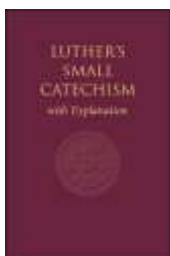


## Begin 2012 By Taking Time to Study God's Word

### Sunday Morning Studies

8:15 a.m. Room 201

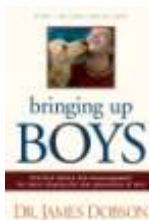


Luther 500 Years Later: Catechism & **Today's Society**

Join us starting January 22 thru May to study Luther's Small Catechism and its application to daily life. The class, led by Stein Cass, will use a combination of video and leader-facilitated discussion to provide insight into the following topics:

- Increased understanding of Christian/Lutheran morality
- How to address Lutheran beliefs in today's context
- Discussion of current events and societal challenges to public use of Catechismal teachings (e.g. Tebowing and the NFL)
- Growth of understanding and application of the Catechism for adults

9:20 a.m. Room 206



Parenting: Bringing up Boys  
DADS! You will not want to miss Dr. **Dobson's comments on raising boys.** You were a boy! You may be raising a boy. Dobson has a powerful message for you. Moms invited too! Led by Kevin Hischke

9:20 a.m. Room 201

January 1: The Real St. Nick

Starting January 8: The Book of John

*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (John 1:1)*

### Wednesday Morning Men's Study

This group meets at 8:30 a.m. — finishing up a study on Islam. Watch the announcements for details on the next subject!

### Tuesday Evening Women's Study

**Beth Moore's "Mercy Triumphs":**

Women are invited to come along with Beth Moore on a journey to get to know both the man and the Book of James. You will never be the same again.

This study is 8 sessions and begins Tuesday, January 10th, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Contact Terri Miller, 303-469-3521, if you have questions. Sign up at the Information Center.



### LifeLight: Wednesday & Thursday



The next LifeLight session will be a 9 week study of the Book of Job starting the first week of January.

The Wednesday morning group meets from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. starting January 4 and the Thursday evening group meets from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. starting on January 5. Sign up now at the Information Center. Contact the church office for more information.

### Thursday Morning Women's Study

Brave Honest Questions Women Ask: Grow in faith so you can rely on God to be brave thru the challenges you face in everyday life. This is a DVD based study. Starting January 5, this study meets Thursday Mornings, 9:00—11:00 a.m. Contact Lynda

Kluth or Stacy Nickels for more information, 303-469-3521. This study will be finished at the end of January, **and the next class will be Beth Moore's "Mercy Triumphs,"** the study of the book of James.



## Respond in Love

Reactions are different from responses. If someone yells at you, you might react by raising your voice. If someone is unkind to you, your immediate reaction might be to **retaliate in the same way you've been treated**.

A response is different because it includes a momentary pause and reflection on the many possible actions or non-actions that could be taken. If someone yells, you might respond in silence or with a gentle voice. Jesus wants us to respond, and not react:

Matthew 5:44 *"But I [Jesus] say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."*

**Consider how some people respond to God's love for them in Christ Jesus. When Jesus healed ten men with the terrible disease of leprosy, nine reacted by going to the priest so they could be readmitted into society. One leper responded by returning to give Jesus thanks and to praise God.**

God did not simply react to our sin and immediately condemn us but instead He responded to our need by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, as our Savior.

**Some people react to God's blessings in their lives by gladly receiving the gift but completely ignoring the Giver of the gift. How can we live lives of loving response that would please our Father God?**

Thankfulness and worship probably top the list. Like the healed leper, we who have been healed of our sin, should respond with grateful hearts and lives, praising God for His goodness.

**Following His commands, especially the Ten Commandments, would be a logical response to God's goodness.**

God also gives us a very practical way to show our love for Him by showing love to other people.

**This year at Risen Savior Lutheran Church we will be focusing on how we can lovingly respond to God's love in all areas of our lives**

In Christ,  
Pastor Phil

[pastorphil@rslc.org](mailto:pastorphil@rslc.org)



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## Did You Know?

**Risen Savior's**  
website is getting a  
new look in 2012.



In the meantime, the current website is still available.

You can access the current weekly announcements, events, and the monthly newsletter.

Also, most current events are located on the front page, and are linked to more details about the event.

Youth forms are available on the website as well.

[www.rslc.org](http://www.rslc.org)

## Pastor Oakes Extends An Invitation...Come see "Together For Good"

This month is typically celebrated by many churches as Life Month or Sanctity of Life Month. Risen Savior Lutheran Church will be hosting a special event on January 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. We will be showing the movie *Together For Good* which was written by Pastor Dave Ahlman of Peace Lutheran Church in Arvada. This movie deals with the issue of unplanned pregnancy and explores adoption as an option to care for both the baby and the parents. It follows a couple and their journey of adoption. You may even notice some Risen Savior members in the movie!

This event is being hosted by both the Board of Youth and Stephen Ministry. The youth as well as the rest of the congregation are invited to attend this event. After the movie there will be a discussion on the issues raised by the movie. There will also be an opportunity to support children as well as new parents by giving material donations to Lutheran Family Services. Please see below for more details.

I hope you take the time to attend this wonderful event. Adoption holds a special place in my heart. Not only are many members of Risen Savior Lutheran Church adopted, but my wife and I are currently adopting. We are adopting through Lutheran Family Service. At this time we are approved and waiting, which means we are waiting to be matched to a birth mother.

Please use this month to pray for those that are considering adoption for their unborn child, those who are adopted, those adopting, and all our parents. We all have been adopted by our Heavenly Father.

*"But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons."*  
Galatians 4:4-5

In Christ,  
Pastor Ryan  
[pastorryan@rslc.org](mailto:pastorryan@rslc.org)



### Baby Items Needed for Lutheran Family Services

During the month of January baby items will be collected for Lutheran Family Services.

You can help by providing:

- diapers (all sizes)
- wipes
- baby bath products
- sleepers or onesies (all sizes)

All items must be new and in sealed packages.



Drop off your donations in the box provided across from the Information Center.



### Masada Mini Series

Thursday nights, January 5 through January 26, 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.

We will watch this mini-series and talk about the upcoming trip to Israel. Even if you are just thinking about joining the Israel trip, this is a fun movie night. Sign up at the Information Center.

In the first century A.D., Flavius Silva commander of the Roman Tenth Legion in Palestine, leads his forces in combat against the remaining Jewish Zealots who have taken refuge in the seemingly impregnable fortress of Masada. There, the engineering and military might of Rome faces the passion and ingenuity of Eleazer ben Yair and his people.

### RISEN SAVIOR IN ISRAEL

You are invited to join Pastor Oakes and Terri Miller in a CUSTOMIZED 12 DAY TOUR OF ISRAEL  
January 8<sup>th</sup> through January 19, 2013

## Youth Ministry

### Senior High Youth

Every Wednesday from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

In January we will continue our  
Movie Clip Discussions!

### Senior Youth Night: **TOP CHEF** January 6

Senior Youth's next Seven/Eleven Night is scheduled for January 6, from 7:00—11:00 p.m. Get ready for.....TOP CHEF! Come prepared to be creative with food. Also plan to play an epic game of NEON TAG! Sign up at the Information Center!

Risen Savior Youth Ministries  
has a Facebook page.

[www.facebook.com/YouthMinistriesatRisenSaviorLutheranChurch](http://www.facebook.com/YouthMinistriesatRisenSaviorLutheranChurch)



### Youth Quake: April 20-22, 2012

Youth Quake is a weekend long "lock-in" at a local hotel for middle school people. Youth from the 6<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> grades are invited to participate. Registration Forms are available at the Information Center or online at [www.rslc.org](http://www.rslc.org), youth tab/middle school. The deadline to register at the \$55 rate lasts until 2/8/12 after which your rate climbs to \$70 until 2/29/12, and finally thereafter the rate goes to \$85.



### Middle School Youth

Mondays, January 9th & 23rd

From 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Bring \$3 for pizza.

### Parents of 2012 Confirmands

Plan to attend the meeting on Wednesday, January 11<sup>th</sup>, at 7pm to discuss the details of confirmation including banners, flowers, pictures, etc.

### Youth Collect For Broomfield FISH



On December 7th, 15 Senior Youth Group members went to the streets of McKay Landing (across from church) and collected items for those in need. The neighborhood was very generous, and the teams came back with 273 pounds of food and personal hygiene items. The youth also handed out Risen Savior's Christmas postcards and invited our neighbors to worship. The youth had so much fun and were so excited with the outcome that they plan to spend an entire day collecting in the near future.



## Alpha/New Member Information

### Alpha 2012 is NEW!

*Alpha is NEW for 2012!* Alpha will be hosted in member's homes beginning this February. Groups of 10 to 12 people each will do *Alpha Basic* for 7 weeks. This new setting is designed to promote a closer relationship among the guests, including invited friends, family members, neighbors or work colleagues. Each home group will decide the best night to meet – and the courses will run for a short 7-week period.

Here are the key dates to remember . . . .

*Information evening* will be held on Tuesday, January 24, at the church from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. for those interested in hosting an Alpha home group or are interested in facilitating the discussion time.

*Invitation to Alpha* will preview the course on Sunday, January 29, at the church starting at 5:30 p.m. If you are interested in signing up for a home group, come to *Invitation to Alpha!*

*Alpha Basic* starts the week of February 5 and finishes the week of March 18.

Plan now to join Alpha in 2012 – a great New Year resolution!

If you would like to host an Alpha course in your home, please contact the church office, or sign-up at the Information Desk.

Watch for more information on Alpha starting this month! COME AND SEE!



## Membership and Connecting at Risen Savior Lutheran Church



*Link* Attend *Link*. This session with the Senior Pastor is designed to give you more **information about Risen Savior Lutheran Church; it's past, present, and future.** *Link* is a pre-requisite to membership, however, attending does not obligate you to join. The next *Link* session is Saturday, January 7, 9:00-10:30 a.m.



*Connect* Next, you are invited to attend *Connect*. These 4 small group sessions have been designed to help you connect in fellowship and faith within Risen Savior. Members from activities within Risen Savior Lutheran Church will visit *Connect* to **share what's happening in that ministry.** **You'll be invited to connect with the activities that most interest you.** The next *Connect* starts **Sunday, February 12, at 9:20 a.m.** All new members who've not yet attended *Connect*, please join us!

## Dig Deeper at Risen Savior Lutheran Church



*Discover* **What do Lutherans believe? Learn what it is to be "confirmed in the faith."** Led by Pastor Oakes, this 7 week class is for those who want to understand what we believe, teach, and confess in our Christian life. This class leads to adult confirmation, but is for all who want to dig deeper, new and seasoned believers alike. This class started Saturday, December 3 and continues through January on Saturdays from 9:00-11:00 a.m. Feel free to jump in at any time!

Registration is required for *Link*, *Connect*, and *Discover*. For information or registration, contact Robin Duclos in the church office at [rduclos@rslc.org](mailto:rduclos@rslc.org) or 303-469-3521 ext 20.

### I See A Smile Coming

I love hearing laughter – God does too!

Genesis 17 <sup>15</sup>*God also said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you are no longer to call her Sarai; her name will be Sarah. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations... <sup>19</sup>Then God said, ... <sup>19</sup>I will establish my covenant with him as an everlasting covenant for his descendants after him.... Gen 18:12a So Sarah laughed...*



What brings laughter to your world? Did you know that laughter follows a good hearty smile? Of the things that make you smile do, these things help you thank God? When I get to smile at children and their views on life, when I see confident Christ centered families, I feel good.

Smiles bring safe feelings to a scared child. Smiles bring confidence to a spouse who thinks you are lost and smiles welcome a stranger and even good news.

**When God announced to Abraham, that he would have a son with his 90 year old wife, I’m sure Abraham smiled. Sarah had her name changed from Sarai (pronounced “Sorry”) to a name that mean’s “She laughed.” The Savior of nations (from their sins) promised to Adam and Eve was now re-announced to arrive from the family of Abraham and Sarah. Was this good news, or was the news unbelievable to Sarah? I’m not sure, but she laughed, so she smiled.**

Families that laugh also smile. Have you sat with your family and had a good old laugh-fest? **It’s a good thing to do.** You feel so much better afterward. More oxygen fills the body. You take a healthy risk with your family and you draw closer. I know nothing more important at bedtime for a child than prayers and a good laugh or a smile. I think God knows it too.

What happens to communities and congregations that laugh? They have a more future focused attitude. They find togetherness when they can smile together and potentially put aside in-fighting. When Broncos fans hear the name Tebow, they smile. Maybe from the confidence and faith he displays or maybe from the hype in the name.

**I can’t imagine that when God finished creating the world on day six, He didn’t smile. He did say His creation was very good.**

May I challenge you to count the things this year at Risen Savior that make you smile?

**I’ll get started on my list:**

- ⇒ Seeing families sitting together in church.
- ⇒ When parents help a child through a worship service, guiding the words of a song or a prayer
- ⇒ **The Cornerstone Guys on Saturday mornings...**
- ⇒ The news that the work on the basement is going to get underway.

Your Director of Family Life,

Kevin Hischke, DCE  
[khischke@rslc.org](mailto:khischke@rslc.org)

### The Basement Finish

The Basement Finish Committee has submitted plans to the City & County of Broomfield and has applied for a building permit. We expect the process to proceed this month.

**Risen Savior’s wonderful Finish Committee has over 20 very talented people, all being led by Gary Rekow as chairman.** If you have questions about the progress, Gary or Kevin Hischke will be happy to visit with you about the project.

## Stewardship

### 2012: The Year of Stewardship

From Genesis to Revelation, the doctrine of stewardship weaves its way through Scripture. Adam was the first steward. In Genesis 1:28 God says, ***“Be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.”***

It is God, the Creator of everything perfect in the beginning, who will recreate everything perfect in the end.

In the King James Version, one translation of a steward is *a responsible agent*. In Webster, one definition is *a supervisor or administrator, as in finance, representing someone else*. What does God expect of mankind? That we will administrate His countless blessings and that we will be His responsible agents, representing Him on earth. God makes us His stewards and we are His new creation each day. The Lord is the Source of all stewardship, and mankind is expected to be stewards over all areas of life.

**From this we see that we have been entrusted with life’s resources. We have been given the privilege of responsibly and joyfully managing these for the Lord. We are encouraged to properly manage all of God’s resources for His will and purposes. We are expected to be Biblical stewards. God wishes us to be cheerful, first fruit, proportionate giving in all of life.**

Our Lord and Savior said in Luke 12:42, ***“Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his Lord will make ruler over his household.”***

But as stewards, we must recognize that we are sinners who must fight sin daily. We must realize that our lives as **stewards are personal responses to God and His love for us. The Gospel transforms stewards’ attitudes toward their responsibilities, the decisions they make, and their activities. These attitudes are not limited to the church, but span the Christians stewards’ whole life. Christians should recognize that their stewardship represents a Gospel-powered style of life that is demonstrated by serving in all arenas of life.**

Service done for the benefit of the community at large is also an act of Christian stewardship. Christian stewards adopt the attitude of a servant in relationship with others, and serve them with personal acts of kindness and compassion, as well as with financial gifts. What we as Christian stewards decide to do or not do has long range consequences. Good stewards pursue good planning for the present and future. They find happiness in knowing that what they do today **has lasting benefits. Christian stewards extend God’s kingdom here and now as well as in the future.**

Respectfully submitted,

John Elverum, Don Stoehr, and Vince Van Zago, the Board of Stewardship

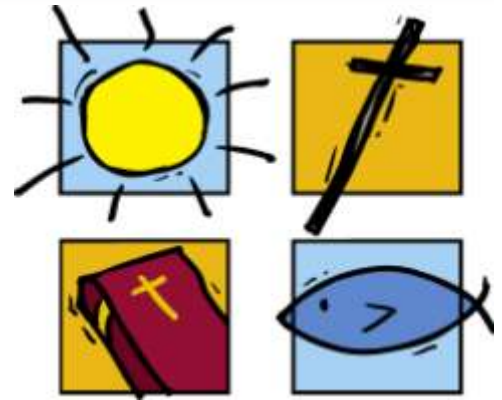


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*2012 is the Year of Stewardship*

*Let our prayer be that we can carry out our responsibilities as*  
***God’s agents with renewed enthusiasm, cheerfulness, and***  
*love.*

*You are invited to attend...*  
All Ministry Partner Training  
Saturday, January 28  
9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.  
Lunch included!  
Please sign up at the Information Center



**Presenters:**

Pastor Ryan Oakes

Kevin Hischke, DCE, Director of Family Life

Terri Miller, Director of Children's Ministry

You are highly encouraged to attend if you:

- Teach or assist with children ministry
- Lead adults, youth groups or any classes

Learn how to:

- Answer those crazy questions
- Apply Bible events to their life
- Make disciples of every child, youth and adult

## The Bible According to Kids

Children say the funniest things about Scripture.  
Here are a few examples:

- "In the first book of the Bible, God got tired of creating the world, so he took the Sabbath off."
- "Moses led the Hebrews to the Red Sea, where they made unleavened bread which is bread without any ingredients."
- "The Egyptians were all drowned in the dessert. Afterward, Moses went up on Mount Cyanide to get the Ten Amendments."
- "The greatest miracle in the Bible is when Joshua told his son to stand still and he obeyed him."
- "When Mary heard that she was the mother of Jesus, she sang the Magna Carta."

## 2012 Music Camp:

**"All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir."**

June 4<sup>th</sup> through June 7<sup>th</sup>



The camp is open to children 4 years old through 6<sup>th</sup> grade.

In addition to exploring the fundamentals of music and puppeteering, playing handbells and singing, campers will also learn to square dance. Space is limited, so be sure to sign up early.

Registration will begin in April. Watch for more information in the future. If interested in volunteering, please contact Marcin Arendt, 303-469-3521 or [marendt@rslc.org](mailto:marendt@rslc.org).

## Women's Ministry/Thank yous

### Risen Savior Women's Retreat

March 16—18, 2012

At the Franciscan Retreat Center in  
Colorado Springs, CO

Registration to begin January 8, 2012

This women's retreat will center around the "Loving Well" video series by well-known Christian speaker and author, Beth Moore. We will discuss how some people are a joy to love, some are difficult to love, and how we all deal with some people who are humanly impossible to love. In all of those relationships one truth endures: we will never be able to love others well until we have been loved well. And only God can ultimately give us the complete love we so desperately need.



COST: \$130 (includes 2 nights lodging and all meals)

SPACE IS LIMITED!

Call the church office with questions, or visit the display table in the Fellowship Center.



### Chinese Take Out Dinner is Tuesday, January 17th

Dinner will be at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Center. Come and enjoy a great dinner from Pearl Wok Restaurant and hear the exciting highlights of the Cambodia mission trip. Teen girls are especially encouraged to join us to see pictures of the children that received our bead craft packets assembled at the October meeting. Please sign up at the Information Center by Sunday, January 15, 2012. The cost will be \$6.00 per person to be collected at the dinner. If you have any questions please call the church office.



Thank you to everyone that donated to the Military Care Packages! One box was received in Afghanistan on Thanksgiving Day! Please keep our service men and women in your thoughts and prayers.

Keep the Mite donations for mission grants rolling in! Leave full boxes at the Information Center and don't forget to pick up an empty one. There is also a small acrylic box for pocket change located at the Information Center. Each small gift added together raises millions of dollars to spread the joy of Jesus around the world!

### Praise and Work It for Women

Tuesdays, 6:00—7:00 p.m. in the West Wing 1.

Low Impact Aerobics to contemporary Christian music.

Bring water! No experience necessary.

Contact the church office with questions.

## Stephen Ministry/Senior Ministry

### Stephen Ministry is Here For You

*"Good people are taken away, but no one understands. Those who do right are being taken away from evil and are given peace. Those who live as God wants find rest in death."*

Isaiah 57: 1-2

In this season of celebration, giving and sharing, there can also be an underlying feeling of sadness as we contemplate those who are no longer with us to share this wonderful time of the year. The grief and sorrow of those losses can return in a moment and overshadow the joy you feel during Christmas. Why is grief so strong and why does it linger? Because you are dealing with more than memories, you are dealing with un-lived tomorrows and anger over the loss.

God wants you to face your sorrow and not deny or dismiss it. But you don't have to face this alone. There are Stephen Ministers ready to walk this path with you and to help you find comfort. If you or a loved one would like to speak with a Stephen Minister, please call 303-469-3521.



### Fish Dinner for Orphan Grain Train

Sunday, January 22 at Noon

This Fish Dinner is a fundraiser for Orphan Grain Train sponsored by Risen Savior's Young at Heart. All free-will donations will benefit the Orphan Grain Train.

For planning purposes, please sign up at the Information Center.

Orphan Grain Train is a Christian volunteer network that shares personal and material resources with needy people in America and around the world. Grain Train volunteers gather donations of clothing, medical supplies, food, Christian literature, and other aid to meet real needs worldwide. The Orphan Grain Train movement is a loving response to Jesus Christ's example as a servant and His love for us.

If you are unable to attend the dinner and would like to make a donation to this organization, please use the drop box at the Information Center. Please make checks payable to "Orphan Grain Train."

### Young at Heart Potluck

January 11 at Noon

All Seniors (55 and older) are invited to come for the monthly gathering. Please bring a dish to share.

Sylvia Doolos will speak to the group regarding "Family History & HER-story". Her presentation will explore easy ways to record and share your family's history, use free resources and tools to tell your story your way, and motivate other family members to join in the process. This is something we should do for our kids, grandkids, and for ourselves!

A follow up session for interested members of the congregation is scheduled to further explore free internet tools from Sylvia's "Genealogists Toolbox". These are tools that will help you fill in the gaps in your family's story and help you share pictures and memories with family members across the street and around the world.



#### Hosts:

Stan & Kay Moeller  
Pat Rust  
Harvey Spomer

#### Callers:

Liz Cassidy  
Terri Osnes

#### Recyclers:

Bob Mohling  
Bert Kassel

## Music Ministry



### Thank you to Music Groups

For the past several years, the Chancel Choir has adopted a family in need to help out during each Christmas season. In addition to getting presents for each family member, they have supplied such basic needs as clothing and food.

**This year's family was in such great need, to the point that three members of the family were sleeping on the floor due to lack of bedding, that the entire music ministries lent its support.** I just want to applaud all of the groups and leaders for being so generous with the gifts God has given them.

Christmas is an ideal time to explore the depths of our ability to give, but it is important to remember that those in need are still all around us through the year. Thank you to the music groups for being the wonderful people I have come to know and love.

Yours in Christ,  
Marcin Arendt, Director of Music Ministries

[marendt@rslc.org](mailto:marendt@rslc.org)

## Handbell Program Continues to Grow

Ring Christmas Bells ~ Handbell Concert

**The handbell program's first public concert was held on Sunday, December 18.** There were 188 people in attendance and we raised \$700 to support Lutheran Family Services and Risen Savior Lutheran Church's Handbell Program. **This concert was a very special celebration of God's gifts.**

Special Thanks to:

- ♥ All our ringers and their families for their hard work and dedication to the handbell program!
- ♥ Amy Weaver for the beautiful flyers, programs, and marketing of our concert.
- ♥ Marcin Arendt and Daryl Meske for providing technical support with audio and video recording.
- ♥ Thanks to ALL the Bell Parents who helped get the kids ready, serve food, usher, and sell tickets: Kerri Blaes, Terri Miller, Chris Raskay, Jason Kleve, Chris Turner, Linda Corcoran, Kathy Martinez, Mindy Justice, Sadie Rutledge, Kathy Cochran, Jennifer Raskay, Annette Easley, and Sylvia Doolos.
- ♥ Risen Savior congregation for their love and support of our music ministries and handbell program!

Congratulations to Risen Savior Ringers who were invited to perform at the Avaya Company Christmas party on Friday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>. They rang bells for two - thirty minute programs for the employees and their families.

Regular Bell Rehearsals will resume on Tuesday, January 17, 2012!

Grace Notes (2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> gr.) 6:00-6:45 p.m.

Bells of Faith (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> gr.) 6:45-7:30 p.m.

Risen Savior Ringers (High School & Adults) 7:30-8:30 p.m.

If you are interested in joining the bells choirs, please contact Anne Kleve through the church office by January 17.

Risen Savior Ringers will be attending the Northern Colorado Handbell Festival on Saturday, March 10, 2012, at Mountain View Presbyterian Church in Loveland, CO. Watch for more information.



### Cambodia Mission Trip Snapshots

The nine members of the Cambodia mission team have been asked to describe their experiences while traveling in Cambodia and working with the members of Trinity Lutheran Church and School in Battambang. These brief reports will be published in the next several newsletters as space permits. The members of our team are thankful for the prayers and financial support of our mission trip by the members of Risen Savior Lutheran Church. The Mission Team will be giving a slide presentation to the congregation on January 15, 2012, and with Women in Mission on January 17, 2012. If your group would like a tailored presentation, contact Bob Mohling at 303-499-2333.



*Cindy Martin* - It's really hard to know where to begin to tell you all about my trip to Cambodia. The whole trip was so moving. I found our first two days a combination of enjoyment and eye opening sorrow at what the people of this country have gone through and still experience today. The genocide museum and the Killing Field trips **were a real test to my love for God's unconditional forgiveness for all** who turn to Him for forgiveness for our sins.

My time in Battambang was such a rewarding experience. Each day 50–60 participants turned out for music. This group learned the basics of harmony (thank you Becky Arendt for your tips!) and Silent Night in English with harmony in four days! They were so appreciative and each day gave big hugs at the end of our time together. On Sunday

**when we were to perform for the church service, there was no electricity. It didn't matter...they sang beautifully in acapella and we hadn't even practiced that! At the end of the service just as Pastor Kasal was giving the benediction, the electricity came on and the first thing we saw were the lights around the cross light up! It was amazing!**

It was very difficult to see how poor this community is. It was refreshing and humbling to see the smiles on the faces of children and adults each day in spite of the poverty. Their appreciation for the little that we were able to accomplish was overwhelming.

**I said to myself many times..."where do we even start to make a difference?" Then God would touch my heart with Pastor Cameron's sermon about the star fish and he would whisper to my heart..."one fish at a time."**

*Amy Stamp* - Thank you! Thank you! How amazing God was in all that He provided for us to share. The craft projects, thread, the nail clippers, the bibles, the flannel graph, the audio bibles, the yo-yo's, the jump ropes, the crochet crosses, the toothbrushes and toothpaste and the many other items that were given to us to take were so very appreciated by all that we were able to share with. How amazing God is in all that He gave us to do and to remind us that we are called to daily to bring glory to Him. I was so lucky in being given the job of working with the children at Trinity Lutheran School. They were between ages 2 and 20 and came for 3 hours of Bible stories, crafts, songs and games. We taught both a morning class and an afternoon class and had so much fun with the kids. What a joy they were... So we were consistently reminded that God was with us and that we had to walk in the way that He had for us and to trust and obey.



## Outreach & Missions

**Bob Mohling & Paul Fernandez** – No Backseat

Driving....It's a God thing! Our mission team learned in our study of *The Sending Place* video series that **"it is not wise to fly solo as you live your Christian life. All believers need constant prayer support. We are vulnerable to attacks if no one else is asking God to watch over us!"** Thank you for being our prayer warriors during the two-week mission trip!

We worked the week at Trinity with Pastor Kosal, Jesse (our translator), and Chantha (the church custodian) to oversee numerous maintenance and repair projects of the church and school and re-siding of homes for four church member families. Our church/school projects included: filling drive way potholes; bathroom door, lavatory repair, and purchase of a bathroom water tank; contracting for church and school roof repair; purchase of tool kit and ceramic water filters; and scraping rusted window grating.

We found the church members were industrious, creative, and all eager to work. We understand that it is difficult to accomplish many of these repairs with the associated material costs when most members are struggling to meet the basic survival needs of their families. We were impressed with their strong faith in God in spite of their daily situations.

The team worked one day with Cambodia Habitat for Humanity (HfH) in Battambang. HfH is planning a community of 300 homes for many displaced families. We participated in a community education program that addressed the importance of personal hygiene and clean water. In the afternoon we prepared building blocks for a new home. At the conclusion of the HfH project, the home owners will have titles to the home and the property.

**We identified two candidate projects for next year's mission team that include a clean water reservoir /distribution system for the church and school, and introduction of a micro financing system of loans for entrepreneurial business activities for the Trinity members.**



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## A Thinning of Cambodia – Part 9

With the coming of December 1974 and the tapering off of the monsoon rains the Khmer Rouge tightened their cordon of military forces around the capital, Phnom Penh. Now the night sky around Phnom Penh was alive with the flashes and reverberations of exploding artillery shells. They could sense that the end would come, but how soon?

Whether they cared to admit it, or were even consciously aware of it, the Cambodian Christians must have known that Christmas 1974 would be their last opportunity to celebrate the advent of Christ. Thus, the Christmas festivities that year were conducted with great zeal. On each of the Sundays leading up to Christmas, the Christian community gathered at a different city church or center of Christian activity to join with the local congregation in worship and other Christian activities.

The climatic moment came on December 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> when thousands of Christians and the curious filled the indoor arena of Phnom Penh's Olympic Stadium. They were there for a massive display of the message of Christmas through worship and praise, preaching, and the distribution of gifts to hundreds of needy children, and a vivid illustration of the major events in salvation history from Genesis to the second advent. This was accomplished through a series of sixteen beautifully decorated tableaux arranged around the periphery of the indoor arena. Different churches were responsible for each one.

Bethany Church now had a daily prayer meeting from 6:00 to 7:00a.m. and in other places Christians were keeping all-night vigils for prayer and waiting on the Lord. Over sixty percent of the church was now under lay leadership. It was primarily the laity of God who were nurturing the new believers, and in the vanguard of this people movement. More next month....

Roger Maves, Board of Mission & Outreach

## Thank You!

### 59 Thanksgiving Baskets Delivered

I want to give a huge THANK YOU to all of you who spent the time, the effort and money to purchase the thanksgiving baskets, bring them to the church and, for some of you, deliver them to some wonderful families around Denver. I am extremely excited to say that we not only reached our goal of 50 baskets but eclipsed that pushing the amount to almost to 60, and this like every year is proof that the Lord will always provide what is needed.

The large amount of food that was provided was able to get into households that would not normally have had it. It **was here that families were in dire need of assistance and, with God's help, we were able to give them something.** I learned that some of the families had not eaten anything for three or four days and were not expecting anything to eat for Thanksgiving. **They also expressed the children's surprise when they realized that they were going to have a dinner** and even some left overs to have for days to come. These stories never would be getting told if it was not for the generosity of the congregation of Risen Savior. This makes it very apparent as to how much these baskets are appreciated and used.

I want to again thank all of the individuals whom contributed so much time and effort into making this a success again this year. Special thanks to Dr. Marcin Arendt for all of his extra effort and time and to the youth for helping unload baskets. When I started this program I never imagined the kind of generosity that people would display in helping others, and every year this generosity strengthens my faith in God and His plans for all of us. I am now placing a goal of **65 baskets for next year's deliveries, so remember to mark it in your planners and calendars and again thanks for your support.**

Kent Hups



### Thank you to Kent Hups

Back in November, a fantastic yearly initiative led by Kent Hups, Risen Savior member, brought in 59 Turkey Baskets, (laundry hampers filled with everything necessary for a full Thanksgiving dinner), for families in need.

Because of the incredible outpouring of charity from our congregation we collected more baskets than there were enrolled families.

This in turn led Michael Simmons, the director of the program, to make some quick phone calls. The outcome of this was that now several extremely destitute families that were not even in the system have a chance to get help.

Thank you to everyone who gave of their time and resources for this endeavor.

God is good!

Marcin Arendt  
Director of Music Ministries

### Thank You in December

Office Saints: Nancy Altpeter, Dana DeLaCastro, Arnie & Jan Graphenteen, Theresa Gremel, Shirley Martens, Pat Rust, Glenna Fernandez, Kathy Thomas, Peggy Hayden, Claire Duclos, Rae Lee Kleidon, Senior Youth

Recycling Saints: Ignite 56 Committee

Watering Saint: Brad Schierholz

### Christmas Caroling Success - Thanks

Thank you for caroling on December 14. A large group of parents, RSLC youth, and young children walked through our neighborhood community and sang the sounds of Christmas with instrument accompaniment by Anne Kleve and Elizabeth Cooper. Many people stepped out of their doors and some even followed us as we wandered through the neighborhood.

Thank you to the many parents and youth that hosted the Advent dinner and sweets afterwards. You helped us **all get a great start on celebrating Jesus' Birthday.**

Blessings,

Kevin Hischke, Director of Family Life

## Joyful Response Program

The "Joyful Response" automatic giving program is a wonderful way to support the ministries of Risen Savior Lutheran Church.

- It happens automatically to facilitate "first fruits" giving, while retaining flexibility to change with a quick call to the church office.
- Giving can be divided between the General Fund and the Building Fund as you wish.
- Processing costs to the church are less than checks or cash, with higher security.
- In 2011, the number of Joyful Response giving units at Risen Savior increased from 30 to 49.
- Hopefully more members and families will find this an appropriate and convenient method of giving their offerings to Risen Savior.

There are pink Joyful Response "cards" available in the pews for participants who want to place their "Offering" in the collection plates. If interested in participating in the Joyful Response program, stop by the Information Center for a form and further information or contact the church office.

*Joyful  
Response*<sup>®</sup>



## Gift Cards Available at Risen Savior

Visit the SACKS Gift Card table after each worship service to purchase Safeway and King Soopers gift cards. Gift cards are available in \$25, \$50, and \$100 values.

Risen Savior Lutheran Church receives 5 cents on every dollar of Safeway and King Soopers gift cards that are sold through the SACKS program, providing the church orders a minimum bulk amount of \$5,000. That means that for every \$5,000 of gift cards that are sold, \$250 is **deposited to Risen Savior's General Fund**. The annual income from SACKS sales is roughly \$4,500.

Some people have asked if Risen Savior would receive a benefit if individuals would reload their gift card at the grocery store. The answer is NO. If people would reload their cards at the store, then Risen Savior would not be able to meet its minimum bulk order of \$5,000 on a regular basis. Smaller orders yield a smaller return to Risen Savior based on the program as follows:

\$5,000 or more = 5%    Less than \$5,000 = 4%

Less than \$2,500 = 3%    Amounts below \$200 = zero

So to benefit the church, please purchase another card from SACKS after you spend the dollars that are on your current card. Thank you for your support of this easy church fundraiser!

## Building God's House Program

Risen Savior's Building God's House (BGH) program has been a 3 year capital fund campaign from 2008 through 2011. The pledge goal was to raise \$1,021,050 over the 3 year period which would help in part to offset the \$3.4 million dollar cost of the building expansion program. The actual contributions to this fund since 2008 have been \$933,025 or \$88,025 short of our goal. Thank you for your faithful contributions during these economic times!! This three year capital campaign did not cover the total cost of the construction project. Please prayerfully consider continuing to give to the Building Fund in 2012.



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F: [www.facebook.com/RisenSaviorLutheranChurch](https://www.facebook.com/RisenSaviorLutheranChurch)

Risen Savior Lutheran Church is a family of brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ, committed to the inspired Word of God, and dedicated to welcome, accept and love everyone through our Lord and Savior.

#### Sunday Worship

Traditional: 8:00 a.m.

Contemporary: 9:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Sunday School All ages 9:20 a.m.

Rev. Philip J. Cameron, Senior Pastor

Rev. Ryan J. Oakes, Associate Pastor

Kevin Hischke, DCE, Director of Family Life

**Terri Miller, Director of Children's Ministry**

Dr. Marcin Arendt, Director of Music Ministries