

the

MESSENGER

You are looking for Jesus...

He has risen!

Mark 16:6

COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

APRIL 2025

Sunday Morning Services:

9:30am Sunday School*

10:15am Breakfast

10:45am Worship*

*Nursery is provided

Children's Church (4yrs-4th grade) during Sermon Time

Wednesday Activities:

6:00pm Small Groups

Church Office:

309-523-2834

Church Email:

cccportbyron@gmail.com

Church Website:

www.countrysidecc.org



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." 1 Cor. 15:58

Elders: Wayne Lotz
Ryan Schmidt
Jim Kaecker



Easter lilies are a tradition around the world. In many churches, including Countryside, you will see Easter lilies decorating the front of the church on Easter Sunday. Why? Lilies are mentioned somewhat frequently in God's word. What follows is a couple of examples:

"I will be like the dew to Israel; he will blossom like a lily." (Hosea 14:5). When God spoke of giving new life to Israel, He compared it to the blossoming lily.

Look at this example then from the New Testament: "Consider how the lilies grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these" (Luke 12:27).

Again, when the Lord Jesus wanted to express a type of life that only God is able to produce, He used the lily as His example. Solomon had an impressive man-made grandeur, but lilies – says Jesus, are created by God and far "out dress" even Solomon in all his splendor. With attention grabbing consistency, the lily in scripture, represents the life that may only be given by God.

How incredibly fitting then that lilies have become the favored Easter flower. Paul wrote, "what you sow does not come to life unless it dies." 1 Cor 15:36 And so, "Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures..." 1 Cor 15:3-4. Like the lily bulb, He was buried and like the lily, He rose on Easter morning giving us the new life that only God can produce. "...unless you believe that I am he you will die in your sins." Jn 8:24 Unless you believe I am who? The one and only Son sent from the Father who died for your sins - that's who. This is the precious promise of Easter, "Because I live, you also will live." Jn 14:19

Repent of your sin and put your trust in Christ alone who died and was raised that you might live. Praise God for new life found only in Christ.

YOU ARE NEEDED



GIVE BLOOD

Saturday, April 12th

7:30am – 11:30am

Appointments can be made online by scanning the QR code or with Connie Curry at the church.

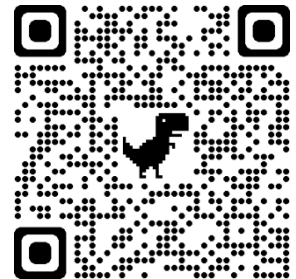
Last day to donate to be eligible for this blood drive is February 12th.

BLOOD DRIVE



**GIVE THE
GIFT OF**
Life

**DONATE TO SAVE
A LIFE TODAY!**



ImpactLife

PANTRY DAYS FOR RRCC

Sarah Denekas, Education Chair

Each year we help support Rock River Christian Camp in many ways. One of these ways is through "Pantry Days". Please read the letter below and help us collect apple pie filling for camp this year! Our goal is to have them collected by the end of May. You can bring them to church and set them on the front table. Information about this year's camps will be posted in next month's newsletter!



Dear Countryside Christian Church,

For many years, we have asked our member churches to help with Pantry Days, which helps stock the camp with items for the upcoming year.

This year, for Pantry Days, we are asking for you to collect Apple Pie Filling or money for us to purchase them. The goal amount would be 75 Cans.

If you collect the pie filling, please let us know when we can expect it or when we can find a time to come pick it up from you. We want items or money to be collected and to camp by June 6th. Collecting can continue beyond that point, as we will continue to need items throughout the summer and fall months if you cannot collect them until later. If you cannot collect this year, please let us know so we can plan to get this item for camp a different way.

Thank you for your continued support. We pray that God will do great things through you and this camp in 2025. We will be in touch soon with summer camp materials. Registration is open online for campers to begin registering for camp! If you have leaders who would like to get involved in camp this summer, we would love to talk to them and get them involved.

Thank you again for all your help! If you have questions about this, please do not hesitate to reach out to us at 815-493-6622 or rrccoffice@gmail.com.

Thank you again for all your help!
Rock River Christian Camp Staff

*"And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony."
Colossians 3:14*

CARING & SHARING IN A FEW WEEKS

Georgia Cullison, Evangelism Chair

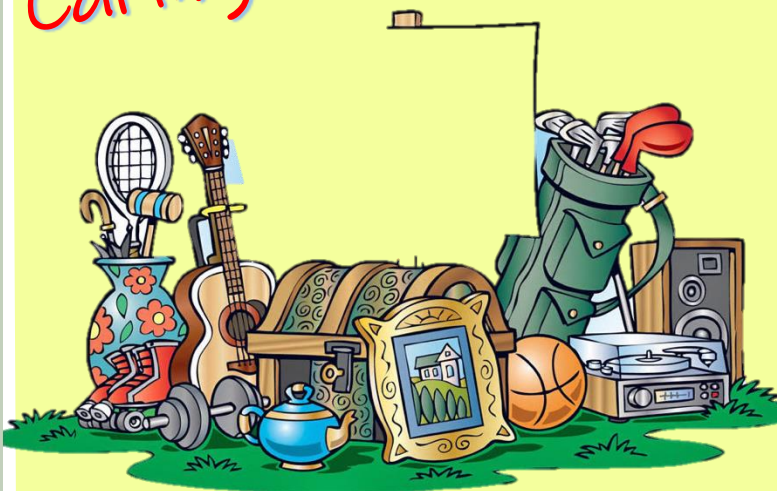


Free Community Giveaway Day

EVERYTHING IS FREE!

SATURDAY,
MAY 3RD
9AM-12PM

Caring & Sharing



3817 230TH ST.
PORT BYRON, IL
309-523-2834
www.countrysidecc.org

CLOTHING,
HOUSEWARE & TOY
DISTRIBUTION

"That the Creator himself comes to us and becomes our ransom — this is the reason for our rejoicing."
—Martin Luther

SPRING VOLLEYBALL EVENT

Criss Evans, Fellowship Chair



⚡ Volleyball ⚡ Event

COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

April 27th

12:00pm Lunch and Check-In

1:00pm Games Begin

Register Today!

www.countrysidecc.org



MISSION HIGHLIGHT: Food Pantry

by Connie Curry

Countryside supports our local food pantry located at Messiah Lutheran Church 302 - 11th Street Port Byron. The food pantry serves residents located in the Riverdale School district. It is open on Wed. from noon until 2:00 P.M. Families are eligible to obtain food once a month.

Some of the specific needs include all paper products, tooth brushes and toothpaste, soup (not chicken noodle), spaghetti sauce, canned corn, canned pastas, syrup, canned meats, hamburger helper, peanut butter, macaroni and cheese and of course money. Cleaning products are also needed as they cannot be purchased with the SNAP cards. Ground beef has been donated so grocery items that can be used with the ground beef are helpful. The financial donations can purchase more food items from the food co-op per dollar than an individual can purchase at the grocery store. Non-perishable food items are stored in the pantry space provided by the church.

Summer is coming and the kids will be out of school where they have been getting free breakfasts and lunches. This will create a bigger need for groceries to feed these growing bodies. Grocery prices and other living expenses are increasing for families so money for food items is shrinking. Several local companies have had job layoffs recently so family incomes are being challenged. The food pantry is one way for Countryside to support the needs of our local community.



On the last visit to donate items, they let us know that their shelves are very bare now and the need continues to increase! Please remember them as you are shopping or cleaning out shelves at home. All non perishable food items, cleaning products, and paper products are needed. You can bring them with you any Sunday to church. There is a drop off box in the lobby. Thank you!

PAINTING THE GYM AND YARDWORK

Steve Allison, Property Department Chair

Did you ever see such happy people with a paintbrush in their hand? Thank you to one of our Wednesday night small groups for painting the gym this month! We appreciate your hard work!



Also, a huge thank you to Roger and Connie Curry who spent a day raking leaves out of the flowerbeds and yard of the church!

And, also, thank you to the men who spent their Saturday doing work around the church: raking gravel, spreading mulch, and doing some exterior painting. We appreciate you!

A
Spud-tacular
SENIORS
LUNCHEON!

Baked Potato Bar

SAT, APRIL 26TH 12:00PM



Potatoes will be provided. Please watch for a sign-up sheet in the lobby to help provide the toppings.

COUNTRYSIDE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE (309-523-2834) OR DENNIS AND KIM FORD

*"That the Creator himself comes to us and becomes our ransom — this is the reason for our rejoicing."
—Martin Luther*

THANK YOU JESUS FOR THE BLOOD

Ryan Schmidt, Worship Chair

Have you ever sat down and written out your testimony?

You have a story of how you encountered the grace of God, were transformed by Jesus' death on the cross, and became a new creation because of the resurrection of Jesus. One of the most encouraging things for my faith is to listen to other people share about their life before Jesus, how they encountered Jesus, and how they've been transformed by Jesus.

A song that we love to sing as a worship team is "Thank You Jesus for the Blood" by Charity Gayle. The song begins echoing the words of "Amazing Grace" by describing in honest language who we are before we meet Jesus' grace.

*"I was a wretch
I remember who I was
I was lost, I was blind
I was running out of time"*

But Gayle doesn't stop in meditating on her life before Christ. She dives deeply into what Jesus did for each of us on the cross, singing with gratitude and wonder.

*"Thank you Jesus for the blood applied
Thank you Jesus, it has washed me white
Thank you Jesus, You have saved my life
Brought me from the darkness into glorious light"*

The chorus echoes the words of Jesus' beloved disciple, John, from his first epistle. *"But if we are living in the light, as God is in the light, then we have fellowship with each other, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, cleanses us from all sin."*

Gayle shared about why she sings with such gratitude and wonder. *"The more life I live, the more I'm thankful for that precious blood of the Lamb...I've messed up and made plenty of mistakes, but I am so thankful and grateful that Jesus bled, died and rose again so that we may have eternal life with Him, the Holy God, righteous and blameless even though we aren't perfect."*



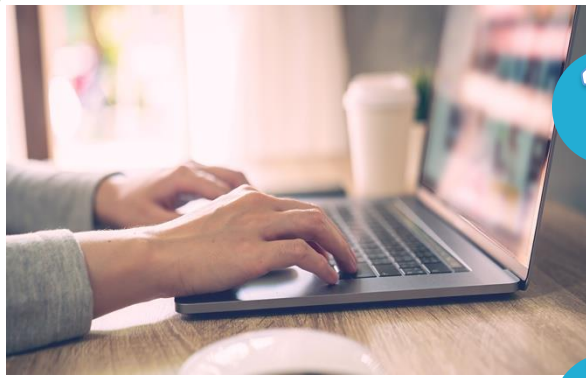
So, let's go back to the question which started this devotional. When's the last time you considered your testimony? Have you lost your sense of awe and wonder at the work of Jesus in your life?

If it's been a long time since you revisited your own testimony or if you're struggling with your sense of passion for the power of God in your life, then I encourage you to take five minutes today and give your complete attention to the lyrics of "Thank You Jesus for the Blood." Charity Gayle has written a beautiful modern hymn for the church and her lyrics rehearse the story we all share.

I pray that this song reminds you how the Blood of the Lamb and the word of your testimony can defeat any adversity in your life today!

OUR GIVING THIS MONTH

FOUR WAYS TO GIVE



1

Mail-In

Mail in your offering directly to our church office at the address below:

Countryside Christian Church
3817 230th St. N
Port Byron, IL 61275

2

Online Giving

Visit online at: www.countrysidecc.org to use our giving website directly.

3

Mobile Giving

Use our Church App to give on your mobile device. Scan the QR code below to add to your phone.

4

Drop Off or In Person

Visit our church office and use our drop box located in the church lobby.

GIVING

2024-2025

Offering Budget

(Starting 10/1/2024):

\$57,512

YTD Actual:

\$76,758

FAITH PROMISE

2024-2025 Mission Year

(Starting 5/1/2024)

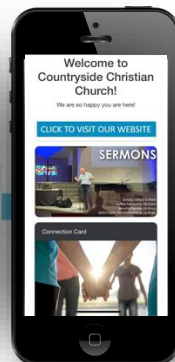
Faith Promises Goal:

\$42,000

YTD Actual:

\$30,291

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- ✓ Online Giving
- ✓ Member Directory
- ✓ Important Updates
- ✓ Upcoming Events
- ✓ Sermons
- ✓ Weekly Podcast

Scan the QR Code to
download the app



April BIRTHDAYS

Morgan Rutledge	4/1
Jason Collis	4/2
Joe Heydeman	4/2
Tim Smith	4/3
Ken Wainwright	4/4
Jeri Chasek	4/10
Donald, J.R. Bird	4/12
Evan Schumpert	4/12
Kareena Holderman	4/13
Becky Collis	4/14
Jerry Dufur	4/20
Paul LaRoy Mikles	4/21
Clara Jones	4/23
Michelle Paxton	4/24
Chris Biscontine	4/25
Roger Curry	4/27
Levi Olesen	4/27
Criss Evans	4/29

April ANNIVERSARIES

Brian & Dawn Tiesman	4/8
Roger & Connie Curry	4/10
Jerry & Nancy Dufur	4/19
Landry & Rachel Creen	4/26
Logan & Callie Heydeman	4/28



VOLUNTEERS THIS MONTH

Children's Ministry

Sunday School (9:30-10:15)		Worship* (10:45-12:00)							
		Nursery			Children's Church				
Date	Nursery	Date	Leader	Helper		Leader	Helper		
		*Children's Church Teacher & helper are dismissed from service after the worship communion / offering							
		*Nursery workers are scheduled for the entire church service from 10:40-12:00							
April									
6	Becki Winger		6	Mikah Mikles	Becky Collis		6	Cathy Lotz	Connie Van Oosten
13	Cathy Lotz		13	Sarah Denekas	Amber Miller		13	Cathy Lotz	Kim Ford
20	Mikah Mikles		20	Mikah Mikles	Rachael Creen		20	Cathy Lotz	Alicia Simms
27	Sarah Denekas		27	Sarah Denekas	Cathy Lotz		27	Cathy Lotz	Naomi Jones

Worship Ministry

COMMUNION MEDITATION

April 6 – Ryan Schmidt
 April 13 – Wayne Lotz
 April 20 – Jim Kaecker
 April 27 – Larry Van Oosten

GREETERS

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

Breakfast

VOLUNTEERS



*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 clean-up between Sunday School and Worship.*

Church BUILDING CLEANERS

Please see the sign up sheet in the lobby











"Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.' Matthew 9:37-38"

VOLUNTEERS THIS MONTH



2025 APRIL

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am	2 Small Groups Port Byron –6pm Geneseo – 6pm	3	4 Stamping Club (Bev Skelton) 9am-12pm	5 Men's Breakfast 9:00am 
6 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM BREAKFAST 10:15AM WORSHIP 10:45AM	7 Evangelism/ Missions 6:30pm All Depts. 7pm	8 Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am	9 Small Groups Port Byron –6pm Geneseo – 6pm	10 Zuma Home Extension 1:00-4:00pm Senior Ice Cream Party/Egg Filling 6pm	11	12 ANNUAL BLOOD DRIVE 7:30-11:30 
13  SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM BREAKFAST 10:15AM WORSHIP 10:45AM	14	15 Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am	16 Small Groups Port Byron –6pm Geneseo – 6pm	17	18 GOOD FRIDAY URICMA SERVICE @ Church of the Cross  <i>Good Friday</i>	19
20 EASTER SUNDAY  BREAKFAST 9:45AM EGG HUNT 10:20AM WORSHIP 10:45AM	21	22 Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am	23 Small Groups Port Byron –6pm Geneseo – 6pm	24	25	26 Senior Potluck 12:00pm 
27 SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30AM BREAKFAST 10:15AM WORSHIP 10:45AM Spring Volleyball Event – 12pm  VOLLEYBALL  Food Pantry Needs	28	29 Men's Study 9am Women's Study 9am	30 Small Groups Port Byron –6pm Geneseo – 6pm	"But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay." – Matthew 28:5-6 