



Pastor's Pen

Dear Risen Christ Family,

A few highlights as we begin the month of September:

1. **New Sermon Series Begins: Getting To Know God Better.** Paul said I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better (Ephesians 1:17). We will be looking at some of the names of God in the Old Testament so that we may grow in our understanding and appreciation of God's character and nature. How can you get to know him better? Reflect on Paul's words in your life as we begin this new series.
2. **Blessing of the Backpacks.** Have your child bring their backpacks to church Sunday September 13th as we pray for God's blessing on a new school year.
3. **Every Member Visits:** There are a few visits still left to make. Please call the church office to schedule the visit if you would still like one. Carolyn will be scheduling these for me. I am looking forward to getting to know you and your family better.
4. **Risen Christ's Vision:** Our mission as a church is to Proclaim Christ in a Changing World. Our vision to accomplish this is to Rejoice in worship. Relate in fellowship and Respond in service. We can call these the 3 T's of Risen Christ.

REJOICE in worship. We receive God's grace in Word & Sacrament. We are blessed to have both a traditional and contemporary format. This year we are adding a New Year's Eve service. There will be an opportunity to share a meal before the service.

RELATE in fellowship. Please take advantage of the Sunday morning growth opportunities for all ages. There are various small groups that meet in homes, restaurants, or at church. The Tuesday morning group will be looking at The Many Wonders of Heaven. This is an eight week study of the joy of our future home (begins September 8th at 10:00 a.m. at church). Watch for new topics as they become available. Consider participating in these Christian growth opportunities. Ever thought about facilitating a group? We would be happy to give you the tools to help get you started.

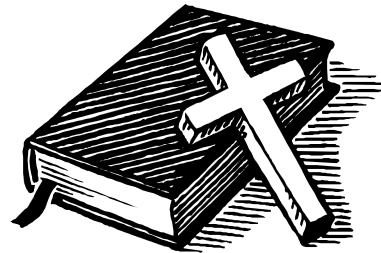
Watch for quarterly fellowship gatherings after second service. You can expect great food. This is also a wonderful time to get to know members of the Risen Christ Family a little better. Who knows, even a few surprises might pop up along the way. Mark Sunday November 15th on your calendar for the Fall Festival.

Pastor's Pen (continued)

RESPOND in service. There are many ways we can share the love of Jesus Christ with others. REEL MEN are a group recently formed with a focus on community service. What would happen if we had some drivers to bring those who live in assisted living to Sunday morning worship? Do you have an idea?

If you have some great ideas to help fulfill our mission and vision at Risen Christ pass them along to the appropriate team. Rejoice in Worship: Speak with Shawn, Kari or Amy. Relate in fellowship: speak with Jay or Paige Lemke. Respond in service: speak with Cheryl Olofson. What would you like to see happen at Risen Christ in the future? If you have a great idea you may also be asked to help make it happen. After all it was your idea! Feel free to speak to our elders, board or any staff person as well. Grace to you!

Pastor Chris



Sunday Adult Bible Study

At one time, Martin Luther was struggling with God. He saw the Father as a demanding, retributive deity that asked for a perfection that Luther knew he could ever reach. The book of Romans finally helped Luther realize that while God certainly did ask for perfection, he gave it to Luther through Jesus Christ.

Therefore, Luther said Christians should study the book: *"The chief part of the New Testament, and the very purest gospel, which, indeed, deserves that a Christian not only know it word for word by heart but deal with it daily as with daily bread of the soul. For it can never be read or considered too much or too well, and the more it is handled, the more delightful it becomes, and the better it tastes."*

This fall, we will be studying the book of Romans at the 9:15 adult study. Should be exciting as it is so important to the Christian life!

- Jay

The Mission of the Month for September

Bantswana Phambili: Children First



Mission: To provide funding to selected, qualifying students in South Africa in order for them to further their education.

South African schools charge tuition for secondary education and many children cannot afford this. After a stint working in the Peace Corps in South Africa, Tom Junker started Bantswana Phambili to try to help some of these less fortunate children. For more information, please visit www.bantswana.org.

Please See the Calendar Insert for other meetings and events etc.

Sunday School

The first day of Sunday School is September 13th. We will have a blessing of the backpacks during worship that same day.



1st Communion

At Risen Christ children may begin in the 3rd grade to prepare themselves for the Lord's Supper. There will be one parent/child class at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday September 26th at church. We will watch a film and lay the foundation for the Lord's Supper. The class should last around an hour. Any questions that you might have will be answered during this time. A book will be handed out for the parents and one for the children to study at their own pace at home. Letters have been sent out to the parents of children that are entering the 3rd grade or higher and have not yet received their First Communion. If your child is that age and you did not get a letter please call the church office.

Confirmation

Confirmation classes will be starting on Wednesday September 9th from 6:00-7:15 p.m. At 7:00 p.m. that evening a short parent/child meeting will be held in the fellowship area. Letters have been sent out to the confirmation parents. May 23rd is the tentative date for Confirmation Sunday.

Thank you

A Huge Thanks to all who helped with the refreshments for Ken Vezner's memorial service on August 8th. The efforts of the many volunteers who cooked, baked, chopped, organized, and served for the service made for a wonderful luncheon. The feedback was very positive and the family of Ken was very appreciative. A great team effort- Paige Lemke

Something New at RCLC

You may have heard rumblings that we were putting together a blog for Risen Christ Church.

Well, we have one — with a special thanks to Rob Ulrich for tons of work putting it together. I've posted a few items, and if you are interested in helping populate it with items that might be of interest to Christians both within and without Risen Christ, please let me know. Basically, I'm looking for stories that would be of encouragement to Christians at Risen Christ, and also without.

The blog can be found at: <http://blog.risenchristlutheran.com/>

Hopefully this will be a place for people within Risen Christ to post items of interest that are happening locally for Christians, as well as those that impact greater Christendom.

Three recent posts are: [Is the Gospel a Gift or not](#); [The Gospel for Those Broken by the Church](#) ; and the [Changing Evangelical Church in America](#).

Thanks! Please let me know if you'd like to work on the blog.

- Jay

中美聯誼會 中美聯誼會
Christian Friends of China



Prayers as We Grow!!!

Even as Risen Christ and CFC are trying to raise the dollars to fund a “replacement” for Pastor’s position, the Lord is providing many insights and opportunities as to how our ministry can grow, especially in providing opportunities for other congregations to be involved. Please continue to pray for these efforts. These efforts are being richly blessed!!

Fundraiser Update:

Nearly \$2000 were raised in the February and July fundraisers for Christian Friends of China. Thanks so much for all the volunteer efforts in organizing this event. Thanks for all those who donated their talents and treasures to the efforts.

A Wedding as Risen Christ:

One of the opportunities CFC offers in hosting new Chinese students as they become familiar with the country and the University. One of these students, Robert, has been very impressed (an honored!) by the interactions he has had with the Christians at Risen Christ and at the China Place. Robert and his fiancée Ivy requested to be married at Risen Christ (though Robert and Ivy are not (yet!) Christians the requested a Christian service which was performed at Risen Christ by Pastor Chris. Kari provided the wonderful church music. Paul Lieder was honored to be Best Man. Please remember Robert and Ivy in your prayers as they continue their life together and that the Holy Spirit would continue to move in their lives.

Summer ESL classes:

The English as a Second Language (ESL) classes for the summer have be completed. Rachel and Lydia Klismith led the classes at Jehovah Lutheran Church while Paul led a class in scientific English for Chinese scholars at the China Place. Miriam and Robert Carter (St. Stephan's) spent most of the summer doing church work in eastern Europe. Plans for the ESL classes in the fall are underway. Classes will again be held at Jehovah Lutheran Church and at the China Place.

中美聯誼會 中美聯誼會
Christian Friends of China



An ESL Laboratory at Jehovah Lutheran Church?

CFC has proposed that an ESL laboratory be established at Jehovah Lutheran church to both expand the Chinese outreach ministry as well as to provide an additional opportunity for the students to advance in learning more rapidly. Though the regular classroom situations provided intimate contact with the students and for occasional discussion on the Christian Faith, the classes were not regular enough or intensive enough to enable faster learning. The laboratory will be planned to help address the learning issue as well as to provide an opportunity for other Christians to be involved in the outreach efforts (you only need to know English to run the lab!!!) Paul Lieder has been asked to write a grant for funding by the LINC ministry.

Lutheran Heritage Foundation Providing Luther's Small Catechism for CFC!!!

The Lutheran Heritage Foundation will be sending Chinese/English copies of Luther's Small Catechism to CFC. The catechisms will be used to explore the options of developing a Bible Study at Jehovah Lutheran Church.

Prayers as We Grow!!!

Even has Risen Christ and CFC are trying to raise the dollars to fund a "replacement" for Pastor Stephens position, the Lord is providing many insights and opportunities as to how our ministry can grow, especially in providing opportunities for other congregations to be involved. Please continue to pray for these efforts. These efforts are being richly blessed!!

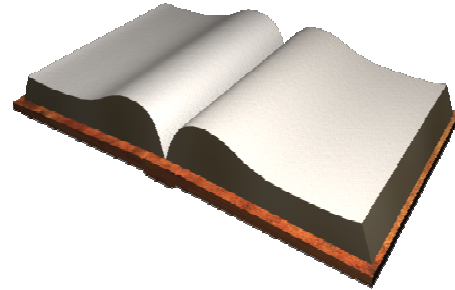
Multi-Media Help

CFC has been asked to provide multi-media presentations for our outreach ministry. Though we have many hundreds of photos, help is needed to help organize the files into presentation. If you are interested, please contact Paul Lieder or Jerry Helander. Software will be provided as needed.

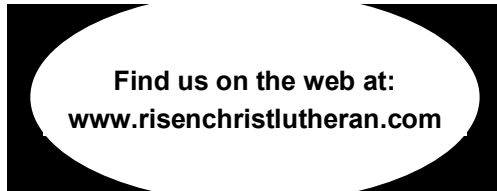
For questions regarding the CFC ministry, please contact Merlene Lieder, Paul Lieder, or Jerry Helander



September 2009



9050- 60th Street North
Stillwater, MN 55082
Phone: 651-770-3618
Email: office@risenchristlutheran.com



PROCLAIMING CHRIST IN A CHANGING WORLD

Who's Who... and How to Reach Them

Pastor: Chris Nilges
651-468-7887 Cell
651-773-3365 Home
pastor@risenchristlutheran.com
pcnilges@juno.com

Worship Ministers: Kari Ulrich & Shawn Urban
Kari: 651-442-3013
Shawn: 612-396-9941
worship@risenchristlutheran.com

Office Administrator: Carolyn Fernandez
Se Habla Español
651-770-3618 Church Office
office@risenchristlutheran.com

Custodians: The Helander Family: Jerry, Marge, Eric
651-777-9720 Home
Jerry.helander@gmail.com

WWW.RISENCHRISTLUTHERAN.COM