

May CrossTalk



RISEN CHRIST
Lutheran Church & School

www.SettingforFour.com

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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*

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS PT 1

PRAYER

How often do you pray? (be honest)

_____ when in Church	_____ at meal time	_____ bed time only
_____ several times a day	_____ when feeling stress	_____ that's the pastor's job
_____ during my daily devotions	_____ every hour	_____ never
_____ other _____		

What kind of prayers do YOU pray? (not counting prayers that others speak in your presence)

_____ adoration	(telling God how wonderful you think He is)
_____ confession	(telling God your sins and asking for forgiveness)
_____ thanksgiving	(thanking God for something)
_____ supplication	(asking God for something)
_____ other _____	

And he (Jesus) told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'" And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily." Luke 18:1-8a ESV

The gift of prayer is a profound gift of grace from the God of all creation to His precious powerless children. In Luke 18:1-8a, we see a situation where a woman bothered a judge so much that, even though He didn't really care about her, he acquiesced and gave her justice. The illustration makes a point that even evil people can do good things for others, so then how much more so do we see Jesus respond to the prayers of His dear children.

PASTOR'S PONDERINGS PT 2

God both commands and invites us to pray in His holy Word. (Matt 7:7-8 & 1 Thess 5;16-18) We see that God desires and expects us to take time out of our busied lives to talk to Him. Think back over life and over your relationships. There are times when you wanted to talk to someone desperately. You loved them and missed them and simply needed to make contact. You had so much to say and also simply wanted to be in their presence. That is the attitude that God wants from and for all of us as we live out our lives on this earth.

But regular prayer time is not always easy. To get into the habit of praying regularly, one must find a way to keep practicing the gift, the discipline of prayer. Satan will regularly work to interfere and interrupt your attempts to reach out to God in prayer. As you practice your prayer life, it is essential that you do not lean in to Satan's leading, but listen to God's Holy Spirit for guidance and strength, power and perseverance. It is easy in this broken world to get distracted and discouraged when God does not respond in our prayers in our timing or in our desired way.

My challenge for you is that you stop each day in the month of May to **take time to pray**. It is a great and powerful gift from God that is often underutilized in His church.

I have set out for you a verse for each day to read before you take time that day to pray. If you are so moved, I invite you to read that verse or verses and reflect upon that also in your prayer time.

Daily Bible reading for May 2025 to guide your prayer time:

May 1	<u>1 Corinthians 2:16</u>	Key Thought: _____
May 2	<u>Proverbs 16:18</u>	Key Thought: _____
May 3	<u>Philippians 4:6</u>	Key Thought: _____
May 4	<u>2 Corinthians 7:1</u>	Key Thought: _____
May 5	<u>2 Chronicles 29:10-12</u>	Key Thought: _____
May 6	<u>Proverbs 4:23</u>	Key Thought: _____
May 7	<u>2 Peter 1:2</u>	Key Thought: _____
May 8	<u>John 16:8</u>	Key Thought: _____
May 9	<u>Psalms 143:6-7</u>	Key Thought: _____
May 10	<u>Romans 15:5-6</u>	Key Thought: _____
May 11	<u>Ephesians 2:19</u>	Key Thought: _____
May 12	<u>Psalms 19:13-14</u>	Key Thought: _____
MAY 13	<u>2 Corinthians 7:1</u>	Key Thought: _____
May 14	<u>Philippians 2:4</u>	Key Thought: _____
May 15	<u>Isaiah 32:17</u>	Key Thought: _____
May 16	<u>Romans 15:13</u>	Key Thought: _____
May 17	<u>Romans 8:11</u>	Key Thought: _____
May 18	<u>Philippians 4:8</u>	Key Thought: _____
May 19	<u>James 1:22-25</u>	Key Thought: _____
May 20	<u>Psalms 62:5</u>	Key Thought: _____
May 21	<u>Ephesians 4:31</u>	Key Thought: _____
May 22	<u>John 3:16-18</u>	Key Thought: _____
May 23	<u>Acts 5:39</u>	Key Thought: _____
May 24	<u>John 15:26</u>	Key Thought: _____
May 25	<u>Matthew 6:13</u>	Key Thought: _____
May 26	<u>1 Corinthians 1:10</u>	Key Thought: _____
May 27	<u>1 Peter 3:1</u>	Key Thought: _____
May 28	<u>James 1:22-25</u>	Key Thought: _____
May 29	<u>Zephaniah 3:17</u>	Key Thought: _____
May 30	<u>Psalms 18:1-3</u>	Key Thought: _____
May 31	<u>2 Timothy 4:7</u>	Key Thought: _____

ELDERS' REPORT—PT 1

Greetings to all God's children on these wonderful spring days. Winter is past, or as much as winter can be past in Ohio, and we are all ready to embrace spring. A promise of our great Gods renewal. Green grass, budding and blooming flowers, plans for spring planting whether it be in the field, the flower bed, or the vegetable garden, Easter celebrations!! Praise the Lord!

Reflecting back to winter, due to some surgery, I had the opportunity to take some extra time to reflect on God's blessings. The surgery forced the old man to have to sit more than I scurried about. For those of you that know me sitting still is not one of my favorite pastimes. But, In God's wisdom he saw fit to take that time for me to reflect on the abundant blessings He has gifted to me.

One of the things that I found astounding during my reflections is why God would choose me, of all people, to do His work. One late night when my discomfort kept me from sleeping, I was reviewing some of my favorite Christian songs and was guided to one of my favorites by Casting Crowns titled "Nobody." I was again struck by the opening stanza that spoke directly to me...*"Why You ever chose me has always been a mystery."* I could not have said it better myself. The stanza is a mirror of a Psalm I always keep close when I realize that the God of the universe, the creator of all things takes the time to pay attention to me.

Psalm 8: 3-4

3: When I look at the heavens,
The work of Your fingers,
The moon and the stars
Which thou hast established
4: What is man that thou art
Mindful of him,
And the son of man that
Thou dost care for him?

The next part of the opening verse in "Nobody" says very honestly *"all my life I've been told I belong at the end of the line. With all the other not rights, and all the never get it rights."*

ELDERS' REPORT—PT 2

During our men's bible study, we have been looking at the way God chooses ordinary people, the humble, the unimportant from the world's view, the last in line and never chosen! I still, however marvel and have to ask, as the late Kris Kristofferson did in another one of my favorites "Why me Lord?" Our study has shown us that these ordinary people, the behind the scenes, quite multitude does an amazing amount of God's work in the world. I am far from perfect, far from talented, far from gifted. So, in God's eyes, I guess that makes me a perfect candidate. How about you? The Casting Crown song further solidifies this by reminding me in a later verse that I do not need to be perfect, talented, or gifted: *"Moses had stage freight, David took a rock to a sword fight, He took 12 outsiders nobody would have chosen and He changed the world."* My friend and neighbor Mr. Lee Simpson reminded our group that to do God's work you do not have to be capable you only have to be available. If you make yourself available God will make you capable.

If you still think that God does not know us well enough to have some work He has chosen for you and I to do then please read Psalm 139.

1-O Lord, you have searched me and you know me

2-You know when I sit and when I rise,

You perceive my thoughts from afar

3-You discern my going out and my lying down:

You are familiar with all my ways

I know that I am truly blessed beyond all measure by a loving caring, giving God that chose a "nobody" to do his work. For that I am eternally grateful.

So, I pray that I will continue, in my imperfect way, led by a perfect Creator, to do God's work. The last part of the opening stanza in "Nobody" points out one more amazing fact:

"But it turns out we (you and me) are the ones You've been looking for all this time"

Blessing to all,

Chuck

PS. If you truly would like to be blessed, please take the opportunity to teach children's Sunday School. You will learn so much, enrich so many lives and take home far more than you have given!



RISEN CHRIST
Lutheran Church



The President's Corner

April Board Meeting

- Pastor and the Ministry Team leaders are hard at work generating job descriptions for the church leader positions. This will provide clear responsibilities of each position to better inform everyone.
- Jim Brueggeman, School Board, President and Becky Reid, Principal presented their current work on expanding the school at no cost to the church. Details are still in the early stages with efforts focused on completing grant proposals and cost estimates. At the moment three options to add classrooms are being considered. Once estimates are available a final plan will be developed and presented to the Church Board and congregation for approval. Much work has been accomplished to date. This is quite the undertaking but could result in positive results for Risen Christ and our community. Please pray for the proposal team as they work to complete the plan.
- A new computer has been installed in the sound booth greatly simplifying operation. Thanks to Tom Mulkey and Johnny Bacevic for their efforts. Individual desktops for Worship Services, School and Chapel have been generated. This computer also controls our electronic sign. We are limiting additional programs to insure smooth system operation. Only Administrators can add programs. Should you find additional information would be useful please speak to Johnny, Bethany or Tom.
- Risen Christ financial health was discussed. During this period, due to federal changes, we are using caution for expenditures and suggest using Thrivent Action cards wherever possible. Should you have unused card(s) available please check with Bethany for use in needed projects.

Yours in Christ,

John Bacevic

president@risenchristlcms.org

937-882-4023



Connection Report



On Saturday April 12 the annual Church and School Easter Egg Hunt took place with great attendance. Thanks to David Arnold who greeted all our guests. Scott Botzum for juggling, Josh, Scott, and Jack who helped with games. Erin and Julie Ann did crafts. All Cedarville students. Jo and Gene Baumgardner and Kim and Rob Hunt did kitchen duty, decorated, made copies, hid easter eggs and did whatever was needed to make the day a success. A special thanks to Pastor Brad and Mrs. Reid for all their support and assistance to make the day great.

Hope everyone enjoyed the Easter breakfast. Thanks to our chefs Dave Thomas and Chuck Bern. The scrambled eggs and sausage were savory and Jo's breakfast casserole was delicious and Mary Nordan's Twinkie bunny car was cute. Thank you to The Hunts for the Sunday School Egg Hunt. Thank you to Laura and Chuck for set up and Jo and Gene for cleanup.

Upcoming events for May

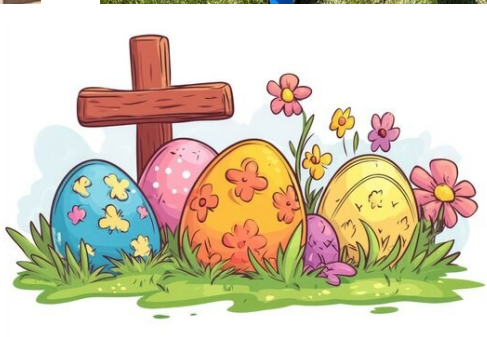
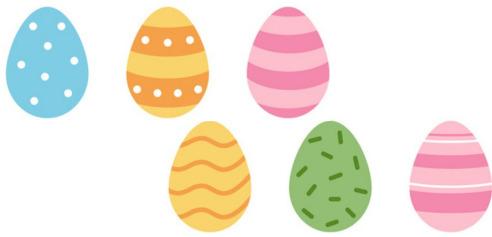
Mother's Day Sunday May 11 with the kick off "Blessings in a Bottle" for the Clark County PRC and honoring our Mothers.



God couldn't be everywhere so that's why he invented MOTHERS!

High School graduate Blake Vollrath May 31 from Southeastern.

College Graduate Katherine Petersen May 16 from Wittenberg University.



Risen Christ
Annual Easter
Egg Hunt
April 20, 2025



MY MOTHER KEPT A GARDEN

My Mother kept a garden,
a garden of the heart,
She planted all the good things
that gave my life it's start.
She turned me to the sunshine
and encouraged me to dream,
Fostering and nurturing
the seeds of self-esteem...
And when the winds and rain came,
she protected me enough-
But not too much because she knew
I'd need to stand up strong and tough.
Her constant good example
always taught me right from wrong-
Markers for my pathway
that will last a lifetime long.
I am my Mother's garden.
I am her legacy-
And I hope today she feels the love
reflected back from me.

-Kelly Z.

RISEN CHRIST SCHOOL UPDATE

Throughout the past several months, the School Board has been investigating the Risen Christ School's true needs. The building program, whether an addition to the current building or a stand-alone building would be paid for by the school.

The goals of the school include enlarging classrooms and adding seventh and eighth grades. Seventh grade begins this fall and hopefully eighth grade by 2027. Interest in 7th grade is definitely there. Ten students have signed up already.

Currently, the School Board is *investigating the additional requirements, funding options, and joint space for church and school.*

- Additional space for the Food Pantry will be included.
- The needs of the Hot Meals Program will be considered.
- Grants require **community service**. Activities as Zumba classes, Family Game Night, Upward Sports, and homework help for area children would be offered to the Springfield area community. Various teachers have volunteered to head these activities. Students already assist with the Food Bank and were recognized for their service.
- The Board is applying for a Turner Grant as well as other grants.
- The cost of water and sewer is being investigated.
- Looking into other ways the school can help the church. For example, the school took over the charge for one of the copy machines and ALL paper.

How are we going to pay for this?

- A fund raiser directed toward the community, current parents and alumni.
- Grants
- Scholarship Granting Organization LCMSOHIO.com

The addition/building will be the total responsibility of the school.

Remember, our Risen Christ School is a mission, as well as an academic institution.

Pray for God's guidance and blessing!

OTHER NEWS

NURTURING
YOUR FAITH:

Prayer



The Bible Study *Nurturing Your Faith: Prayer* is a four-session series exploring the role of different types of prayer in the believer's life. Prayers of intercession, gratitude, confession, and praise are considered in various scriptural settings by highlighting a particular prayer's context, who offered it, and why. An opening video featuring Rev. Don Everts prefaces each session and gives context to what follows.

**Join us every Sunday morning from
9:00am—9:45am**



Risen Christ Lutheran Church and School will be having a clothing drive for our brothers and sisters from Haiti who live among us: socks, underwear, shoes, shirts, pants, jackets, seasonal, work clothes, dress clothes, etc. We will have containers in the entry near the worship space from April 20-May 11 for your donations.



- We will be serving a meal this year, so we are going to need extra help.
- We need a MINIMUM of 14 volunteers (more are always welcome)
- There will be a volunteer meeting May 15 @ 6:30pm

ESV Scripture for May

Verse of the Month

For God saved us and called us to live a holy life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was his plan from before the beginning of time – to show us his grace through Christ Jesus. 2 Tim 1:9 NLT

<u>May 4</u> 3rd Sun of Easter	<u>May 11</u> 4th Sun of Easter
First Reading: Acts 9:1-22	First Reading: Acts 20:17-35
Epistle Reading: Rev 5:1-14	Epistle Reading: Rev 7:9-17
Gospel Reading: John 21:1-19	Gospel Reading: John 10:22-33
<u>May 18</u> 5th Sun of Easter	<u>May 25</u> 6th Sun of Easter
First Reading: Acts 11:1-18	First Reading: Acts 16:9-15
Epistle Reading: Rev 21:1-7	Epistle Reading: Rev 21:9-14, 21-27
Gospel Reading: John 16:12-22	Gospel Reading: John 16:23-33



1	Terry Gallagher
1	Alaina Rutledge
3	Cora Wells Kitt
6	Andy Viken
7	Bill Ervin
10	Jeff Ford
15	Andy Matusak
20	Robin Ford
22	Kyle Heilmann
26	Tom Mulkey
26	Jim Perks



1	Mickey Dahle
1	Duane Wiebeck
5	Chuck Dahle
14	Stephen Wiebeck
20	Bob Funk
23	Johnny Bacevic III
23	Ruth Wilfong
24	Alaina Rutledge
25	Wesley Mulkey
27	Kaleb Whitt
28	Laura Bern

**Church Office
Summer Hours:
9:30 am—1pm**



		Years
5/5	Dave & Linda Thomas	41
5/22	Rob & Kim Hunt	43
5/27	Brad & Lynda Viken	36
5/31	Jim & Sharon Perks	56



ALS Awareness Month

National Military Appreciation Month

National Mental Health Awareness Month

- 1 School Principal's Day—WE LOVE YOU MRS. REID!
- 4—Stars Wars Day
- 6—National Teacher Appreciation Day
- 8—National Day of Prayer
- 11—Mother's Day
- 17—Armed Forces Day
- 26—Memorial Day

