



RCLC Notebook

March 8, 2026
Issue #1

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!**



[This Issue:](#)

Speakers

Saturday Breakfast Series
Pastor Christopher Thoma
“Political Rhetoric...”
(See Hasham’s event in the next issue...)

It Happened Here at RCLC

Movie Night – “War Room”
Boys Room
Chairs!
Page 3.

Book Review

Ted Dekker’s “A.D. 33”
Page 4.

Catechism from Pr. Rennie

Means of Grace page 4.

Volunteer Opportunities

See page 3.

Ministries We Support

See page 3.

Studies at RCLC

See page 5.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Welcome to the first issue of our congregational newsletter, the *RCLC Notebook*. My prayer is that this publication will strengthen our shared life together in Christ and deepen our understanding of His gifts.

We are not merely an organization that gathers once a week. We are a family formed by the Gospel — forgiven, nourished, and sent into the world in love. It is my hope that these pages will encourage conversation, catechesis, and connection as we continue building a Christ-centered community rooted firmly in His Word and Sacraments.

I look forward to the journey ahead with you.

In Christ,
Pastor Rennie

Saturday Breakfast Speaker Series. Pastor Christopher Thoma – January 17, 2026

Pastor Christopher Thoma gave a talk on January 17th at RCLC entitled **“Political Rhetoric – It’s Not Both-Sided Truth”**. We had nearly 100 attendees. Thoma brought his office chair that represented where his friend **Charlie Kirk** would come and sit at prior events, and in Chris’s office. “Charlie had a way of leaning in, and filling the space with his urgency and his vision and making you feel



like the whole world could actually be moved if you just took a chance and stood with him.”

“I’ve been criticized by others for my connection with Charlie. I’ve never tried to measure a man by reputational rumors. I sat with Charlie. I listened to him. I knew him not as a headline, but as a friend.”

Charlie publicly held to the Creed. “[He believed] that the Nicene Creed’s words were not some dusty doctrine, but they were a living truth.”

On politics: “What I did was explain the **Luther’s Two Kingdoms Theology** to him (Charlie). Several founding fathers openly insisted that Luther’s Two Kingdom

Bible Trivia: (Genesis 6:14)
God commands Noah to use a particular type of wood to make the ark. It ensured the ark would be durable and waterproof to survive the flood - exemplifying that God's instructions are intentional and detailed rather than arbitrary. What type of wood did God specify? (See answer elsewhere).

Theology was the right understanding of Church and State and the relationship between the two.”

On speaking up: “Quiet in the face of lies will always be surrender. Faithfulness to Christ matters more because he’s Lord; not culture, not politics, not the shifting winds of your opinions.”

In addition to “quietism” Thoma spoke on “Radical Individualism”, which encourages Christians to invent their own truths and invent their own doctrines, but only the ones that they’re comfortable with. This is wrong. In the end, the result is not freedom, but rather fragmentation and isolation.



“Some, even within the church, explain away these obvious disconnects as a two-sided problem. They reason that there is anger and vitriol on both sides.”

“To frame this as both sides is to blur the line between those who speak truth, however imperfectly they might be doing it, and those who openly mock, cancel, silence and incite and provoke violence.”



Rich and Kathi Boehm provided breakfast. Many assisted with set up, and clean up, including Judy Pazzolini, Dave Prange, Kim Cook, and Kim Eiswerth. Thank you all!

Pastor Thoma serves (since 1999) at Evangelical Lutheran Church and School in Hartland, Michigan. He is currently the Executive Director for **The Body of Christ in the Public Square**. (Sign up for his email newsletter/commentary). He recently wrote “Ashes To Ashes”, a thriller-mystery. Hollywood has shown interest. His forthcoming book, coming out this March is entitled “Christ Before Caesar” - a look at the Lutheran perspective on public engagement in the world around us.

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

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

Contact Joshua Priebe
joshuapriebe@gmail.com

Trustee Assist (Building Maint.)

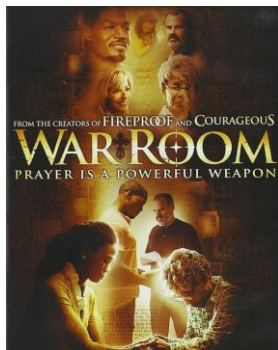
Contact Dave Prange
Merc565@aol.com

Tech Team (Audio Visual)

Contact Kim Cook
Kimberly.Cook705@gmail.com

It Happened Here At RCLC

Movie Night!



We had a well-attended evening of popcorn and cinema-depiction of the Power Of Prayer! We are always looking for family Christian movies for our Movie Night events. Let **Paul Eiswerth** know if you have any suggestions.

Chairs!

Our congregation stepped up with contributions to purchase over 180 folding chairs for RCLC! Thank you **Kim Cook** and **Linda Glomski** for finding



this deal and for all those who contributed financially and by transporting and delivering! Thank you Hal Severson for demonstrating good stewardship when you made a deal to bring in the chairs 25 years ago which supported us all these years. Sam's Club gave us a courtesy gift card as appreciation for our business.

The Boy's Room

Paul Pranschke recently repaired the walls and stalls and painted the boy's room (across from the gym). **Andrea Proctor** (Interior Designer - her store - Home Interior Warehouse in Downtown Plymouth) selected the color.

<p>ANDREA PROCTOR Interior Designer</p> <p>Visit Us Online: www.homeinteriorwarehouse.com</p> <p>Visit Our Showroom: 942 W. Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI</p> <p>Contact Us: (734) 667-2406 hiwplymouth@gmail.com</p>	<p>INTERIOR WAREHOUSE PLYMOUTH furniture • home decor • design services</p>
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Thank you Paul and Andrea!



Save The Date!

Letting Our Light Shine Girls' Night

March 19th @ 7:00 pm (Easter Cards)

April 6th 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

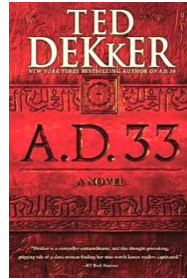
March 24 @ noon

Crow's Nest on Canton Road

All Are Welcome!

Book Review

My recent quest for good fiction with virtuous themes, written by current authors had me searching for days. There are plenty of classics that fit this description, but I was looking for something new. To my surprise I found something new depicting something old.



A.D. 33 is about a fictional Arabian queen who is outcast from her people during the time of the crucifixion. She knew Yeshua from Dekker's prequel, *A.D. 30*, (the name Dekker uses is the original Hebrew and Aramaic name for Jesus) and now she seeks Yeshua's help coincidentally during his final week in Jerusalem. She has no idea at the time that her personal trauma coincides with the most significant and traumatic event in history, which impacts her situation as she witnesses the events unfold first-hand during that week. Dekker does not fall short here; his descriptions and narrative are riveting. He powerfully reveals the glory and holiness of the Trinity in the form of a story arc that will stick with me. The ending of this thing is really something.

The biblical details are accurate. Dekker provides the actual verses in the index referencing Jesus' quotes used in the book.

I'm delighted that my search led me to Dekker. Born in Indochina, his parents were missionaries there. He successfully ventured into the business world and subsequently turned to writing. He has written thrillers, mysteries, non-fiction, and children's books. He has multiple series, both historical and current-day stories. I will likely pick up the prequel to this one (yes, I'm that person that reads series out of order). He claims that readers need not worry about reading his books out of order. Each are meant to be read as a stand-alone story. -Paul Eiswerth

Catechism from Pastor Rennie.

What Do We Mean by "Grace"? When we speak of "grace," we are not talking about a vague feeling of divine kindness or a spiritual boost that helps us try harder. **Grace is getting something we don't deserve** – God's undeserved favor toward sinners for the sake of Christ. **(Mercy is not receiving what we deserve.)**

The Small Catechism teaches that we are saved "not by works, but by grace." That means forgiveness, life, and salvation are gifts — not earned, not achieved, not maintained by our performance. Christ has done it all.

But here is where Lutherans are beautifully specific: grace is not floating somewhere in the air. God delivers His grace in concrete ways. He attaches it to means.

- He pours grace into water in Holy Baptism.
- He speaks grace in Holy Absolution.
- He proclaims grace in the preached Word.
- He gives grace in the Sacrament of the Altar - His meal - the Lord's Supper.

Grace is not an abstract concept. It is Christ-for-you. That is why we gather. That is why we come hungry. That is why we return again and again to Word and Sacrament. Because there, God is not distant. There, He is giving. And what He gives is Himself.



Recent highlights at Gifts of Love 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.

Bible Trivia Answer: Genesis 6:14: If you have your bible with you, just look it up!

Okay, okay. It's gopher wood.

I told my wife, "Honey, you should embrace your mistakes."

She then gave me a hug.



Risen Christ Lutheran Church

46250 Ann Arbor Road

Office contact - 734-453-5252 admin@risenchrist.info

Pastor: Rev. Rennie Kaufmann 734-306-9364

RennieKaufmann@gmail.com

Elders

Dean Reuschle		beancounter@att.net
Rich Boehm	313-949-9325	rjboehm1@outlook.com
George Eberlein	734-890-7038	gfeberlein@gmail.com
Paul Eiswerth	734-751-7251	peiswerth@gmail.com