



RISEN CHRIST  
Lutheran Church & School

# April



# CrossTalk

## Board of Directors

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President	John Bacevic
Vice President	Becky Krieger
Secretary	Bethany Viken
Treasurer	Sarah Bussell
Member-At-Large	Sandi Click
Elder Rep.	Gene Baumgardner

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Day School	Rebecca Reid
Outreach	Greg & Chandra Shrader
Promotions	Brenda Montecalvo
Business Manager	Steve Rutledge
Stewardship	Denna Johnson & Marcella Caskey

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## School Board

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President	Jim Brueggeman
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## Other Volunteers

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Food Pantry	Greg Shrader
Trustees	Paul Bok
Financial Secretary	Steve Rutledge
Praise Team Leaders	Bethany Viken & Linda Sears

### **Church Office Staff**

#### **Pastor**

Brad Viken

#### **Office Manager**

Bethany Viken

#### **Elders**

David Arnold

Gene Baumgardner

Rob Hunt

#### **CrossTalk Publisher**

Bethany Viken

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#### **Dir. Of Records**

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#### **Special Ed Director**

Brittany Morgan

#### **Preschool Teacher**

Karen Dunn

#### **Preschool Teacher**

Corrine Brookins

#### **Preschool Director/ Kindergarten**

Megan Ramsey

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher**

Deb Rutledge

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher**

Christina Johnson

#### **Middle School Math**

Jeff Parks

#### **MS English**

Korie Near

#### **MS Science/ Social Studies**

Dawn Wells-Kitt

#### **Before Care**

Lillian Swain

#### **School Support Staff**

Kelli Cole

Nicky Johnson

Sarah Leighley

Lisa Mulkey

Betty Ward

Missy Woodland

## **Risen Christ Lutheran Church and School**

41 E Possum Road. Springfield, Oh 45502

(937) 323-3688 [www.risenchristlcms.org](http://www.risenchristlcms.org)

Sunday: Bible Study 9am Services 10am



# RISEN CHRIST

## *Lutheran Church & School*

### **Risen Christ Lutheran Church Mission Statement**

As God's church in this place, our mission is to enrich and renew lives by bringing Christ to the community.

### **Risen Christ Lutheran School Mission Statement**

We support the belief that children are the precious gift from God. Our mission is to provide, together with families, a high-quality education for the whole child within a loving, Christ-centered environment.

### **Risen Christ Lutheran School Vision Statement**

The vision of RCLS is that each student will: possess a life-long love of learning, possess a deep love for God, and possess a habit of prayer, possess a strong sense of responsibility and integrity, possess a respect for inherent value of every person, possess a curious mind open to new ideas, and possess a love and respect for life.

### **Pastor Bradley's Mission Statement**

I have been created to let God's Holy Spirit use my life experiences, my unique style, humor, and personality, and my love of Christ to lead others to know and trust the loving embrace of Jesus.

### **The Church's Mission:**

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age. *Matt 28:19-20 ESV*

# PASTOR'S PONDERINGS PT 1

**Luke 24:13-16** That very day (that day of the resurrection) two of them (His followers) were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. But their eyes were kept from recognizing Him.

Throughout my years in ministry, I have loved to contemplate the events of the first Easter evening. I have found it to be one of the most fascinating events in Scripture, especially since we are not given the details of what was all said. After a horrible weekend, two of the followers of Jesus are walking back home to the community of Emmaus, (7 miles away) saddened that the Christ they were following had died (had been profoundly beaten and murdered, thus ending His ministry (in their unenlightened opinions). They have heard rumors that Jesus rose from the dead but couldn't confirm it, so they are probably a bit confused. So, now what?

**Bewildered! Overwhelmed! Distressed! Wandering! Lost! Crushed! Uncertain! Scared!**

As they journey back home, and are discussing these things between themselves, they encounter a 'stranger.' As it turns out that, stranger is Jesus Himself – the Crucified, died, buried, and risen Christ. It says **“Jesus himself drew near and went with them but their eyes were kept from recognizing Him.”**

And He said to them, “What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?” And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, “Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?” And He said to them, “What things?”

As Jesus walks with them, He asks them what they're talking about and their response is with saddened faces as they describe the amazing things happening in Jerusalem in recent days. Jesus, wanting to challenge them before He reveals Himself to them says, **“What things?”** They proceeded to tell Jesus all about everything that happened to Him in the past several days. They had hoped that He would be the one to redeem Israel but He's dead. **So now what?**

# PASTOR'S PONDERINGS PT 2

And He said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

So many emotions and thoughts. Then Jesus comes to them in their distress, they do not approach Him. In our lives, we realize that we cannot approach God without Him first approaching us through His Word. Just as they would remain in the dark, without Him coming to them, so too, would we remain in the dark (spiritually) without Him coming to us. Without God coming near us, we are lost forever, left to wander in darkness for eternity. Only by the work of His Holy Spirit can we be brought to Him.

He approaches them as they talk about Him and asks them what they are talking about. It seems that He must have been near them for a little while before He asks them what they are talking about, because they seem shocked that He (seemingly) knows nothing about the events in Jerusalem over the past few days. How could this stranger possibly not know of the most important event in the history of Jerusalem!? How could they not know about **"this prophet mighty indeed and word mighty before God and the people and this intense miscarriage of injustice."**

The excitement of Palm Sunday. The casting out of the money changers. The betrayal of Judas. The trials. The false witnesses! The beatings. Barabbas. The mocking. Pilate trying to free Jesus but allowing the influential Jewish leaders to compel him to have Jesus killed instead. The condemnation. The journey of the cross. The crucifixion of this prophet, the Messiah, Jesus. So much news! How can anybody not know if you are in that area? They had such hope. Finally, the promised one has come.

They had hoped He was the one to redeem Israel but instead He gets himself killed. Perhaps He shouldn't have tipped over the money changes tables a few days before. You always have a fight when you impact someone's finances, especially if they are unethical. So, He's dead! His ministry is shut down. Everybody has to go home and get back to work. But, the huge question remains: did He rise as some are reporting?

# PASTOR'S PONDERINGS PT 3

As Jesus continues to walk with them, He calls them foolish. Perhaps they are just too thick headed, too thick hearted! How could you not understand the mission of Jesus? This was the plan. We too have problems off and on throughout our lives with full understanding of God's plan for ministry and for our lives. Do you understand God's plan! **"Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into His glory?"** He challenges them because they didn't really understand the point of His ministry. Initially it seems as though He is the unenlightened, but it turns out that they are the unenlightened ones.

So, He then starts to explain. It says He goes back to the words of Moses and the prophets and explain how it all points to Jesus. It is this I would love to see written now. All these things He told them. All these prophecies! All these Promises! All these Covenants! He takes the time on this 7 mile journey and then further into their home and explains with them what it all means for Him, for them and for us. I would love to have been in that situation to hear what He said. To see how it all fit together. To have their eyes and hearts enlightened to a profound degree.

**"When He was at table with them, He took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized Him. And He vanished from their sight. They said to each other, **"Did not our hearts burn within us while He talked to us on the road, while He opened to us the Scriptures?"**** (Lk. 24:30-32 ESV)

Human nature tends to want to adjust the message of God to fit our ideas, ideals, and intentions. That is backwards. Yes, we have ideas going back to the books of Moses and with the prophets – the books of the Old Testament. We want it to fit. We want God to fit our perspective. As you continue in your daily faith in life journey, sometimes bewildered, frustrated, confused, scared, anxious, wandering, lost, crushed, along with other life challenges, I urge you to **"lean into Jesus."** He wants you to turn to Him to listen to Him to see what His word has to say for you in this Easter In this Easter season, I invite you to have your own Emmaus journey with Jesus.

# PASTOR'S PONDERINGS PT 4

Journey with Him through His scriptures to let Him open your eyes so that you would see everything differently. That's what faith does. **As Faith grows, Faith glows.** It brings a light that nothing else can match and nothing can snuff out. This enlightenment from Jesus is profound and eternal. So as we let ourselves **"Walk with Jesus"** through **His Word, study, Christian fellowship, worship, contemplation and surrender**, so also will He enlighten us and cause our hearts of faith to **"burn"** with ever clarified and strengthened faith. Let us Ever Walk with Jesus!



# ELDERS ARTICLE

**Having just celebrated the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, this message of why we celebrate and our response to His sacrifice cannot be told too many times.**

**HE IS RISEN, HE IS RISEN INDEED! ALLELUIA!**

**Blessings, Gene Baumgardner**

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***From Ihm.org Daily Devotions—Written by Pastor Ken Klaus, Speaker emeritus of  
The Lutheran Hour***

*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.*

*John 3:16-17*

The yellow Lab had three strikes against her.

- \* Strike 1 - She had no microchip and no owner.
- \* Strike 2 - She had broken bones and internal bleeding.
- \* Strike 3 - She was laying in the middle of a busy Houston highway.

You know what the outcome for that dog should have been. After all, three strikes and you're out. Yes, that's the way it should have been. But it wasn't. You see, Mr. Rickey Young heard about the dog and decided to do something about the situation. Risking his own life, Mr. Young pulled over to the side of the road and, braving traffic, tried to snatch the dog to safety. Video footage of the event showed the dog didn't want to be snatched to safety, and she initially retreated from Mr. Young. It was only when the dog was tempted by the sandwich Mr. Young was carrying in his pocket that she allowed herself to be captured.

Mr. Young raced the dog to the Houston Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals where she was treated and, thank you very much, is doing just fine. I'm glad. That's the way it should be when a man risks his life to save a dog.

Reading that story, I began to wonder why would a man risk his life to save a dog which really doesn't want to be saved? Mr. Young gave his answer to that very question when he said, "I'm just kind of a softy on that stuff."



# ELDERS ARTICLE

Good answer.

Having heard Mr. Young's answer, I wonder what the Lord would reply, if we were to ask Him, "Why did You send Your Son into this world to die for unworthy and unappreciative humankind? We had disobeyed You, rejected You, and had no desire to be saved by Jesus or anyone else. Lord, when Mr. Young went to rescue the dog, he did so in the belief he had a good chance of surviving the effort. Not so with Your Son. Jesus was born to suffer and die so that sinners might be forgiven and saved. Why did You send Jesus to save us?"

Well, we don't have to wonder about the Lord's answer.

He tells us. No, He doesn't say He's a *softy* on humanity like Mr. Young did. The word "softy" doesn't even appear in the Bible. Even so, God is both direct and honest as to why Jesus came. He says, "My Son came so that all who believe on Him would not perish but have everlasting life."

So there you have it.

This means there is only one question left: what will be our response to God's most gracious act? The yellow Lab is absolutely devoted to the fellow who saved her. Will we be equally devoted to our Savior? I can only pray we will.

**THE PRAYER:** Dear Lord, please help me remember that You are almighty, all-powerful, and all-knowing, that Your love, mercy and grace are never ending, and that all I need to do is to trust and follow in Your way.

In Jesus' Name. Amen.



For  
GOD  
SO  
Loved the World  
that  
HE  
Gave  
His  
ONLY  
SON  
John 3:16



# PRESIDENTS CORNER

## **Church Board of Director Meeting**

- † The Congregation Meeting is scheduled directly after the Worship Service Sunday April 7th. We will discuss approving voting privileges for Head Elder and Business Manager to vote at Board of Directors meetings. Currently they both attend meetings but can not vote. If approved as recommended by the Board we will vote on necessary changes to our Constitution By-Laws. Steve Rutledge will present a brief update on financial matters. The only other business will to approve minutes from the last Congregation meeting. I suspect the meeting to be short and would appreciate your attendance.
- † The church bulletin board is located in the hallway outside of the trustees office. Key information is updated and posted regularly. We are providing this service to better maintain communication. Typically minutes of meetings, help needed and up coming events are posted. We welcome your comments to insure we provide useful information to you. Please note the meeting on **Sunday April 7th**. Congregation constitution change is posted for your information.

## **Hot Meal Program**

- † Hot Meal Program pots, pans and kitchen utensils were purchased from the Second Harvest Grant money. Improvements for better use of our kitchen facility are being considered as we prepare the Hot Meals for the needy. We are grateful for the donors, volunteers and Second Harvest for their continued support.

Yours in Christ,  
John Bacevic  
president@risenchristlcms.org  
937-882-4023

# CONNECTIONS COMMUNICATION

March was a busy month. On March 9<sup>th</sup> the Sisters in Christ packed 12 boxes for college kids and 10 bags for our shut-ins. The ladies made special card for each box and bag. Thank you for all the yummy snacks donations and beautiful cards.

March 23<sup>rd</sup> there was an Easter Egg Hunt for the School and Church children, with around 35 kids participating. There were games, crafts, snacks, and egg hunt. Even the Easter bunny showed up! Thank you for everyone who made it a success.

March 31<sup>st</sup> was the Easter breakfast with pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage and all the trimmings. Thanks for the many hands to make it such a wonderful meal.

## UPCOMING EVENTS FOR APRIL

Baby shower for baby Vada and mom Lacey Perks

Miami Valley Zone LWML Spring Rally is Saturday April 27<sup>th</sup> at 9am here at Risen Christ.

All Risen Christ ladies are invited to the upcoming events. Watch for more details.

*May you have*  
*The Gladness of Easter*  
*Which is Hope*  
*The Promise of Easter*  
*Which is Peace*  
*The Spirit of Easter*  
*Which is Love*



However, the main reason Tuvia Zaretsky gave a presentation to a church in Springfield, Ohio, is because of the Passover, or the Feast of Redemption.

The Passover started in Exodus, as the last night the Israelites were in slavery to Egypt. Nine plagues had ravaged the Egyptian country, people, and religion. From water turning into blood – defeating the Egyptian god Hapi (the god of the Nile); to the sun going dark for days – defeating the Egyptian god Ra (the sun god); and finally to the death of all the firstborn – defeating Pharaoh himself (who was considered to be the firstborn of the god Ra). Before the death of the firstborn, God, through Moses, told the Hebrews to put the blood of a sacrificial lamb on the doorposts of their house, marking them as believers, and as those who would be safe from the plague.

Passover has been celebrated since the Hebrews last day in slavery in Egypt. All faithful Jews knew what the Passover meant – and Christ Himself was no exception. He was raised in the Jewish faith. So, on the night when He was betrayed, Christ ate the Passover with His disciples.

And He took the bread – the unleavened bread of the Passover, the same bread the Hebrews ate that night in Egypt. He blessed that bread, and said “Do this in remembrance of Me.” And after supper He took the cup – the *hallel* cup – the cup of praise. He blessed the wine and said “*Drink of it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.*” Matthew 26:27-28 ESV.

And thus He had the first Holy Communion, and His last Passover.

Zaretsky talked about all of the links between the Jewish Passover and Christian Communion. How the Jews used the blood of a lamb to protect their families, and how we as Christians are redeemed by the Blood of the only Perfect Lamb. How the Jews were set free from slavery to the Egyptians after a defeat of one considered invincible (Pharaoh), and how we as Christians are set free from slavery to sin and death after the defeat of something considered invincible (Satan, death, and the grave).

I will carry this event with me forever. Maundy Thursday was and is a day of solemn remembrance. But it points to the tremendous joy that is Easter Sunday.



# ESV Scripture for April

## Verse of the Month

But as for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and he will stand upon the earth at last. And after my body has decayed, yet in my body I will see God! I will see him for myself. Yes, I will see him with my own eyes. I am overwhelmed at the thought!

*Job 19:25-27 NLT*

Yes this is the same verse of the month as March—it is important enough to have again.

|                                                  |                                                  |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b><u>Apr 7</u></b><br><b>2nd Sun of Easter</b>  | <b><u>Apr 14</u></b><br><b>3rd Sun of Easter</b> |
| <b>First Reading:</b><br>Acts 4:32-35            | <b>First Reading:</b><br>Acts 3:11-21            |
| <b>Responsive Reading:</b><br>Psalm 148          | <b>Responsive Reading:</b><br>Psalm 4            |
| <b>Epistle Reading:</b><br>1 John 1:1-2:2        | <b>Epistle Reading:</b><br>1 John 3:1-7          |
| <b>Gospel Reading:</b><br>John 20:19-31          | <b>Gospel Reading:</b><br>Luke 24:36-49          |
| <b><u>Apr 21</u></b><br><b>4th Sun of Easter</b> | <b><u>Apr 28</u></b><br><b>5th Sun of Easter</b> |
| <b>First Reading:</b><br>Acts 4:1-12             | <b>First Reading:</b><br>Acts 8:26-40            |
| <b>Responsive Reading:</b><br>Psalm 23           | <b>Responsive Reading:</b><br>Psalm 150          |
| <b>Epistle Reading:</b><br>1 John 3:16-24        | <b>Epistle Reading:</b><br>1 John 4:1-21         |
| <b>Gospel Reading:</b><br>John 10:11-18          | <b>Gospel Reading:</b><br>John 15:9-17           |





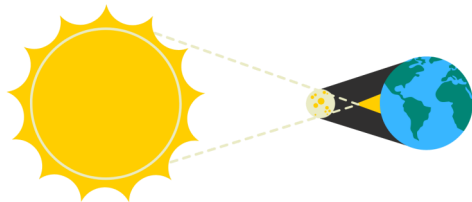
|    |                      |
|----|----------------------|
| 4  | Aaron Buck           |
| 8  | Danny Click          |
| 8  | Sandi Click          |
| 8  | Sharon Heilmann      |
| 8  | Bethany Viken        |
| 8  | Mycah Viken          |
| 11 | Howard Romaker       |
| 14 | Stephen Wiebeck      |
| 15 | Sydney Butcher-Click |
| 15 | Charlie McKee        |
| 16 | Johnny Bacevic III   |
| 27 | Mickey Dahle         |
| 29 | Linda Kaiser         |
| 30 | Celise McKee         |
| 30 | Linda Sears          |



|    |                 |
|----|-----------------|
| 1  | Alex Ervin      |
| 5  | Denna Johnson   |
| 5  | Noelle Wiebeck  |
| 8  | Marcella Caskey |
| 8  | Danny Click     |
| 9  | Connie Ryman    |
| 11 | Jo Baumgardner  |
| 16 | David Arnold    |
| 17 | Rickard Davis   |



|      |                        | Years |
|------|------------------------|-------|
| 4/2  | Rob & Lindsey Koval    | 19    |
| 4/2  | Philip & Linda Sears   | 43    |
| 4/2  | Greg & Chandra Shrader | 47    |
| 4/6  | Bob & Lou Ann Shepherd | 41    |
| 4/30 | Gene & Jo Baumgardner  | 47    |



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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Month of the Military Child</li> <li>▪ 3 SAAM Day of Action (Sexual Assault Awareness Month)</li> <li>▪ 4 National School Librarian Day</li> <li>▪ 8 <i>Solar Eclipse (Offices Closed)</i></li> <li>▪ 10 Siblings Day</li> <li>▪ 21 National Kindergarten Day</li> <li>▪ 22 Earth Day</li> <li>▪ 24 Administrative Professionals Day</li> <li>▪ 30 Honesty Day</li> </ul> | <p>Month of Hope</p>  | <p>Volunteer Month</p>  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|