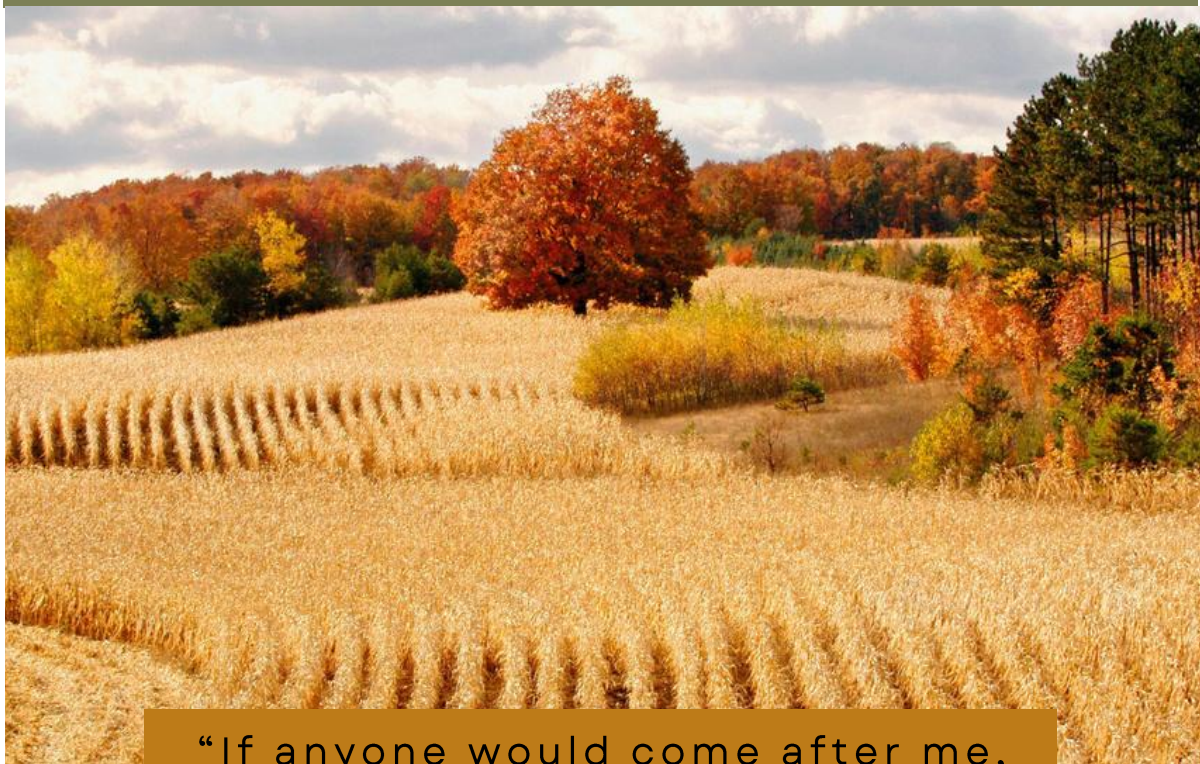


VOLUME 11
ISSUE 9

The Arising News

SEPTEMBER
AD 2026



“If anyone would come after me,
let him deny himself and take up
his cross and follow me. 25 For
whoever would save his life will
lose it, but whoever loses his life
for my sake will find it.

Matthew 16:24-25

WORSHIP TIMES: IN-PERSON ~ SUNDAY 9:00AM
ADULT & YOUTH BIBLE STUDY - SUNDAY 10:30AM
SUNDAY DEVOTIONALS VIA FACEBOOK - EVERY SUNDAY
COMMUNION IS CELEBRATED EVERY SUNDAY @ 9:00AM

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CHURCH STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Brian Licht

Secretary

Naomi McCloud

Accounting Clerk

Tammy McKay

Church Administrator

Liz Harper

Children's Ministry Director

Leslie McCoy

Little Blessings Day Care Director

Angela Stickel

Organist

Marilyn Luebbe

Custodian

Maggie Deter

The Gospel for September

September 6, Matt. 18:1-20

The Parable of the Lost Sheep

10 “See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. 12 What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? 13 And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. 14 So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. *Matt. 18:10-14*

September 13, Matt. 18:21-35

The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

21 Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” 22 Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. *Matt. 18:21-22*

September 20, Matt. 20:1-16

Laborers in the Vineyard

8 “And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, ‘Call the laborers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.’ 9 And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. 10 Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. 11 And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, 12 saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ 13 But he replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? 14 Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. 15 Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?’ 16 So the last will be first, and the first last.” *Matt. 20:8-16*

September 27, Matt. 21:23-27

The Authority of Jesus Challenged

25 The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?” And they discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ 26 But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” 27 So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.” *Matt. 21: 25-27*



A Word from Pastor Licht



The Creator of the universe loves to hear our prayers. In fact, He loves so much to hear our prayers that He commands us to pray! So, consider the precious jewel found in the Second Petition of the Lord's Prayer:

Thy Kingdom come.

God loves our prayers so much that He even commands that we ask of Him His kingdom. As one of our hymns puts it, “the Father has chosen to give you the Kingdom” (LSB 735:1). Ask for it, He wants you to have it! In his Large Catechism, Luther invites us to imagine a poor beggar who's invited by his king to ask for a great royal favor, but the beggar contents himself to merely ask for a scrap of bread to eat. What a slap in the face that request would be to the king and his generosity! So it is for us when we content ourselves to ask for mere worldly success and happiness.

Consider how many of your prayers center on the things of this life—healing, financial security, a new job, restored relationships, safety, good weather, etc., etc., etc. Our heavenly Father knows our needs—all of them! He's happy to have us ask for these things and He promises to provide all that we need for this body and life. But He doesn't want us to stop there.

And yet, we often do stop at asking only for such “scraps of bread.” We stop there because we're not sure we want God's kingdom. It sounds crazy, but it's true. We're not sure we want His kingdom because to be in a kingdom is to have a king, and if God is king, then we are not. Praying this petition with sincerity of heart is to pray against ourselves and all the ways we resist God's reign in our lives.

Do you want the reign of God on earth as in heaven? Are you ready to pray against your own kingdom and for God's kingdom? If your answer is “yes,” then prepare yourself for a battle. Your sinful flesh will fight against God's kingdom so you can be king (or queen) of your own life, living according to your rules (“your life, your choice,” to paraphrase a common slogan of our day). This world will contend to pull your attention away from God and His work and instead to focus on earthly pleasures. Satan will attack with lies and tricks to confuse you and subvert God's gracious reign in your life.

The devil, the world, and our own sinful flesh will do anything to subvert God's rule. But God has taken care of those enemies. They went down in defeat when His Son declared, “It is finished,” from the cross. By His sacrifice you have the King's forgiveness for your rebellion against His rule. And through His resurrection you are given life in His kingdom, with your ascended Lord reigning from on high.

God's kingdom results in a miraculous break with this sinful world and frees us from the tyranny of Satan and our own sinful flesh. Because of the crucified and risen Christ, God our Father is acting by His Spirit through His Word to set up His loving reign in human hearts. Jesus is our servant King who saved us at the cost of His own life. *“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life”* (Jn 3:16). God is building His kingdom in us through His Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit who brings Jesus to us as our King.

Take time, daily, to meditate on Jesus' command to pray, saying, “Thy kingdom come.” Ruminates on those words with wonder and awe. Let them sink deeply into your heart and the recesses of your brain, so that you will boldly and confidently ask God even for His kingdom. Then rejoice to know that God's kingdom is for you now and eternally.

Thy kingdom come.

What does this mean? The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.

How does God's kingdom come? God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.

Luther's Small Catechism, The Lord's Prayer, Second Petition

Bible Studies



SUNDAY MORNINGS

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING
TO ST. MATTHEW



SUNDAYS @ 10:30 AM

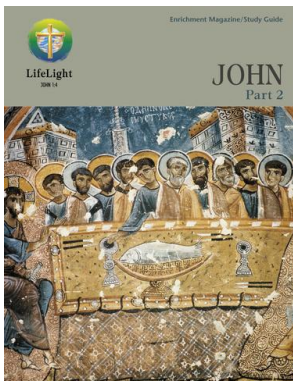
Join us for an in-depth study
of the Book of Matthew

SUNDAY SCHOOL



SUNDAY @ 10:30 AM

Rally Day and Sunday
School kick-off is
September 13th!



LIFELIGHT



LifeLight Classes will begin
September 9 at 9:00 am & 7:00
pm. Sign up on the sheet in the
narthex.

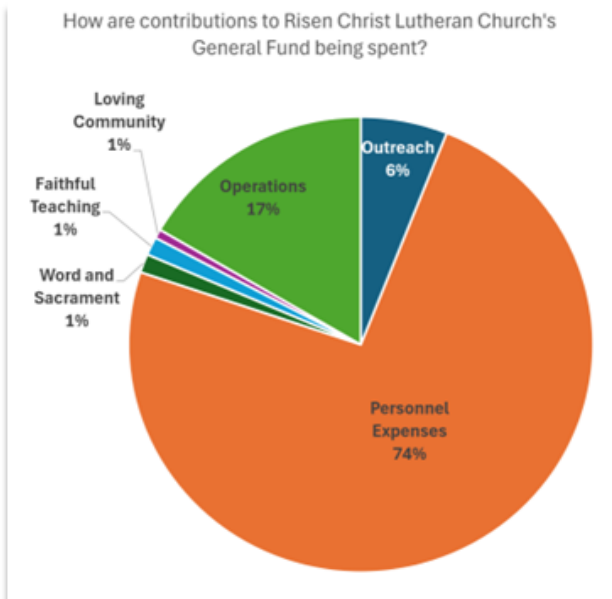
We will be studying John Part 2.

Stewardship Update

Risen Christ Lutheran Church

2026 Annual Budget Summary

	Annual Budget 2026	
Budgeted Income		
Contributions	\$290,000.00	
Budgeted Expenses		
Outreach	\$17,915.00	6%
Personnel Expenses	220,175.00	74%
Word and Sacrament	3,915.00	1%
Faithful Teaching	3,850.00	1%
Loving Community	1,900.00	1%
Operations	49,290.00	17%
Total Budgeted Expenses	297,045.00	100%
Budgeted Deficit	(7,045.00)	



Little Blessings Daycare extends the mission of Risen Christ Lutheran Church into the community by proclaiming the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ to children and their parents through a high quality child care program. Little Blessings Daycare Center provides care to approximately 40 daycare children and 30 school-age children annually and employs an average of 20 staff. The daycare operates primarily through tuition revenue received from enrolled families and tuition assistance programs sponsored by the government and non-profit organizations. The congregation supports the Little Blessings Daycare ministry by providing operation space within the church facility and by providing spiritual and operational guidance from Pastor, the Church Administrator and the Little Blessings Daycare Board. The primary additional cost to the church is utilities, historically estimated to be about \$12,000 per year (approximately 4% of the church budget included in building operations expenses).

If you have any questions, contact Kevin Martens.

Little Blessings Daycare



"Proclaiming the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ to children and their parents through a high quality child care program."



The Daycare celebrated 29 years in August. The staff and children all wore their Little Blessings T-shirts. The Daycare provided muffins, juice, and coffee for our parents to show our thanks for choosing our center. Our center is truly blessed with the staff and parents we have past and present.



The Summer is over and the school-age children have all returned to school. We hope in some way we have made a positive impact on them. The Center purchased them a pencil and a Backpack Blessing for them to attach to their backpacks. We finished the summer with a pizza party. The school-age children picked their menu for the week. On our last day, we had a slushy truck come to the Center.



Daycare is starting their new curriculum in September. We'll start with Naomi and Ruth for Grandparents' Day (Ruth 4:15). Sept. 13-17 we will learn about the Bible (God's Book/Books; Psalm 119:105); Sept 20-24 God created food (apples; Genesis 1:12); Sept 26-Oct 1 Oct made animals (zoo; Genesis 1:24). We are excited to get started with a new year of learning and exploring.



Daycare has also gotten some new playground updates. We have received some of our new items. The children have already used some of the items and have been busy bees at outside time. Our next step will be to replace the wooden pergolas that are getting worn out. This will also give our toddler room a shaded area. We have been waiting for this improvement for a while.

In Christ,
Angie





KIDS CONNECTION



Calling all 3 year olds-4th graders! Join us upstairs Sunday mornings to dig into God's Word with fun Bible Stories and crafts. Start each Sunday learning some great music. Invite a friend to join us!



If you have a heart for showing the love of Jesus and would like to serve in Children's Ministry, please contact Leslie McCoy at leslie@rclcqc.org



Dates to Remember:

September 13 - Rally Day

Rally Day is almost here!

Join us on **September 13th at 10:30 am** to kick off the new Sunday School year. 3-year-olds -4th graders will be taught by Mrs. Ross; 5th-8th graders will meet with Mr. Crull in the library; and high schoolers will assemble in the Youth Room with Mrs. Gruenhagen.

After music and activities, head back downstairs for lunch, pie contest, and a blessing of the new nursery space.

Hope to see you there!



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Matthew 19:14





Middle School & High School Youth



SUNDAY MORNINGS

Calling all 5th grade-high school students! Grab a cookie and some coffee! **5th-8th** graders will join **Mr. Chase Crull** in the Library during the Bible Study hour; all **high schoolers** will join **Mrs. Kali Gruenhagen** in the Youth Room. Hope to see you there!



DATES TO REMEMBER

September 13

Rally Day

November - date TBD

Kids Against Hunger



Youth Events

Youth Trivia Night Fundraiser

Friday, September 25th

Doors open at 5pm, play begins at 6

Location: church fellowship hall

Cost: \$10/person; 2-6 people/team/table

Consider inviting someone you'd love to
introduce to our church family!

Categories:

- Armor of God (Ephesians)
- Bible Knowledge
- Lutheran Service Book (Hymns & Worship)
- Youth Group
- Faith & Life

- There will be a meal for purchase as well as baked goods.
- All proceeds will go towards renovating our youth room - a space where our youth can feel safe, supported, and grow in their faith.
- Come support our youth and enjoy a great night together!
- Please sign up so we can plan for food and materials.

Kids Against Hunger

November will be time for Kids Against Hunger. Our Youth will fund the first table as always. If anyone is interested in helping to fund and participate in a second table, please reach out to Kali Gruenhagen. We will reserve our day and time soon.

Lutheran Women in Mission

Mission Statement: As Lutheran Women in Mission, we joyfully proclaim Christ, support missions, and equip women to honor God by serving others.



All ladies of Risen Christ are members of LWML - and
all are welcome to any or all our activities.

Bible Study Opportunities

Join us for Bible Study on September 3rd
@ 6:30 pm. We will have a short
presentation before study by the Rev.
Chris Amen who will be entering the
mission field in the Dominican Republic.

Adult Bible Class with Pastor Licht - every
Sunday @ 10:30 am.

Sept. 3, 5:30 pm	Board mtg, followed by Bible Study @ 6:30 pm
Sept 6	First Sunday Mites
Sept 13	Rally Day/Mission Fair
Sept 14, 3:30 pm	Quilt Assembly Group
Sept 22, 9:30am	Mugs & Muffins
Sept 26	Zone Rally

Davenport Zone News

- Fall Zone Rally will be September 26th
@ Holy Cross
- Watch for more details after the Zone
Board meets Aug 29th.

Pin & Tie Day

September 19 – 8:30am

During this morning gathering, we will
be electing officers: President and Vice-
President. Rachel has agreed to be
nominated for President. If you know of
someone who would be willing to serve
as vice-president, please let Rachel or
another board member know.

Future Events

- **LWML Sunday – October 4th!**
- July 8-11, 2027 - National Convention in
Oklahoma City, OK
- 2028 - District Convention to be hosted
by Davenport & Clinton Zones



Lutheran Women in Mission

MISSION GRANT HIGHLIGHT

Arch Books for Immigrant Children in the USA

2025–2027 LWML Mission Grant 15 — \$125,000

Concordia Publishing House, through the Concordia Gospel Outreach program, wants to share the Good News of Jesus with thousands of immigrant and refugee children in the United States. The USA is home to nearly one-fifth of the world's international immigrants, many of whom face challenges in accessing materials in their native languages.



This project will equip LCMS entities serving immigrant and refugee populations with Arch Books, free of charge, in the heart language of the children and their families. It is estimated that up to 125,000 children and their families will be reached by the translated books. Five Bible stories will be translated and made available in Spanish, Chinese, Telugu, Arabic, and Farsi. This grant will fund the creation and distribution of these Arch Books — *The Story of Creation, Noah's 2 x 2 Adventure, Baby Jesus is Born, The Week that Led to Easter, and Jesus Blesses the Children.*

"The printing press," according to Martin Luther, "is God's highest grace by which the Gospel is driven forward." We agree that books make wonderful missionaries, able to share the Gospel not just with one child, but with entire families and beyond as the books are read together. Through this project we will provide thousands of children access to the Word of God, but we know it is the living and active Word of God that does the rest."

According to the Pew Research Institute, Arabic is the "seventh-most common non-English language spoken at home. Arabic speakers represent several nationalities and include both immigrants and those born in the U.S." This project will make Arch Books available to LCMS organizations serving and sharing the Good News to Arabic speaking persons in the United States.



Lutheran Women in Mission

MISSION GRANT HIGHLIGHT

Arch Books for Immigrant Children in the USA



If you remember the first time you learned about the story of creation, it was likely at Sunday School or reading a book at home in your parents' laps. For many immigrant and refugee children in the United States, access to books in their native language, especially books that share the love of Christ, is not guaranteed. Through this project, Arch Books will be made available in Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, Telugu, and Farsi to support outreach efforts in the United States.



PRAYER #1

Heavenly Father, when your Son Jesus Christ was physically among us, parents brought their children to Him so that He would bless them. Some people discouraged the parents from doing this, but Jesus corrected them and took the children into His arms and blessed them. You have blessed Concordia Publishing House for decades in their ministry of making Bible stories available to children in English. Bless this grant so that the Arch Books would be freely distributed in five additional languages to spread Your love. For this, we offer our generous thanks and praise. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Lutheran Women in Mission

Thank you!

THANK YOU to all who provided school kit supplies! We assembled 76 kits for LWR.

Sept 13 after 9am worship: All RCLC boards are asked to participate in a Mission Fair. We will have a display about the LWML, and Rachel and another LWML member will be available to share info and answer questions.

LWML Pin & Tie Day

Saturday, September 19th
8:30 am–11:00 am

Join us for a morning of finishing quilts for Lutheran World Relief.
No quilting experience needed.
The more, the merrier!

Questions? Contact Rachel Luebbe





Fellowship Opportunities

Join Us!

**Saturday Morning
Workout**

SATURDAY MORNINGS @ 7 AM

RALLY DAY

September 13

10:30 am



Sunday School
kick-off • Ministry Fair • Lunch • Pie Baking Contest

Join us for a joyful day together.



fellowship
FRIDAY

**SEPTEMBER 25
@ 12:00PM**

**MEN'S
BIBLE
BREAKFAST**



**Saturday
Sept. 12th
@ 7:30am**



Fellowship Opportunities

Continued



TRIVIA NIGHT



Questions?
Contact Kali
Gruenhagen



Friday, September 25th



Doors open at 5 PM



Teams of no
more than 6
members

Quilt Assembly Group



Monday, September
14th @ 3:30pm



All skill levels welcome. No
sewing experience needed!





Men's Shelter Meal Service

Where: 2209 3rd Ave, Rock Island, IL

When: The 4th Thursday night of each month. Arrive at the shelter between 5-5:30 pm, depending on meal prep time required.

What: We provide a meal for 50-60 people.

Details: Meal items can be prepared ahead of time and heated up at the shelter. They have 2 big ovens we can use. They provide serving dishes, utensils, plates, drinks, and clean-up. We provide a tasty, nourishing meal (main dish, side dishes, dessert).

Thrivent Members can apply for Thrivent Action Team dollars for each date as a way to defray the cost. In a nutshell: sign up for a date, plan a meal, prepare it, and serve it with love.

Contact Sandy Sievert or sign up at the kiosk in the narthex if interested in providing a Thrivent card or preparing a meal.

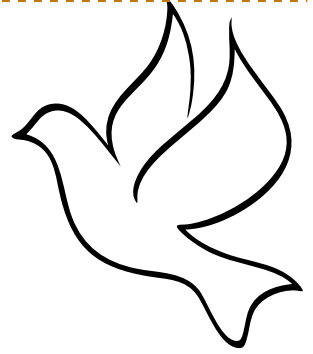
September 24: Kay Johnson;

October 22: Amy Koenig; Angie Franzenburg (prep & serve)

This is a great family or small group activity!

2209 3rd Ave, Rock Island, IL
61201
(309) 786-5734
www.christiancareqc.org

Baptism Anniversaries



9/01 Josiah Smith

9/06 Rita Rekemeyer

9/11 Leslie McCoy

9/12 Buddy Bayne

9/13 Lynette Licht

9/13 Brett Martens

9/13 Elaina Martens

9/16 Nancy Elias

9/20 Melissa
Meador

9/23 Hayley Ferris

9/28 Alexa Hurr

9/28 Drew Welch

9/30 Lyn Bell

9/30 Lori Smith

*“One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism”
Ephesians 4:5*

Wedding Anniversaries

9/01 Emil & Kay Petersen

9/08 Kevin & Amy Martens

9/10 Joshua & Grace Schirm

9/13 Bradley & Laura Wittnebel

9/28 Bryan & Sherri Johnson





HAPPY BIRTHDAY

9/02 Lynette Licht
9/07 Nicholas Emory
Matthew Luebbe
Charlotte Rodemeyer
9/09 Lyn Bell
Alexandra Carlstrom
Lori Smith
9/10 Timothy Buckley
9/13 Spencer Wakeland
9/16 Graham Zirpel
9/17 Allison Harkey
9/18 Rich Emory
Esther McCloud

9/21 Teresa Kaszinski
Grace Schirm
9/24 Morgan Ferris
Holly Meyer
9/27 Jordann Lehman
Lucy Reller
9/28 Dan Speth
9/29 Macy Reller
9/30 Cindy Cramer
Megan Dippel

*“The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord
make His face to shine upon you and be
gracious to you; the Lord lift up His
countenance upon you and give you peace.”*

NUMBERS 6:26

RCLC Family Updates

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

PRAYER REQUESTS



Kali Gruenhagen—Ongoing treatment at home
Tyson Baumgardner (Gloria Blackledge’s nephew)—
in a coma since 12/27/23

Doralee Rock—recovering at home
Jack Boley – rehabilitation at The Kahl Home

HOMEBOUND MEMBERS



Donna Cook
Doralee Rock
Joe Speer
Linda Gentz
Marv & Marge
Reimers

Kristi Manley
Sandy McLeod
Dan & Trish Speth
Robert Milota
Jack Boley

Keep these members in your prayers and don’t forget to reach out to them as you are able (e.g.: cards, phone calls, text messages) and remind them that although they are not able to regularly gather together with us, they remain part of our family. Thank you.

September Worship Servants

	Sept 6	Sept 13	Sept 20	Sept 27
Elder	Scott Sievert	Dean Enfield	Stephen Smith	Mark Itlis
Ushers	Amber Heppner Myles Zirpel Ron Smith Sandy Sievert	Nathan McCoy Gary Hentze Bryan Johnson Scott Sievert	Dave Luebbe Amber Heppner Myles Zirpel Allan Elias	Jason Lehman Dean Enfield Ron Smith Nathan McCoy
Acolytes	Maddie McCoy	Elsie Lehman Hannah Segelhorst	Brett & Elaina Martens	Hayley Ferris
Greeters	Kay Johnson Sue Knuth	The McCloud Family	Bill & Carol McAnelly	Allan & Nancy Elias
Video	Dick Schrage	Steve McCoy	Dave Luebbe	Sam Ross
Counters	McCloud/Rall	Itlis/ J Welch	McCloud/Rall	TWelch/ McCloud

Current Elder Assignments

Families with last names starting with:

A-B	Ian McCloud	O-R	Dean Enfield
C-F	Stephen Smith	S	Jason Franzenburg
G-J	Mark Itlis	T-V	Dean Enfield
K-L	Scott Sievert	W-Z	Jason Franzenburg
M-N	Tim Welch		

serve
ONE ANOTHER IN
love 
galatians 5:13

ALTAR FLOWERS



- 9/6** Tim & Jessica Welch
- 9/13** Education Committee
- 9/20** The McCloud Family
- 9/27** Clay & Lauren Mason



When you have signed up to provide flowers for a certain date, please fill out the white Altar Flower Instruction Sheet and turn it in to the office by the prior Sunday. The cost for the bouquets are listed on the instruction sheet. Please make checks payable to Risen Christ Lutheran Church.

Altar Guild:
Heidi Iltis

SUNDAY FELLOWSHIP

- 9/6** Little Blessings Day Care
- 9/13** Trustees
- 9/20** Future Planning
- 9/27** Congregational Life



Please sign up at the kiosk to provide or serve cookies (or both!). There are opportunities for everyone to serve. Call the church office with any questions.

****Committee is responsible when members have not signed up.**

September

DATES

9/02 Wed	5:30 pm	Confirmation Class
9/03 Thurs	6:30 pm 6:30 pm 6:30 pm	LWML Bible Study Elder Meeting Rev. Amen Presentation
9/06 Sun	9:00 am 10:30 am	*Divine Service *Adult Bible Study
9/07 Mon		HAPPY LABOR DAY
9/08 Tues	5:30 pm	LBDC Board Mtg
9/09 Wed	9:00 am, 7:00 pm 5:15 pm 5:30 pm 6:15 pm	LifeLight Class Congregational Life Mtg Confirmation Class ED Board Mtg
9/10 Thurs	6:15 pm	Council Mtg
9/12 Sat	7:00 am 7:30 am	*Workout Men's Bible Breakfast
9/13 Sun	9:00 am 10:30 am	Divine Service Rally Day Celebration
9/14 Mon	3:30 pm	Quilt Assembly Group
9/16 Wed	9:00 am, 7:00 pm 5:30 pm	LifeLight Class Confirmation Class
9/19 Sat	8:30 am	LWML Pin & Tie Day
9/20 Sun	9:00 am 10:30 am	*Divine Service *Adult Bible Class & Youth Sunday School
9/22 Tues	9:30 am	Mugs & Muffins
9/24 Thurs	5:30 pm	Christian Care
9/25 Fri	12:00 pm 6:00 pm	Fellowship Friday Trivia Night
9/27 Sun	9:00 am 10:30 am	*Divine Service *Adult Bible Class & Youth Sunday School
9/28 Mon	6:30 pm	Future Planning Mtg

The Arising News



¹⁰ “See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. ¹² What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? ¹³ And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. ¹⁴ So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.”

Matthew 18:10-14