

"Proclaiming the Risen Christ to all the world!"

Risen Savior Sentinel

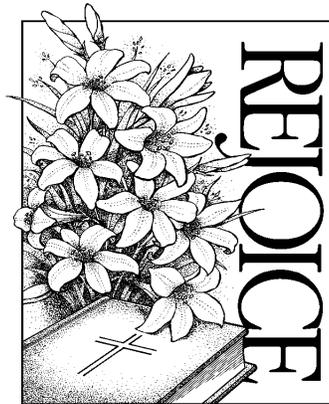
A Word from the Pastor

A number of years ago while in college I was shown a short movie that I've not forgotten. It was a modern-day parable which depicted the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The movie was about a man whose life's work was to maintain and operate a bridge with a single train track that spanned a large river. It was one of those bridges that could be raised or lowered depending if a ship were navigating in the river below or if a train were on the tracks. If it were a train, the bridge would obviously remain in place allowing the train to safely cross the river. If it were a ship, the bridge would be raised to allow the ship to navigate safely below.

On a beautiful, sunny afternoon the man became aware that his 8 year-old son had chosen

to play with a friend on the other side of the river. He chose to take the bridge across never anticipating a train coming at the same time. And yet, that is exactly what happened. Suddenly, the operator of the bridge was faced with a horrible dilemma. If he did not raise the bridge, it was inevitable that the train would take the life of his son, his only son. There was, however, a way to save the life of his son. He could simply raise the bridge if only slightly and his son would be saved. But if he raised the bridge even slightly the train would derail or plunge into the river below killing hundreds. What was he to do? Spare the life of his son or spare the lives of hundreds? In the last moment, he removed his hand from the controls and allowed the bridge to remain in place. The train crossed without event, many of the passengers



never knowing that the life of the son had been lost for their sake.

This is a parable and it helps us to understand the depth of God's incredible love for us. He is the One who did not spare His only Son but gave Him up for us all. This is the Gospel we proclaim Sunday after Sunday. This will be our focus throughout Lent. Throughout Lent and throughout the year, our focus is always on our God who so loved the world that He sent His only begotten Son. Our focus is on Jesus crucified and risen for you. He is the Lamb of God led to the slaughter for your sins. And then who is raised from His tomb so that you might have eternal life.

Free Soup and Sandwich Supper-Friday, February 5

On Friday, February 5, we will host our next free meal to the community. It will be a Soup and Sandwich Supper from 5:00-6:30 PM. These meals have been well-attended and have created much good will for our congregation.

If you would be willing to help with these monthly meals, please speak with

Pastor Kevin Werner. Your help is always greatly appreciated.

The purpose for hosting these meals is to help those in need and who don't have the ability to enjoy a meal out. The purpose is also to create goodwill for our congregation even as we reach out and do good in Jesus' Name.

The members of our congregation are always invited to attend and enjoy the meal also. The meals are always delicious and enjoyable.

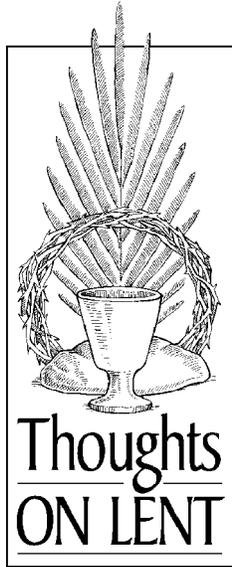
These meals have been funded in totality through Thrivent Action Teams. We thank Thrivent for these generous funds.

Important events and dates

- > Free Soup & Sandwich Meal to the community- February 5
- > Ash Wednesday- February 10
- > Voters' Meeting- February 28

Inside this issue:

Free Supper	1
Banner Committee	2
Busy Sew & Sews	2
Top Ten List	3
Sundry Items	3
Manna Fundraiser	4
Lenten Meal Schedule	5



Lenten Meals and Services

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 10. Lent is a period of 40 days (not counting Sundays which are considered "little Easters"). It culminates in the great festival of the Resurrection. We will have a congregational meal at 6 PM and a Lenten Service at 7 PM each Wednesday throughout Lent.

Each year, we ask each family/individual to bring one food item for one meal. There is a schedule

listed at the end of this newsletter. Please be open to helping when you are asked. These have been delicious meals in the past and a great opportunity for our family of Christ to share a meal together.

Each Lenten Service will begin at 7:00 PM and conclude at 7:40 PM. The theme that we will explore during our Lenten Services is the Lord's Prayer. Each week we will look at a different petition of the Lord's Prayer. Here are

the individual themes for each Wednesday.

"Seasons of Needing Forgiveness"

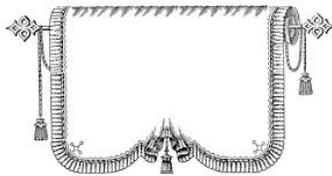
"Seasons of Lifting Up the Lord"

"Seasons of Wondering Who's in Control"

"Seasons of Seeking God's Will"

"Seasons of Thanks for Simple Things"

"Seasons for Standing up to Evil"

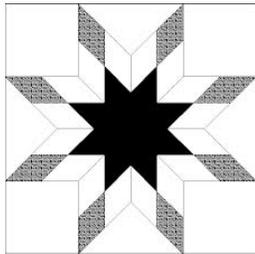


Banner Committee

Our Banner Committee continues to construct banners. Their latest banners include Thanksgiving banners which were used at the end of the church

year. They also have completed new Lenten parameters for the altar, lectern and pulpit. They are purple with a cross and a crown of thorns. They will

compliment the Lenten banners they made last year. If you would like to join them, they meet on Wednesdays at 1:00 PM.



Busy Sew & Sew's

Our Busy Sew & Sew's continue to prepare and construct quilts. They meet each Tuesday at the church at 9:00 AM. They

usually conclude their work at around noon. You need not have any sewing experience to help them with this work. You must

only enjoy serving the Lord and enjoy being with your fellow sisters in Christ. Consider coming and lending a hand!!

Congregational Picture Directory

Do you have a congregational directory? Do you have the most recent edition with the latest updates? If you do not, you have two different options.

First, you can speak with Pastor Werner and he can provide you with a copy printed in black and white.

This copy also includes all pictures of our members and families. Copies of the directory can also be found in the narthex of our church.

Second, you can download the app onto your phone, tablet or computer. You need only go to

instantchurchdirectory.com and get instructions for doing so there. It is very easy. If you need help, please speak with Pastor Werner.

Birthdays and anniversaries can be found in our directory!!!

Instant
Church Directory™
Online

Ten Bits of Good News about Risen Savior!!!!

Listed below are ten bits of good news about Risen Savior Lutheran Congregation. They are listed in no specific order. Please speak with Pastor Werner if there are more items to be listed for our next newsletter.

1. **Confirmation Class** We currently have 8 students in confirmation class. Each is eager to learn about God's love for them. We are currently studying the Bible with Luther's Small Catechism.
2. On Sunday, January 24 we had **18 students in Sunday School**. We have seen an increase in attendance during the last two years. We thank our teachers and numerous helpers/parents for teaching our children about Jesus.
3. **Stained Glass Windows** should shortly be installed in the six windows on the east side of the sanctuary. They will continue the theme of the life of Jesus which is depicted on the windows on the west side of the sanctuary.
4. **MANNA Fundraiser** continues to be a blessing. There are enough funds to pay Kankakee County the road tax when it comes due. Each year for ten years our tax is \$3,100.
5. **The Banner Committee** continues to make beautiful banners and paraments which add to our Sunday morning services.
6. The Gospel of Jesus Christ continues to be preached and heard by all who come into our midst.
7. We continue to see many **Visitors** in our services on a weekly and monthly basis. We have welcomed many more visitors in our new location and have shared with them the love of Jesus.
8. Our services continue to be broadcast on **Local Television**. They are shown on Channel 4 on Comcast in Manteno each Wednesday and Thursday at 10:00 AM and 6:00 PM.
9. **The Busy Sew and Sews** continue to make many and beautiful quilts that will be send throughout the world bringing warmth and relief to many in Jesus' Name.
10. We have held a monthly **Free Supper** for the community to reach out in Jesus' Name and to do good for those who are in need.



Sundry Items

We are always in need of **Ushers and Greeters** to serve on Sunday morning. If you would be willing to serve in this way, please let Pastor Werner know.

Our **Prayer Chain** continues to pray for each other and for concerns among our extended families. Notification goes out via e-mail to all our members who have asked to be

included in this important service. **If you are not currently receiving these notifications but would like to begin receiving them, please let Pastor Werner know.** He can add your name to the e-mail notification list. Prayer is both an awesome privilege and responsibility that each of us has.

The next regularly scheduled **Voters' Meeting** will be held on Sunday, February 28 at 10:15 AM. These meetings are a family gathering in which we discuss the direction our congregation will be taking in the future. Please come and hear what great things God is doing among us. These meetings are always concluded promptly by 11:15 AM.

Church Services on Television

Our Church Services can be seen on Comcast channel 4.

They are broadcast each Wednesday & Thursday at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

MANNA Fundraiser

One of the blessings our congregation has enjoyed during the last few years is our MANNA Fundraiser.

An explanation on how it works might be helpful especially to our newest members. **On the first Sunday of each month** Debbie Christensen receives MANNA orders. Through a MANNA order sheet we order gift cards that can be given as gifts or used to purchase gas, food at restaurants and supermarkets, or many other items from many other vendors. Once the gift cards are ordered, you can always pick them up on the **second Sunday of the month**. If you need them a few days earlier, you can make arrangements with Debbie to pick them up.

An example might help. You and your family would like to go to Denny's for supper. You purchase two \$25 gift cards. You pay \$50 for the two gift cards and your two cards are

worth \$25 each. While you receive gift cards that are worth \$25 each, the church additionally receives 7% of your purchase. So on your \$50 purchase the church in addition to that receives \$3.50.

After you eat at Denny's you also would like to have ice cream at Oberweis. For this, you purchase \$30 worth of gift cards for Oberweis. While you receive gift cards worth \$30 the church additionally will be given 9% of your purchase which is \$2.70.

After you have eaten, you need gas to get home. You have purchased a \$50 gift card from Shell. While you get a gift card worth \$50, the church additionally gets 4% or \$2.00 for your purchase.

As you can see, you get the full value of what you are ordering and paying for **and** the church receives funds also.

Last year we were able to

use the funds raised to pay Kankakee County the road tax they required before they allowed us to build. Each year for ten years we are required to pay \$3,100. When the road tax comes due again, we will have enough funds to pay it. However, unless we raise more funds this year than we have in the past, we will not have enough to pay it next year when it comes due.

Currently, about 7-8 families/individuals are participating. Even if we only doubled that or tripled that number, the funds raised would be significantly higher. Please consider making an order in February. We will take the next order on Sunday, February 7. You will be able to pick up your cards on Sunday, February 14.

An order sheet has been included with the newsletter. What cards are available and what percentage the church receives are clearly shown on the order form.



THEREFORE,



THERE IS NOW NO CONDEMNATION FOR THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST JESUS.

R O M A N S 8 : 1

Lenten Meals

Each week before our Midweek Lenten Service we will enjoy a congregational supper starting at 6:00 PM. Each year we have asked each of our members to bring one dish for one meal. As a result, not just a few people will be doing all the work to provide these meals. Please consider attending if you have not in the past. They are always delicious, full meals that your entire family can enjoy. Below is a list for these meals. Each week is listed in alphabetical order. We once again will not have a "leader" for each week. However, we ask that each group meet after church and decide on the menu, etc.

February 10

Bonnie Albrecht
 Jean Albrecht
 Betty Bertram
 Betty Bittinger
 Isabelle Gabrielson
 Jerry/Rae Greek
 Bob Norten
 Arlene Schultz
 Helga Zumbahlen

March 2

Jim Armentrout
 Judy Bischopink
 Jamie Dettmering
 Julie Levesque
 Laura Mittler
 Star Olson
 Kim Paul
 Michelle Salau
 Lynette Ulaskas
 Sandy Wurster

February 17

Lori Hatalla
 Connie March-Curtis
 Marti Mitchell
 Elizabeth Monroe
 Sandy Moran
 Georgette Pauling
 Margie Polk
 Abigail Regas
 Pat Regas
 Jan Schultz
 Barb Taden

March 9

Marilyn Atristain
 Donna Hebel
 Muriel LaRoche
 Courtney Majerski
 Dawn Russert
 Heidi Russert
 Sheryl Werner
 Holly Woods

February 24

Bonnie Conway
 Bev Fullerton
 Edna Hays
 Mike Heywood
 Faith Russert
 Ellen Smith
 Mary Voss
 Maggie Ward

March 16

Kecia Adamski
 Connie Bland
 Sandy Detweiler
 Joanne Floyd
 Franz Gavenia
 Dolly Gertler
 Gloria Princivalli
 John Sauerbier

We're on the web!!

risensaviormanteno.org

"Proclaiming the Risen Christ
to all the world!"

Risen Savior Lutheran Church
Pastor Kevin Werner
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