

RISEN LIFE

WHERE'S PASTOR MIKE

From Pastor Mike

Years ago, there was a book called Where's Waldo, where you had to locate a character named Waldo who seemed lost amid various crowded collages of people and scenes. Some at Risen Lord are asking "Where's Pastor Mike" on Sunday mornings?

If that's you, then you have undoubtedly noticed that immediately after the 10:30 service I head out. Many of you know that Risen Lord has been helping Abundant Grace get back on its feet since March. They have been struggling

When Risen Lord was just starting out, Abundant Grace stood along side us to make sure we got off the ground and off to a good start. They helped us when no one else did. In fact, we might not have made it without their help. Now it is our turn. We owe them. So we are helping them get back on their feet.

Each Sunday I conduct services for them at 11:30 (ish). Cindy Scott is helping them get their finances put back together. Bruce Montigney is helping them put together a constitution. And Todd

We owe them.

for a full ten years and are down to a small membership and loads of issues to clean up before they can look for a new pastor.

Hittinger has helped them resolve some issues with the IRS. For their part they have repainted their building interior to be more inviting and welcoming, adopted a more Lutheran worship style, cleaned the carpet and chairs, spruced up the exterior, and started a children's ministry.

Our work at Abundant Grace will begin to wrap-up between Easter and Memorial Day. At that time, they will either be ready to get a new pastor or pursue other options. In either case, it has been a great opportunity for Risen Lord to return the favor to a loyal friend. Pastor Mike

Christmas Eve Services

Risen Lord will have two services this Christmas Eve. The 5:00 pm service will be planned with an eye to families with children. Music, scripture lessons, and drama will share the story of the infant Jesus in a way that captivates the hearts



of families young and old.

The traditional candlelight service will begin at 7:30 and will feature Risen Lord's Sanctuary Choir. Seating is typically tight on Christmas Eve, so come early and settle in for a spectacular evening.

For those who prefer a true midnight service, tryout *Candlelight at Midnight* at Abundant Grace at 11:00 PM.



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Ladies' Salad Supper And Cookie Exchange

The annual Ladies' Salad Supper and Cookie Exchange is Sunday December 6. Each year the ladies of Risen Lord take a break from their busy lives and get together to celebrate the Christmas season. This is an event that is full of Christmas spirit, singing, fellowship and laughter.

All ladies are invited!! All you need to do is bring a salad to share and 3 dozen of your favorite Christmas cookie. After dinner secret sisters are revealed and new ones chosen. Then everyone receives a container to scoop up 3 dozen different Christmas Cookies to take home and share with your family. If you do not have a secret sister but would like to participate in the gift exchange, bring a \$10 gift, and names will be drawn. The dinner begins at 6:00 pm at Risen Lord Church.

Coffee and Donut Set-up

Every Sunday volunteers set the coffee to brewing and fill the trays with sugary donuts for worshippers. It is a much enjoyed part of Sunday morning worship—the coffee/donut fellowship time. Everyone gets to visit with each other and catch up on friendships we let go during the busy work week. We need more volunteers to sign-up to take a turn getting everything ready for Sunday morning fellowship. The sign-up sheet is on the donut table.

The job includes making a pot of decaf coffee, regular coffee, apple juice for the children, set out the condiments, cups, napkins and set up the hot water pot for tea and cocoa. A full description is posted in the kitchen. Consider signing up for one Sunday every couple months.

The volunteer schedule in this newsletter now includes Coffee and Donut Set-up Volunteers.

High School Youth Group

The High School Youth Group continues to grow and thrive! We have lots of fun together....talking, eating, Bible studying, praying and playing. As you've probably noticed, we've shared some of the many good things that happen to us on post-it notes. We are a thankful bunch!

Our events to remember in December are:

- ~December 6No evening Youth Quake
 - ~December 13.....Meet at church at 4:30 to prepare "Christmas Brinner" for Youth Quake
 - ~December 18....Saturday Night Christmas Party at Janice Green's house. Details to follow.
- Happy Advent!
Genie

Dinner Club

Dinner Club will not meet during the month of December because of the busy schedule we all have during this holiday month. It will however resume in January. Watch for information in the bulletins and in the January newsletter.

See you in 2010!!

Ladies Dining Out

In lieu of the Ladies Salad Supper on December 6, we will not be meeting at a restaurant in December.

On Sunday, January 17, 2010 we will meet at 6:00 PM at Oaken Barrel on Main St. in Greenwood. All the ladies of Risen Lord are invited to come and have a fun, relaxing time with your Sisters in Christ.

Please call Cara Ruble (535-7173) or Dawn Winblad (535-9456) if you are able to attend.

Removal of the Greens

The Hanging of the Greens was Saturday November 28. The church looks so festive and representative of one of the most important church holidays! However, the Greens will only remain through Sunday January 3rd, 2010. Your help is needed in taking down and packing the Greens for storage for the next Advent and Christmas Season. Anyone interested in helping should come to Risen Lord Church on Saturday January 8th at 9:00 am.

Thank you for your help!!

MATURING STEWARDS DO THE RIGHT THING

“And it came to pass in those days that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus...” is the way Luke’s account of the Christmas story begins in chapter two (KJV). That decree caused Mary and Joseph to travel to Bethlehem, the city of David, where Jesus was born according to ancient prophecy. God’s timing is perfect as He carries out His will. Galatians 4:4-5 reads, *“But when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons.”* (NIV)

God’s promises are true and find their “amen” in Jesus. Throughout the Old Testament God inspired His prophets to write down many promises of a Savior. The faithful people of God believed His promises and were saved by that faith even though they had not seen the Savior with their own

eyes. They lived before Christmas and we live after Christmas. We also have not seen Jesus with our own eyes and yet, by the miraculous power of the Holy Spirit, we believe that on that first Christmas Christ took on Himself our human form, kept the law perfectly for us, preached the good news of salvation, performed countless miracles and then offered Himself up as the precious Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, ours included!

Christmas is a very joyous occasion as we celebrate our Lord’s first coming into the world but we also know that the shadow of the cross already hovered over the manger where the baby Jesus was laid. He was born to die in our place so that the door to heaven will be open to us and all who believe in Him as our only true Lord and Savior.

As Christian stewards we live in

the light of the Gospel and freely and joyfully manage all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes. God offered up His best for us and in response we strive to offer our best to Him. During this joyful Christmas season we have many opportunities to show our love for God by showing love to all the neighbors He has placed around us, especially those who have special needs of body, soul and spirit. May God help us to use our gifts of time, talents, skills and financial resources to His glory and the welfare of those around us. May He especially help us to be like the shepherds and spread the good news of salvation in Christ alone!

“Maturing stewards do the right things for the right reasons and strive for excellence in all they do!”

MISSION FOR THE MONTH

Our Lord says, “I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me” (Matthew 25:40).

During the month of December the children of Risen Lord are invited to place hats and mittens (do not wrap) under the Sharing Tree located in the blue (Preschool) classroom. These items will be delivered to needy children through the Wheeler Mission. As hats and mittens arrive, we are reminded that giving to children in need is like giving to Jesus himself.

Spread the Christmas Joy we celebrate here at Risen Lord. The whole congregation is invited to join the children in placing hats and mittens under the Sharing Tree in the blue classroom.

I’M GLAD YOU ASKED!

Q. *What happens if Abundant Grace isn’t able to get a pastor?*

A: If it turned out that Abundant Grace was unable to call a pastor after our work with them, they would have several options to pray about and consider. Among them are 1) Close up and hand their building to the synod to sell; 2) Close up, sell their building themselves and start over in a new location; 3) Continue in the same location with a Sunday supply pastor as long as possible; 4) Merge with Risen Lord.

Many of the people at Abundant Grace live in the same areas as do Risen Lord’s members and the drive would be the same. The people of Abundant Grace are very warm and

friendly, the same kind of people we normally expect to see at church. If they decided they would want to merge with Risen Lord we would support that decision and receive them into membership. If they decided to go a different route, we would support them.

Whatever they decide to do will be their decision and we will support it completely and pray for their ministry. Thank you for keeping Abundant Grace in your prayers!

LOOKING AHEAD

January

February

March

January 6 Magi Party

February

March



**RISEN
LORD**
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

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Sunday Morning Worship Schedule

- 8:15** Worship
- 9:30** Sunday School
- 10:30** Worship