



RISEN CHRIST
Lutheran Church

CrossTalk

Sharing God's work in our Church and School

October 2026

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

The 40th Anniversary of Risen Christ starts NOW

What we know today as Risen Christ Lutheran Church had its beginning 40 years ago on October 19, 1986 when the first bible study was held in Pastor Bohlmann's basement.

To mark that beginning we will focus on the heart of our reformation heritage during each October worship service—Scripture Alone (Oct 4), Grace Alone (Oct 11), Faith Alone (Oct 18), Christ Alone (Reformation Sunday, Oct 25).

During Sunday morning Bible study—everyone is invited to dive deep into the Bible's biggest fish story—the book of Jonah. In honor of our 40th Anniversary let's make Bible Study a priority this month! See you at 9:00 am.

Is there someone you'd like to invite to the October New Members Class? Be sure to reach out to me at pastor@risenchristlcms.org to indicate your interest so we can select our meeting day and time.

Twenty Risen Christ leaders will be gathering for a Strategic Planning Retreat with consultant Dr. Ross Steuber to identify Critical Targets for the next 1-3 years. Please pray that God is our guide in this process as we gather for a Friday night session and Saturday session too, October 16 and 17.

A 10:35 am Congregation Information Meeting following a modified worship service on November 1 will detail how the Board of Directors and Pastor will work together with clear roles and expectations according to the new Board of Director's Manual. We also want your feedback on our new Vision Statement too.

Please Pray about all these happenings, including updating the Pastor Ministry Description, and the process of writing our Vision Statement which is described later in this edition.

Now is also a good time to put Thanksgiving Worship on your calendar—Tuesday, November 24 at 7:00pm. You can attend before you leave to visit family or receive family—because we are meeting one day earlier than last year. Gathering to give thanks seems so fitting!

Blessings to You and Yours,

Pastor Scott

Transition Task Force—Next Steps Update

The Transition Task Force has finalized our Core Values and corresponding Scripture references. We are also putting the finishing touches on a slight update to our Mission Statement. We think you'll appreciate the refinement, and we're excited to share more details soon!

Following a recent working session with church leaders, our writing team is now focused on developing a new Vision Statement that will help guide our ministry into the future. We are also looking forward to an upcoming Strategic Planning Retreat with our consultant, Ross Stueber, alongside both church and school leadership teams.

The Transition Task Force remains actively engaged in helping move our church through this season of transition. As our work nears completion, the next phase of the process will begin with the formation of a Call Committee, which will assume responsibility for the pastoral call process.

Thank you for your continued support, encouragement, and faithful prayers throughout this journey. We trust that God is leading each step and will continue to provide for our church and school community.

The Transition Task Force

Sandi Click
Marcus Cole
Rob Hunt
Jeff Parks
Greg Shrader
Becky Krieger, Chair

Transition Task Force—Risen Christ Vision Process

A select few from the Transition Task Force, known as the writing team, were asked to articulate the four Core Values and a Vision Statement for our congregation. After reviewing and compiling feedback from the congregation, we finalized our Core Values, which help us answer the question: "Why do we do what we do?" as a church community.

The next step is to create a Vision Statement that answers the question: "Where is God taking us?" Guided by the book *God Dreams*, along with the direction of Pastor Sommerfeld, Ross Stueber, and prayer, we are seeking to clarify the unique direction God has in store for Risen Christ.

Proverbs 16:9 says, "In their hearts, humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps." This verse has served as a reminder, while we plan, it is ultimately God who guides each step of Risen Christ.

Exploring the Vision Process

Our process began with a gathering of 20 Risen Christ church and school leaders. After prayerful preparation, everyone was invited to engage in a presentation of 12 vision themes or "templates" as outlined in *God Dreams*. Each participant was asked to evaluate which themes best reflected the current focus and future needs of our congregation.

The two themes that emerged with the strongest consensus were **Need Adoption** and **Spiritual Formation**, which are defined as:

Need Adoption: "Our church's vision is to adopt a specific need you identify, often through compassion or mercy, typically triggered by studying the needs and then responding to them."

Spiritual Formation: "Our church's vision is for a spiritual formation that changes people and takes them along a significant pathway toward spiritual maturity."

A third theme, **Targeted Transformation**, also scored highly and is considered a complementary element for our statement:

Targeted Transformation: "Our church's vision is to identify a specific people, place or thing you want to see changed dramatically by the gospel."

Crafting OUR Vision

The writing team is exploring the *God Dreams*' concept of a "one picture idea" vision statement. Unlike a more expansive vision statement, which might include more detail, a "one picture idea" captures a vivid, singular focus that unites our congregation around a shared image of the future. This approach will allow us to merge our primary themes—Needs Adoption and Spiritual Formation—into a powerful, meaningful statement, with an eye towards Targeted Transformation.

The intent is to integrate these themes, thus crafting a vision that resonates deeply and directly addresses the future we feel God is leading us toward. Our goal is to create a clear, compelling statement that encapsulates this vision in a simple yet profound way.

Please Join Us in Prayer

The Transition Task force will strive to develop a Vision Statement that honors these themes while also supporting our core values. In this way, the vision statement will be able to serve as a vivid summary of where we believe God is guiding Risen Christ for the next 3-5 years.

Thanks for adding this to your daily prayers!

Becky Krieger,
Chair of The Transition Task Force

Church and School Building Construction

Please see the below photos of the construction process for the Church and School Building addition. Please continue to pray for God's Blessing on His church and school and for security and safety for those who are working to build His addition!





Elder's Page

Greetings Risen Christ Family. As I was pondering and praying about what to write for this month's Cross Talk my wife, Laura, gave me a slip of paper with a short paragraph on it. This short article was originally written by Pamel Hisocks who died at the age of 39 after living a life plagued by disabilities. The slip of paper also reminds me of how blessed I am to be raised by loving Christian parents, and grandparents. This clipped article was found by my wife in my Mother's Bible and is now folded and saved in hers.

Every once in awhile an ewe will give birth to a lamb and reject it, there are many reasons she may do this. If the lamb is returned to the ewe, the mother rejects it as one of her lambs and will never change her mind! These little lambs will hang their heads so low that it looks like there is something wrong with their neck, their spirit is broken. The lambs are called "bummer lambs".

Unless the Shepherd intervenes, that lamb will die, rejected and alone. So, do you know what the Shepherd does? He takes the rejected little one into his home, hand feeds it, keeps it warm by the fire. He will wrap it up with blankets and hold it to His chest so the bummer can hear His heartbeat. In time the "bummer lamb" is strong enough the Shepherd will place him back in the flock. But that sheep never forgets how his Shepherd cared for him when his mother rejected him. When the Shepherd calls his flock guess who runs to Him first? That is right, the "bummer" sheep, he knows His voice immediately!

It is not that the "bummer" lamb is loved more, it just knows intimately the One who loves it and has experienced that love one on one. So many of us are bummer lambs, rejected and broken, but He is the Good Shepherd. He cares for our every need and holds us close to His heart so we can hear His heart beat.

John 10:11,14 "I am the Good Shepherd who lays down His life for the Sheep. I know My own and My own know me." I am a "bummer lamb" adopted and loved by The Good Shepherd.

Blessings as we all enter the fall season surrounded again by God's magnificent creation and truly thankful for our Good Shepherd.

Chuck



RISEN CHRIST LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Our 5th grade students recently spent time reflecting on God's mission, vision, and purpose for our church and school. After reading these statements in their student handbooks, they were invited to prayerfully consider an even more personal question: **What is God's mission, vision, and purpose for me?**

During a time of prayer and reflection, students listened for what God might be placing on their hearts. They then created **vision boards** representing what they heard, felt, and imagined during their prayer time.

It was a meaningful opportunity for our students to connect our school and church's mission with their own faith journeys and to begin thinking about how God may be calling and using each of them. We are excited to see how these young people continue to grow in faith and discover the unique purposes God has for their lives.





An Opportunity to Serve

Do you enjoy reading children's and middle school books? Do you like to work with adults and to organize? If so, I have an opportunity for you! I have had the pleasure of working with the school library for many years. Our main goals have been to encourage students to love reading and to be exposed to a wide variety of authors and genres. Research demonstrates that reading aloud to students (across grade levels) and self-selected reading contribute greatly to student success in literacy, as well as other subject areas. (Alinia, I., 2025; Leachman, N., 2025).

We began the library when Risen Christ School only housed preschool through grade one. Now we have a library that contains nearly 4,000 books and serves grades preschool through grade eight. My, how the Lord has blessed us!

As Jim and I will be moving in a year or so, our school library needs someone to keep the library organized to serve the students. Excellent volunteers come from both the school families, our church family, and even Cedarville students. You would not have to do everything alone!

If you are interested, please let me know. We could work together this year!

Blessings, Marti Brueggeman

(423-596-5131 or mbruegge@insight.rr.com)

Connection Report

Welcome October!

Leaves may fade, but God's love is forever made.

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good,

For his steadfast love endures forever.

Psalm 136: 1

******UPCOMING EVENTS******

LWML Sunday, October 11th

Risen Christ 40th Anniversary Risen Christ 1st Bible Study, October 19th

RCLC Fall Festival, October 23rd

LWML Zone Fall Retreat, October 24rd

Reformation Sunday, October 25th

Connection Report

Thank you for all the delicious cookies in the
COOKIE BAKE OFF
THE WINNERS

****See Next Page for 1st Place Recipes****

Bar Cookies

1st Duane Wiebeck

Mint Brownies

2nd Marcella Caskey

Lemon Bars

3rd Pastor Scott

Peanut Butter Bars

Cookies

1st Rebekah Yoakum

Chocolate Strawberry

2nd Chandra Shrader

Chocolate Sugar

3rd Becky Krieger

Heavenly Peanut Butter Crabs

Thanks to all the participants Jo, Marti, Marcella, Mary Lou, Chandra, Duane, Jeff, Rebekah and the judges Marcus, Garrett, Logan, Josh, and Trinity.

The RCLS ice cream social was enjoyed by all kids and adults. The root beer floats and ice cream Sundays were a big hit. Many thanks to the volunteers, Chandra and Greg Shrader, Marti and Jim Brueggeman, Sharon Perks, Gene Baumgardner.



Winning Cookie Recipes



Chocolate Covered Strawberry Cookies, 1st Rebekah Yoakum

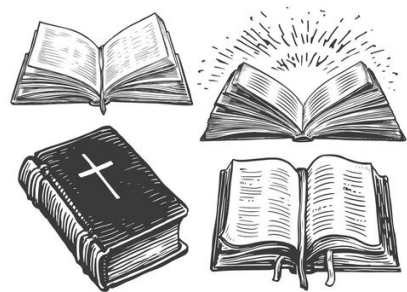
- 1 cup freeze-dried strawberries roughly chopped
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup all-purposed flour and $\frac{3}{4}$ cocoa powder, sifted
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon baking soda
- 1 stick butter, room temperature
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup brown sugar
- 1 large egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- $\frac{2}{3}$ cup semi-sweet chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 375F degrees. Roughly chop strawberries until size of chocolate chips. Set aside. In medium bowl combined flour, cocoa, baking soda, and salt. In separate large bowl, cream butter and brown sugar together until lighter color. Add egg and vanilla. Beat again until light and fluffy. Add flour mixture and mix just combined, the dough will be thick. Add chocolate chips and strawberries. Mix until just combined. Scoop 1" bit dough onto cookie sheet 3" apart. Bake 10 minutes. Once cookies have cooled, garnish with a drizzle of melted chocolate and freeze- dried strawberries if desired.

Mint Brownies, 1st in Bar Cookie Bake Off, Duane Wiebeck

- 1 cup butter
- 4 unsweetened squares chocolate
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 cup flour
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon salt
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup chopped nuts
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup confectioner sugar
- 1 Tablespoon water
- $\frac{1}{4}$ teaspoon peppermint extract
- Green food coloring

Preheat oven to 350F degrees. Grease a 13x9 baking pan. In small saucepan over low heat melt butter and chocolate stirring occasionally. Pour butter mixture into large bowl. Add sugar, flour, vanilla, salt, and eggs. With mixer at low speed, beat ingredients until well blended occasionally scrapping bowl with rubber spatula. Stir in nuts. Pour chocolate mixture into pan. Bake 35 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean. Cool in pan on wire rack. In small bowl mix confectioner sugar, water, and peppermint extract until icing is smooth. Then stir in green food coloring. Drizzle icing over brownies.



Ladies Daytime & Evening Bible Studies

The Daytime Women's Bible study will meet Tuesday, October 6, 10 AM in the church library. Kim Hunt has ordered the John McArthur study of Romans for everyone and we'll get started that day. As of now, we'll get together every other Tuesday, so our next time together will be October 20. Bring your Bibles and your open hearts to learn about God's Word together. Call Jo Baumgardner with questions.

The Ladies Evening Bible study will delve into "The Names of God" Session 2 on Thursday, October 15 at 7 PM in the narthex. We have several new members and would love to have more joining our community of Christian sisters for sharing Scripture and a time of fellowship. Find Jo for more info.

Young Adult Ministry

(Fall 2026 Startup)

It's late in the summer, the harvest is awaiting the crops' final maturity, and the local colleges are again teeming with life. This means that it's time for the **YAM** to kick into gear.

The **YAMs** are a blending of young adults drawn from members of our church and the local colleges. We began this ministry last year, offering them a consistent weekly bible study and a monthly Sunday Food & Fun (**SSF**) event, with the food being provided by member families of our congregation. The **YAMs** always enjoy interacting with our "more mature" members who provide them food and are willing to play and eat with them.

We are looking to schedule a sponsoring family for each monthly **SSF** through May of 2027. Lunch time is at 2:00 on Sunday and we expect to feed 12-15 young adults. They appreciate it when the sponsoring family is able to spend the afternoon (until ~4:00+) interacting and "playing" with them. Sometimes this is cards, board games, or an occasional off-campus event.

The weekly bible studies are being moved to Thursday nights (*formerly Wednesday*). Snacks & drinks are also needed for these and help with this is also appreciated.

Below is a schedule for both the weekly studies and **SSF** events. Please let either Rob or Kim Hunt know which date you would like to bless the kids with your food and presence.

10/01 (Thur) ~ Thursday Bible Study
10/08 (Thur) ~ Thursday Bible Study
10/11 (Sun) ~ Sunday Food & Fun
10/15 (Thur) ~ Thursday Bible Study
10/22 (Thur) ~ Thursday Bible Study
10/29 (Thur) ~ Thursday Bible Study
11/05 (Thur) ~ Thursday Bible Study
11/12 (Thur) ~ Thursday Bible Study
11/20 (Sun) ~ Sunday Food & Fun



Angel Tree is Coming Soon!



How the Angel Tree Will Work

The Angel Tree is returning this season with an improved format designed to serve Risen Christ School students more fairly. Each child will receive two gifts:

- One item that meets their greatest need
- One top wish from their list

Parents will be asked to keep each request at \$40 or less. In past years, some children received a carload of presents while others only a handful of gifts. To help us share gifts more evenly, please choose multiple angels rather than giving many gifts to one child.

When to Sign Up

Look for the Angel Tree in the Narthex in early November. A sign-up sheet will be available at that time.

Thank you for helping make the season brighter for every child. Happy shopping!

Verse of the Month

Luke 10:2 ESV

And he said to them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Date	Festival	Theme	First Reading	Second Reading	Gospel
Oct 4	19th Sunday after Pentecost	Scripture Alone	Proverbs 3:1–12	2 Timothy 3:14–17	Matthew 7:24–29
Oct 11	20th Sunday after Pentecost	Grace Alone	See Weekly e-News	See Weekly e-News	See Weekly e-News
Oct 18	21st Sunday after Pentecost	Faith Alone	See Weekly e-News	See Weekly e-News	See Weekly e-News
Oct 25	22nd Sunday after Pentecost	Christ Alone	See Weekly e-News	See Weekly e-News	See Weekly e-News



<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
Matthew Rutledge	3-Oct
Ben McKee	4-Oct
Jody Rizzotte	4-Oct
Jim Mote	9-Oct
Jeffery Parks	9-Oct
Kole Vollrath	11-Oct
Dylan Ackley	18-Oct
Jim Brueggeman	20-Oct
Deb Rutledge	26-Oct
Beryl Boggess	30-Oct



<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
Elaina Buck	7-Oct
Kylee Schafer	7-Oct
Noah Schafer	7-Oct
Chris Heilmann	9-Oct
Kyle Heilmann	9-Oct
Veronica Heilmann	9-Oct
Sharon Heilmann	11-Oct
Paul Bok	15-Oct
Cora Wells Kitt	30-Oct
Lily Wells Kitt	30-Oct



<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>
Bill & Beth Ervin	6-Oct
Jeffery & Caitlin Parks	14-Oct
Paul & Linda Bok	17-Oct
Jeff & Linda Kaiser	20-Oct
Danny & Sandi Click	30-Oct

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
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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

Administrative Assistant

Kathy Ackley

Preschool

Shelby Weissgerber

Preschool-Kindergarten

Karen Dunn

Preschool Director/Kindergarten

Megan Ramsey

1st Grade Teacher

Corrine Brookins

2nd Grade Teacher

Dawn Wells-Kitt

3rd Grade

Joetta Garberich

4th Grade

Korie Bernard

5/6/7/8th Grade

Jeff Parks, Mike Garberich

Martha Werner-Brown

Special Education

Tiffany Notestine, Danielle Temple, Lisa

Konieczynski, Kelsey Mroczkowski

School Support Staff

Kelli Cole, Sarah Leighley, Lisa Mulkey,

Betty Ward, Andrew Kiple, Bethany Viken,

Becky Smiddy, Victoria Buehler, Hannah

Massie, Lynsey Gammon, Aliya Speakman,

Christina Ammons