the MESSENGER

COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

MAY 2022

What's Inside:

- Education Highlight Graduation Open House
- Evangelism Highlight Easter News
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- Kids Club Highlight
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- Monthly Volunteers
- Calendar



Steve Allison, Minister

"Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."

Dear Church Family,

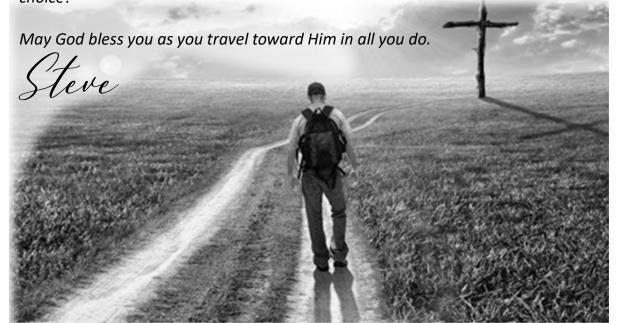
In the world we live in today we all need help staying close to Jesus! Close, as in who we are on the inside, and how we show it in our actions. Here is some help offered by Kathryn Sryri that I think helps us focus well on these two areas. She says...

Step 1. Learn and Be Instructed (Colossians 2:7)

The Christian life isn't just about accepting Jesus and being baptized. That is only the beginning. We must then commit ourselves to a lifetime of learning. You have to be willing to read and study God's Word, be ready to accept guidance and instruction from others, and to learn to listen for God's direction. It's not an academic exercise, but rather a process of surrendering self to the process of allowing God to show you his way and reform you into his image. Then...

Step 2. Do Not Follow the Way of the World (Psalm 1:1)

As Christians we are called to walk the narrow road, choosing to follow God's way, not the way of the world. This means we'll make hard choices to say "no" to things that might put us in tempting situations. We'll say "no" to things the world says are okay, but we know aren't okay to God. Remember the "wicked" and "sinners" won't often look like "bad guys". In fact, they'll often look like friends, co-workers, the popular crowd, the people the world reveres. Their path may not look dangerous or illicit. It may look like the path that makes the most money, the way that leads to earthly happiness, the choice that fits in best with everyone else around you. Ask yourself: is this step I'm taking in line with God's word and rule in my life or is it focused on earthly, human gain? Where is God in this choice?



OUR GRADUATING SENIORS



HIGHLIG

OUCATION

Jacob Johnson 2022 Graduate Erie High School Graduation: May 15th

graduation

RECEPTION

SUNDAY, JUNE 5
FOLLOWING THE WORSHIP
SERVICE
for Jadyn and Jacob





so De Great

Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid; do not be discouraged; for the Lord will be with you wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

Jadyn Collis 2022 Graduate Erie High School Graduation: May 15th

"Your word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." Psalm 119:105

EASTER BREAKFAST & EGG HUNT



Revelation 1:17b-18a: "Don't be afraid! I am the First and Last. I am the living one. I died, but look—I am alive forever and ever!"



Psalms 66:4 All the earth worships you and sings praises to you; they sing praises to your name."

MOSUNG

MAY NEWS

year party that Wednesday!





Thank you!

On Monday, May 2nd, the Kids Club leaders will be providing breakfast for the Riverdale School teachers and staff as a thank you. The kids will also write small thank you notes to their teachers which will be delivered then.



May Day is Sunday, May 1st. Every year, the Kids Club makes about 100 bags and we deliver them to each door of people in the church who are house-bound or in nursing homes. This year, that day falls on a Sunday. If you are able to come to church that day, the kids are going to pass out their baskets at church. We will deliver the remaining ones that afternoon.



The kids are going to be working on a special Mother's Day project this month. Please send a picture of you with your child(ren) as soon as you can to cccportbyron@gmail.com or text: 815-325-8079. Thank you!



CCC YOUTH NEWS



Our new tables and chairs are here! Thank you Sarah for all the research and time you spent finding the perfect tables and chairs for our Kids Church room. They really brighten up the space and are kid-friendly!

On Easter, we had over 30 kids (4 yrs – 4th grade) attend Kids Church during the sermon time. THANK YOU volunteers who are dedicated to making Kids Church fun and growing the program!

If you would love to be a part of this exciting ministry opportunity, please contact Sarah Denekas to be put into the rotation. You don't have to commit to very many Sundays and the lessons are already planned for you.

Vacation Bible School for 2022 is tentatively planned for the last week of July (Sunday through Thursday night) July 24th-July 28th from 6:00-7:30pm.

More information will be coming out soon about this. If you are available to help with this year's VBS, please contact the church office! Thank you!



"Before I tell you what happened, Mom, remember...the Lord will never give you more than you can handle."

Matthew 19:14: Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

MISSION HIGHLIGHT: Lincoln Christian University

"Lincoln Bible Institute, 'LBI' was born in the mind and heart of Earl C. Hargrove in 1944 as the result of a God-given vision. From the very beginning unto this very day, countless people have sacrificially provided the resources to carry out this God-given vision of supplying dedicated and well-trained workers for the Kingdom." The mission statement is "to nurture and equip Christian leaders with a biblical worldview to serve and lead in the church and the world".

Lincoln Christian University (initially Lincoln Bible Institute, then Lincoln Christian College and Seminary, now Lincoln Christian University) was launched on May 4, 1944, to help prepare people to carry out God's effort through the church. For decades, LCU has trained servant leaders to serve the church and world. Mr. Hargrove, LCU's founding president, stated: "We need Kingdom workers." In addition to supplying churches with preachers, LCU has trained worship ministers, youth ministers, church secretaries, Christian education directors, small group leaders, elders, Sunday school teachers, mission committee members and a host of other roles in the church. We are thrilled that God has used so many who took classes at LCU to help build His Church.

For over 75+ years, LCU has been educating Kingdom-minded leaders to serve in the church and the world. More than 16,000 have studied there.

The Covid virus has impacted the financial situation of LCU in a very dramatic way. Students were being taught virtually and the enrollment declined. On February 22, 2022, President Silas McCormick and Board Chair Tamsen Murray, announced a bold initiative to create a new model for Christian higher education is responsive to a new era of Kingdom work.

"The new model makes three primary changes to what LCU presently does:

- First, though it continues the University's commitment to providing biblical, theological, and worldview education opportunities for Kingdom leaders through academic degree programs, it narrows those programs to those most directly tied to vocational ministryspecifically seminary programs along with two undergraduate programs in Bible and Theology and Christian ministry. It may be helpful to think of this as Seminary+, our Seminary plus two undergraduate programs.
- Second, it dramatically expands non-credit education opportunities in the form of workshops, retreats, conferences, curricula, and the like created by and led by LCU faculty.
- Third, it adapts to the fact that more and more churches are developing their own leaders
 in their existing contexts, In the new mode, LCU will offer the biblical, theological, and
 worldview components of our curricula, and a number of partner churches will offer the
 practical ministry training through internship and residency experiences as well as serving
 as a voice in the creation of workshops, curricula, conferences and consulting services on
 issues facing churches today." (Newsletter March 8, 2022)

Many changes are occurring at LCU as the result of the impact Covid has had on the economic situation at the University. If you want more information about LCU check the booklet on the mission shelf by the office.

"God is light; in him is no darkness as all." 1 John 1:5

ROCK RIVER SUMMER CAMPS

It's Camp Time!! (See the church lobby for brochures)

EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT: \$20 off if registered by May 1st for full week youth camps (\$10 for one to three night youth camps)

BRING A FRIEND DISCOUNT: Campers who "Bring a Friend" (who has never been to RRCC) will receive a \$30 discount (\$15 for one to three night youth camps) for each new camper that registers for youth camp. The camper that does the inviting will receive the discount.

CCC SCHOLARSHIPS: Our church also supports kids who would like to attend a camp by helping with part of their registration fee.

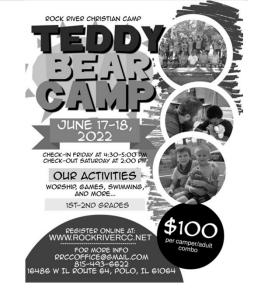
TEDDY BEAR CAMP

June 17th-18th, 2022 (1st and 2nd Grade)

Cost: \$100 (cost includes camper & parent/guardian)

Dean: Valerie Pittman

This is a fun overnight experience for campers going into 1st and 2nd grade to come to check out RRCC for the first time. Each camper must bring a same-gender parent/guardian (or call the camp office to discuss possible options). Campers spend the weekend swimming, singing, enjoying the campfire, participating in great Bible lessons, having scavenger hunts, wagon rides, and more!





FIRST CHANCE CAMP

July 5th-8th, 2022 (3rd and 4th Grade)

Cost: \$200.00

Dean: Brian Beck and Brian Rotert

First Chance is exactly what the title is called, a camper's first opportunity to join in on an exciting adventure where they can come to camp for the first time without bringing along an adult. This camp is for those going into 3rd and 4th grade. Campers will enjoy fun worship experiences, swimming, canteen, campfire, archery, crate stack, and more!

EMBARK (MAIN CAMP)

July 31st-August 5th, 2022 (4th-6th Grade)

Cost: \$340.00

Dean: Josh Lagrange

Campers between 4th-6th grade are loading up for the journey of a lifetime. Here at EMBARK, campers will be diving into what it really means to follow God with a lot of fun along the way. Each day these campers will come face to face with God's truth and grace. They will encounter higher challenges, whether it is stepping up and helping out, or maybe it is climbing up the zip line pole. These campers and faculty members will sleep overnight in cabins that are close to the bathhouse and dining hall. A day at camp consists of great worship, dynamic speaking, small family group times, swimming, canteen, campfires, and so much more! Get ready to EMBARK with us!



VORSHIP

GETTING TO KNOW THE REAL Troverbs 31 Noman

For years, I held an unrealistic view of the model Christian woman. I grew up believing the ideal godly woman was an over-worked, exhausted wife and mother, whose kids were perfect, home was spotless, and who consistently maintained a selfless, subservient, and sacrificial attitude, — regardless of her circumstances or state-of-mind. Traits that, at the time, I thought were essential for any devoted, Bible-believing, woman of God. Attributes I tried tirelessly — without success I might add to model for years.

After more than 20 years of striving to live up to my aggrandized view of Proverbs 31:10-31, I finally unearthed the truth. The real woman described in this passage, is a God-fearing, dedicated, and independent woman. She bravely dives into leadership roles and takes on challenging positions with courage and confidence. When I finally discovered the true attributes of this bold and driven woman, she won my heart and inspired my future. Granted, it's impossible for any woman to live up to the full description of the Proverbs 31 woman, but I believe, this passage is meant to inspire us to be the unique, persistent, fearless women God created us to be. Therefore, let's push past the boundaries our society sets, and those we set for ourselves, and embrace our God-given potential with God's ever-present help (Psalm 46:1).

Take a look at the attributes described in Proverb 31 and take note of traits you sense God is calling you to appropriate into your life.

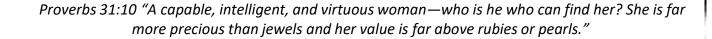
The woman of Proverbs 31 embraces her value (v10,28) and is:

- Honest and trustworthy (v11)
- An entrepreneur (vv13,14,16,24)
- Wise and discerning (vv13,18,26,27)
- Hardworking and Resourceful (vv13,19,24,27)
 Confident and optimistic (v25)
- A loving provider (vv14,15,21,24)
- Generous and kind (vv15,20,26)
- A supervisor (vv15,27)

- Independent and successful (vv16,24)
- Courageous and strong (vv17,21,25)
- Well-spoken of (v23)
- Praised by others (v28,31)
- Dedicated and godly (vv18,30)

Today, this passage inspires me to use the gifts, talents, and abilities God has given me to their full potential. Today, I continually sense God urging me to break out of my comfort zone in order to pursue His calling. And — today, I spend less time worrying about who and what I'm not — and more time striving to be all I can be. Allow Proverbs 31 to inspire us to be the fearless, dedicated, faithful women of God He is calling us to be.

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REMEMBERING THOSE WHO SERVED

"Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty." Psalm 91:1

Honoring Christ on Memorial Day

This coming Memorial Day, thousands of churches will pay tribute to our country's fallen heroes, recognizing the liberties and freedoms we enjoy, and remembering the brave men and women who have given their lives for our country. Memorial Day is focused upon those who have fallen in the service of our country, but at the same time it is an opportunity to focus on Christ. Here are three ways to observe Memorial Day, and bring honor to the King of kings and Lord of lords.

1. Our coming PEACE!

Those who have given their life for our country have experienced the tragic bloodshed that conflict brings. Our world is rocked by strife and division. But one day there will be peace. The author of that peace is Jesus himself, who is described in Scripture as the Prince of peace. Memorial Day recognizes the valor of those in military combat, but a day is coming when we will live in a time of unparalleled peace, brought about by King Jesus.

2. Our HONOR and GLORY!

It is only right that we remember our nation's military heroes, both past and present. We recognize, honor, and thank those men and women who are involved in the service of country. One day all believers will receive honor for their service. Although not all of us will enlist in the armed forces of our country, we will nonetheless hear the "well done," from Jesus. This is another opportunity to glorify Christ during Memorial Day.

3. Our true GRATITUDE!

After the death of thousands of soldiers following the Civil War, our country's leaders instituted this as day to remember, in solemnity and heartfelt gratitude, the ultimate price that was paid. We hold the deepest gratitude for the hundreds of thousands of soldiers who have given their lives over the ages, defending our freedoms and families. As we remember them, let us also remain aware that Jesus, too, gave the ultimate sacrifice. He laid down his life to secure a freedom which transcends any earthly freedom. Jesus gave his life to gain spiritual victory over sin, death, and hell. Memorial Day gives us a chance to praise our Lord for the price he paid, and the triumph he secured. As you commemorate our fallen heroes this year, take the opportunity to remember the day's significance while also honoring



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OUR GIVING THIS MONTH

May 1st is the beginning of the next Missions Year. We collected our faith promises for the coming year during our "Mission Not Impossible" Sunday on April 24th.

As of right now, our goal for the 2022-2023 Missions Year is:

\$31,852.00

Thank you for supporting the work of missions!

Remember our missionaries can only continue the important work of sharing the good news of Jesus with the prayerful and monetary support of churches like Countryside!

Countryside supports a wide variety of ministries including:

- Christian higher education
- · Youth and adult camping experiences
- Global disaster relief and evangelism
- Ministry to the Chinese people in the U.S. & China
- Church plants in Mexico
- Bible translation in Papua, New Guinea
- Ministry to recruit and support missionaries around the world



2022-2023 Mission Year

(beginning 5/1/2022)
Faith Promises Goal: \$31,852
2021-2022 Mission Year

Faith Promises Goal: \$37,176 Faith Promises Total: \$36,860

MY FAITH PROMISE TO WORLD MISSIONS

After a period of much prayer and discernment, I/WE promise to support the worldwide missionary program of the Countryside Christian Church over the next year. In total dependence upon God for HIS provision, it is our promise that "As God Gives, So Shall We Give." By faith, I/We promise the following amount of money:

\$	Annual	Tota
<i></i>	Alliluui	IULU

Note: This is a faith promise, a covenant between myself and God. It is my voluntary offering for the evangelization of the world.

MAYeventy

\mathcal{S}	5/1	MAY DAY	
	5/2	MONTHLY DEPARTMENT MEETINGS Evangelism/Missions (6:30pm) All Departments (7pm)	MONTHLY MEETING Be Connected Be Heard Be Informed
	5/2	TEACHER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST Riverdale School 7:00am	
	5/8	HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY	Mother's:
UPCOMIN	5/12	ELDERS' MEETING 9:00AM	
	5/14	WOMEN'S COFFEE 9:30AM	
	5/15	RIVERDALE AND ERIE HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION	ON
	5/18	LAST DAY OF KIDS CLUB 8 3:00-5:00PM KIDS CLUB 4:00-5:00PM IMPACT	& IMPACT
	5/29	5 TH SUNDAY POTLUCK & FOOD PANTRY COLLECTIO Items for the month are due this Sunday and of delivered to the Food Pantry this week	
	5/31	MEMORIAL DAY	

IRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIE

Birthdays 4 – Amber Ramos

- 6 Joanne Wiklund
- 11 Tena Knapp
- 12 Logan Wheeler
- 14 Tiffany Wheeler
- 14 Mikah Mikles
- 15 Dawn Ryden
- 22 Steve Allison
- 24 Jasper Denekas
- 26 Dylan Trout
 - 28 Natalia Ramos
 - 29 Teagan Collis

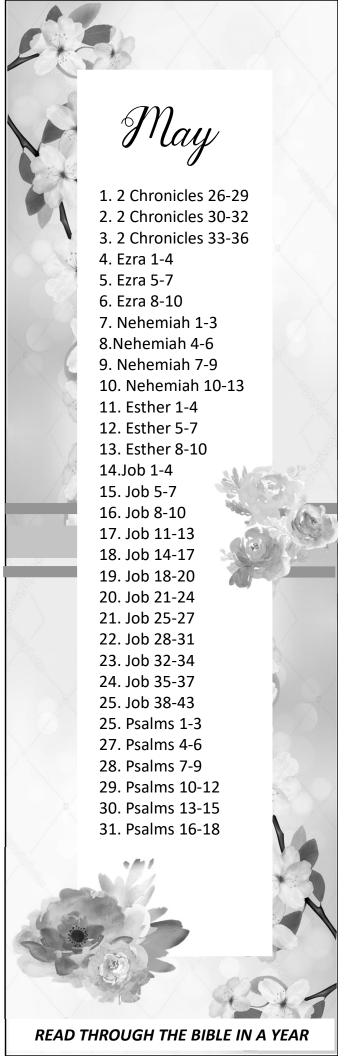


Anniversaries

1 – Becki & Mike Winger

- 3 Adam & Val Rutledge
- 6 Ruthie & Brock Coverdill
 - 11 Jill & Norm Weatherhead
 - 30 Katie Jo & Corey Chasek
 - 31 Rock & Sandy Lawrence





THIS MONTI

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

Children's Ministry

Nursery

Sunday School Time (9:30-10:15) Worship Time (10:45-12:00)

Date	Sunday School	Worship Service	
1	Cathy Lotz	Sandy Lawrence	
8 Nancy Dufur		Kathy Kohrt	
15	Becki Winger	Georgia Cullison	
22	Gail Horst	Nancy Dufur	
29	Kathy Kohrt	Becki Winger	

Children's Church

*Teacher/helper are dismissed after offering

	Date	Teacher		Helper
	1	Cathy Lotz		Criss Evans
	8	Cathy Lotz		Cheryl Gipson
	15	15 Cathy Lotz		Alicia Simms
	22	Cathy Lotz		Donna Vickroy
•	29	FAMILY SUNDAY		



Communion Meditation

May 1

Ryan Schmidt

May 8

Steve Allison

May 15

Don Vickroy

May 22

Wayne Lotz

May 29

Teresa Garcia

Greeters

Please sign up for a Sunday that works for your family! Welcome people, direct them to the sanctuary, nursery, or rest rooms if needed, and hand out bulletins.

Church Building Cleaners /

Mike & Becki Winger Randy & Sarah Denekas Roger & Connie Curry



New sign-up sheets are in the lobby. Please sign up for a Sunday that works best for you! Provide breakfast treats and help serve coffee and cleanup between Sunday School and Worship.

	May				2	022
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM COFFEE TIME 10:15AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:45AM MAY DAY	TEACHER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST Exercise Class – 12pm Evangelism/ Missions 6:30pm All Depts. 7pm U of I Home	3 Men's Study 9am Worship Team 6:30pm Basketball 5-8pm	4 Kids Club 3-5pm Impact 4-5pm Small Groups Port Byron –6pm Geneseo – 6pm	Dog Training – 1pm NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER	6 Stamping Club (Bev Skelton) 9am-12pm	7
	Extension 7-9pm		14/			
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM COFFEE TIME 10:15AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:45AM HAPPY MOTHER'S	9 Exercise Class – 12pm Church in use Zuma Township Meeting	Men's Study 9am Worship Team 6:30pm Basketball 5-8pm	Kids Club 3-5pm Impact 4-5pm Small Groups Port Byron –6pm Geneseo – 6pm	Elder Meeting 9am Dog Training – 12pm Zuma Home Extension 1:00-4:00pm	13	Women's Coffee
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9:30AM COFFEE TIME 10:15AM WORSHIP SERVICE	Exercise Class – 12pm	Men's Study 9am Worship Team 6:30pm	Kids Club 3-5pm Impact 4-5pm LAST DAY OF KIDS CLUB Small Groups	Dog Training – 1pm		
10:45AM Erie & Riverdale Graduation 1:30pm	E.	Basketball 5-8pm	Port Byron –6pm Geneseo – 6pm			&
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9:30AM COFFEE TIME 10:15AM WORSHIP SERVICE 10:45AM	Exercise Class – 12pm	Men's Study 9am Worship Team 6:30pm Basketball 5-8pm	Small Groups Port Byron –6pm Geneseo – 6pm	Dog Training – 1pm		
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM COFFEE TIME 10:15AM WORSHIP SERVICE	MEMORIAL DAY	31 Men's Study 9am Worship Team 6:30pm Basketball 5-8pm	wisdom,	pens her n and the te	eaching of	
10:45AM POTLUCK LUNCH 12:00PM	Food Pantry Needs	Susketsuii S-Ophi	kindness	is on her	tongue." Proverbs 3	31:26

If you are not able to access the internet on your computer or mobile device, we will be able to download it to a DVD for you. Just contact the church office to obtain a copy.



Website. The sermon will be available in video or audio form on the church's website page

(http://countrysidecc.org)



Facebook.(www.facebook.com/ countrysidecc.org) at 10:45am.



Youtube.(<u>https://www.youtube.</u> com/channel/UCOR73Sgh3zkz<u>p</u> <u>Flu1EtpP-A</u>)







Countryside Christian Church

3817 230th St. N Port Byron, IL 61275