



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

May 2026

Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I'm writing to you today hoping to focus your attention on **May 18**—the day you get to review the Phase 1 Report during our **“Family Meeting” from 6:30-8:30 pm** in the sanctuary. Who should attend? All those who have an interest in Risen Christ moving forward with clear purpose and zeal for the mission God has for us.

During this “Family Meeting” we will review each section of the report and seek to answer the clarifying question: “Does this sound like Risen Christ?” The goal is to have a clear agreed upon understanding of our starting place for moving forward. This includes identifying the good DNA of Risen Christ that we want to replicate and carry into the future—and perhaps to also note patterns and practices we will strive to leave behind—and not take into the future.

The Phase 1 Report will be circulated via email on or before Wednesday, May 13. Print copies will be available on Sunday, May 17 at Church.

Thank you for making the Family Meeting a high priority as we continue doing the heart work of Transitional Interim Ministry together!

The next step in our Transitional Interim Ministry process is to form the Transitional Task Force. The final pages of the Phase 1 Report will describe this in more detail.

I also have “Breaking News” to share with you...the **Ground Breaking** for our new addition is now scheduled for **Sunday, May 3** immediately after worship. We will move from the sanctuary to the site of the new addition. We will prayerfully consecrate the site and the project, giving thanks to God for this addition and asking God's blessings on all who work on this project. We will conclude the Ground Breaking Celebration with light refreshments. God is good!

In Closing, I'm also excited to share with you that we are beginning a new preaching series on the mission-driven book of Acts later this month. The series title **“Following Jesus Together”** begins with three big days on the church calendar: Ascension Sunday on May 17 (Acts 1:1-11), Pentecost on May 24 (Acts 2:1-21) and Trinity Sunday on May 31 (Acts 2:14, 22-36). Prior to this series starting we will celebrate **Good Shepherd Sunday** on May 10 (John 10:1-16).

May the Good Shepherd continue to watch over you and guide each one individually and all of us together collectively into the future he has prepared for Risen Christ!

In Christ,

Pastor Scott
Interim Pastor

Pastor's Report (continued)

New Member Class—Beginning in May 4th

Interested in joining Risen Christ or simply learning more about our church and growing as a disciple of Jesus? Then this 6 session experience is for you! The topics include Who is Jesus, Baptism, Lord's Supper, Worship, Prayer and more. This is an ideal experience for those returning to worship, those interested in learning more about what Lutherans believe and those ready to call Risen Christ their new church home, including those ready to join by transfer. The initial plan is to meet the first three Mondays in May and June—contact Pastor Scott at pastor@risenchristlcms.org with your questions. Meet 6:30-8:30pm in Pastor's Office.

Pascal Candle at the Altar for Easter Season

The Pascal Candle reminds worshippers of the resurrected Lord Jesus. It is hard to put an empty tomb in the church chancel, so we use this most majestic candle to convey the grand reality that “He has risen, as he said.” (Matthew 28:6). It is lit at the altar during the 40 days between Easter and Jesus' Ascension to the Father. At the conclusion of the Ascension gospel reading—the candle will be extinguished. Reminding us that we worship Jesus without seeing him—that is, “we live by faith, not by sight” (2 Corinthians 5:7). Then at a baptism the candle is lit and moved next to the font to remind us that the resurrected Jesus makes these simple waters life giving waters; “Baptism...now saves you...through the resurrection of Jesus Christ” (1 Peter 3:21). Then at a Christian funeral we place the Pascal Candle next to the casket to remind us of Jesus' words, “Because I live, you also will live.” (John 14:19)

Update on April 12 Voter's Meeting

The Voter's approved a short-term loan not to exceed \$600,000 at 6.5% per annum for not longer than 5 years. This loan will address cash flow to cover construction costs in 2026 as gifts continue to arrive for the project. Many thanks to our leaders for their research and preparation and for all 31 members who participated in this gathering.



RISEN CHRIST
Lutheran Church

Elder's Page

Blessings to our Risen Christ family. What a glorious celebration we have been allowed to partake of during Easter last month. A blessed Holy Week culminating in a moving Good Friday Service. Many thanks to Pastor Scott for guiding us through that journey. After Good Friday, I have always told the Sunday school children that the followers of Jesus had to wait, and suffer through “scary Saturday.” Huddled together behind locked doors. Trembling at every knock and noise. Pondering their fate because they have forgotten the promise that Jesus made to them.

How blessed we are today to know the “rest of the story.” Many times we seem to forget the celebration of Easter when we go back to our everyday lives. Our challenge as baptized children of the resurrected Christ is to live each day as if it is Easter morning. Toss away our fears when our faith and beliefs are challenged or questioned. Bury the little bit of Peter that we each have in us and stand tall in the light of the fire of the courtyard and not hunkered in the shadows of the background. Let us all go forward standing tall in our faith in the one, true, living God. Confident of the forgiveness of our sins that were paid for by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through His death and resurrection.

Blessings,

Chuck



RISEN CHRIST
Lutheran Church



The President's Cor-

Thanks be to God! It's so exciting that we are finally ready to break ground on the expansion to the building. Thank you to everyone who has helped get us to this point: Those that have contributed to the fund-raising efforts; those that have worked behind the scenes with planning and clearing up of the "red tape"; and to those who have been praying and offering support during the process. (And to anyone else I might be accidentally leaving out!)

Please pray for the people that will be working on the construction of the building, as well as for those who will be ministered to by the activities that will take place there—RCLC Meals, Food Pantry, and the school. Pray for those involved in those ministries as well, and that God will bless us with additional people that can be reached through their efforts.

Finally, as we wrap up another school year, please pray for the students of RCLS as well as their families. It's a blessing to be able to work with our students throughout the year. As students leave, we pray that the life lessons we've taught them, and the words of God they've heard will stay with them. Also pray for those students who are not returning. May the seeds that we've planted in their heart continue to grow, and either encourage them to come to faith, or continue to grow in faith.

Jeff

RISEN CHRIST LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Thirty-two students participated in the 2026 Risen Christ Lutheran School Science Fair, showcasing their curiosity, creativity, and scientific inquiry. Judges from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base and Cedarville University generously volunteered their time and expertise to evaluate the projects and encourage our young scientists. Winners included:

5th Grade

Gold Medalist -- Mila Laird

Silver Medalist -- Karma Johnson

Bronze Medalists -- Reagan Dininger and Adam Hall

6th Grade

Gold Medalist -- Madison Lincourt

Silver Medalist -- Darius Freeland

Bronze Medalist -- McKenna Cole

7th Grade

Gold Medalist -- Elaina Goings

Silver Medalist -- Arieana McClanahan

Bronze Medalists -- Ryleigh Roark

Overall Winners

1st place -- Elaina Goings

2nd place -- Mila Laird

3rd place -- Arieana McClanahan and Karma Johnson



Connection Report

Hope Your Month Is Positively a-MAY-zing!

Thank Yous!

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Breakfast and made it a success. Thank you David and Patty Arnold for all your love and service to Risen Christ over the years. Thanks to the many dedicated members who have served Risen Christ since the beginning.

May Happenings

May is an exciting month with school year ending, graduations, Mother's Day, Memorial Day celebration. There will be a 5th Sunday pot luck on May 31st. It will be a picnic of hamburgers, hotdogs and brats.

Mother's Day

On Mother's Day we kick off the Blessing in a Bottle Campaign which will run from May 10th through June 21st Father's Day, for the Springfield Pregnancy Resource Center. The baby bottles will be available in the Narthex in a basket on Mother's Day to fill them with coins, dollars or checks to be returned on Father's Day

Graduation

Graduation is just around the corner. We have two College student graduating this year. Logan Weathers is graduating from Cedarville May 2nd with a degree in Electric Engineering and has a job at Sukup Company which builds grain bins. He is from Ankeny, Iowa and is very excited to marry Jayda this December 19, 2026. He has added his beautiful voice to the choir for the past 4 years and is a member of YAM. Sunday, April 26th will be his last Sunday here at Risen Christ. We will miss Logan and wish him all the best in his new chapter of life.

Josh Putka is graduating from Wittenberg on May 16 with a degree in Math and Biochemistry. He is pre-med and a honor student. He is going to New Castle in the UK to intern with Cru which is a campus ministry. He is helping to start up a campus ministry in UK with a local team. This Summer, he plans to attend pre-medical school and next year, he will be in medical school. Josh is from Cleveland, Ohio. His last Sunday at Risen Christ will be May 10th. He has faithfully served in our hot meals program and as a member of YAM. He has also helped set up and cleanup at many events. Thank you Logan and Josh, you have both been a Blessing to Risen Christ and we will miss you!

Women do not have to carry, adopt or raise children in order to qualify as spiritual moms. We only need to display a willingness to use the gifts which God has entrusted to us in order to nurture others and strengthen them in their faith. "As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you." Isaiah 66:13

Upcoming Summer Events

Yard and Bake Sale

The Sisters in Christ and Risen Christ Lutheran School will be having a yard and bake sale on Saturday, June 27th. Please start thinking about what you might be able to contribute or how to help with this big project. Several projects will benefit from the sale of items. More to come!

Vacation Bible School

Finding and Sharing Jesus - VBS 2026

When: Saturday, June 27th

Time: 9 A.M. - Noon

Where: Risen Christ Lutheran Church Narthex, Sanctuary, and Car Port

Who: 2026 Kindergarten through 5th grade graduates (Space will support a maximum of 50 students.)

The morning will be filled with Bible stories, learning and using the Evangecube and Faith 5 tools to tell the story of Jesus, songs, crafts, and activities. While adults look for garage sale finds, kids will discover Jesus' love for them and how they can share the Good News with others!

If you'd like to help accompany a group of children through each rotation, lead a center, or would like more information, please contact Deb Rutledge at (937) 232-9976 or the church office at (937) 323-3688, churchofficemanager@risenchristlcms.org.

Verse of the Month
Colossians 3:1-2 (NIV)

"Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things".

Date	Festival	First Reading	Epistle	Gospel
May 3	Conversations —In Christ	Genesis 12:1-3; Isaiah 49:5-6	Colossians 4:2-18	Luke 24:44-49
May 10	Good Shepherd Sunday	Psalm 23	Revelation 7:9-17	John 10:1-6, 11-16
May 17	Ascension Sunday	Acts 1:1-11	Ephesians 1:15-23	Luke 24:44-53
May 24	Pentecost	Genesis 11:1-9	Acts 2:1-12	John 15:26-27
May 31	Holy Trinity	Genesis 1:1-5, 24-2:4	Acts 2:14, 22-36	Matthew 28:16-20



1	Alaina Rutledge
3	Cora Wells Kitt
7	Bill Ervin
10	Jeffrey Ford
15	Andy Matusak
18	Scott Sommerfeld
20	Robin Ford
22	Kyle Heilmann
26	Thomas Mulkey
26	Jim Perks



5	David & Linda Thomas
22	Rob & Kim Hunt
31	Jim & Sharon Perks



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

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
-----------	----------------

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