



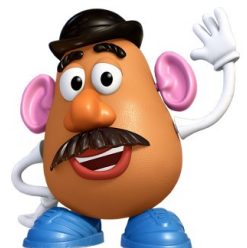
September 2023



If you can do all this with a potato,
think of all God can do with you



CrossTalk



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Before Care

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Lisa Mulkey

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Risen Christ Lutheran Church and School

41 E Possum Road. Springfield, Oh 45502

(937) 323-3688 www.risenchristlcms.org

Sunday: Bible Study 9am Services 10am



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS PT. 1

Rally Day: Vroom



As I prepared for this article, I searched on the internet with the word “**Rally**” and looked for images. The result in a few different search sites produced the same result.

Hundreds, yes literally hundreds of pictures of cars, trucks, motorcycles, and other wheeled **Vehicles**. So, if I did not know any better, I would assume from this visual search that the word “**Rally**” must mean a **Vehicular** event of some sort. **Rally** must equal some type of gathering of **Vehicles** and therefore the people who race, collect, show, observe or cheer for their favorites.

Our own “**Rally Day**” is fast approaching (Sept. 10). Using the above understanding of **Rally**, I am expecting that we will have a parking lot full of **Vehicles** on our **Rally Day**. Yes, cars, truck, SUV’s, perhaps even a few motorcycles, horses, or even a motorhome. Does that sound about right to you? Yes?! No?! Maybe?! Huh?!

We are not going to have a race or a car show, (although that would be a good idea for another year on **Rally Day**). We are not planning to gather around outside among the many **Vehicles** and vote for the best one, with hoods open, looking at motors and admiring paint jobs. But, we are going to use our **Vehicles** to get us to **Risen Christ Lutheran Church** for our **Rally Day**. This **Rally Day** is much more important than any of the other types of “**Rally**” events because we are going to **Rally** together with our focus upon God’s [Spirit-filled Word of truth and life](#).

Before I lose the car buffs among the readers, I will discuss the word “**Vehicle**” a little bit more. The origin of the word is mid-16th century the French word “*vehere*” meaning “to carry”. **Vehicle** today has as one of the definitions: “*a thing used to express, embody or fulfill something.*”¹ As we see this expanded definition we realize that God’s Church is a **Vehicle**, in that it is used to embody, express and deliver God’s truth and love to all humans of every age.

One of the words in the definition for **Vehicle** is the word “Embody,” which means “*to be an expression of or give a tangible or visible form to thought, idea, teaching*,” etc.² This brings us perfectly, then to the church, the Body of Christ. As God’s Holy Spirit guides the Apostle Paul to write, “*Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.*”³ So, we see then, that we are literally called the Body of Christ and are called and empowered to **embody the love of Jesus as we move daily through life**. The church then is indeed a **Vehicle** for delivering and embodying God’s message of salvation by grace, through faith in Christ. So, we **Rally**!



PASTOR'S PONDERINGS PT. 2

Rally Day is a day that would have us gathering as brothers and sisters in Christ; in and around the **Vehicle** that is God's Church. We gather on Sept. 10 for the following:



for Fun, Food, and Fellowship (and pancakes),



to invite others to join our time together for fellowship and growth,



to jump start our Sunday school for the fall season,



to bring together our young ones



so that they can be blessed by His Word of Life,



for a time to stress the value and importance of His Holy Word of life,



so that His Holy Spirit would work mightily,



through song and prayer



through the blessing of Holy Baptism, to create faith in an infant



To strengthen and sustain saving faith,



Through the reading and preaching of His Holy Word,



through His sacrament of the Body and Blood of Jesus



through the fellowship of believers as we encourage one another,



through time in prayer and contemplation,



To get our hearts, lives and minds changed and encouraged by His Holy Spirit, so that we are eager for study – beyond our 70 minutes or so of worship.

Our theme for **Rally Day** is "**Everyone**" from Romans 10:13 which says, "**Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.**"⁴ If you know someone who needs to know and trust the love of Jesus Christ, invite them for pancakes on September 10. Invite them for Sunday School or for Adult Bible Class starting on September 17. If you invited them in the past and they said "no thank you" try again. If they used to come but have wandered away, invite them again. It is time to **Rally**. Let this **Rally** be a new start. Let the **Vehicle** of God's church in this place carry you forward in your faith growth and development. **Rally Day**, however, can't be the only day this happens. **Rally Day** is a jump start. A new beginning. The spirit of this day needs to be continued throughout the year ahead. **Continue** inviting. **Continue** encountering and encouraging. **Continue** studying, surrendering, and serving. **Continue** gathering and growing. **Continue** praising, praying, and participating in worship.

Let the **Rally** begin and **Continue** for **Everyone**.

Pastor Brad

Reference notes:

1. Definition of "**Vehicle**" is from "Oxford Languages" - Oxford University Press

2. Ibid - "embody"

3. The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. ESV® Text Edition: 2016. Copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers.

4. Ibid

ELDER'S REPORT PT. 1

“For 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. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.” Ephesians 2:8-10

This month, I would like to take a moment and celebrate the many ways we worship God in our church and recognize those people that help make them happen.

Our Sunday worship is the obvious starting place with Pastor Brad in his leadership role bringing the word of Jesus Christ, salvation and how Jesus impacts our daily lives. In addition to Pastor is the music program which enriches our services greatly. Bethany Viken and Linda Sears do a wonderful job of not only playing the piano/organ, but direct the praise team and musicians. More voices and more instruments are always welcome. The entire ensemble brings joy and celebration to our worship.

Also, Sunday School for children will be starting on September 10 with Rally Day and classes on September 17. We are very thankful for 3 teams of teachers who will be using a multi-grade lesson guide for all ages. Please consider joining the teaching team and bring your children to Sunday School from 9:00 to 9:45 AM. Adult Bible Study will also start on September 17 with a study of Bible heroes. Contact Pastor Brad or me with any questions or to volunteer.

Worship and celebration happen throughout the week and month when people of the church gather together. Our 5th Sunday potlucks allows us to break bread together with a meal and conversation, learning about the lives of our extended church family. Many thanks to Sara Hale and the Connections team. In addition to the 5th Sunday events, there have been at least 10 events when the team has used their talents to enhance gatherings of God's people. Upcoming events include a pancake breakfast for Rally Day, 5th Sunday potluck on October 29 (favorite team tailgate) and December 31 5th Sunday potluck (Happy New Year). If you would like to help, contact Sara Hale at 937-925-0017.

ELDER'S REPORT PT. 2

There are other ways we worship and celebrate God in Jesus Christ. There are 2 Bible study groups underway that bring people together to study the inspired work of God. A women's Bible study group was started this summer and will now continue to meet on Tuesday mornings at 10 AM at the church. A study of the book of Esther by Beth Moore will be used. Even if you can only come occasionally, please join us! Contact Sharon Perks at 937-206-4422 if interested. A men's study group is just getting a good start. Contact Chuck Bern at 937-414-6995 for details. If these 2 groups don't work into your schedule, more small groups are welcome! Contact Pastor or the elders with your ideas.

This just touches the tip of the iceberg of opportunities for worship and celebration at Risen Christ Lutheran.

Yours in Christ,

Gene Baumgardner

614-316-4000





RISEN CHRIST
Lutheran Church

Vice President Tidbits

Hot Meal Program: We continue to feed needy individuals within the greater Springfield area every Saturday between 5-6 PM. In addition, Sara Hale and Johnny Bacevic have been delivering several meals to those not able to drive. I believe we are blessed as we serve and bring Christ to our community. Rudy's Smokehouse donates food to our meal once a month on the first Saturday. I would again encourage you to thank Rudy's for their participation during your next visit to their restaurant at **2222 S Limestone Street**, about 5 minutes from our church.

Welcome Center: A new addition of a second TV displaying information will be added to the wall as you exit the sanctuary. The equipment is on order and is scheduled for installation early September. The same information will be on both TV's. Any ideas or comments regarding content should be directed to either Peg Bessler or Sue Gallagher.

Security System: Homeland Security has installed magnetic closers on the door set next to the church library. The narthex door hardware should be delivered shortly. Homeland is wrapping up the last details to complete the project.

Annual Congregation Meeting: This year our meeting is scheduled directly after the worship service on Sunday, November 19th. The 2024 budget is being prepared and will be presented for your approval. Also the two positions on the Board to be elected are President and Recording Secretary. Ministry Team leaders will outline their 2024 congregation plans. During October, additional agenda details will be distributed. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend. Contact Anthony Montecalvo with any questions or comments.

Yours in Christ,

John Bacevic

johnbacevicjr@msn.com

937-882-4023



RCLS/School Board



Introducing Risen Christ School's Newest Teacher

Meet Christina Johnson, Risen Christ School's new 2nd grade teacher. Ms. Johnson is from Dayton, OH, and says even when she was growing up, she wanted to be a teacher and be like her teachers. Her journey towards that goal of working with children began when she was 18. She worked as a Montessori teacher assistant, a nanny, a childcare director, and trauma care teacher assistant. Christina earned her degree in both Early Childhood Education and Special Education and graduated on May 23 from Grand Canyon University.

She likes spending her leisure time with her family and friends and taking her Pomeranian to the park. Her favorite color is all shades of purple and she loves to bake. *(lucky second graders)*

When asked where she would choose to travel, if she could go anywhere in the world, she said she would like to visit Israel and learn more about biblical history.

Christina's church home is Inspiration Church in Dayton, Ohio.

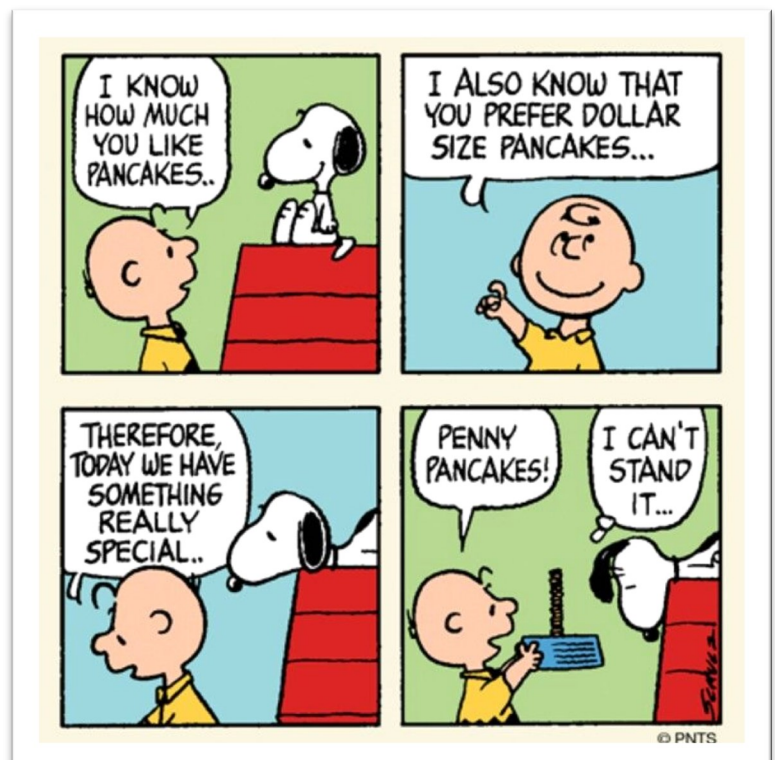
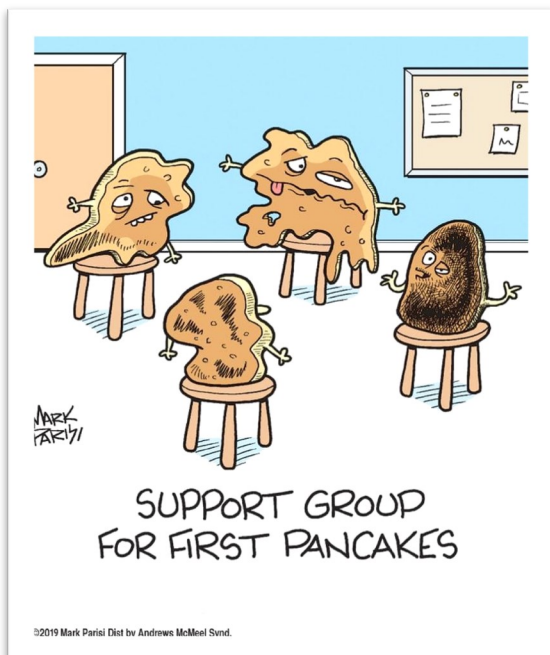
WELCOME TO THE RISEN CHRIST FAMILY CHRISTINA!

Connections Report

Kick off our new Sunday School year by getting your pancakes, flapjacks, griddlecakes, hotcakes, or slapjacks on **Sunday September 10th at 9 am.** Let us come renew our energy together for the common purpose to learn and serve our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The 5th Sunday potluck, “Meet Your Elder Luau,” was a fun event. There was plenty of delicious food and fellowship. There were 36 families in attendance. All that was missing was Don Ho and the hula dancers!

To kick off the 2023- 2024 Risen Christ school year, an ice cream social was held in the fellowship hall on August 28th and 29th. Hope you cooled off with some refreshing ice cream!



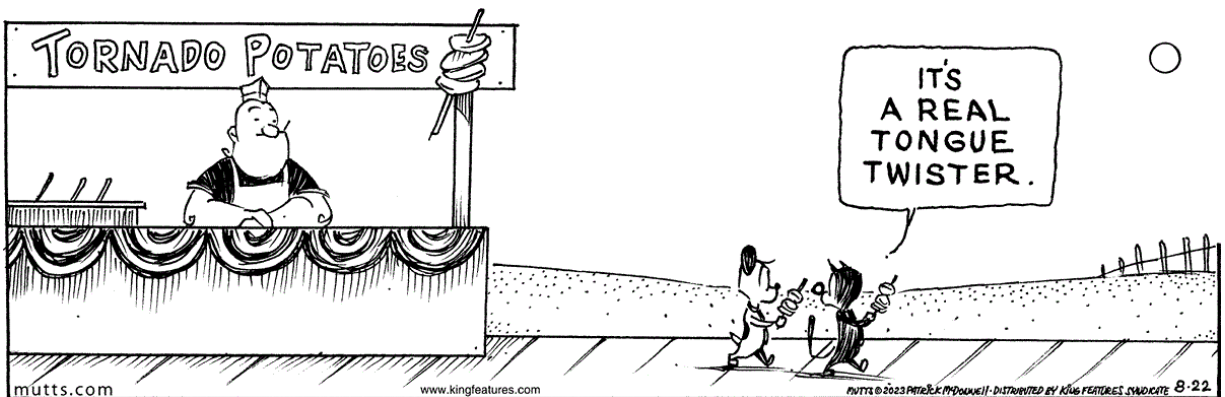
Stewardship Report

"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul." Matthew 16:26 ESV

At Risen Christ you have recently provided the funds to complete a huge project, replacing our Security System and updating our Fire Alarm. Even though the project required additional monies totaling \$3000, your generous gifts came through and donations covered what was needed to finish.

Our new challenge is to eliminate the budget deficit of \$7000 from last year. To make it as easy as possible to donate, your stewardship committee is recycling the left-over envelopes from the Fire Alarm Drive. You will find these envelopes on the table to the left as you enter the Sanctuary. They are white with green writing that says "Deficit". **Please add your name or envelope number and place in the offering plate.** A few envelopes have been placed in some of the pews.

Just as we have done in the past, the RCLC congregation can eliminate this deficit with large and small gifts.



Outreach Report



Greetings from the Risen Christ Pantry crew. The majority of our clients are seniors. They are living on very fixed incomes and many have health issues. We try to give them balanced nutritious food including meat, vegetables, carbohydrates, and other foods to fill their needs. We had one new lady that is dealing with cancer. She said she felt blessed that she only has one treatment left. Our numbers seem to be leveling off at around forty families. This equals about 100 plus individuals that are not going hungry at least for a while.

In July we spent \$84 which equates to 84 cents per person. We were blessed with being able to purchase whole chickens at 45 cents each. I place the orders early in the month and Chuck and Laura Bern pick the groceries up the Thursday before Pantry day. Their vehicle is usually packed from front to back. They then unload and organize all of the groceries. The Berns also put out signs for the pantry at various intersections.

This month the Fords, Berns, Shraders, Eric Martin, and Phil Sears packed and carried groceries for about 2 hours. Each family receives about 3 bags of groceries plus some non-bagged items.

The Pantry crew feels blessed that the congregation is so supportive. You have helped fill the gaps for food items that Second Harvest has not had in their inventory. This month we are requesting pancake mix and/or syrup. We will continue this outreach endeavor with joy in our hearts and praises to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

*For I was hungry, and **you gave me meat**: I was thirsty, and **you gave me drink**: I was a stranger, and **you took me in**. Matt 25:40 ESV*

Greg and Chandra Shrader



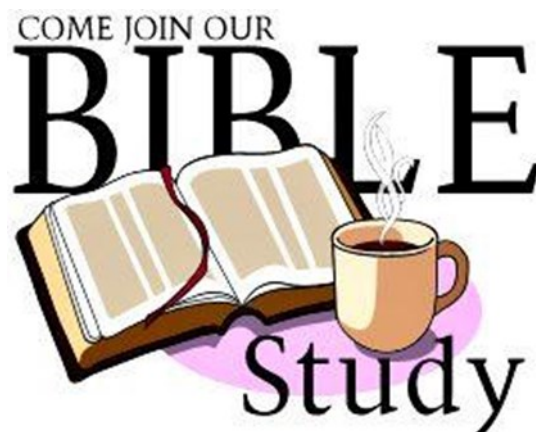
Sisters in
Christ

Sisters in Christ

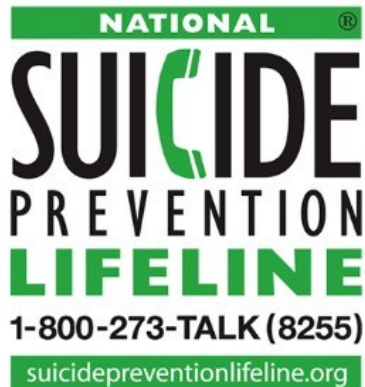


October 8 will be celebrated as LWML Sunday! We will be looking for all ladies in the congregation to help with this Service, and sign-ups for ushers, greeters, readers, etc. will start mid-September. Please watch for more information, and consider helping with this event! Contact Jo Baumgardner or Denna Johnson for more information.

The Women's Bible Study will continue into September and again will meet every Tues @ 10am @ RCLC. The study of Esther by Beth Moore will be used and it promises to be an exciting time together. Please join us, and invite a friend, even if you can only attend once. If you have questions, please contact Sharon Perks.



The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is now: 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline



September is Suicide Prevention Month

- We lose **over 800,000 people per year** to suicide.
- It is the **10th biggest cause** of death worldwide
- Two of the **leading factors** that contribute to suicide are **isolation** and feeling like a **burden**
- Speaking up when suicidal **isn't attention seeking**
- Having mental health issues **doesn't make you "weak"**



Please share to raise awareness.
#SupportSavesLives #BreakTheStigma

@realdepressionproject





Zoomerang—Aug 6-10—6-8:30pm

Kids total: 20

We had an amazing time learning about some of the wonders of life in Australia! Thank you all for your prayers and assistance with this blessed event! We will need you for next years VBS!





September 4th is National Pastors' Spouses' Appreciation Day.



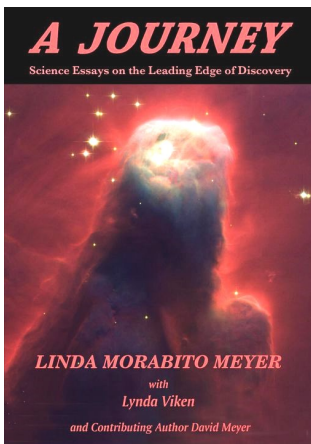
This is Lynda Viken. She was born July 14th (~~year redacted for personal safety~~) to Marvin and Margene Mindeman. She was a nurse, and in fact was the boss of the mother of Bradley Viken.

Bradley and Lynda had their first date in December of 1988, and were married 5 months later.



Lynda is the mother of 3 children, and the Nana of 5 beautiful children.

She started her own bookkeeping business, and even helped someone write, edit, and publish a book!



She's been involved in Choirs, Festival Choirs, Zone LMWL, District LWML, and National LWML. She has helped Bradley write songs. She raised two crazy children (and me) and is a wonderful Nana. She is brilliant, brave, and bold. She loves the color purple, and hates writing the number "8" (maybe not a great thing when you work with numbers every day...bookkeeper...)

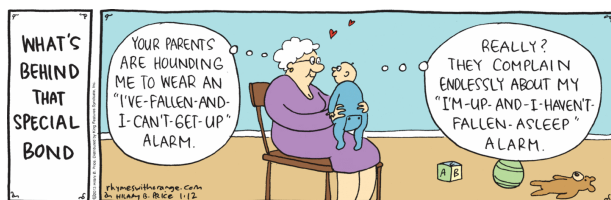
She believes chocolate is one of the major food groups, and loves Diet Dr. Pepper.

Lynda...Mom...Nana...

You are appreciated. You are loved.



HAPPY Grandparents DAY



<u>Number of Grands</u>	<u>RCLC Families</u>
1	2
3	2
4	4
5	3
6	3
7	1
8	1
9	1

American English	Grandma & Grandpa Nana & Pumpum Mamaw & Pawpaw
Russian	Babushka & Dedushka
Greek	Yia Yia & Papou
Portuguese	Avó & Avô
Brazilian	Vóvó & Vôvô
Spanish	Abuela & Abuelo
Northern Mandarin	Maternal side: Lǎolao & Lǎoye Paternal side: Nǎinai & Yéye
Southern Mandarin	Maternal side: Wàipó & Wàigōng
Gaelic	Maimeó and Daideó
French	Grand-mère and Grand-père
Swahili	Bibi & Babu
Italian	Nonna & Nonno
German	Oma & Opa



*Grandchildren
are the crown of
the aged, and
the glory of
children is their
fathers.
Proverbs 17:6
ESV*

RCLS would like your help. You can redirect some of the Ohio Income Tax you pay to the “Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization.” Every tax dollar that the school gets from this agency adds funds to the schools’ budget. **It does not increase the amount you owe.**

The Ohio general assembly established the:

OHIO Department of Taxation Scholarship Donation Credit

- 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](https://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



1	Kathy Ackley
1	Denna Johnson
2	Isabel Brown
6	Marti Brueggeman
7	Julie Hale
8	Ed Berg
9	Strardairah Bien-Aime
10	Linda Thomas
11	Wesley Miller
11	Rebekah Perks
11	Brittany Rid
12	Ethan Cunningham
13	Beth Ervin
17	Dakota Roy
20	Paul Bok
22	Kylee Schafer
22	Noah Schafer
23	Reed Dahle
27	Joey Koval



BAPTISMAL BIRTHDAYS

1	Kim Hunt
9	Rob Hunt
9	Anthony Montecalvo
11	Marti Brueggeman
11	Sue Gallagher
12	Norma Kettler
12	Rebekah Perks
15	Manfred Rembold Sr.



		Years
9/13	Duane & MaryAnn Wiebeck	27
9/14	Steve & Gayle Roberts	50
9/20	Sam & Mary Lou Rizzotte	55
9/27	Bugs & Marcella Caskey	20

Hispanic Heritage Month (Sep 15– Oct 15)

National Potato Month

National Suicide Prevention Month (For help, please call 988)

- 1 National Food Bank Day
- 4 Pastor's Spouses' Appreciation Day
- Labor Day
- 10 Grandparents' Day
- 11 National Patriot Day
- 18 Air Force Birthday
- Wife Appreciation Day
- 25 National Day of Forgiveness
- 29 National VFW Day



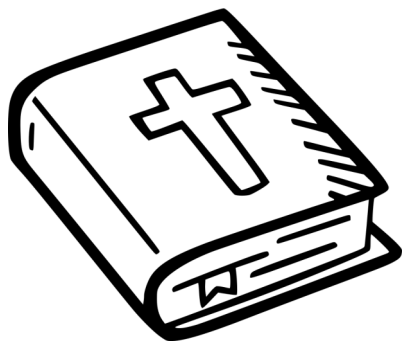
ESV Scriptures for Sep 2023

Verse of the

Month:

One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after: that I may dwell the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple.

Psalm 27:4 ESV



Sep 3

14th Sunday of Pentecost

First Reading:

Jer 15:15-21

Responsive Reading:

Ps 26

Epistle Reading:

Rom 12:9-21

Gospel:

Matt 16:21-28

Sep 10

15th Sunday of Pentecost

First Reading:

Ezek 33:7-9

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 32:1-7

Epistle Reading:

Rom 13:1-10

Gospel:

Matt 18:1-20

Sep 17

16th Sunday of Pentecost

First Reading:

Gen 50:15-21

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 103:1-12

Epistle Reading:

Rom 14:1-12

Gospel:

Matt 18:21-25

Sep 24

17th Sunday of Pentecost

First Reading:

Isaiah 55:6-9

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 27:1-9

Epistle Reading:

Phil 1:12-14, 19-30

Gospel:

Matt 20:1-16