



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

## July 2026

Dear Family of Risen Christ,

While we mark the 250th anniversary of our country and the freedoms we enjoy, I'm already starting to look ahead to a 40th Anniversary milestone for Risen Christ Lutheran Church which we will commemorate this fall—the first Bible Study held on October 19, 2026.

Some in our midst were part of that faithful band with that bible-based beginning.

We remain committed to the scriptures in 2026 as we follow the remarkable journey of Jesus Followers- Peter, Paul, Barnabus and others in our summer preaching series on the Book of Acts.

I encourage you to add the Book of Acts to your summer reading list.

It is filled with courage, miracles, powerful preaching and the spread of the Good News of Jesus through the known world. (You can also find audio versions that make for great listening while driving or doing the dishes—I've discovered.)

Here are the themes we will highlight during worship in July:

July 5	Following Jesus—Going and Telling Together	Acts 13:1-12
July 12	Following Jesus—Hardships, Helpers & Hallelujahs	Acts 14:8-27
July 19	Following Jesus—By Grace—Together	Acts 15:1-11,12-35
July 26	Following Jesus—Dealing with Conflict	Acts 15:36-16:5

While we are “retooling” our Sunday School program in July (no classes for children during this process)—adults are welcome to meet at 9:00 am for a Sunday Morning version of the New Member Class—starting on July 12—covering the fundamentals of the faith—like Law and Gospel, Baptism, Prayer and Holy Communion.

I also encourage you to PRAY during the month of July.

Pray for the Transition Task Force as they continue their work (with everyone's assistance) formulating the Core Values and Mission of Risen Christ.

Pray for the Board of Directors working with consultant Ross Steuber seeking a suitable governance model.

Pray for the School Board as together with Principal Becky Reid—they seek a new 3rd Grade Teacher and prepare for a dynamic faith-filled new school year.

Pray for the successful building of our new addition that will bless many ministries of Risen Christ upon its completion.

Blessings on Your Summer and Your “Book of Acts” Summer Reading/Listening

Pastor Scott

Interim Pastor

## Church and School Building Construction

You've probably noticed that construction on the Church and School addition has started. Praise the Lord! As you pass by the construction of the new church and school building, please stop and take a few pictures every now and then and save to your phone/camera. Some time in the future, we'll ask for pictures so we can make collage of the Lord's progress and blessings to Risen Christ. Keep Praying!





## Elder's Page

Hopefully everyone has noticed the changes taking place at RCLC. Changes that indicate the church's desire to move forward as a congregation. We can see the progress on the school addition/kitchen remodel that will benefit our RCLC school students, our RCLC Meals Program and our RCLC Food Pantry. We see accomplishments in our individual member meetings with Pastor Scott, our colors workshop, our Holy manners workshop and our congregational update meetings. We are blessed to be guided through this new experience by a seasoned and energetic Pastor Scott. We are continuing to move forward by implementing our Transitional Task Force headed by Becky Krieger. All of this progress is an effort to analyze our shortcomings, recognize our assets, plan for the future while continually asking for God's blessing and direction.

We are doing some things differently, trying some new approaches (ouch, that means we may need to change a few things) in an effort to resolve some of our past deficiencies and capitalize more on our strengths and realize new opportunities. Let us go forward with these changes prayerfully, joyfully and with the confidence that God will provide the discernment we need to go in His direction.

In our Saturday men's bible study of Ecclesiastes, Chapter 9, the "Preacher" is always driving home the point that we should live each and every day joyfully and thankfully for each and every day that we have is truly a gift from God. The Preacher encourages us to celebrate each and every day by being clothed in garments of white and with our heads anointed with oil. Although this may not be practical in our world today, we can still convey that celebratory joy in our faces, in our speech, in our attitudes and in the way we interact with others on a daily basis.

As we move forward together as the family of RCLC let us make the best of each and every day God has graciously given us. Let us go forward together joyfully and thankfully as God's RCLC Family.

May His joy and blessings surround you and your families each and every day.

Chuck



## *The President's Corner*

As I sit to board my first flight for Annual Training, which marks year 21 on my journey of service in the military, I'm reminded of the importance of looking back at the past. It's helpful to be reminded where we came from, as well as the blessings which God has provided along the way. It is good to be reminded of challenges that God has helped us overcome, in addition to the victories that He has won for us.

We are also close to the 250th Anniversary Celebration for the United States! As a military musician, I'm looking forward to helping people celebrate that event. However, I'm also reminded of nostalgia, which is a slightly different way of looking at the past. I look at it as a similar idea of being reminded of better times, but which usually loses the focus on God.

If you don't know, I'm a bit of a recovering sports junkie. I typically don't watch live TV, unless it is a sporting event. Soccer, football, F1, and hockey are my favorites, but I've been known to watch baseball and basketball once they get to the playoffs. Actually, basketball used to be my favorite sport to watch, back in the 80's and 90's during what I view as a Golden Era for the sport. I have a lot of nostalgia for the physical style of play, for the rivalries, and for the players of that time.

In a sense, nostalgia keeps me from watching the modern NBA. It just doesn't live up to my fond memories for the era I grew up watching. The modern players are still incredibly talented, but something is different. It just doesn't feel the same. Truth be told, I actually like watching women's college basketball more, because I feel it is more fundamentally sound than the style of basketball men play today.

Nostalgia is pretty powerful. Companies use it to create and market products, and I'm a bit of a sucker for that. I still have original consoles to play video games I played growing up and in college, complete with a CRT TV so I can play the light gun games on the NES. When I have a long day, it's a fun way to unwind. But, it can also be a bit of a crutch. By being so focused on things I like from the past, it limits my time and effort to look for and experience things that are in the present, or to plan for the future!

Finding a balance is important. It's nice to remember the past, and we should do that, while also thanking God for his gifts to us. Whether that is through celebrating our Nation this 4th of July, singing familiar songs from our past, revisiting old books, or a variety of other things; take some time to enjoy things that God has placed in our lives that helped shape us. But it's also important to keep those things in context. God has allowed us to be shaped by these things for a purpose, and to help move us forward, not to constantly live in them.

Jeff



# RISEN CHRIST LUTHERAN SCHOOL

The 2025-26 Risen Christ Senior Dance Praise Team blessed our community with a beautiful lyrical dance to *Oceans* by Lauren Daigle and an energetic hip-hop performance to *Celebration* by Frank Forrest. These dedicated students demonstrated commitment and servant hearts by giving up one recess each week and staying after school on Fridays to prepare for their performances. We applaud them for their hard work, enthusiasm, and willingness to use their talents to praise and glorify God.



# Connection Report

## **“Fourth of July Faith”**

On this 4<sup>th</sup> of July, we stand,  
United, GOD’S guiding hand  
With liberty’s light,  
Our faith shining bright,  
In His grace, our free land.  
Together, we lift our voice,  
Freedom and faith, we rejoice.  
Under skies of blue,  
GOD’S blessings, so true  
In His love, we make our choice.

Thank you to the members of Risen Christ for the generous donations to the LWML Zone Missions it was much appreciated.

The Pregnancy Resources Center Thanks YOU for all the monies collected to help with their Center.

What a kind, selflessness, openhearted congregation.

**THANK YOU RISEN CHRIST.**

*Galatians 5:1*

*For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.*

## Verse of the Month

Deuteronomy 7:9 NIV

***"Know therefore that the Lord your God is God; he is the faithful God, keeping his covenant of love to a thousand generations of those who love him and keep his commandments."***

<u>Date</u>	Festival	Theme	First Reading	Second Reading	Gospel
July 5	6th Sunday after Pentecost	Following Jesus – Going and Telling Together	Psalms 145:1-14	Acts 13:1-12	Matthew 11:25-30
July 12	7th Sunday after Pentecost	Following Jesus: Hardships, Helpers and Halleluiahs	Psalms 65:1-13	Acts 14:8-27	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23
July 19	8th Sunday after Pentecost	Following Jesus—By Grace-Together	Psalms 119:57-64	Acts 15:1-11	Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43
July 26	9th Sunday after Pentecost	Following Jesus – Dealing with Conflict	Psalms 125	Acts 15:36-16:5	Matthew 13:44-52



<u>Name</u>	<u>Day</u>
Matthew Buck	7/2
MaryAnn Wiebeck	7/7
Jean Hawkins	7/8
Diane Jeanneret	7/9
Denny Norden	7/14
Rebecca Reid	7/14
Steve Rutledge	7/14
Elaina Buck	7/17
Darlene Roc Bien-Aime	7/20



<u>Name</u>	<u>Day</u>
Keith & Kristina Vollrath	7/8
Anthony & Brenda Montecalvo	7/12
Lisa & Thomas Mulkey	7/15
Gary & Sara Hale	7/23
Terry & Susan Gallagher	7/25
Matthew & Christine Buck	7/28



<u>Name</u>	<u>Day</u>
Gabriel Kaiser	7/1
John Bacevic Jr.	7/20
Nate Hunt	7/20
Keith Vollrath	7/20
Diane Jeanneret	7/25

## **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	<i>Help Needed</i>
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

#### **Preschool Director/Kindergarten**

Megan Ramsey

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

Corrine Brookins

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

Dawn Wells-Kitt

#### **3rd Grade**

Pending

#### **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