



RISEN CHRIST
Lutheran Church

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

CrossTalk

Sharing God's work in our Church and School

March 2026

Such a Warm Welcome!

While the weather continues to be quite chilly—your welcome has been very warm and friendly. I am blessed to be at Risen Christ. Feel free to reach out to me via email (pastor@risenchristlcms.org) or via cell phone—616.437.1891. I hope you will sign up for a “household interview” so you and I can really get to know one another. See details below.

Some are asking me—“What can I do to help my church family during this season of transition?” That is a great question. My answer—transition is a great time to re-energize your prayer life.

Will You Pray?

How about adding the following prayer topics to your regular prayer time?

1. Those who are grieving the loss of a dear friend in Pastor Brad Viken.
2. All of us to experience a renewed trust and hope in God's provision for today and the future.
3. The Church Leaders and I to become a healthy and joyful team as we start serving together.
4. Our Board of Directors to have wisdom and peace as they lead and process transition.
5. Our Elders to have peace and compassion as they support members in transition and experience their own transition.
6. Our School Staff and School Families that God continues to bless this vital partnership in making lifelong disciples of Jesus.
7. All of us, that God will transform us more and more into the image of Christ for the good of others.

A Bible Reading Challenge for Lent

The Bible Reading Challenge is reading the four short chapters of Colossians one time every week for the month of March. That's 95 power-packed verses that the Holy Spirit can use to do His work in you and through you.

Are you up for the challenge?

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Members and School Friends—I want to Hear from YOU

I am having such wonderful “Household Interviews” with the members and friends of Risen Christ. Now is the time to sign up and join this great time for listening and encouraging one another in Christ. Email the church office to reserve your time to chat.

I wish you could sit in the room with me and hear these heartfelt conversations. The next best thing is that I will summarize all of these conversations and share the insights and attitudes of each in my Phase 1 Report after Easter.

New Preaching Series: “—In Christ”

Our new Preaching Series starts Sunday, March 1 and is based on the book of Colossians with an eye toward encouraging members and friends of Risen Christ to live our life together-- In Christ. It is not based on a “problem” at Risen Christ—it is based on the solution to all of life—the sufficiency of Christ.

March 1 theme is “Grace and Truth” based on Colossians 1:1-14. I encourage you to read these few verses or even take the Bible Reading Challenge.

Blessings on your Journey through Lent to the Empty Tomb!

Pastor Scott

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

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

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

School Board

President	Jim Brueggeman
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Other Volunteers

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*
(Mar 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

1st Grade Teacher

Deb Rutledge

2nd Grade Teacher

Dawn Wells-Kitt

3rd Grade

Joetta Garberich

4th Grade

Korie Bernard

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



Elder's page

Fear Here?

In creation God gave Adam and Eve a brain, a heart, free will, and emotions. Of course free will is also, but I believe that our emotions are one aspect of God creating us in his own image. Emotions of love, jealousy, sympathy, and anger are often manifested by God in Scripture.

It sometimes surprises Christians when Scripture reveals our benevolent and loving God to also be a *jealous* God, displaying his *anger*, telling of his *hate*, and sometimes revealing his *sorrow*. They fail to recognize that while God is appropriately loving and benevolent, he is also appropriately angry, appropriately jealous, appropriately sorrowful, and appropriately hates things not of him. We often let our sinfulness twist and distort our God-given emotions into something he never intended. God does not approve of our jealousy when generated from greed, our love directed towards depraved things of the world, or anger borne from a selfish displeasure of people or our circumstances. As we mature in our faith we find that God desires some of our human-generated emotions to be coupled/tempered with others to remain appropriate. Jealousy, for example, should be initiated by love; anxiousness triggered by righteous anticipation; fear wrapped in trust. God displays many of the same emotions *towards* us that he *gave* to us.

One of the strongest, most misunderstood, and mishandled emotions perverted and twisted by Satan is *fear*. Satan loves to use inappropriate fear to poke at our Natural Man, casting stones in the path of our walk with God. What are some things that you fear? Is it that big dog next door with snarling teeth? Perhaps it's the man in front of you with a gun demanding your wallet. Is it cancer? Do you fear change, or perhaps the unknown that lies ahead? Is it witnessing to your neighbor? Or perhaps you fear God himself. As a Christian we would typically think that fearing God is a no-no. Yet Psalms 111:10 teaches us that "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding." So, what's up with that?

Well, an appropriate fear of God is based on a relationship of both knowledge *of* him and trust *in* him. Generally, you can love those you know to be trustworthy, and trust those you have come to love. Love and trust seem to develop simultaneously in relationships. The more you know of someone the more you can love. The more you love, the more you can trust. This is especially true in our relationship with our Father/God.

The Psalms are filled with encouragement for us to fear the Lord. Many references to "fearing the Lord" are a testimony to his awesome power to create and to destroy at will. But every one of the Psalms are written from an established relationship the psalmist had with God. They knew not only of his awesome power but also of his grandiose love and desire to eternally commune with us. They had each witnessed his provision, his fulfillment of promises, and experienced his heart of compassion and forgiveness. They knew they could trust God, that his word was absolute, and remembered their experiences of his love in all of life's circumstances. One of them, David, even knew that he could come crawling back to God and find forgiveness and hope even after murdering a man and taking his wife. That is our God! The closer we walk with him, the more our heart is bent towards him, the more he can do in our lives to bless us, to reconcile us, to fill our hearts with joy and peace, and to further his kingdom. Peace... is that not what we all seek? Fear the Lord with appropriate fear, and Peace can come.

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Elder's page (continued)

We will all continue to experience the emotion of fear in our lives. For many it comes every day. Many of God's children live under an umbrella of the unknown. Some are pressed by bodily ailments, financial difficulties, reoccurring illnesses, and even cancer. God's got it all in his hands because he's got *you* in his hands. God is a promise keeper. We know we can trust him, not just because he has told us we could, but also because we have already seen his handprints in our lives. Yes, you can be trained in self-defense, plan for the unknown, battle your ailments/cancers, but God is the one who wants to protect your heart and bring you his peace. Just let him. Look for his handprints. He has written you a love letter (*scripture*)... read it! He provides faithful Christian friends... seek them out! He has given you Christian music and a place to express yourself... worship him! He has given you a burden to bear... yoke yourself to him!

For those who love the Lord with their heart/mind/strength, who rely on the redemption offered by Christ-crucified, the best cure for any ailment and life's issues/problems, is actually what the world fears most.... *death*. An eternity forever with our Creator is what we have in store, what we can live for. The world may foolishly claim this, but the reality is that it will always be beyond their reach. Because of Christ alone, our future is secured; the battle is won. What of this world is there to fear? The rest of life's issues are just skirmishes left to be fought. This is what the psalmists understood. This is what they relied on. This too is what we can hold fast to. This is the peace that God offers to *everyone*, but that only *Christians* can have.

So, for now we continue to live with the gnarly dogs, the sore backs and the cancers, knowing that we do not need to fear them if we *fear the Lord*.

Live in peace!

(remember **GWIB!** *God's Way Is Best!*)



Rev. Dr. Scott Sommerfeld (center) was installed as Transitional Interim Pastor at Risen Christ Lutheran Church, 41 E. Possum Road, Springfield, Ohio. Ohio District President Kevin Wilson (left) preached and officiated while Rev. Wayne Olson (right) served as liturgist.



The season of Lent has become one of my favorite times of the year. As the earth is blanketed in Winter, resting and renewing itself in anticipation of the Spring to come, we as God's people have the chance to do the same. Through reflection, prayer, fasting, meditating on God's Word, and remembrance of Jesus' suffering, we gain the gift of being able to rest—so that we may renew ourselves in faith. We have the blessing of looking in anticipation toward something far greater than the Spring to come. We await the glorious celebration of Jesus' resurrection!

We are in a season as a congregation that shares many of the same themes as the current liturgical season. We are reflecting on where we are as a church and where we would like to be in the future. Through prayer and meditating on God's Word, we can more clearly see what God is calling us to be as a church. Through the remembrance of Jesus' suffering and anticipation of Easter, we are reminded of the mission that God has given us: to share the Good News of the Risen Christ.

I pray that this season will be one of renewal for all of us: renewal of our personal faith and renewal of our church. May our hearts be open to the work that God is calling us to do, through prayer and spiritual discipline. Pray for Pastor Scott and his family, as he leads and guides us through this season. Pray for the Elders, the Board of Directors, and those who will serve on the Call Committee, as we look to God for the wisdom and discernment needed in the days and months to come. Finally, please pray for patience. We have the blessing of this time of renewal as a church. May we use this gift God has given to accomplish His purpose, in His time.

In Jesus' name, Amen.
Jeff Parks
President

EASTER FLOWER ORDERS COMING SOON!

Please see the attached order form; additional forms will be available in the narthex at church.

Thank you for contributing to the beauty of our sanctuary!

ALLELUIA! HE IS RISEN!

Easter Flower Order Form

This year, instead of taking orders for specific flowers, the altar care committee will get an assortment of quality flowers to decorate the church for Easter Sunday. After services, you will be able to pick the flowers of your choice from the available donations. If you have any questions, please contact Jo Baumgardner 740-274-2894 or xxgokobxx@gmail.com.

Easter Flowers \$10 each or 3 for \$25

Total Number Ordered _____

If you would like to donate in memory or in honor of, add this info here:

_____ In Memory of _____

_____ In Honor of _____

_____ To the Glory of God

All donations and designations will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin.

ORDER DEADLINE IS Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026.

Please place order form and payment in offering plate.

Thank You!

Name of Buyer _____

Phone _____ Amount Enclosed _____

Cash _____ Check made out to Risen Christ _____

Connection Report

Thanks to everyone who supported the Chicken Dinner.

A special thanks to Dawn Wells-Kitt and Lisa Mulkey for working with the school, sending out flyers, selling and collecting Raffle tickets.

All who baked and donated items for the Auction: Jo Baumgardner, Christine Buck, Kim Hunt, Linda Thomas, Rebekah Yoakum.

For Chef Dave Thomas. Auctioneer Chris Wells and his lovely assistant Lily. Cashier Norma Kettler.

A special thanks to all who supported, attended, and bought items.
Thank You.

Welcome Pastor Sommerfield and wife Cindy.

On Sunday February 15, 2026 Pastor Sommerfield was installed as our interim Pastor. There was a potluck following the service which was enjoyed by all.

Up Coming Events for March

- ◆ Saturday March 7th Miami Valley Zone LWML Prayer Service 9:00 – 10:30 am at St Timothy Lutheran Church, Huber Heights, Ohio
- ◆ Saturday March 21st Packing Boxes for College Kids
- ◆ Saturday March 28th School Easter Egg Hunt

Watch for more details.

“Spring is far more than just a changing of seasons;

It’s a rebirth of the spirit”

Toni Soreson



RISEN CHRIST LUTHERAN SCHOOL

On January 22, Risen Christ students in grades 4–7 had the exciting opportunity to visit the Ohio Supreme Court building. During their trip, they toured the beautiful and historic building, learned about Ohio’s rich history and judicial system, and participated in two engaging mock trials. It was a memorable hands-on experience that brought civics to life!



Who’s driving?

Sometimes God says:

“Sit beside me and let me Drive.”

Sometimes he sits on our other side and says:

“Here, you drive and I’ll give you directions.”

Sometimes he climbs in the back seat and says:

“I’ve taught you. You know where I want to go and how to drive, so get us there.”

But God Never says:

“Let me out of the car.”

Never does God get out of the car unless you kick him out!

Verse of the Month

Col 3:13 (NIV)

"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."

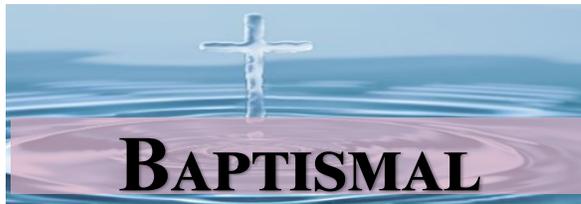
Date	Festival	First Reading	Epistle	Gospel
March 1	Second S. in Lent	Proverbs 3:1-6	Col 1:1-14	John 1:14-18
March 8	Third S. in Lent	Genesis 3:8-15	Col 1:15-29	Luke 23:32-43
March 15	Fourth S. in Lent	Joshua 24:14-18	Col 2:1-10	John 14:1-6
March 22	Fifth S. in Lent	2 Kings: 5:1, 9-14	Col 2:11-23	Matthew 28:18-20
March 29	Palm Sunday (Palmarum)	Zechariah 9:9-10	Phil. 2:5-11	Matthew 21:1-11



10	Alex Ervin
11	Veronica Heilmann
14	Brenda Montecalvo
16	Zarah Bien-Aime
16	Chuck Dahle
16	Mary Norden
16	Logan Weathers
16	Noelle Wiebeck
22	Kaleb Whitt
27	Susan Motter
27	Abby Wright
29	Duane Wiebeck



21	Brian & Dakota Perks
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1	Mary Lou Rizzotte	19	Beryl Boggess
1	Howard Romaker	21	Dakota Roy
3	Mickey Dahle	25	Blake Vollrath
10	Becky Krieger	29	Robin Ford
11	Gene Baumgardner	30	Brad Reid
12	Kelli Inskeep	31	Homer Ryman
18	Patty Arnold		
18	Sherry Whitt		