

Happy New Year!

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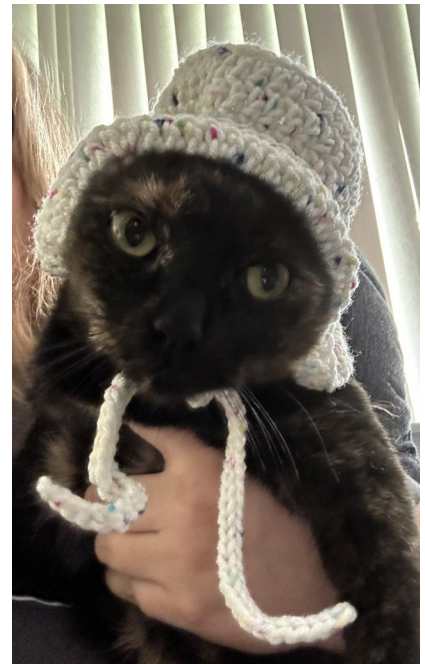
JANUARY CROSSTALK

2025





Desi Shrader—Trunk or Treat



Cricket Viken—Homemade Hat

Jan 14—Dress up Your Pet Day



Odie Viken—New Years 2024



Molly Click

Board of Directors

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

Ministry Team Leaders

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

School Board

President	Jim Brueggeman
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Other Volunteers

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

Risen Christ Lutheran Church and School

41 E Possum Road. Springfield, Oh 45502
(937) 323-3688 www.risenchristlcms.org
Sunday Services 10am

Contemporary and Traditional Services
(Week 1 & 3) (Week 2 & 4)

Church Office Staff

Pastor

Brad Viken

Office Manager

Bethany Viken

Elders

David Arnold

Gene Baumgardner

Chuck Bern

Rob Hunt

CrossTalk Publisher

Bethany Viken

School Staff

Administrator

Rebecca Reid

Dir. Of Records

Kathy Ackley

Special Ed Director

Brittany Morgan

Preschool

Karen Dunn

Corrine Brookins

Preschool Director/

Kindergarten

Megan Ramsey

1st Grade Teacher

Deb Rutledge

2nd Grade Teacher

Joetta Garberich

3/4th Grade

Korie Near

Jacob Ford

5/6th Grade

Jeff Parks

Dawn Wells-Kitt

Before Care

Lillian Swain

School Support Staff

Kelli Cole

Sarah Leighley

Lisa Mulkey

Betty Ward

Missy Woodland

Hayley Zawada



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*

ELDERS' REPORT—PT 1

As we celebrate the beginning of a new calendar year, let us remember all the volunteers that help the church function. From the coordinators of Bible Studies, to Sunday school teachers, altar care, ushers, readers and offering counter. There are also singers and musicians, church maintenance (painted, plumber, electrician), cooks and servers, hot meal coordinators and dish washers, party planner/event coordinator and the Sisters in Christ. We have greeters and sound booth workers, Food Pantry volunteers and Angel Tree coordinators, not to mention the Christmas tree decorators! And then there are the officers, Board of Directors, Elders, bookkeepers and financial gurus. WHEW, and I haven't even gotten to all the volunteers that help at school and the rummage sale and the library. As you can see the list I extensive (I'm sorry if I missed someone).

One of Pastors goals for 2025 is "Worship +2", so if you can't plug your name into one or two of the spots on this list, prayerfully consider joining the crowd of volunteers or Bible Studies and Sunday School participants or Food Pantry helpers, etc., etc., etc.

WORSHIP + 2 = GET INVOLVED

Gods blessings in the new year,

Gene

ELDERS' REPORT—PT 2

For whoever keeps the whole Law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. James 2:10

Forty-four-year-old British multimillionaire Jonathan Burrows was a man who had it made. Working as a managing director for the BlackRock banking system, Burrows had a fine home in the country and a job that would make most people envious. Of course, that home in the country meant Burrows had to commute by train to his office.

Being a creative sort, Burrows figured out a way around the system. He would get on the train at an unmanned rural station outside London. Since he didn't buy a ticket, he saved himself about \$20 a day in train fees. It was a fine plan until, one day, a ticket inspector figured out what he was doing.

Burrows was reported, and he settled out of court with the train company. The settlement had him pay \$65,000, the total amount for the fees he had avoided over the years. But there's more to the story of Jonathan Burrows' fall from favor.

Britain's Financial Conduct Authority reviewed his case and decided that his "conduct fell short of the standards we expect." They added, "Approved persons must act with honesty and integrity at all times and where they do not, we will take action."

Their action said Burrows was banned from ever working again in the financial services industry. Burrows' "small, little sin" had cost him his reputation, some cash, and employment in a good position. It was a terrible penalty to pay and one which neither Burrows -- nor anyone else -- is likely to forget.

The story of Burrows is one which ought to sound pretty familiar to us.

ELDERS' REPORT—PT 3

Think of Adam and Eve. All they did was bite down on one, small, piece of forbidden fruit. From our perspective it was a small sin, an almost inconsequential transgression. But to the Lord, Adam and Eve's disobedience was far more. They had shown they disregarded Him, rejected His authority, and His benevolence.

Think of ourselves. There are times when we, looking at some of the really big, serious sinners in this world, may think we're not so very bad. "Certainly," we say to ourselves, "the Lord isn't going to hold us accountable for such a trivial transgression."

Well, the Lord does hold us accountable. James lets us know that one sin is enough to make the perfect Lord upset. It is enough for the just Judge to declare us, "Guilty."

This is precisely why we need the Savior. There is no person so good he doesn't need Jesus -- no person so bad that Jesus can't help him. Yes, we need the Savior who, having given His life as the price to procure our forgiveness, welcomes us to Him and promises all who believe they have been given eternal life.

THE PRAYER: Dear Lord, I give thanks You have had mercy upon the big and little sinners of the world. Grant that my life may be lived in a way that tries to please and glorify the Savior whose substitution has forgiven me. In Jesus' Name I ask it. Amen.

In Christ I remain His servant and yours,

Pastor Ken Klaus

Speaker emeritus of The Lutheran Hour®

Lutheran Hour Ministries

Article from lhm.org/dailydevotions/default.asp?date=20150105

Originally published Jan 5, 2015 as "Guilty of All"

Stewardship, Why Use the Word

By Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador

Recently I assisted with a Philippians Conference, a stewardship workshop based on St. Paul's words in Philippians 1. As usual, the participants, upon hearing that the topic of the retreat would be stewardship, approached the retreat with the typical hesitance that often accompanies one of our events. When asked what they expected the weekend to be about, one participant quipped, "Time, talents, treasure and such."

But as is almost always the case, the participants were pleasantly surprised. Stewardship was the talk of the town for several hours. But none of it was a traditional teaching of stewardship. Rather than connecting stewardship to budgets and balance sheets, a new group of Philippians Conference attendees were reminded that they were created in God's image (Gen. 1:26–28) to reflect the will of the Creator within the created order.

The first steward, Adam, with the breath of life freshly in his nostrils, was tasked with working and keeping the Garden of Eden (Gen. 2:15). This is the very heart of stewardship. But this status didn't remain long. Failing to defend the garden from the alien word of the ancient serpent, the dominoes of failed stewardship fell. Naked and ashamed, hiding from God and beginning to die, the stewards were feeling the burden we all feel. They were starting to live as stewards, a pre-fall vocation, in a fallen world. If not for the promised Messiah coming in the person and work of Jesus, this downward spiral of death would continue unchecked.

But the baptized have been restored to their task of stewardship. Reconciled to Christ, the steward is committed to stewardship of the ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor. 5:18–19). This Gospel is the treasure which God's people are called to steward for the sake of our neighbor. God's mercies flow down to us in grace (Eph. 2:8–9) and are lived out in love for neighbor (Eph. 2:10). Stewardship is really nothing more than stewardship of the Gospel!

On this note, a pastor at the conference asked a good question: "Why even use the word stewardship at all?" The contention was that what was being described was really nothing more than preaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments. The church has been doing that for two millennia. Perhaps we should just ditch stewardship all together. It was a new question for me. I didn't answer it on the spot as well as I should. But "upon further review," after watching the replay of that moment in my mind, I thought of some reasons why we should keep teaching stewardship.

1. This is God's design.

The creation account is what sets the stage for what it means to be a steward. There is an order in creation that includes the role of the steward. The steward's creation for the purpose of reflecting the Creator continues for those redeemed by the Second and Greater Steward, Jesus. Everything Jesus accomplished in His ministry was the pattern of what our stewardship was meant to be. In Holy Baptism, our vocation of stewardship is committed to us. Christ, the image of the invisible God, is poured on and over us in the baptismal waters; we bear that image going forward. Who we are in the Gospel is a renewed version of what was intended to be in the first place. Our redemption places us back within the vocation for which we were originally created. However, this point is lost if we don't teach stewardship.

2. Stewards are not owners.

Also included in the teaching of stewardship is the relational dynamic that exists between Creator and steward. At no point in the creation account was title and ownership of anything in creation deeded over to the steward. Stewards cannot be owners. They are entrusted with that which belongs to another. The classic image of the steward in the Old Testament is Joseph. First Potiphar, then the jailer, and eventually Pharaoh entrusted everything they had to Joseph. Joseph didn't become head of the house, the jail or Egypt. He was still accountable to the ones who were the ultimate owners. Such is the case for our stewardship of the Gospel. The church freely and richly administers this treasure. But it is not ours. We are still accountable to the One who made it possible. For this reason, our stewardship also includes making sure that the Word that bears the Gospel treasure is both true and bold. Teaching the owner-steward dynamic keeps the accountability of our stewardship of the Gospel in clear view. While we bear the Gospel and its benefits, it still ultimately belongs to the One who made and redeemed it.

3. Stewardship is liberating.

For too long, stewardship has been taught as an obligation. This could be connected to our inbred opinion of the Law. Deep down, human beings like to be told what to do. Percentages, steps and charts feed this need. But this opens the process to manipulation and burden. Who looks forward to paying their bills? We do it for fear of default — we don't see it as enjoyable. But stewardship of the Gospel is different. In Jesus, the debt has been paid. For me. For you. As stewards, we are free to share freedom. There isn't any compulsion or manipulation in this process. As baptized stewards, we are just managing and giving away freedom! Stewardship needs to be taught, shared and embraced. It is the partnership in the Gospel entrusted to us for the sake of our neighbor. It is all that and more!

The Rev. Dr. Nathan Meador is a stewardship specialist for LCMS Stewardship Ministry; the executive assistant to the President for Mission and Mercy, LCMS South Wisconsin District; and the official Lutheran pastor of the B93 Morning Show.

Connection Report

Happy New Year 2025!

GOD Bless You in the New Year. A new year is GOD's gift of new beginnings. Hope you all enjoyed the 5th Sunday New Year's potluck!

Risen Christ has exciting plans for the 2025 year, so watch for events. To start the new year off, celebrate Abby and Roger Wright's recent marriage with a meet and greet luncheon on Sunday, January 12, 2025, following the service. Then the annual Chili Cook-off is on February 2, 2025.

★★★
 ★ New Year Prayer ★
 ★ Thank you Lord for giving me ★
 ★ The brand New Year ahead. ★
 ★ Help me live the way I should ★
 ★ As each new day I tread. ★
 ★ Give me gentle wisdom ★
 ★ That I might help a friend, ★
 ★ Give me strength and courage ★
 ★ So a shoulder I might lend. ★
 ★ The year ahead is empty, ★
 ★ Help me fill it with good things ★
 ★ Each new day filled with joy ★
 ★ And happiness it brings. ★
 ★ Amen ★
 ★★★

May God be with you
 through the New Year and
 fill your life with comfort,
 love, and cheer.
 May this day and days
 ahead hold many
 BLESSINGS for you and
 yours. Happy New Year.

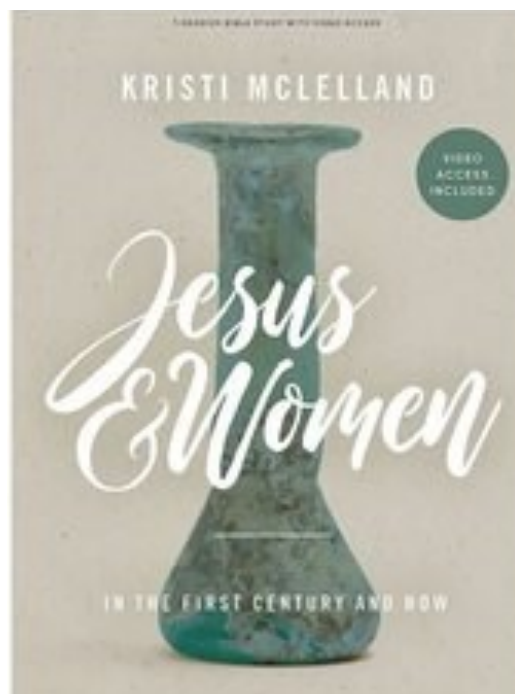




HEY LADIES-ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A SMALL GROUP with BIBLE STUDY????

Then consider joining the group formed last September!!! We meet on every other Thursday evening, 7:00 PM in the church school library. Last year, we did a Bible study on “Luke in the Land” led by Kristi McClelland (it wasn’t Kelly Minter, as written in December Crosstalk...oops!). We are looking at another video Bible study by Kristi entitled “Jesus & Women”. These lecture style videos last approximately 60 minutes and afterwards, we discuss and share. There are also Bible studies by Kelly Minter available on “Ruth” and “Esther”. If you would like a more in-depth Bible study, that is an option too-we’ll just get another group going! Please speak to your elder about your wishes. These small groups are wonderful ways to get to know a group of women in very special ways and help grow your faith with The Word and with fellowship.

The first meeting of the original group will be January 9! Hope to see a big group for this exciting opportunity! (FYI if the weather is bad, we will watch for weather alerts and text everyone if the meeting is cancelled. If you are considering, please let **Jo Baumgardner** know so she can make sure you are contacted.)



It Will Be “MARVELOUS TO MEET YOU”

Abby McCartney Wright!!!!

Please come to a luncheon after worship January 12 to welcome her and to celebrate her recent marriage! There will be food, mixers and fellowship for ALL the RCLC ladies.



Please help us shower her with cards and possibly a gift card to welcome her to the Springfield area!

Sponsored by Sisters in Christ

STEWARDSHIP REPORT

The second principle we can look at is an excellent stewardship thought that you have heard before in these pages, namely that our heavenly Father is the owner of EVERYTHING and that we are the managers of those things and every aspect of this very life with which He blesses us.

That is the way it has been from the beginning as we read in Genesis 2:15 that our Father and theirs *took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work and keep it*. That is still our task as good stewards of all with which our Father has blessed us. We are the crown of God's creation to whom He has said, *"Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth. (Genesis 1:28)*

Yes, everything that is "ours" has been given to us by God to care for while we make our journey through this life on into eternal life. What a blessing from God and what an opportunity to serve Him as we serve one another through our Christian stewardship!

*Stewardship Principle #2 article taken from "5 Stewardship Principles" written by Rev John Heckmann, LWML Senior Pastoral Counselor 2011-2015 (Previously published in the **Treasured News**—August 2013—January 2014.)*



OTHER NEWS

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING



Save the Date

JANUARY 11TH IS

#WearBlueDay



JOIN THE DHS BLUE CAMPAIGN

- Visit the Blue Campaign website: dhs.gov/blue-campaign
- Learn more about the signs and indicators of human trafficking: dhs.gov/blue-campaign/awareness-training
- Spread the word—download and share anti-human trafficking materials: dhs.gov/blue-campaign/resource-catalog
- View and share our Public Service Announcement: dhs.gov/gallery/blue-campaign-video
- Follow us on Facebook: facebook.com/bluecampaign

TRAFFICKING VS. SMUGGLING

Human Trafficking involves the use of force, fraud, or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act, or in which the person performing the commercial sex act is under 18 years of age.

Human Smuggling is the deliberate evasion of immigration laws by bringing undocumented noncitizens into the U.S. and the unlawful transportation and harboring of undocumented noncitizens already in the U.S.

These are *not* interchangeable terms

Smuggling is transportation-based and is a crime against a border

Trafficking is exploitation-based and is a crime against a person

Learn to do good;
seek justice,
correct oppression;
bring justice to the
fatherless, plead
the widow's cause.

Isaiah 1:17 ESV



Report Human Trafficking: 1-866-347-2423
www.dhs.gov/bluecampaign

IDENTIFYING HUMAN TRAFFICKING – ASK YOURSELF:

- Is the victim in possession of their own identification and travel documents?
- Is the victim coached on what to say to community members, workers, law enforcement or immigration officials? Does someone else communicate for the victim?
- Is the victim recruited for one purpose but forced to engage in other work?
- Are the victim's wages being unlawfully garnished to pay off a debt or fee? (Paying off a smuggling fee alone is not considered trafficking.)
- Is the victim forced to perform commercial sex acts?
- Has the victim or their family been threatened with harm if they attempt to leave?
- Has the victim been threatened with deportation or criminal charges?
- Has the victim been harmed, deprived of food, water, sleep, medical care, or other life necessities?
- Is the victim free to contact friends or family without being coached or monitored?
- Is the victim under the age of 18 and engaged in commercial sex?
- Is the victim living in substandard housing?

ESV Scripture for Jan

Verse of the Month

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace.

Ephesians 1:7 ESV

<u>January 5</u> 2nd Sun after Christmas	<u>January 12</u> The Baptism of our Lord
First Reading: 1 Kings 3:4-15	First Reading: Isaiah 43:1-7
Epistle Reading: Eph 1:3-4	Epistle Reading: Rom 6:1-11
Gospel Reading: Luke 2:40-52	Gospel Reading: Luke 3:15-22
<u>January 19</u> 2nd Sun after Epiphany	<u>January 26</u> 3rd Sun after Epiphany
First Reading: Acts 4:8-13	First Reading: Neh 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
Epistle Reading: 2 Peter 1:1-15	Epistle Reading: 1 Cor 12:12-31a
Gospel Reading: Mark 8:27-9:1	Gospel Reading: Luke 4:16-30



- 1 Jo Baumgardner
- 11 Jerenia Rucker
- 13 Jeff Kaiser
- 14 Chandra Shrader
- 15 Marcella Caskey
- 15 Lindsey Koval
- 18 Tyler Ackley
- 18 Patty Arnold
- 22 Rich Davis
- 26 Mary Lou Rizzotte
- 28 Chuck Bern
- 31 Charles Cunningham



- 9 Kelsey Vollrath
- 12 Sarah Bussell
- 24 Hannah Buck
- 29 Jim Mote



1/3 Andy & Cassie Viken Years
10



National Soup Month

National Blood Donor Month

National Slave & Human Trafficking Prevention Month

- 1 New Years Day
- 9 National Law Enforcement Appreciation Day
- 11 National Human Trafficking Awareness Day
- 14 National Dress up Your Pet Day
- 15 Martin Luther King Jr Day
- 20 National Cheese Lovers Day
- 22 National Sanctity of Human Life Day
- 30 National Croissant Day



NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR MONTH



CONSIDER DONATING BLOOD THIS MONTH FOR THOSE IN NEED

JANUARY