

# RISEN LIFE

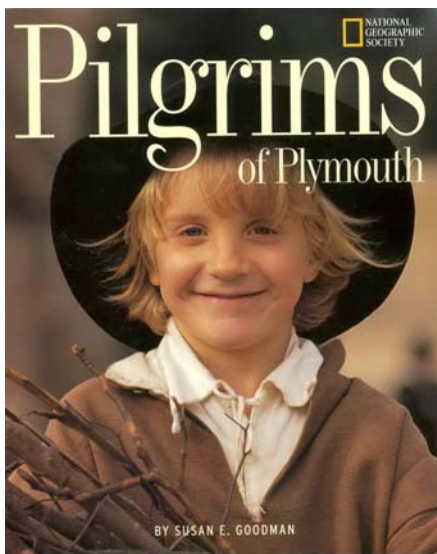
## Welcome to America, Pilgrim!

From Pastor Mike

From the founding of our country, Americans have believed that we are a chosen people. We have believed that there is something Godly and exceptional about the nation we are building. We can see that belief as early as 1630 as the pilgrims make their way across the ocean. While en route to the New World, Jonathan Winthrop delivered a message to his congregation on board entitled "A Model of Christian Charity." In it, he shares with the people a vision of the

new life before them in the New World: *"We are entered into a covenant with Him for this work . . . We shall be as a city on a hill. The eyes of all people are upon us."* From the very beginning, we have had a sense of being called by God. For many today, the hard part of that belief is deciding what we are chosen for. If we asked the first settlers, "chosen for what?" they would tell us: "chosen to serve."

*"we can live out our nation's oldest and deepest calling."*



In the rest of his message, Edwards goes on to say that we are chosen to live for the benefit of others: *"we must ... delight in each other, make others' conditions our own, rejoice together, mourn together, labor and suffer together..."*

For the founders, being exceptional meant being exceptionally good at serving others. As July 4 rolls around, let's think of new ways we can live out our nation's oldest and deepest calling. Let's find ways to serve our brothers and sisters and our neighbors. Happy July 4th, Pilgrim.

Sincerely, Pastor Mike

## Vacation Bible School

VBS is here! Discovery Canyon: Explore the Wonders of the Word! Is a fun-filled, VBS program your kids will love! Everyday is packed with activities designed to help children experience the importance of God's word. Each day at



Discovery Canyon kids will be engaged with:

- Lively worship
- Kid-friendly Bible stories and snacks
- Cool games, crafts, experiments, and songs
- A meaningful mission project
- Loads of laughs and lots of friends

There is nothing like the sound of catchy Bible songs, the sight of a colorful canyon environment, and the company of friends to transform kids for faith-filled fun. At Discovery Canyon, kids will be eager to explore the canyon and learn with each of its critters

Registration forms are on the informa-

### INSIDE...

- Committees Adjust For VBS
- Patriotic Worship Celebration
- Knot Sew Squared "Cut and Run"
- Sunday School To Expand, Building News



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## Committees Adjust For VBS

The ministry team/committees at Risen Lord have been meeting once a month for discussion and planning of upcoming events. Worship planning, Communications, Children, and Youth teams usually meet on the third Monday of the month. Vacation Bible School will be active July 19 through the 23rd from 6:00 pm until 8:15 p.m. The church will be a busy place as the VBS team is planning on the largest crowd yet! Therefore teams/committees will be meeting on the fourth Monday, July 27. The time, 7:00 p.m., and location is the same. Mark the change on your calendar and plan to attend!

## Patriotic Worship Celebration

### July 5

Risen Lord will fill the Commons area in celebration of Independence Day with a display of military uniforms, flags, plaques, awards, photos, memorabilia, etc, with some "big machines" outside. Pastor Mike will recognize those who have been associated with or are personnel of the U.S. Military. The services will have several patriotic hymns. Show your 'red, white and blue spirit' by wearing red, white, and blue.



## All-Church Picnic July 26

Once again Risen Lord is resuming its post VBS all church picnic at Westside Park on Main Street in Greenwood. What a great way to celebrate a successful VBS! As before the men of Risen Lord will be at the grill preparing some special BBQ for us. Bring a side dish or dessert to share and your lawn chairs. Beverages and table service will be provided. There will be picnic games and activities for kids of all ages.

Abundant Grace will be joining us also to celebrate a common thread, our walk with Jesus. Let's show Abundant Grace what Risen Lord is known for — our hospitality. See you at the picnic (leave the ants home)!

## Dinner Club On Vacation

Risen Lord Dinner Club will not meet during the months of July and August. Many people are on vacation during the summer months. Dinner Club will resume meeting in September. Watch for information about the restaurant location in future newsletters and the bulletins.

Risen Lord Dinner Club is a night of good food and great fellowship for any adult couples or singles. They meet once a month on the second Friday at 7:00 pm. Each month they go to a different restaurant to check out the food and the atmosphere. If you have not been to Dinner Club mark your calendars and join them in September!

## Youth Quake Update



### Sr. Youth Lakehouse Party

July will be a busy month for the high school youth group. Several kids are helping with VBS...either as guides, teacher's assistants or performers in the drama skits which introduce each day's Bible story. These older kids will again serve as great role models for the younger children! Anyone interested in helping and are not yet signed up, just let Genie or Anita know.

**SAVE THE DATE:** Second Annual LAKE HOUSE PARTY.....JULY 8...WEDNESDAY....9:30-6:30. We are again blessed with an invitation to Brent Enderle's lakehouse on Lake Cordry/Sweetwater. We had a great time last year tubing, skiing, cooking out and fellowshiping. I hope all high school youth can join us again....rain or shine! It's a good chance for us to welcome the new members of our group. Transportation will be provided and cards / emails will be sent with more details. A brief meeting for parents and kids who are going will be held on Sunday, July 5, after second service.....we can organize food, consent forms etc. at this time. That's it for now...thanks, Genie

## Sunday School To Expand

As Risen Lord continues its regular and consistent growth in worship, hospitality, and stewardship, we have made a bold decision to take a leap forward with Sunday School. Rearranging Sunday morning worship to allow for greater participation among parents in Sunday school both as teachers and helpers for children's classes and in one of the adult classes.

Linda Goers has had a very strong and well attended class meeting in the library for several years on Sunday mornings. Classes are often overflowing. This class will continue as in the same way offering dedicated Bible study on a variety of books of the Bible.



**book of faith**  
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

An additional class will begin to meet in the sanctuary on September 13. This class will be taught by a variety of people, including Pastor Mike. The first class to be taught in the sanctuary will be by Pastor Mike and will be the Lutheran Course. Then starting November 1, Mike Mercer will teach an introduction to the Bible for those new to Bible study. This class will cover seven weeks with the following subjects:

- 1) What is the Bible?
- 2) Is the Bible true?
- 3) Is the Bible the Word of God?
- 4) Where did the Bible come from?
- 5) How can I read the Bible with greater understanding?
- 6) Is there a "center" to scripture?
- 7) What kind of authority does the Bible hold?

## Grief Support Group Begins New Session

Beginning August 6, Risen Lord will host a six-week grief support group sponsored by Community Home health Services Hospice. The group will meet on Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 in the Library. These meetings are designed to help people in their journey of grief after losing a loved one through understanding more about the grieving process, telling our stories, and sharing mutual encouragement. The group is open to the public.

To sign up or for more information, contact Linda Shepherd, Bereavement Coordinator, at 317-621-4646 or 800-404-4852. You may also talk with Mike Mercer at church or call him at 363-3367.

## Knot Sew Squared "Cut and Run"

The quilt group's summer project is "Cut and Run". Tami Hoover, Brenda, Erin and Rachel Drake have the fabric sorted into boxes of "kits". These kits can be picked up by anyone who would like to spend some time inside out of the heat and cut the fabric into squares. Directions are included in the kits.

Knot Sew Squared is also looking for ideas that would make good use of the non-cotton fabric. Ideas could be pillowcases, tote bags, or any other simple projects for charities that support kids at risk or families in need. Volunteers should contact Tami Hoover at 422-8328 Wednesday, Thursday, or Friday and she will answer questions or get you set up with a kit. The fabric needs cut by fall so it can be sewn into quilts for this winter.

## Worship Times To Change

To support the planned expansion of Sunday School, we will be changing our Sunday morning worship schedule beginning with Rally Day, **September 13**. Beginning on that day the Sunday schedule will be:

8:15-9:15 Worship  
9:30—10:15 Sunday School  
10:30 — 11:30 Worship

There will be classes for all ages from 9:30 — 10:15, and two adult classes—one in the library and one in the sanctuary. There will still be a Children's Message at second service followed by a children's program. This Fall Connie Lorocco will be preparing the kids for a Christmas program that will take place on Christmas Eve at 5:00. Kids can choose to sing, create sets, paint, etc. There will something for all.

## Building News

Where do we stand with the Facilities Master Plan? The Building Team has been meeting once a month and has held Focus Group meetings in June to collate and process all the input the congregation has offered about where we are now and what we want life at Risen Lord to be in the future. They and architect Steve Alexander have put together a Master Plan and will be presenting it to council on July 13. With council's approval, the Master Plan will be presented to the congregation for approval on August 9 at a special congregational meeting.

Please put August 9 on your calendars and plan to attend the meeting which begins at 11:30. Continue praying that we will see what God's plan for us is and that we will make sure that Risen Lord's Master Plan is His Master Plan.

## MATURING STEWARDS DO THE RIGHT THING

### ***“Freed to Live”***

On July Fourth we pause as a nation to reflect on the meaning of “Independence Day.” The Declaration of Independence was written to begin the process of gaining freedom from being a colony of England and chart our own course as a nation. But freedom is not something that you simply declare and it happens. Our freedom is something that was purchased at a high price. From the time of the Revolutionary War after July 4, 1776 to our war today in the Middle East many brave men and women have laid their lives on the line to fight for and defend our freedom as citizens of the United States of America. Thousands upon thousands of those brave soldiers shed their blood and gave up their tomorrows so that we can be freed to live our todays and tomorrows in the greatest country in the world and enjoy freedoms that millions of people in the world can only dream about.

As that old saying goes, ‘freedom is not free.’ It is fitting and proper for us to remember and honor those who have given their all not just on July Fourth but throughout the year. They made the ultimate sacrifice so that we can be free! We also do well to remember and honor our brave men and women who continue to put their lives on the line so that we may be free to live.

It is also fitting and proper for us to remember and appreciate our spiritual freedom from sin, death and eternal condemnation. That freedom is not something that the strongest army in the world could obtain. That freedom is not something that we can earn or even deserve. It is the free gift of God who loved the world so much that He gave up His one and only Son who shed His holy precious blood so that we might have a peace that passes all human understanding and freedom that will last for eternity.

Our fitting and proper response for all that God has done for us in Christ is to live our lives in ways that honor Him and bless others. We call that proper response to God’s love Christian stewardship. As redeemed stewards we, in cooperation with and encouragement from fellow redeemed stewards, freely and joyfully manage all of life and life’s resources for God’s purposes. God delights in loving and giving and sends us His Holy Spirit to empower us to also grow in our loving of God and others and our giving of time, talent, treasure and any of the other blessings God has entrusted to us.

*“Lord of glory, You have bought us with Your life blood as the price, Never grudging for the lost ones that tremendous sacrifice. Give us faith to trust You boldly, hope to stay our souls on You; But, oh best of all Your graces, with Your love our love renew.”*

### 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 July Risen Lord Church will be sponsoring “Christmas in July” Samaritan’s Purse Operation Christmas Child. *“Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world through gift-filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God’s love.”* “How to pack a shoe box” information sheets are available in the Mission Corner. Please return all filled shoe boxes to the Mission Corner. Cash donations will also be accepted to cover the cost of shipping.

## I’M GLAD YOU’VE ASKED!

***Q. Who is doing such a beautiful job with the flowers at church?***

***A. Debbie Miller and Art Kermod***

Debbie Miller with Art Kermod’s help is back at it this year. Together they are making Risen Lord’s ‘street view’ appealing to the passer by. Debbie has planted colorful plants in the pots around Risen Lord’s entries and the patio. She has cleaned up and weeded the rose garden beside Risen Lord’s walking trail, a true delight to linger by. Art has kept the trees trimmed and the weeds pulled in the islands that rest in the parking lot, the landscaping around the building, and other areas of the campus. He has also kept the lawn mowed and

trimmed looking the best it has ever looked. Art needs lawn mowing volunteers to help out. Give him a call at 412-0062 if you would to help.

Thank you Debbie and Art for all your hard work keeping our campus neat and beautiful!

# LOOKING AHEAD

## August

August 6, 13, 20, 27 Grief Support  
No Dinner Club in the month of August. Will resume in September.

## September

September 3, 10 Grief Support  
September 11 Dinner Club  
September 13 Rally Day

## October

October 9 Dinner Club



**RISEN  
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### Sunday Morning Worship Schedule

**8:30** Worship  
**10:00** Worship  
**10:00** Sunday School