



RISEN CHRIST
Lutheran Church

CrossTalk

Sharing God's work in our Church and School

September 2026

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

Welcome Back!

As the fall begins it is an exciting time to gather as a family of faith for the enriching and renewing of our lives as we follow Jesus together.

We are celebrating God at work among us forming us to be faithful disciples who share Jesus through the hearing and studying of God's Word, with servant hearts, fostering a Christ-Centered Community in our homes and congregation. This fall we will "unpack" this last sentence comprised of our core values--one week at a time asking, "What Does This Mean?"

See you in worship and Bible study!

Pastor Scott

September 13 **Welcome Back Sunday with Brunch after Worship**

As the fall begins it is a wonderful time to renew habits of worship and Bible study. To begin our new preaching series we will celebrate our heritage as a congregation known for "Fostering a Christ-Centered Community."

All are welcome to enjoy the fresh brunch after worship provided by our Elders!

10:00 Theme for Worship:

Fostering a Christ-Centered Community
What Does This Mean?

As God's children, we strive to create a Christ-centered family where every person is welcomed, valued, encouraged, and invited to grow in faith together. Reflecting Jesus's love, we extend to every person God's grace through our genuine compassion, kindness, care, forgiveness, and humility.

September 20 **Rally Sunday**

9:00 Breakfast and Bible Games for Children and Adults

Children will resume Discipleship Gatherings Today

Adults will Explore the Scriptures and Risen Christ's Core Values

10:00 Theme for Worship:

Discipling and Sharing Jesus
What Does This Mean?

We are committed to the expansion of God's kingdom by fulfilling our Christ-given role as fishers of men, and dedicated to lifelong spiritual growth by teaching God's Word, nurturing faith in every generation, and equipping both new and established believers to live a Christ-centered life.

September 27

9:00 Education Hour for All Ages

10:00 Theme for Worship:

Servant Heart
What Does This Mean?

We joyfully seek to reflect Christ by humbly serving others, generously sharing our time, talents, and resources to meet both the spiritual and practical needs within our congregation and community.

October 3

10:00 Theme for Worship:

Scriptural Foundation

What Does This Mean?

We believe in the inspired and inerrant truth God gave us in His scripture, the Bible. It is the foundation on which we stand and we are not willing to compromise on its truth.

Where is God taking us?

Twenty Leaders of Risen Christ will gather via Zoom on Wednesday, September 9th, with consultant Ross Steuber to engage in a trusted process of discovery to uncover together a clearer sense of Vision for Risen Christ's future. A "Vision Statement" answers the question "Where is God taking us?" This is another clarifying exercise part of creating our new collection of policies under the heading of Strategic Direction. Watch for more updates coming your way after this event. Thank you for keeping this gathering in your prayers!

Church and School Building Construction

Please see the below photo below of the construction process for the Church and School Building addition. The roof is on and windows are in! 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

Shifting Shadows?

People have the perception that change is coming here at RCLC. Change is hard for many of us. There is often a sense of uneasiness that comes with change—perhaps an apprehension of the unknown. For some, however, the prospect of change is exhilarating, bringing a sense of excitement rather than nervousness. Others may tend toward passivity, believing there is little they can do about it, or perhaps feeling they have no role in determining its course or direction. Regardless of how we respond to it, one thing seems certain: change is a constant in our lives.

So, does God have some kind of change prepared for us? Perhaps. But before considering what God may be changing, it is important to remember what does not change. God does not change in His purposes, His promises, or His character. He reminds us in Malachi 3:6, “For I the Lord do not change...” James 1:17 declares that our God of Light “does not change like the shifting shadows.” God does not mature or deteriorate. He never needs to learn something He did not already know, nor does He ever become something He was not already. His holiness, goodness, wisdom, intent, love, and faithfulness will forever remain constant. In that sense, tomorrow will be the same for us as our past.

Yet our unchanging God can—and does—work in changing ways. Throughout history, we see God acting and working within His unchanging purposes, promises, and character. His methods may change. His direction may change. He may change the circumstances surrounding His people, but those changes are never arbitrary. They are purposeful. And God always intends to use His people to accomplish His purposes.

History tells of God changing the circumstances of people, both His own and others surrounding them. It reveals him molding kingdoms and nations. He built a nation in slavery then freed it. He has made, refined, and fulfilled covenants. He creates, sustains, then destroys. He brings life, and death, then rebirth. His hand is on all of history, creating and changing it to suit His good purposes. And this is the same God who has His hand on a small church in Springfield, Ohio.

God has declared His desire to transform us—to change us—by renewing our minds (Romans 12:2). That transformation is intended to shape us into His image (2 Corinthians 3:18). And every good work God begins, He desires to bring to completion in and through us (Philippians 1:6). So, while God is unchanging and His purposes remain unchanging, His methods are fluid and purposeful.

Will there be changes here at RCLC? God is continuing to mold us individually and collectively into something greater than what we already are, so certainly there should be changes constantly occurring in our lives. Our tomorrow may look very different from our yesterday even though the God who guides and directs us remains exactly the same. He is doing His work among us, so change should be a natural and constant part of our personal lives and our church community.

It is exciting for me as I anticipate these changes, but I admit it is also a little unnerving when I consider what it may mean for me personally. Yet I am okay with that, because the God who brings change is also the God of peace. As we live in His peace, we can look forward to whatever changes He may bring, trusting that what He has already molded us into is part of His plan for us and for His kingdom here in Springfield—and perhaps beyond. He is faithful, and He will complete the plan He has begun in us.

Rob Hunt

Remember **GWIB**..... (God's Way Is Best!)

Connection Report

Welcome September!

September is here,
Let's have some fun!
Our new school year,
Has just begun!
The season will change,
From summer into fall.
Brisk and cool weather,
And sweater for all!
Even though it is sad,
When summer vacation ends,
We can now unite
With all our friends.

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

-Ice Cream Social for Risen Christ School

Monday, August 31st Preschool - 6pm

Tuesday, September 1st K-8th grade - 6pm

-Welcome Back Sunday, September 13th (Brunch provided by Elders)

See next page for details

-Sunday, September 20th, 9:00am Rally Day Breakfast with games, Bible Trivia, Crafts,
Bible Family Feud

Autumn is a gentle reminder that change can be good.

Jesus is the core of a GREAT School Year!!!

Mark Your Calendars for Fun and Fellowship!



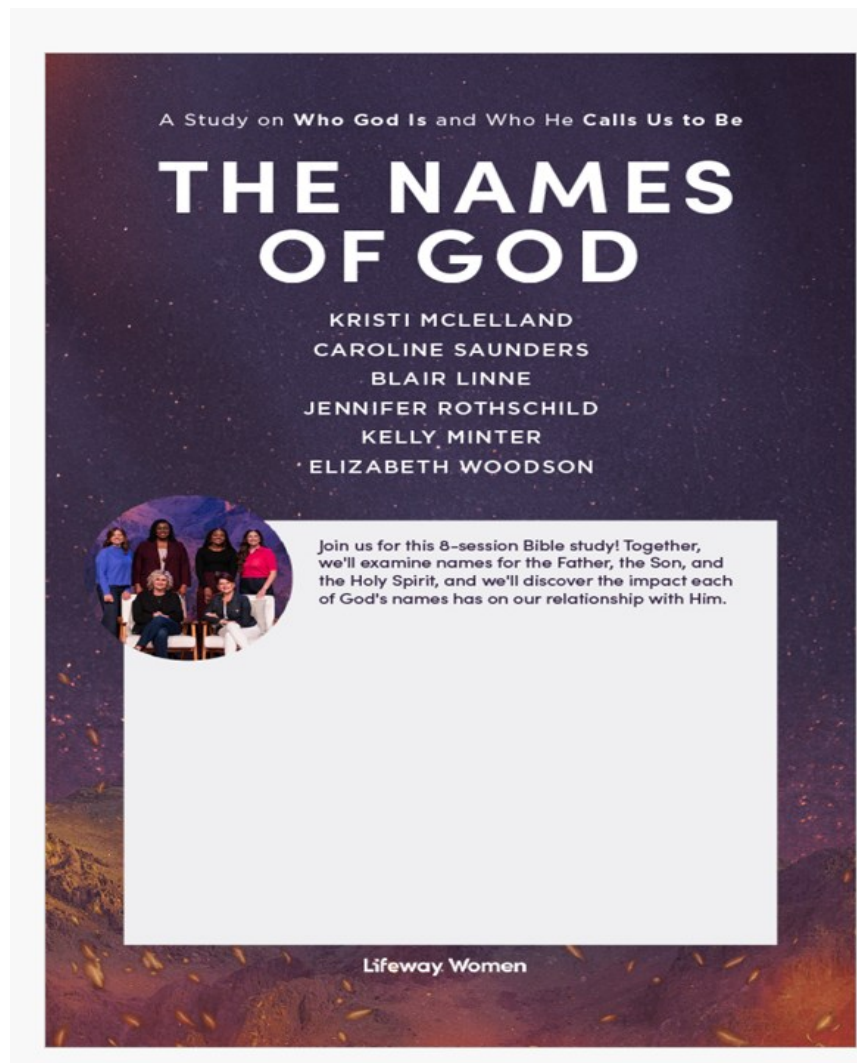
WELCOME BACK SUNDAY will be SEPTEMBER 13.

Traditional Communion Worship Service will be followed by Brunch, in the Narthex, prepared for you and yours by the Elder Team. Invite a friend or any RCLC member that you have missed to both events. Contact Chuck Bern, Rob Hunt, or Gene Baumgardner (your Elder Team) with any questions!

Ladies Daytime & Evening Bible Studies

The daytime ladies Bible study group will meet Tuesday, September 8 at 10 AM in the school library. We will discuss meeting times and frequency and choose a traditional Bible study (no videos/no text messages) for use in the coming weeks and months. Several different studies on Romans will be considered. If you are interested, but can't come on September 8, please contact Jo Baumgardner for info and alternatives.

The Ladies Evening Bible Study (LEBS) is excited to gather again
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, at 7:00 PM
AT RISEN CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
Snacks and Relationship Building included
With a GREAT NEW BIBLE STUDY. (see below)
Contact Jo Baumgardner with questions
And see YOU there!



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.

9/20 *(Sun)* ~ Sunday Food & Fun
9/24 *(Thur)* ~ Thursday Bible Study
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
10/28 *(Thur)* ~ Thursday Bible Study
11/05 *(Thur)* ~ Thursday Bible Study

Verse of the Month

Phil 2:3-4 (ESV)

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

Date	Festival	Theme	First Reading	Second Reading	Gospel
Sep 6	15th Sunday after Pentecost	Following Jesus - To the Ends of the Earth	Psalms 32:1-7	Acts 28:11-31	Matthew 18:1-14
Sep 13	16th Sunday after Pentecost	Fostering a Christ-Centered Community	Genesis 50:15-21	Colossians 3:12-14	John 15:34-35
Sep 20	17th Sunday after Pentecost	Discipling and Sharing Jesus	Deuteronomy 6:4-7	1 Peter 5:15-17	Matthew 4:18-20 Matthew 28:19-20
Sep 27	18th Sunday after Pentecost	Servant Heart	Proverbs 3:1-12	2 Timothy 3:14-17	Matthew 7:24-29



<u>Name</u>	<u>Day</u>
Kathy Ackley	9/1
Denna Johnson	9/1
Isabel Brown	9/2
Marti Brueggeman	9/6
Julie Hale	9/7
Ed Berg	9/8
Strardairah Bien-Aime	9/9
Linda Thomas	9/10
Brittany Reid	9/11
Rebekah Yoakum	9/11
Ethan Cunningham	9/12
Beth Ervin	9/13
Dakota Roy	9/17
Paul Bok	9/20
Kylee Schafer	9/22
Noah Schafer	9/22
Joey Koval	9/27



<u>Name</u>	<u>Month/Day</u>
Kim Hunt	9/1
Charlotte Group	9/5
Rob Hunt	9/9
Marti Brueggeman	9/11
Susan Gallagher	9/11
Norma Kettler	9/12
Rebekah Yoakum	9/12



<u>Name</u>	<u>Month/Day</u>
Duane & MaryAnn Wiebeck	9/13
Sam & Mary Lou Rizzotte Jr.	9/20
Bugs & Marcella Caskey	9/27

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

Dir. Of Records

Kathy Ackley

Special Ed Director

Brittany Morgan

Preschool

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

5/6/7th Grade

Jeff Parks, Mike Garberich

Martha Werner-Brown

School Support Staff

Kelli Cole, Sarah Leighley

Lisa Mulkey, Betty Ward

Andrew Kiple, Bethany Viken