was down in her heart all the time!

Sue shared a devotion focused on understanding the differences between joy and happiness. Happiness is temporary, superficial, and not sustainable. In contrast, joy is consistent, internal, and achievable only through the love of Christ. *John 15: 11 says, “I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.”* In like manner, courageous joy remains even though life has its rocky times. That courageous joy moves to become contagious joy.

Joy was then shared through song. Jim and Sharon led us in singing songs as “How Great as Our God” and using hand motions for songs as “I’ve Got the Joy, Joy, Joy.” At the end of the event, focus moved to the “Jars of Joy” (created by Sara and Mickey) filled with joy Bible verses. Individuals (very often Risen Christ students) shared those 17 joy verses. (From Sue’s research) there are 430 joy verses found in the Bible! Many more verses could be added to the jars!

Many women worked together to share their joy in the Lord by helping with the event in so many ways. THANK YOU! You are all a blessing
May the God of hope fill you with all JOY and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13.



Sisters in Christ





This is a new program that supports RCLS.

Would you like to contribute to RCLS without costing you a Dime?

You can!

The Ohio general assembly established the:

OHIO Department of Taxation Scholarship Donation Credit

- The Ohio General Assembly established Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGOs) in 2021 to provide financial assistance to students in non-public schools.
- Donors who contribute to an SGO are eligible to receive a DOLLAR-for-DOLLAR nonrefundable tax credit up to \$750.00 each.
- The Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization of Ohio (LSGO of Ohio) was established to assist Faith-Based schools in raising funds.
- RCLS is a participating school with LSGOOHIO.com

How can you Participate?

1st Look at your State of Ohio income tax return for 2022, form 1040IT and check line 8c. This line shows what you owed in state taxes. If you believe you will owe the state about the same for 2023, this program is for you.

2nd You can send funds this year to support RCLS by contributing the amount you owe or \$750, ***which ever is less***, to lsgoohio.com.

Contributors to lsgoohio.com receive a ***DOLLAR-for-DOLLAR tax credit*** up to \$750 per person or \$1,500 if filing jointly where each person separately donates up to \$750. Total cannot exceed line 8c of form 1040IT for this tax credit.

3rd Go to lsgoohio.com, click on “*Donate Now*” then scroll down to “*Designation*” and select “*Risen Christ Lutheran school (Springfield)*.”

4th LSGO of Ohio will send you a letter accepting your donation. This letter will be filed with your State 1040IT

5th When filing your 2023 Ohio 1040IT, make sure you fill out “*2023 Schedule of Credits*”, Line 15, “*Scholarship donation credit (include copies of all required documentation)*”

This redirects the state tax funds to LSGO of Ohio there by increasing your refund or reducing the amount you owe the state.

Tell your family and friends



3	Jeannie Day
5	Keith Vollrath
10	Dakota Perks
13	Anthony Montecalvo
14	Stradin Bien-Aime
19	John Bacevic Jr.
20	Wesley Mulkey
22	Nate Hunt
22	Fritz Jeanneret
22	Sam McKee
22	Greg Shrader
30	Ruth Romaker



		Years
6/8	Steve & Deb Rutledge	38
6/15	Fritz & Diane Jeanneret	60
6/16	Rich & Sandy Davis	63
6/19	David & Patty Arnold	63
6/19	Chuck & Laura Bern	60
6/20	Kathy & David Ackley	25



BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

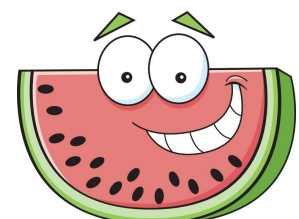
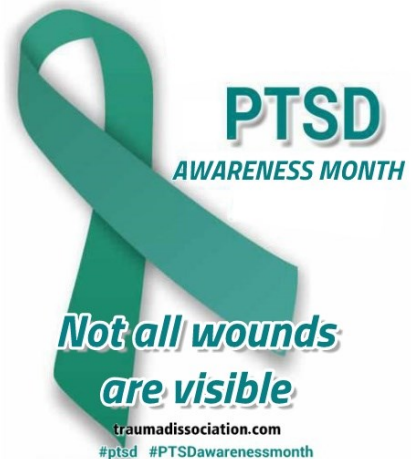
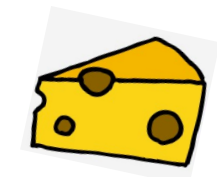
1	Christina Kaiser
1	Michaela Kaiser
5	Aaron Buck

National PTSD Awareness Month

- 4 National Cheese Day
- Cancer Survivor's Day
- 8 National Best Friend's Day
- 11 Corn on the Cob Day
- 14 World Blood Donor Day
- Army Birthday
- Flag Day

18 Father's Day

- 21 1st Day of Summer



ESV Scriptures for June 2023

Verse of the Month:

Then He said to His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

Matthew 9:37-38

June 4

Holy Trinity Sunday

First Reading:

Gen 1:1-2:4a

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 8

Epistle Reading:

Acts 2:14a, 22-36

Gospel:

Matt 28:16-20

June 11

2nd Sunday of Pentecost

First Reading:

Hos 5:15-6:6

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 119:65-72

Epistle Reading:

Rom 5:6-15

Gospel:

Matt 9:9-13

June 18

3rd Sunday of Pentecost

First Reading:

Exod 19:2-8

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 100

Epistle Reading:

Rom 5:6-15

Gospel:

Matt 9:35-10:20

June 25

4th Sunday of Pentecost

First Reading:

Jer 20:7-13

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 91:1-16

Epistle Reading:

Rom 6:12-23

Gospel:

Matt 10:5a, 21-33

Did you know??

The two shortest songs in the Bible are both in 2 Chronicles? (5:13 & 20:21)

