



RCLC Notebook

April 5, 2026
Issue #2

At Risen Christ Lutheran Church, we strive for **community** - in seeing people come to know Jesus Christ and grow in their Christian faith. **Come and See.**



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Easter Egg

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HE IS RISEN!

HE IS RISEN INDEED!

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What a glorious season we are in: Easter! This is the time each year when we celebrate the death and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ. My prayer is that wherever you find yourself and whoever you’re with, you can pause, set aside the chocolate bunny, and give thanks to God for the gift of His Son.

Kathi and I have had the joy of raising our three sons with the love and support of the Risen Christ family. Over the years, so many of you have played a role in drawing us—and our children—closer to Christ. Never underestimate the power of a simple hello, a smile, or a prayer. These small acts matter more than you know. We are truly blessed with a wonderful church family. I look forward to the year ahead and am excited to see what God has planned for us.

Blessings,
Rich Boehm
Elder



Saturday Breakfast Speaker Series. Rev. Hesham Shehab – February 21, 2026

“So nearly 25 years after the September 11 attacks on the United States, the threat posed by radical political Islam has not diminished but has instead rolled into a more dangerous and less visible form,” Hesham began. His talk was entitled **“Islamism, Leftism, and the Challenge to Christian Faith and Freedom – Confessing Christ in a Time of Ideological Collision”**.



“While western military intervention succeeded in dismantling violent jihadist groups such as al Qaeda and ISIS, the ideological force driving them continues to spread. Western leaders have failed to confront the ideological engine behind these movements. The nonviolent propagation of political Islam is aiming at establishing an Islamic state governed by Sharia law (here in the United States). We are in a worse place today than we were in 2001.

“For some years radical Muslims have joined hands with the radical



left. According to what we see today in New York City and the Twin Cities in Minnesota I can say with confidence that they have hijacked the Democratic Party.”

We also heard from Hassan-Alsammurai (former Iraqi National Guard) and Raheem Hassan (formerly a successful business and family man in Iraq), who had converted to Christianity. They both shared their experiences of the conversion process, which included condemnation and threats from family and other Iraqi citizens.



In addition, we heard from Ted Barham, a Dearborn Heights resident who is currently attempting to eliminate Islamic cultural intrusions he is witnessing in his community.



Rich and Kathi Boehm provided breakfast. Many assisted with set up and clean up. Thank you all!

Hesham grew up in a world of bitter animosity between Muslims and Christians which he experienced personally in a physical attack when only about 7. By age 13 he was recruited by an extremist Muslim group and later fought against Christians in the 1975 war in Lebanon. He was brought to the Christian Faith upon hearing the sermon on the mount in a course of cultural studies in college. Hisham completed his pastoral education at Concordia, Fort Wayne, IN and is currently in the Ph.D program there. Here’s the Easter Egg; the first three people to email or text Paul Eiswerth with the word “pin” (include your name) will receive a Luther’s rose enamel lapel pin. Hesham is ordained as an LCMS minister and is the pastor of Salam Christian Fellowship (salamchristianfellowship.org). He also works as a missionary to the Muslims and is the founder of the LCMS RSO Messiah for Muslims.

If you are interested in obtaining the transcript of this event, see Paul Eiswerth.

Bible Trivia: On Easter Sunday, who asked, “Woman, why are you weeping?” when the woman responded, “Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.”

Ministries We Support:

AAA Pregnancy Resource Ctr.

Helps women and men to make important decisions about family planning.

Family Bible Journey

Streaming Daily Devotional Podcast
By Rev. Daniel Lepley

Grace Centers of Hope

Support for the Homeless

The Luke Project 52 Clinic - Flint

Free prenatal Clinic.

Baby supplies for mothers in need.

www.newlukeprenatal.org

Open Door Ministries

Canton Food Pantry & Job Bank

Salam Christian Fellowship

Sharing the Love of Christ with Muslims.

Wellspring Lutheran Services

Adoption Services

Volunteer Opportunities Here @ RCLC

Weekly Offering Counters

Contact Any Elder

Safety Team

Attend our upcoming kick off meeting on April 9 @7:00 pm!

Or Contact Joshua Priebe

joshuapriebe@gmail.com

Trustee Assist (Building Maint.)

Contact Dave Prange

Merc565@aol.com

Tech Team (Audio Visual)

Contact Kim Cook

Kimberly.Cook705@gmail.com

Join Council!

Contact Paul Eiswerth

peiswerth@gmail.com

We are Starting a Prayer Team!

One of the most important things we do as a congregation, as a Christian community, as a church, and as a child of God – is pray. We pray for each other. We pray for outcomes. We pray for strength, for healing, and for happiness through faith. And it matters.

“I see it first-hand,” says Jean McCally. “I’ve seen so many prayers answered. It’s incredible.”

Most importantly, it’s what God wants us to do (Philippians 4:6-7). And he wants us to pray not just alone, but together (Matthew 18:20).

Jean is starting a prayer group again here at RCLC.

“We did this a few years ago and we had quite a few people attend. It was inspiring. It strengthened our faith.”

What did these meetings look like?

“First, we tried keeping it to 30 minutes maximum and if anyone had to leave early, no problem. We’d sit in a circle and pray together, one at a time, taking turns. Many people decided not to speak up and that’s fine too,” she said.

We know through personal experience that miracles happen through prayer. We encourage any interested to attend. We have a signup sheet in the Narthex where you can indicate your preferences on days-of-the-week and times. We’ll also maintain prayers and updates through email.

Come and sign up! Questions? Connect with Jean.

It Happened Here At RCLC

We had a fun time at **Family Game Night** in the fellowship hall on Friday, March 6. In addition to games and good conversation, we enjoyed Irish jokes, “Name that tune”, card games and plenty of pie! (The cheese and pepperoni type).



¹ John Marasco, Kim Eiswerth, Darlene Severson, Pastor Rennie and Hal Severson



Save The Date!

Letting Our Light Shine Girls' Night

April 16th and 23rd @ 7:00 pm (two week stained glass project taught by Dale Becker)

Christian Creative Crafters

Meets every Thursday

In the adult-ed room

10:00 am till 12:00 pm.

Watch the church calendar to see which Thursday we go to work on *Days for Girls*.

Young At Hearts Monthly Luncheon

April 21 @ noon

Rose's Restaurant in Canton

May 19th - Olive Garden (Livonia)

June 16th - BJ's Brewhouse

July 21st - Mexican Fiesta

August 18th - Buddy's Pizza

All Are Welcome!

Baby Shower!

Luke Project 52 Clinic – Flint

At RCLC in the Narthex

May 11 7:00 – 8:30 pm

www.NewLukePrenatal.org

Questions?

See Kim Eiswerth or Kim Cook

Church Council

Council Meeting

April 8 @ 7:00 pm

Safety Team Kick Off Mtg.

April 9, 7:00 pm

All current and upcoming RCLC members are welcome and encouraged to attend these meetings!

It Happened Here At RCLC (continued.)

On March 19th Kim Cook led a class for crafting Easter Cards for **Letting Our Light Shine Girls' Night**. The results are fabulous! Don't forget that these and other beautiful finds are available in the Risen Christ Store. They are truly gems, made by friends!



Examples of the cards crafted..



Left to right; Jean McCally, Lynne Hendzell, Monique, Lesley, Kim Cook, Cindy, Linda Glomski, Kim Eiswerth and Michelle.

Tim Kirk (left) and Bob Matthison (right) recently completed their work on restoring and **improving the podium** work surface. The new surface includes a cup holder and custom comfort grip guides! Pastor Rennie driving the updated podium below.





Did you know that we had our **projection screens replaced** in March? The screen material had been slightly defective and after a few service attempts by our contractor to correct them, the manufacturer agreed to replace them at no charge. It was major work, taking two days, each screen weighing over 700 lbs. Thankfully the process went off without a wrinkle.



Also, did you know that Dave Prange **repainted the water-damaged ceiling tiles** in the narthex after ensuring our contractor repaired the leaks? All that while serving as treasurer, trustee and custodian. Now you know why we call him SuperDave. He's seen here moving quickly through the narthex.

The Gift of the Lord's Supper: Why We Practice Closed Communion

At Risen Christ Lutheran Church, we are often asked: *"Do you practice open or closed Communion?"* Our answer is simple, but important: we practice closed (or close) Communion – two terms that mean the same thing. We do this not to exclude, but to care for souls.

Often, the real question behind that question is this: *"Where is the bar set?"* In other words, who should receive this gift, and on what basis? That is an important question, but before we answer it, we must first understand what Holy Communion truly is.

Holy Communion is far more than a symbol or a moment of fellowship with one another. It is first and foremost the Lord's Supper – His meal. Here, Christ Himself is present and active. He is the Host who invites, the One who serves, and the very gift given. In this Sacrament, we are not merely remembering Him – we are receiving Him. His true body and blood are given and shed for us for the forgiveness of sins. This holy mystery is not explained away by human reason but received in humble faith.

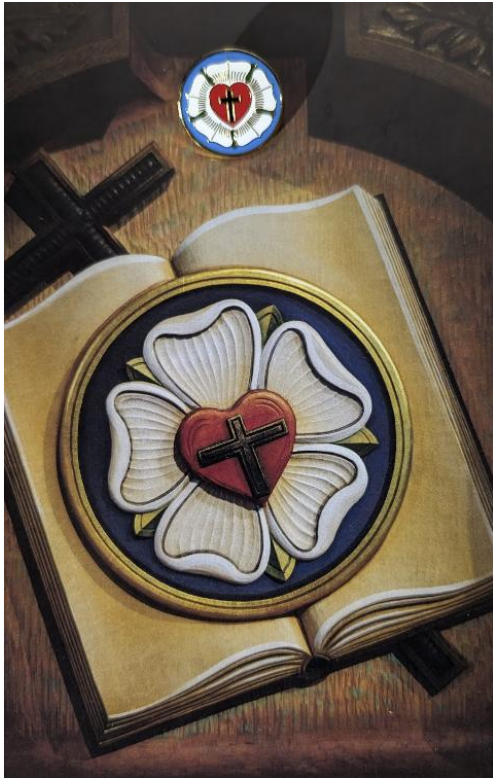
Because this gift is so great, Scripture calls us to receive it rightly (1 Corinthians 11:27–29). So who is this meal for? It is for sinners – those who acknowledge and confess their sin, are contrite, and desire to turn from it. It is for the baptized who trust in Christ alone for forgiveness. And it is for those who confess what Christ says about this Sacrament, receiving it in faith and unity.

Closed Communion, then, is not about drawing lines of superiority. It is about faithful confession, pastoral care, and reverence for Christ's gift. The table is not ours to open or close. It is Christ's to give; our task is to administer it and receive it faithfully.

If you have questions, we welcome the conversation—because this meal is too precious to misunderstand.

-Pastor Rennie

My Lapel Pin



I have a Luther rose lapel pin. It is big and bright with red and blue and gold. I buy them by the dozen. My pin is very noticeable. It often happens as it did at Walgreens just the other day, that someone will ask me about it.

“What is that pin?” the young man behind the counter asked. (No one was in line).

“It is the Luther rose,” I replied as I remove the pin. “You know, the reformer of the church from 500 years ago. The one Martin Luther King junior was named after.” Now I held it in my hands so he could see it better.

“Luther designed it himself. See, here in the middle is a cross. It is black to remind us that we are sinners and can't save ourselves. But the cross is where Jesus Christ went to die to save us from our sins. Then you have the red heart that means God loves you. Around this is the rose itself. It has five petals like the dogwood flower - this is for the five wounds of Christ - on his hands, feet and side. It is white because Jesus is holy. The Rose is surrounded by a field of blue. This represents heaven, which is where Jesus went after his resurrection.

That's where we will go if we believe in him. And finally there is a band of gold round everything. This tells that there is only one true God and Jesus is his son.

Then I gave him the pin. “Here it's yours to keep.”

“You sure? Wow thanks!”

That's it. It takes about one minute, but the pictures on the pin enable me to make a complete gospel presentation. And for the man at Walgreens, or someone next to me in line at the movies, or at a restaurant, or anywhere, this little human exchange gives him or her something to think about. A seed has been planted. And I always come away filled with joy.

Rev. Dr. Frederic W. Baue, Reprinted with permission from *Lutheran Witness*, October, 2025.



Greeting Cards Available In The Risen Christ Store

RCLC Studies

Sunday Early Morning Bible Study

Preview Study of the upcoming sermon.
Church Narthex "Lounge" area.

Men's Wednesday Morning Study 6 am

Meet online. Contact Michael Bell mbell48170@gmail.com or
Dean Reuschle beancounter@att.net.

Tuesday Noon and 7pm Faith Study with Pastor

Church Narthex "Lounge" area.
No appointment necessary!

"Ask The Pastor"

Go ahead. Call or email Pastor Rennie about any questions or concerns regarding faith, the bible, our Lutheran Confession...
Go ahead. Make his day.

Confirmation, Faith Formation/Review Studies

We have 3 small groups with a wide variety of ages currently in session. If you are interested in joining an existing study or starting a new one on a different topic, speak with Pr. Rennie at 734-306-9364.

This is YOUR Notebook!

The *RCLC Notebook* is published on an ongoing basis. We welcome your submissions. If you have a church-related news report, artwork, poem, joke, story that you would like to share, please pass it on to Sue Bailey at suebee321@gmail.com. Remember to include photos when appropriate. We will make final decisions on content and will edit if necessary. Items will be included as space allows.

-Paul Eiswerth, Editor
peiswerth@gmail.com

Bible Trivia Answer: Two angels were there, and they asked Mary Magdalene why she was weeping.

After Mary answered them, she turned and saw Jesus standing there.

[John 20:12-14.](#)

Wisdom from Dad:

Easter Sunday is a wonderful day, and it is always preceded by a *sadder day*.



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“Road To Emmaus” painting by Robert Zund, depicting **Jesus after his resurrection** as revealed in Luke 24. We have a framed print in our church office.

He Has Risen!