

RISEN LORD

Join the Cosmic Party!

Because of the number of details involved getting through the holiday season, it is easy for us to miss the big picture. And by big picture, I mean really big, as in cosmic. I'm talkin' the whole enchilada . . . the universe, baby. One thing the Bible makes clear is that the entire cosmos joins in the Hallelujah Chorus:

"The heavens proclaim the glory of God: The skies display his craftsmanship. Day after day they continue to speak; night after night they make him known. They speak without a sound or word; their voice is never heard" (Psalm 19:1-3).

Through him, the Son, the Word, the babe of Bethlehem all things have life.

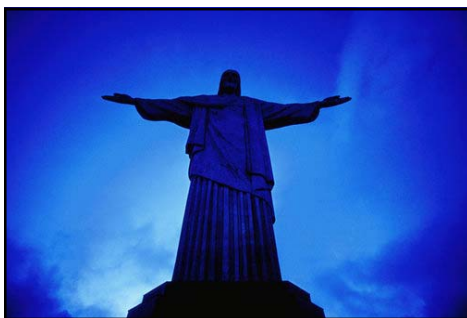
Colossians 1:15-18 says,

"We look at this Son and see the God who cannot be seen. We look at this Son and see God's original purpose in everything created. For everything, absolutely everything, above and below, visible and invisible, rank after rank after rank of angels—everything got started in him and finds its purpose in him. He was there before any of it came into existence and holds it all together right up to this moment. And when it comes to the church, he organizes and holds it together, like a head does a body."

When we celebrate his entry into

"If there is other intelligent life out there . . ."

The gospel reading for January 4, the second Sunday of Christmas, is John 1:1-18. It speaks of the coming of Jesus, the Son of God, in terms of his being the Word of God. He is the source and creator of all that is.



our world, our voices are joined by the billions and billions of stars throughout the universe. Our voices are joined by corners of the creation we can't even see, that we don't even know exist. If there is other intelligent life out there, it too, knows the creator and offers its hallelujahs.

During January, take advantage of the many opportunities at Risen Lord to celebrate our Cosmic Christ. There is a adult party on Friday at 7:30 January 9, a Planetarium Road Trip (to Butler), and a Star of Bethlehem (video class). Start your new year off in proper Christian fashion — with a celebration!

Peace, Pastor Mike

New Year Magi Party

January 9
7:30 pm

Risen Lord will be hosting its first Magi Party! No . . . It's not a typo. Not magic but MAGI, as in the three wise men. January 9 is the first week of



Epiphany, the day when Christians traditionally celebrate the magi bringing gifts to Jesus. Start the new 2009 year as magi, as gift-bringers dressed for celebration. Bring a gag gift, white elephant gift, or comical gift to exchange (suitable for church folk).

Enjoy music, exotic delicacies, sweet drinks, and more at this adult only party. The party is held at the home of Joe and Stacy Slater at 4769 Krestridge Ct. E. Bargersville, 46106. Phone #422—8790.

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- Holcomb Observatory and Planetarium Trip
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LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Star Gazer Events



The Star of Bethlehem is a Documentary on the astronomical issues surrounding the star that lead the wisemen. The movie will be shown at Risen Lord in the library on Thursday January 15 at 7:30

Holcomb Observatory and Planetarium offers free tours and programs to the public administered by the Butler Departments of Physics and Astronomy. The Observatory is one of the largest public observatories in the world. A sign up sheet for a trip is on the bulletin board at church.

Men's Breakfast

The men of Risen Lord are now meeting only on the fourth Saturday morning every month for good food, great fellowship, prayer and Bible study. All men are invited!

This month they meet Saturday January 24th at 8:00 a.m. Bring a breakfast dish to share. Leave the stresses of work and family behind and enjoy the relaxation and camaraderie you will find here at the Men's Breakfast. Contacts are Pat Ryan 535-7675 and Phil Caruana 859-0813.



MOPs Winter-Spring

MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers) will be starting their winter/spring session on Thursday, January 8 from 9:15 to 11:15 am. We would like to invite any ladies who have children from preschool age or younger to join us for fun and fellowship. We have a fantastic year planned and are very excited to see you there. Please feel free to spread the word to any woman that you know. If you are interested in volunteering for the nursery, please contact Julie Bardonner at 883-0790.

Day MOPS 9:15 — 11:15

*January 8 & 15 February 5 & 19
March 5 & 19 April 9 & 23
May 7 & 21*

Evening MOPS 6:30 — 8:00

*January 8 February 5
March 5 April 9*

Souper Bowl Of Caring

On Sunday February 1, 140 million Americans will tune in to the Super Bowl football game. There will be parties with abundant food, friendship and fellowship. At the same time, there will be people worrying about staying warm, finding shelter and a warm meal. Please join young people around the country as they demonstrate God's love by loving their neighbors through the Souper Bowl of Caring. It's a simple yet significant act of caring for others. Drop \$1 in the soup pot as you leave worship or bring a can of non-perishable food. Canned goods will go to the Interchurch Food Pantry of Johnson County and the cash donations will go to ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Those who need help may not know that you cared, but God will. And our young people are developing hearts for giving that can last a lifetime. Please support their efforts.

Risen Lord Starts Kids Choir



Risen Lord now offers a children's choir that rehearses on Sunday mornings from 9:30—10:15, between first service and Promise Land. Connie Lorocco, Risen Lord member and elementary school music teacher, brings years of experience and passion for our kids. Children, kindergarten through sixth grade are encouraged to be a part of this exciting new ministry.

Promise Land Continues to Grow

Very exciting things are happening during the Sunday School hour, and we need more help! To accommodate all the children two new classes were started. This is all very good news, but we are in need of more helpers to make good things keep happening! The breakdown of classes and teachers are as follows:

- 2 and 3 year old — Janice Green
- Pre-K, K— Maura Green and Brandi Strain
- Grades 1-2-3 — Denise Olson and Dayna Zook
- Grades 4-5-6 — Todd Hittinger and Chris Bartee
- Grades 7-8 — Angela Swails
- Co-leaders — Anita Hittinger and Kelly Watson

We still need a team teacher for the 4-5-6 Grade class and for the middle school class. Team teaching allows for teacher to teach together or take turns as needed. Call Anita, 782-3527 (evenings) or 409-7052 (daytime) or Kelly Watson 422-5739 if you are interested in teaching.

MATURING STEWARDS DO THE RIGHT THING

“Wait Until Next Year!”

Ernie Banks, a former Major League star shortstop, played his entire career (1953—1971) with the Chicago cubs. During his career he was selected to the All-Star game eleven times, named the League’s Most Valuable Player two times and in 1977 elected into Baseball’s hall of fame on the first ballot. Two of his more famous nicknames included “Mr. Cub” and “Mr. Sunshine.” During his long career the Cubs never won a world championship, but at the end of each season of his great career he would say, “Wait until next year!” When that next year came around Ernie would play each game with excitement and enthusiasm. His catch phrase was, “It’s a beautiful day for a ball game, let’s play two!” The world championship never

came, but that did not dampen Ernie’s excitement and enthusiasm for life and for baseball. Ernie was playing the game for more than a championship; he enjoyed the game for the game’s sake.

Perhaps when we were reflecting on our many failures and shortcomings as we moved toward the end of 2008 we may also have been saying to ourselves, “Wait until next year.” Well, whether or not that was the case, it is now the “nest year!” With God’s help we can look forward to 2009 with the same kind of excitement and enthusiasm that Ernie Banks displayed year after year. That’s possible because of assurance of forgiveness we have as a result of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on our behalf. The past is gone, a new year has come and

we can move forwards with enthusiasm and excitement because God’s Holy Spirit is within us to help us to will and to do those things that are evidence of our being the children of God.

As God’s redeemed stewards we look forward to this new year of grace and the many opportunities to use all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes. It is helpful for us to remember that we live out our stewardship in cooperation with and encouragement from our fellow redeemed stewards. We are never in this work alone. While it is true that our stewardship is a personal response to God, it is always to be lived out within our community of faith, specifically our congregation. Perhaps we can have the same spirit and enthusiasm that Ernie Banks had for baseball but

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).

Risen Lord Church is beginning 2009 with the Ronald McDonald House of Indiana as the Mission for the Month. The Ronald McDonald House is a home like setting where families can stay while they have a child at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis. The top ten Wish List Items are: liquid dishwashing soap, liquid laundry detergent, dishwasher soap (tablets only), liquid hand soap, queen and twin thermal blankets (white), disposable and non disposable utensils (knives, forks, and spoons), granola bars, tuna and cracker snack packs*, snacks — individual servings of chips, Little Debbie’s, etc.), popcorn. A complete list is on the insert included in this newsletter. Please place your donations in the Mission Corner right outside the sanctuary.

I’M GLAD YOU’VE ASKED!

Q. When is the Annual Congregation Meeting?

A. Sunday, February 8, 2009

Risen Lord Church’s Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday February 8, 2009. Before the meeting we will have a pitch-in luncheon at 11:30 am. We will need people to set up tables and chairs after second service gets out. Bring your favorite dish to share and plan to heat hearty! Plates, napkins, silverware, glasses, coffee and tea will be provided.

At 12:30 we will move to the sanctuary to begin our Annual Congregational Meeting. During the meeting we will take a look at our accomplishments in 2008 and look ahead at 2009 establishing goals for our ministries. Outgoing council members will be honored for their efforts and new council members will be ratified. The new budget for 2009 will be voted on. We do need a

majority showing to validate the voting. Only members can vote, but everyone is invited to attend. Risen Lord is your church. Attending the “big meeting” is a great way to show your support. Come be a part of reflection on a great year ending and get energized for the upcoming year of doing God’s work.



LOOKING AHEAD

February

February 8 Pitch-In and Annual Meeting
 February 25 Ash Wednesday
 February 28 Men's Breakfast

March

March 28 Men's Breakfast
 March 4, 11, 18, 25 and April 1 Lenten Services

April

April 4 Community Easter Egg Hunt
 April 5 Palm Sunday
 April 9 Maundy Thursday
 April 10 Good Friday
 April 12 Easter Sunday
 April 25 Men's Breakfast



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Sunday Morning Worship Schedule

8:30 Worship
9:30 Children's Choir
10:00 Worship
10:00 Sunday School