

Good News! It's 2022! Pastor Weinkauf

A New Year underway! New opportunities. New adventures await. New meetings, friendships will unfold. Since February 2020 I have tried to continue to be optimistic -all this illness and disruption will end soon, keep thinking next week, next month, things will be back to the way it used to be. I am still very optimistic, we are closer now to having the covid behinds us than yesterday and I am very optimistic in for the coming weeks.

Yet look around. Yikes! Will life in 2022 be calmer, more civil, more respectful? I doubt it. The ongoing de-construction of our history, education, and Western thought that seeks to disrupt families, destroy Christianity, destroy young peoples views of sexuality and marriages. Our society is crumbling. New covid variants are popping up. When will we be free of covid talk?

World politics are grim. Russian and the Ukraine. China and Taiwan. Christian persecution in many areas, even Canada.

The manipulation and censorship of the media toward Christian thought and certainly any information that goes against the narrative of the woke crowd, of the Left. Truth and dialogue, science and studies are suppressed, buried if it doesn't fit.

In the run-up to the November midterm elections, each party will demonize the other as a mortal threat to the republic. The Supreme Court is on the verge of several key decisions for this summer and are sure to incite groups opposed to the rulings regarding abortion murder, gender matters, environment agenda, where religious rights meets civil rights. If the Supreme Court does its constitutional duty and consigns *Roe v. Wade* and *Casey v. Planned Parenthood* to the historical dumpster where we find *Dred Scott v. Sandford* and *Plessy v. Ferguson*, legal arguments and protests breakout in every state.

Then there's inflation concerns, the obscene national debt. And as the president, whom we are called to pray for, concerns over his cognitive abilities and many issues of his administration.

Close to home, there's sorrow over some of our members and a few of repeated, known visitors who do not come to Divine Services in these times. And we have several member families struggling in various ways and serious trials.

Pondering all this, I recently called a friend and said, "Give me some good news." To which he immediately replied, "Jesus Christ is Lord and He rules and reigns."

Exactly.

It's always good for the Church to make that basic confession of faith, but especially when surrounded by darkness, surrounded by clouds and gloom, surrounded by evil. No matter what the trials, Christians live in a different Kingdom, a different reality of life. And that is why, however shaky the grounds for optimism, there is every reason for hope, because we live relying on God's promises fulfilled, being fulfilled, and to come. And 2022 will be a really good year because one simple fact: Jesus Christ is Lord and rules and reigns. Live like it.

Key Events

Feb. 12 Sunday School Gamenight

Feb. 13 Souper Bowl party

Feb. 20 Congregation Potluck& Qtrly. Voter's Assembly

Feb. 21 Blood Drive

Feb. 27 Feast of the Transfiguration

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Love Acts

Pastor Cockran

Love is a loaded word. Everyone uses it, but we often use it differently. Here are three major points about love for Christians to keep in mind.

1. Love is not an emotion.

It is action. The King James Version often used the word "charity" in place of "love." Love is charity: actions focused outward on the neighbor. Consider what happens within a wedding service. A man and wife promise to love. They never promise to always feel "in love." They only promise TO LOVE (cf. Eph 5). That is, to love in act, to have and hold in act no matter how much the bad times, the poorer times, and the sicker times cause your emotions to not "feel in love." God calls us to love no matter how we feel about it.

2. Love is sacrificial.

As always, we go to Christ. Jesus tells Christians how to love one another. Take notice about how He describes this love. John 3:16, "God loved the world so much that He gave His only Son." John 15:13, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." Love sacrifices. God loved us by sending Christ to the cross for our sins. And if God's love was enacted in an event in history, then that means such love can never be taken back. Emotions come and go, but sacrifices endure. This is how we love. We give of ourselves for the sake of others.

3. Love can become a god.

The devil is always trying to twist this word into something else. "Love" becomes synonymous with "acceptance" or "approval." The world wants Christians to approve of sin and celebrate it. What if we do not? We are then labeled as "unloving." This is how you can tell when love becomes a false god; when it turns true love upside down. True love does not approve of sin. True love sees Christ dying and rising to win the victory over sin. True love speaks the truth "in love" (Eph 4:15). That is, "if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness" (Gal 6:1). Our Christian love is an echo of the love already shown to us by God (1 Jn 4:10). We learn all about love not from the world, but from the Father. And why would we look to anyone else about love? For God is love.



Amanda Harbord, Education **3yr. old -8th gr.** Next Sunday School game night/ Parent date night:

Saturday, February 12 5:00-7:00 pm Infants & up. No cost. Food provided.

 G_2 A_1 M_3 E_1 N_1 I_1 G_2 H_4 T_1



6:00-8:00 pm Invite any friends.

Youth Trip: please let Pastor know asap if you ARE or ARE NOT going.

higherthings.org



19-39 year old

Social setting of young adults, single or married, engaging issues & culture in light of God's Word.

On hold right now....

Souper Bowl Party Teresa Miller, Board of Fellowship

Feb. 13, 4:30 pm – Our highly-coveted traveling Souper Bowl trophy will be up for grabs. **Make your best soup in a crockpot and bring it for the contest.** Enter your soup by 5:00 pm, as votes are tabulated and the winner announced at Halftime. All are welcome, as we will have a gathering in Augsburg Hall beginning at **4:30 pm**. Super Bowl Kickoff is 5:30 pm. Bring any food, beverages if you wish, but several items and snacks will be provided. The game will be on our big TVs or come and watch the commercials, eat, and visit. Pictured is last year's winner Amanda Uhlmansiek with the highly-coveted Traveling Souper Bowl trophy. Past winners have their names engraved upon it. Dream about this highly-coveted trophy sitting on your mantle all year and enter a soup!



Feb. 13 4:30 pm

Blood Drive Susan Eubanks, Board of Outreach

Feb. 21, Monday 1:30-6:00 pm

Please note time shift. The need is urgent during these times of covid. Thank you for those who regularly give and please consider being a donor.



Voter's Assembly & Potluck

February 20. Following the late service, all are invited to a congregational potluck, followed by the Voter's Assembly. The Agenda will be out Feb. 13 to give everyone time to review and give prayerful consideration of the matters before the congregation.

Members last name:

A-M: bring a main dish

N-Z: bring a side dish, salad, dessert, or bread item



Women in Mission Chyleen Pauesick, President

Mary Ellen Ballard will talk about her experiences with the Red Cross at the next meeting, February 10, 6:00 pm.

If you have any used eye glasses lying around, and have no use for them, Women in Mission would gladly take them and put them to use for people who do not have any and who need them. Please put them in the office, in a bag with LWML marked on it, or get them to Chyleen Pauesick, by April 17th. Many thanks. They will be greatly appreciated.







- DRESS UP i

Feb. 17 6:30 pm

Katie's Sisters Ladies Night Out, sisters of Katie Luther Katlyn Selbe, Coordinator

February gathering. Annual Tea Party Feb. 17, 6:30!

- DRESS UP in your favorite tea party outfit, hats encouraged.

- We will meet in the hall at church for a fun evening discovering who your secret sister is. We will have games to play as well.

- Please bring your gift wrapped to exchange with your sister. It you can't attend please bring it early so your sister still receive her gift.

- If you don't have a secret sister, still come join in the fun of our tea party.

-Please bring a snack or beverage to share if you wish but not necessary.

-We will have a contest for best dressed! Don't miss out!

Upcoming events include gun range, game night, wine tasting, escape room and craft nights.



Risen Savior Moms Katlyn Selbe, Coordinator

February 11 at 10 am at Rainbow of the Heartland, 307 N Burch Street, Olathe. It is \$7.50 a child to play in this indoor rec. center. Socks and closed toed shoes required. They do have a punch card to save money. You can bring drinks and snacks.

Feb. 11 10:00 am

We are looking to try and reschedule the Fire Station in March. Welcome to all parents, grandparents with children to gather a various parks and venues around the metro area for children to play and moms, grandmas to connect.



Feb. 25

7 pm

Men's GameNight Usually 4th Friday of the month

Next gathering **Feb. 25, 7 pm**. All men of the congregation (and any friends), over 18, are welcome to come to our monthly Men's GameNight. This is a collegial time for men of the congregation to gather and enjoy a time of gregarious, godly behavior. We usually play cards, usually enjoy smoked meats, always have snacks and fine beverages.



Men's Basketball

Starts Jan. 5, Sundays, 8 pm. All men (high school & up) of the congregation, and any friends, are invited to play pick-up games.

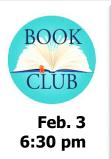


st Friday Trustees

All are invited as we will gather at the first Friday of the month to address various little projects, maintenance, or enhancements inside and outside the church. We will grab some coffee, and work until 9-9:30 am.

Book Club Amanda Uhlmansiek, Coordinator

A variety of books to be taken up. 1st Thursday of the month, 6:30 pm. <u>All are</u> <u>invited to come and listen to the lively discussion!</u> (Even if you haven't finished the book or it hasn't come yet!) Order now for upcoming gatherings... **February 3**: The Brothers Karamazov by Fyodor Dostoevsky, to end. **Order now: March 3**: Poldark by Winston Graham



Life Conference & March in Topeka

January 25, we had 14 members, the most from any Kansas congregation that joined with 125 other Lutherans, including 20 pastors at St. John in Topeka for the Conference and then a march to the capital, with 3,000 other Christians. The State legislators came out to greet the crowd and a few speeches were made. Very cold! But everyone was blessed to standup against the murder of children. Thanks to our drivers: Ken & Deb Shaw, Brian Byrd, Katlyn Selbe, Pastor Weinkauf.



What does a Kantor do? Timothy Schreiber, Kantor

In last month's newsletter I posed the question, "Who is a Kantor?" I covered a more broad sense of the question, and then I honed in on my role as it specifically pertains to Risen Savior. I want to continue in a sort of "series" about my role as Kantor and what that means.

This months question is already posed in a closed sense. (Notice that I did not ask what "a" Kantor does). This is because, although there are similarities across Kantor positions, there really is no standard job description. Most will play the organ, direct choirs, and teach. I want to delve into exactly what I do at Risen Savior. It is my hope that, knowing more about what I do at church, we can foster a more participative and vibrant tradition of music at Risen Savior.

First and foremost, your Kantor plays the organ. Many of you offer endless praise and appreciation for my skills and abilities at the organ. I have been playing for about nine years. Ever since I began playing the organ my main passion has been the Lutheran hymns and liturgy. I practice several hours per week, some times as many as 12 hours. This is to maintain and develop my skills at the organ, as well as expand my capabilities in creating music to adorn our liturgy.

The next most prominent tasks I accomplish are to plan and direct the vocal choir and bell choir. These groups are *solely dependent* on parishioners to volunteer their time to contribute to the beautification of our liturgy. Each one of us have God-given talents and abilities. Often times we can utilize these in various facets throughout life, but, I might argue that, none is more honorable than contributing to the sacred time we spend in our sacred space. The choir and bell choir are charged with utilizing variety of medium to accomplish a familiar goal: Preaching the Gospel through music. This is why the Kantor is responsible for overseeing and directing the choirs. (Let it be known that no prior experience is required to participate in either choir at Risen Savior. It is a learning opportunity for everyone and brings joy to those currently participating.)

As soon as your Kantor finishes his formal collegiate studies he will begin teaching music. Be on the lookout for music lessons, as well as camps and workshops for kids and adults interested in learning more about music, especially piano, organ, choir, and bell choir.

Weekly Bible Classes

Genesis

Sunday 9:15 Wednesday 8:30 Matins, 9:30 Class 2 Corinthians

Upcoming Divine Services

Feb. 6 5th Sunday after Epiphany

Jesus Comforts His People and Builds Up His Church by the Ministry of His Gospel Isaiah 6:1–8 (9–13); 1 Cor. 14:12b–20; Luke 5:1–11; Hymns: 507-856-395-621-617-805

Feb. 13 6th Sunday after Epiphany

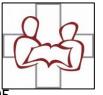
Christians Live by Faith in Christ and Rejoice in the Promise of His Resurrection Jeremiah 17:5-8; 1 Cor 15:12-20; Luke 6:17-26; Hymns: 797-699-394-619-533-810

Feb. 20 7th Sunday after Epiphany

As God Is Merciful and Forgives Your Sins, You Also Be Merciful and Forgive Genesis 45:3-15; 1 Cor. 15:21-26, 30-42; Luke 6:27-38; Hymns: 843-834-727-585-533-544

Feb. 27 Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord

God's Glory Manifested in the Body of Christ Deuteronomy 34:1–12; Hebrews 3:1–6; Luke 9:28–36; Hymns: 816-413-578-537-621-417



HOLY BIBLE

Risen Savior Classical Academy

Our 2nd Semester of our 4th year is underway. It continues to be an amazing endeavor for our congregation, children, and people involved. Please keep the Instructors and students in your prayers.

INSTRUCTOR? SUB? VOLUNTEER? We have 2 key Instructors having babies this spring and there are also many opportunities to help -paid or volunteer. Contact Pastor Cockran.



Philip Swearingen meets with President Harrison at the National March for Life in DC. He is our third member who has gone out to DC to join 100,000+ people in the march. Also pictured is Katlyn and Klein Selbe from 2019.







Monthly Focus... Foundation Plaza

Building a strong foundation, brick by brick... honoring foundational loved ones, past or present or if you desire to place a message, helping provide a strong foundation for future generations.

The idea was to have a beautiful place to visit, enhance the Lord's property, and have a perpetual benefit for future generations and honoring our loved ones.

- **\$525 per brick.** <u>\$500 applied to loan principle on our building</u> (\$900,000); \$25 engraving cost. These additional funds save significant about of interest and help pay the loan off early.
- **12** engraved bricks have already been placed **8** more in progress at Eagle Memorial in Tonganoxie. HURRY. Only 1523 bricks left to purchase!
- Forms are in the brochure rack. Complete form, with check and place in Offering Plate or Incoming Mail box just inside the Church Office.



February 2022

Thank You

To those families cleaning in January: Woelk; Turntine; Cordes; Scharnhorst

To those who families who provide the Sunday breakfast snacks in Jan.: R Smith; Reynolds; Benzel; Cockran; Ford; Miller

To our members who joined the Topeka Life Conference and march. Our congregation has the largest turnout among the 125 other Lutherans, who then joined 3,000 Christians on the capital steps.

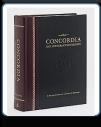
To Steve Wole for electrical work for our new ice cream machine

2021 Financial

Full report posted in Church Office. Less Dedicated Gifts/Expenses,

Through end of 2021: Budget \$375,000

Offerings \$418,653 Expenses \$338,911



Book of Concord Study

Sunday, February 27, 6 pm

Join us any time. All welcome to come for an evening of enrichment in our Lutheran doctrine and Scriptural engagements, food, & refreshments. Childcare provided.

Usually last Sunday evening of the month.

Christian scouting, ages 5-17 **TrailLife** Christian scouting, ages 5-17 **2nd & 4th Thursday, 6:30 pm** Patrick Budy 913-634-5410



LutheransForLife.org

"The Lord called all things into being, from the greatest to the least, with His mighty mere Word. But He formed the human bodies with His own fingers and His very breath. He lovingly, intimately, and meticulously knits us together in our mothers' wombs.

Read Psalm 139 -it shows how your God is so involved with each of you!"





We are a sponsoring congregation **issuesetc.org** 24/7 internet radio



www.rslcms.church

There you find event calendar, sermons, bulletins, newsletter and more!