



RISEN CHRIST  
Lutheran Church

41 E Possum Road, Springfield, OH 45502 Telephone: 937-323-3688 Web Site: [www.risenchristlcms.org](http://www.risenchristlcms.org) Pastor: Rev Dr Scott Sommerfeld

# CrossTalk

Sharing God's work in our Church and School

## February 2026

### *Something New for Lent*

Dear Friends

I look forward to serving the Savior with you at Risen Christ. I hope you can attend the Sunday, February 15 Installation Service led by Ohio District President, Rev. Kevin Wilson.

Just as we are starting our ministry together—we are also about to start a new season in the church year that vividly displays the love of God for you and for all people everywhere—Lent. This season shows us the Source of our hope. God for us. And inspires us to live our lives for Him and for the Life of the World.

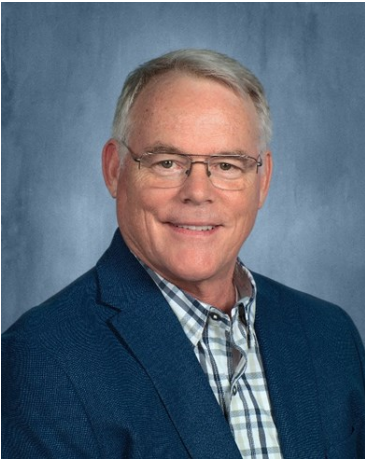
We gather for worship each of the 6 Wednesdays in Lent starting with the service of Imposition of Ashes and Communion on **Ash Wednesday, February 18** at 7:00 pm. Each Wednesday we will hear Cross Words—one of the last seven words of Jesus from the cross. See you there!

Some will want to **“give up” something** for Lent to remember the sacrifice of our Savior Jesus. This is a fine practice. I also suggest **“adding something” for Lent** that will strengthen and feed your faith. You might consider adding daily prayer and devotion reading, or Wednesday worship or starting a gratitude journal by writing 3 things that you are thankful for each day. Blessings on your Lenten Journey.

*Pastor Scott*

Interim Pastor

## Getting to Know Pastor Scott



Pastor Scott Sommerfeld has served LCMS congregations for 39 years in Louisville, KY, Kokomo, IN, and Jenison, MI and now in the special ministry known as Transitional Interim Ministry (TIM) for nearly 9 years. He comes to Risen Christ Lutheran Church and School after serving as Sr. Pastor at Shepherd of the

Lakes, Brighton, St. Paul, Ann Arbor, Living Water, Whitmore Lake, Community, Flat Rock, Trinity, Jackson and Trinity, Utica. He and his wife Cindy will celebrate their 45<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary June 5<sup>th</sup> and live in Whitmore Lake, MI. Cindy is retired from full time work as a Speech Therapist and now gets to watch 8-month-old granddaughter Amelia two days each week. We are blessed to have 3 wonderful adult children and 3 grandchildren—including Ella (11) and Luke (9) in Bowling Green, OH. In the warmer months they enjoy kayaking, bike riding and fishing.

Pastor Scott has a passion for leadership development, helping home and congregation work together to enrich the faith of every generation, as well as organizational/relational health founded on Holy Manners and Servant Leadership. He graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis in 1987 and completed his Doctor of Ministry degree there in 2007. While his business card reads Rev. Dr. Scott G. Sommerfeld he prefers to be called Pastor Scott. Pastor Scott is excited to join the Risen Christ team as Interim Pastor. He describes this “in between time” as a beautiful season for transition, next steps in ministry and preparation for the next Sr Pastor. He will be installed at Risen Christ on Sunday, February 15.

## **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.

### **Board of Directors**

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President	Jeffery Parks
Vice President	Becky Krieger
Secretary	Abby Wright
Treasurer	Sarah Bussell
Member-At-Large	Sandi Click
Business Manager	Steve Rutledge
Head Elder	Gene Baumgardner

### **Ministry Team Leaders**

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Day School	Rebecca Reid
Outreach	Greg & Chandra Shrader
Connections	Sara Hale
Promotions	Brenda Montecalvo
Stewardship	<i>Help Needed</i>

### **School Board**

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President	Jim Brueggeman
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### **Other Volunteers**

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Food Pantry	Greg Shrader
RCLC Meals	Johnny Bacevic
Trustees	Paul Bok
Financial Secretary	Steve Rutledge
Praise Team Leader	Jeffery Parks

### ***Church Office Staff***

#### **Pastor**

Scott Sommerfeld

#### **Office Manager**

Steve Rutledge (*Temporary*)

#### **Elders**

Gene Baumgardner

David Arnold

Chuck Bern

Rob Hunt

#### **CrossTalk Publisher**

Steve Rutledge-*Looking for Volunteer*  
(Feb John Bacevic)

### ***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

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

Deb Rutledge

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

Dawn Wells-Kitt

#### **3rd Grade**

Joetta Garberich

#### **4th Grade**

Korie Near

#### **5/6/7th Grade**

Jeff Parks, Mike Garberich

Martha Werner-Brown

#### **School Support Staff**

Kelli Cole, Sarah Leighley

Lisa Mulkey, Betty Ward

Andrew Kiple, Bethany Viken



# Elders' s page

## CAN YOU FEEL THE EXCITEMENT?

As you read the Psalms, have you noticed how often David or the other psalmists are excited about praising their Lord and God?

*O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth. Who have set Your glory above all the heavens! Psalm 8:1*

*Oh, give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. Psalm 118:1*

*I will praise You with my whole heart; Before the gods I will sing praises to You. Psalm 138:1*

The psalmists are truly excited about God's goodness and want to proclaim this excitement. I, too, am excited about our special God and how He has brought Reverend Dr. Scott Sommerfeld to be our TIM pastor for the coming year. Pastor Sommerfeld has set a very aggressive schedule of working with Risen Christ Lutheran Church and School to get us ready to successfully call a new shepherd. While here, Pastor Scott hopes to visit with most members of the church and school staff to get an honest assessment of RCLC and RCLS to help him discern needed attributes of any new pastor. My prayer is that when he contacts you, that you welcome him and speak with him openly. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the elders.

I am not much of a cheerleader, but I hope you too will

**“GET EXCITED, GET, GET EXCITED”** about our gracious God and where He is leading us a church and school with the help of Pastor Scott.

Blessings,

Gene Baumgardner, Head Elder



RISEN CHRIST  
Lutheran Church

## *The President's Corner*



As we begin the new year, we also begin on a new journey. Our journey will take much time, patience, hard (and sometimes difficult) work, and most importantly, prayer. I ask that you join me in prayer, both for the things I've listed and for anything on your heart that I have left out:

- For Reverend Olson and his family as he ministers to us for the next few weeks.
- For Reverend Dr. Scott Sommerfeld and his family as he prepares to serve as our Transitional Interim Minister.
- For the Elders, Board of Directors, Ministry Teams, and Call Committee; may God grant them patience, wisdom and discernment as they prepare for the important work ahead of them.
- For RCLC Meals, Food Pantry, and Risen Christ Lutheran School; that God would bless and continue to allow these ministries to grow, so that more people in Springfield are able to be served and witnessed to.
- For everyone who volunteers and serves in any capacity at Risen Christ; may God grant them an abundance of joy and a renewed spirit.
- For our congregation; that our journey will lead to the healing of old wounds, help us to form a close knit family of believers, and develop a renewed sense of vision and purpose.
- And last, but certainly not least, for the man who will one day become our Pastor; that God will already begin working in his heart and preparing him for the next journey that we will walk together.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Jeff Parks

President



## **“Transitional Interim Ministry--Starts with Listening”**

That is why Pastor Scott is meeting with 30 Risen Christ households during his first 6 weeks. He will invite a representative cross-section of leaders, staff and members to meet with him. You can schedule a listening session too. He is eager to hear about the dreams, needs and strengths of Risen Christ and will also share more about the importance of this transition time and the Interim Process during your session. While all One-on-One Meetings will be confidential—the insights gleaned will be reported to leadership and the congregation in his Getting Started Report later this spring.

**Watch for the Meeting Schedule and sign up soon as a household for your 1 on 1 session with Pastor Scott.**



### **WE WOULD LOVE TO HAVE YOU JOIN US**

#### **For LADIES BIBLE STUDY**

The February meeting dates will be THURSDAY, February 19 at 10 AM for the daytime group and 7 PM for the evening gang. We will continue with “**When You Pray**” Session 5, which is written by Jennifer Rothschild. Jennifer is blind and will be helping us learn about prayers of lament.

**Please** consider joining a group Bible study. It is so wonderful to develop special relationships with other women, learn from each other and share scripture. Jo Baumgardner 740-274-2894

"WE LOVE... BECAUSE HE FIRST LOVED US!"

\*Thank you the many RCLC volunteers that show love by the things you do, including CHANGING LIGHT BULBS, SINGING, VISITING, USHERING, COUNTING, TEACHING, UNDERSTANDING TECHNOLOGY, PROVIDING FOOD, LISTENING and the list goes on to...

\*Special thanks to all the Risen Christ members, friends and teachers who provided gifts for the 2025 Angel Tree and the members who donated Thrivent cards. With your generosity of time and funding, we were able to help 38 RCLS students remember and celebrate God's special Christmas gift of His Son, Jesus.

\*Thanks to Linda Thomas who graciously gave her time to paint the pastor's office, the office entryway and the office manager space. She moved all the furniture, spackled walls, cleaned and travelled several times to the paint store to pick out the correct paints and colors. It looks great, Linda!

\*Thank you to Pastor Wayne Olson for leading our worship and Sunday adult Bible study. He has also stepped up to lead chapel services for RCLS. We appreciate him and his family's active participation in January and early February.

\*And Thank You to Reverend Dr. Scott Sommerfeld and his wife, Cindy for graciously accepting God's call to serve as our Transitional Interim Ministry (TIM) pastor.

\*Thank you, God, for providing all these willing servants.  
We are very blessed!

Philippians 1:3-5





# Connection Report



## Support our School

### Beat the winter Blues and Join us for Chicken Dinner



Sunday February 1<sup>st</sup> In  
Fellowship Hall  
After Church Service



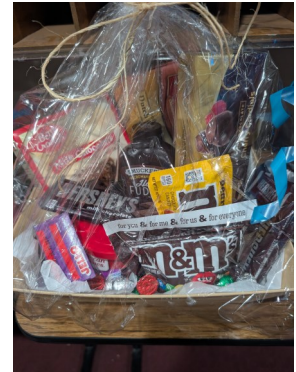
### Basket Raffle

#1 Superbowl #2 Bath & Body  
#3 Chocolate

1 ticket \$1.00 or 6 tickets for \$5.00

Bake Goods Auction

Monies for Risen Christ Lutheran School



### Upcoming events

Saturday March 7, 9am LWML Prayer Service at Bethlehem  
Packing Boxes for College Kids and Shut Ins

The snow is beautiful on the ground, and always the lights of  
heaven glows as it shines down on us.



## RISEN CHRIST LUTHERAN SCHOOL



Celebrated children's author Dr. Miranda Kogon Montoya visited Risen Christ to present her most recent publication "Petunia Moves Again". She also led two Reader's Workshops and an Author's Workshop. Through highly engaging

and interactive presentations on author's purpose, main idea, and character development, students discovered the heart of the story's message: "Trying something new can lead to great things." Our students are eagerly awaiting a second visit from Dr Montoya and the presentation of the next book in the Petunia series.





# Raise the Roof for Risen Christ School!

**THANK YOU to ALL** who have contributed and/or pledged to our “Raise the Roof for Risen Christ School” fundraising campaign. These funds will finance rooms for the school’s middle grades AND church pantry, as well as expanding the kitchen to support the church’s hot meals program. To date, \$1,150,000 has been donated/pledged. Along with the school’s reserve fund, it is possible to move forward with the building program. However, the school’s reserve funds must be replaced. Additional donations are still desired. A bridge loan has been approved to cover the cost until the pledges are received.

**Preparations** for construction by Kapp Construction Company have been completed. A map of underground utilities has been completed as well as soil boring to determine if additional support would be needed for the foundation.

**More opportunities** are available to contribute to this important project. Look for the restaurant schedule (dates and places where a percentage of intake is given to Risen Christ), information about the calendar special events donations, donate through the QR code or by an envelope stating the contribution is for the “Raise the Roof” fund.

**Questions:** Contact Jim Brueggeman at 423-596-5131 or [mbruegg@erinet.com](mailto:mbruegg@erinet.com)



## Verse of the Month

*John 3:16 ESV*

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son,  
that whoever believes in him should not perish but  
have eternal life.

Date	Festival	First Reading	Psalm	Epistle	Gospel
Feb. 1	Fourth S. after the Epiphany	Isaiah 9: 1-6	Psalm 27	1 Cor. 1:10-18	Matt. 4: 12-25
Feb. 8	Fifth S. after the Epiphany	Isaiah 58:3–9a	Psalm 112:1–9	1 Cor. 2: 1–12 (13–16)	Matt. 5:13–20
Feb. 15	The Transfiguration of Our Lord	Ex. 24:8–18	Psalm 2:6–12	2 Peter 1:16–21	Matt. 17:1–9
Feb. 18	Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:12–19	Psalm 51:1–13 (14–19)	2 Cor. 5:20b– 6:10	Matt. 6:1–6, 16–21
Feb. 22	First S. in Lent	Gen. 3:1–21	Psalm 32:1–7	Rom. 5:12–19	Matt. 4:1–11
March 1	Second S. in Lent	Gen. 12:1–9	Psalm 121	Rom. 4: 1–8, 13–17	John 3:1–17



4	Vada Perks (Lacey)
4	Taylor Rhodes
7	Becky Krieger
13	Sherry Whitt
17	David Arnold
22	Blake Vollrath
24	Constance Ryman
25	Laura Bern
28	Rob Koval



22 Homer & Constance Ryman



10 Kole Vollrath  
 11 Vada Perks (Lacey)  
 26 Christine Buck