



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

April 2026

We are Entering The Week that Changed the World

On Palm Sunday Jesus was “*receiving*” love from the crowd in the cheers and celebration of his arrival at Jerusalem as the Son of David—the rescuer for God’s people—“Hosanna to the Son of David.” This is the way the Week that Changed the World began.

However, within a few days of this great welcome celebration he was *receiving* death threats from another crowd—“Crucify Him! Crucify Him!” they yelled outside Pilates Palace. Into that night and early the next morning Jesus *received* beatings and mocking as preparation to *receive* the great humiliation of hanging unclothed outside Jerusalem so passersby could see how Rome treats those who revolt against her rule and power.

But Rome’s judgement wasn’t the worst that Jesus *received* on that Friday. God His Father’s judgement was far worse indeed, leading Jesus to cry out, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?” While hanging on the cross this innocent man *received* the damnation that every sin deserves.

All that Jesus *received* was part of God’s plan of making it possible for YOU to receive perfect LOVE. Jesus did not come to be served but to serve. He came to seek and to save the lost. He came so that sinners might know the true love of God and live in the sweet knowledge of that love for a lifetime and into eternity.

We are at the start of the Week that Changed the World. It is my hope and prayer as you journey through the special services this week that you discover or re-discover the perfect love of God for you as Jesus received so much pain, agony and hell so that you would never need to know such things and can again this week celebrate and receive His love for YOU.

See you in Worship!

Pastor Scott
Interim Pastor

HOLY WEEK SERVICES 2026

*Palm Sunday at 10:00 am March 29
*Maundy Thursday at 7:00 pm April 2
Good Friday at 7:00 pm April 3
*Easter Worship at 10:00am April 5
(Easter Breakfast 8:30-9:30 am)

*Communion Service

You are Invited to a Two-Part Leadership Development Experience
*“Holy Manners
for Risen Christ Lutheran Church and School”*

Back Story on Holy Manners

Pastor Scott has a passion for leadership development, home-centered congregation supported ministry and organizational health founded on Holy Manners. He has had the privilege of leading nearly a dozen congregations, the Concordia Ann Arbor Faculty and other leadership groups to practice and promote healthy relationships while creating a Holy Manners statement and culture for their group.

He will lead this process here at Risen Christ in 2 Parts. All staff, leaders and interested members will gather in the Fellowship Hall together.

Part 1 is Colors: “Healthy Relationships start with Knowing Your Colors”

Wednesday, April 22 in the Fellowship Hall

6:30-8:30 pm

Do you know your Colors? That is, do you know your “go-to” behavioral styles and your ways of making sense of the world—which also impact the ways you tend to speak and interact with others? Other’s already know how you tend to lead and interact with those around you—why not know that about yourself too? Such awareness also helps God’s people serve together at home, work and church as healthy teams. Fortunately, this experience combines humor with keen insight so all stay safe in the midst of a growing self-awareness and insights on how you can best foster and exemplify healthy relationships with everyone God brings along your path.

If you need childcare please contact Pastor Scott at pastor@risenchristlcms.org

Part 2: “Creating Holy Manners for Risen Christ”

Tuesday, April 28 in the Fellowship Hall

6:30-8:30 pm

This interactive experience includes all elected leaders and staff and those interested in the health and future of Risen Christ Lutheran Church and School who have completed Part 1. The “secret sauce” is the whole Risen Christ Team working together to create the first draft of “Holy Manners.” To best identify 1) the Christian behaviors/virtues and 2) the healthy leadership practices we most need today at Risen Christ—this workshop includes both large group teaching as well as small group processing. It all comes together in Part 2!

If you need childcare please contact Pastor Scott at pastor@risenchristlcms.org

Voter's Meeting is Sunday, April 12 after Worship

Thanks to the generosity of God's people there is no need for a mortgage we add a \$1.5 million expansion for both the school and church ministries! Praise the Lord—and many thanks to each of you!!

However, there is a need for a “bridge loan” to cover the construction costs Risen Christ pays over the next 9 months while awaiting all the pledged gifts to arrive over the next 3 years.

The Board of Directors has a proposal to share with the Voters and will request approval of a Promissory Note not to exceed \$600,000 which will be repaid for a term of not more than 5 years. Please contact Congregation President Jeff Parks at president@risenchristlcms.org or Pastor Scott at pastor@risenchristlcms.org the Church Office at churchofficemanager@risenchristlcms.org with your questions.

Elder's Page

*What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me? I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord, I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all His people. I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the Lord. I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all His people, in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. **PRAISE THE LORD! Psalm 116: 12-14, 17-19***

As we rejoice at the Easter resurrection of our Lord, I want to also give THANKS to and for David and Patty Arnold—they come as a team! Patty recently retired from her longtime position on the RCL School Board and David will be ending his time as an Elder, a position he has held several times previously. David and Patty have been lifelong servants of our Lord and have given time to assist with Church Council/Board of Directors, LWML/Sisters in Christ and various worship duties. They have been seen helping at the registration desks for the school fall festival, welcome events and VBS and are frequent



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The President's Corner

As I write this, I'm currently away at an intense two week training class for the Army. The goal is to teach us about holistic health, focusing on topics such as fitness, nutrition, sleep, spiritual wellness and mental wellness. It's an interesting experience to be working with medical professionals, physical trainers, physical and occupational therapists, and even a trainer of Olympic athletes.

One of the big takeaways from this class so far is about goal setting. It's nice to have goals to work towards. I have goals as a teacher, an Army musician, wanting to learn new things, and even some related to hobbies. As long as they are reachable, and I don't try to do them all at once, it leaves me with something I'm motivated to accomplish someday.

I've had a few requests from church members for goals that they would like to see accomplished. They are to find ways to make our congregation a more closely-knit family, and also to bring the church and school sides closer together. I have ideas for how we might be able to incorporate some fellowship opportunities that we used to have, as well as improving communication and connectedness between the church and school. But more help and ideas are always welcome.

I would like everyone reading this to think about the following questions with me. What is something that would improve an aspect of our church, so that we move closer to being what God has called us to be? What can you do to help make that a reality? Who else can work alongside you? Finding an answer to the first question probably isn't too challenging. As we move further along, does it get more difficult? And why am I asking you to consider this?

Each one of us has a role we can play as we work to make our church the best version of itself, and we all have different gifts. Some of us are able to come up with great ideas, but not be able to act on them. Others are able to offer prayer, encouragement and support. Others are able to plan, organize, and carry out those ideas. I want to encourage you to reflect on and pray about the questions I've asked, and feel free to share those goals you'd like to see for us to accomplish together.

Jeff



RISEN CHRIST LUTHERAN SCHOOL

As part of learning about the Holy Trinity, 5th and 6th grade students made beautiful stained glass shamrocks to help represent and share the meaning of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, three in one, like the leaves of a shamrock. Through this hands-on activity, they not only explored an important part of our faith, but also created something special to share with others.



Connection Report

Hello, April!

Let The Blooming Begin. Thank you to all who donated and helped with packing the boxes for the college kids and homebound was much appreciated.

Thank you to all who helped with the Easter Egg Hunt.

Patty and David Arnold, Mickey and Chuck Dahle, Norma Kettler, Mary and Denny Norden who filled eggs and all who helped set up, cleaned up and volunteered at the Easter Egg Hunt.

Easter Breakfast

Easter Breakfast will be Sunday April 5th from 8:30 – 9:30am. Menu includes Scrambled Eggs, Sausage, Biscuit, and Gravy.

Reception for David and Patty Arnold

On Sunday after Church Service on April 19th, a reception for David and Patty Arnold for their many years of service at Risen Christ.

“Spring shows what God can do with a drab and dirty world.”

Virgil A. Kraft



Young Adult Ministry

Spring Schedule

3/31	Tues <i>(7:00pm)</i>	<i>Bible Study</i>	<i>Atheism, Agnosticism, Secular Humanism</i>
4/8	Wed <i>(7:00pm)</i>	<i>Bible Study</i>	<i>Scientology & Church of Christ, Scientist (not the same)</i>
4/12	Sunday <i>(2:00pm)</i>	<i>Food & Fun</i>	<i>At Church</i>
4/15	Wed <i>(7:00pm)</i>	<i>Bible Study</i>	<i>Lodges (Free Masonry, Moose, Elk, etc)</i>
4/22	Wed <i>(7:00pm)</i>	<i>Bible Study</i>	<i>Catch Up, Summary, Loose Ends</i>

Verse of the Month

Col 3:17

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (NIV)

Date	Festival	First Reading	Epistle	Gospel
April 5	Resurrection of Our Lord	1 Peter 1:3-5	Colossians 3:1-4	Matthew 28:1-10
April 12	2nd Sunday after Easter	Isaiah 53:3-6	Col 3:1-11	John 3:16-21
April 19	3rd Sunday after Easter	Leviticus 19:9-10	Col 3:12-17 NIV	John 15:12-17
April 26	4th Sunday after Easter	Exodus 20:1-17	Col 3:15-4:1	Matthew 22:34-40



4	Aaron Buck
8	Danny Click
8	Sandi Click
8	Sharon Heilmann
13	Michaela Kaiser
14	Stephen Wiebeck
15	Sydney Butcher Click
15	Charlie McKee
16	Johnny Bacevic III
27	Mickey Dahle
29	Linda Kaiser
30	Celise McKee



2	Rob & Lindsey Koval
2	Greg & Chandra Shrader
30	Gene & Jo Baumgardner



1	Alex Ervin
5	Denna Johnson
5	Noelle Wiebeck
8	Marcella Caskey
8	Danny Click
9	Constance Ryman
11	Jo Baumgardner
16	David Arnold
17	Rich Davis

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
Music Leader	Jeffery Parks

Church Office Staff

Pastor

Scott Sommerfeld

Office Manager

Steve Rutledge (*Temporary*)

Elders

Gene Baumgardner

Chuck Bern

Rob Hunt

CrossTalk Publisher

Steve Rutledge-*Looking for Volunteer*

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