

APRIL 2025



Milan Christian Church

Where Faith, Friends, and Family Meet



OUR LEADERSHIP

Britton Rexroat (Minister) – 309-912-8767

Jim Mitchell (Elder) – 563-570-7047

Andy Werner (Elder/Treas) – 309-314-3932

Jim Roggenbauer (Elder/Worship Ldr) – 309-206-3032

Paul Slavish (Bldg & Maint) – 309-314-1807

Ray Litton (Grounds) – 309-236-9414

Newsletter – Jan Pugh, Email: transamram@msn.com

*** WELCOME HOME ***

Our Vision: *The Vision of Milan Christian Church is to strive every day to take the Gospel of Christ to those who need to hear it, to bring them into relationship with Christ through the waters of Christian Baptism, to teach them to become disciples of Christ, and equip and encourage all Christians to live their lives as Christ would live.*

Milan Christian Church



709 Hillcrest Rd.
Milan, IL 61264
309-787-6879



You're Invited to

Easter Services

Sunday, April 20th

8:00am

Worship Unplugged

9:30am

Resurrection Service

The Pious, the Profane and the Perplexed



Easter Sermon Series
Beginning April 6, 2025

BREAKING THE CHAINS OF FEAR - John 20:19-31

By The Rev. Charles Hoffacker, from sermonwriter.com; (Scripture quotations from the World English Bible)

It's strange when you think about it – the disciples spend the evening of Easter Day behind locked doors. Peter and another disciple have seen the empty tomb. Mary Magdalene has spoken with the risen Christ, and she has told the disciples about it. You'd think they would be off celebrating, announcing to anyone who would listen that Jesus is alive again. Instead, they hide out. They act like disciples whose leader is dead.

On the other hand, protecting themselves makes perfect sense. It was only a couple days before that they were traumatized by the death of their leader on a cross. They know that as He was apprehended and executed, so they may be as well. And thus, they wait behind locked doors, as quiet as they can be, fearing every footstep in the street below. And a number of them will die, sooner or later, for their connection with Jesus. This room contains many of the first Christian martyrs.

Whether or not their attitude is justified, it is apparent that fear dominates them. That puts them in the same group with so many other people. Those dominated by fear include many of the people we see around us. These disciples have plenty of company on the evening of the first Easter Day when fear keeps them inside a locked room.

It is to His fearful disciples that the risen Christ chooses to appear. He has passed from life through a gruesome death to a life greater than we can imagine. Why does he appear to such as these?

It might have been out of anger, disappointment, or a desire for revenge. After all, these disciples deserted him. As He hung for hours on the cross, most of them were nowhere to be found. He might have wanted to fix them with a steely gaze and chew them out.

But nothing of the sort happens. He comes back, not concerned for himself, but for them. He senses their profound fear. So, he speaks his peace to them. He shows them his wounds, still apparent on his glorified body. Their fear dissolves, and they rejoice to see Him alive again.

Then He gives them His peace and their mission. He breathes the Holy Spirit on them, and tells them to forgive sins with His authority.

This action is a second creation, an early Pentecost, a commissioning of them for ministry. Their business is to be forgiveness, the reconciliation of humanity with God and each other. The prototype for their work is to be the forgiveness He has given them. From this upstairs room, forgiveness is to spread like wildfire. Set free from fear themselves, they are to help set others free.

Is it remarkable that death could not hold Jesus? Yes! Is it remarkable that fear could not hold his disciples? Yes!

What's in it for us? The promise of our own resurrection at the end of time, and the reality of reconciliation with God and other people here and now. Like the first disciples, we experience Jesus risen from the dead, freeing us from fear of the death that will come at life's end, and freeing us from all the other deathly fears that blight our lives today.

What are these fears we experience? Some are announced in the headlines: illnesses for which no cure is known, a faltering economy, wars and rumors of wars. Other fears are more personal, more private: a bad medical report, a broken marriage, a career that crashes.

We feel fear when there's no money to pay the mortgage. When our child's report card is a disaster. When we come back to find our home broken into, our possessions rifled. When fears flare up in our hearts, it's easy to forget God, and it's time to remember God.

The disciples forgot for a time, there in that upstairs room. We may forget also, but Christ does not forget us. He comes to us with vivid reminders in His feet and hands and side that death, the source of so much fear, has been conquered.

The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. And we also can rejoice, when in the midst of fears, we recognize Christ here with us. It is not that fear is simply swept away; rather, fear no longer dominates our lives. There is one who has shown Himself more powerful, and Him we acknowledge as Lord.

The resurrection stories that conclude the four gospels are a bit of a scramble, testifying to how people come to faith in different ways.

- Thus, the beloved disciple believes when he sees the empty tomb, but it's not clear just what he believes.
- Mary Magdalene believes when the Lord speaks her name, even though, according to Mark's Gospel, her report is not accepted.
- The disciples believe for themselves once Jesus appears alive among them.

Still another example is Thomas. Do you remember this Thomas? Earlier in the gospel story, as Jesus prepares to go to Jerusalem to face the cross, Thomas says, with a note of bravado, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." There's nothing subtle about this guy. And so, when he hears from others that Jesus is back again, he makes his outrageous demand. He refuses to believe that Jesus is alive unless he can see and touch the wounds of his crucified leader.

Then one week later, today, Thomas gets his chance there in the upstairs room. Jesus enters, and invites Thomas to examine his wounds. We don't hear that he accepts the invitation. We hear instead the boldest statement about Jesus in the Gospel of John, maybe the entire New Testament. "My Lord and my God!" shouts Thomas.

Jesus returns to promise us our resurrection. He comes back to reconcile us with God, and make us instruments for reconciliation in the world. He comes to break the chains of fear. And we have different ways of recognizing Him.

You can meet Jesus in Scripture and in the Sacrament. You can meet Him in the love shown to you by other

Christians. You can meet Him as well in the depths of your heart, even at times you least expect this.

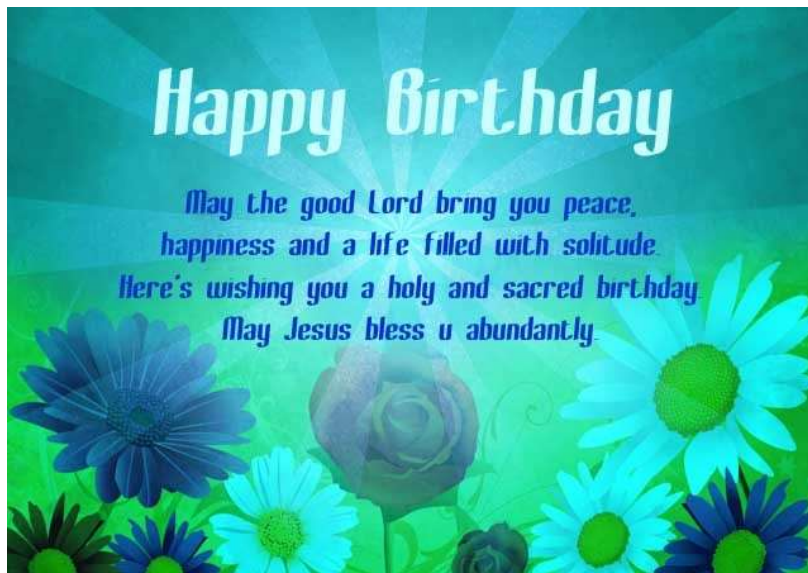
Will you welcome Him? Will you trust Him? Jesus may come to you when you least expect it, as the angel came to Joseph in Egypt while he slept.

Jesus often startles us, as he did those disciples in the upstairs room, and one week later, Thomas. He may come to you where you least expect him, even the secret depths of your own soul.

My friends, this Easter Season Christ comes to set us free. We can extend to Him the chains of fear that hold us, and He will break them by the power of his resurrection.



APRIL BIRTHDAYS



- 1 – Ryder Roelf**
- 7 – Aaron Johnson**
- 8 – Dennis Martens**
- 12 – Betty Kisner**
- 20 – Alina Johnson**
- 21 – Everly Hauman**
- 22 – Pete Leone**
- 23 – Wayne Howell**
- 26 – Andrea Bobb**
- 28 – Jan Pugh**
- 30 – Maverick Mitchell**



Milan Christian Church Presents

Come As You Are!

THURSDAY NIGHT

WORSHIP SERVICE

WELCOME HOME!

5:30pm: Let us cook for you. Join us for a hot home cooked meal.

6:00pm: Relax with God. Come to a laid back, comfortable worship service.

EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT





**709 HILLCREST RD.
MILAN, IL 61264**

Phone: 309-787-6879
MilanChristianChurch.com
Facebook.com/MilanChristianChurch

CURRENT:

Chris Dahlen – Recovery from surgery
Carol Leingang – Health issue
Alice (Chris Tipton's mother) – Health issue
Mike (Jennifer Felton's Dad) – Health issue

LONG TERM:

Phyllis Boley – Health issue
Sherry Caston – Recovery from surgery
Jessica Dahlen – Health issue
Wayne & Helen Howell – Health issues
Susan Huber – Health issue
Betty Kisner – Health issue
Paul & Barb Lane – Health issues
David & Diana Lee – Health issues
Norma Leone – Recovery from surgery
Dennis & Phyllis Martens – Health issues
Kathie McAdams – Comfort
Amy Mitchell – Health issue
Scott Powell – Health issue
Sherry Powell – Health Issue
Gretchen Rexroat – Job issue
Ruska Family – Comfort
Linda Tipton – Health issue
Tony Versluys Family – Comfort
Julie (Johnny Oeth's mother) – Cancer
Di (Linda Tipton's sister) – Health issue
Autumn (Chris & Linda Tipton's niece) – Personal issue
Lacey (Sherry Powell's granddaughter) – Health issue
Alyse (Don & Cathy Jo Merritt's daughter-in-law) – Cancer
DiAaron (Kathie McAdams' son) – Personal issue
Wendy (Pete & Norma Leone's niece) – Health issue
Sue (Angela Northcutt's sister) – Cancer surgery recovery
Dwight (Anne Bosold's friend) – Cancer
Pete (Anne Bosold's friend) – Health issue
Gary (George Smith's son) – Recovery from numerous surgeries
Michelle (Kirsten Litton's sister) – Recovery from surgery
Michelle (Chris & Linda Tipton's daughter) – Health issue
Art (Linda Tipton's cousin's husband) – Health issue
Tracie (Sue LaCaille's niece) – Health issue
Mike (Brad Webster's brother) – Personal issue
Shirley (Betty Kisner's sister) – Recovery from surgery
Aaron (Linda Thomas' son) – Health issue
Wendy (David & Diana Lee's daughter) – Cancer
Bill (Phyllis Boley's brother) – Cancer
Darcy (Friend of Jay & Mary Jo Oliver & Jan Pugh) – Health issue
Nate (Grandson of Jan Pugh's friend) – Cancer
Jim & Chris Uribe & Jim's Dad (Friends of Jan Pugh) – Comfort
Trista (Friend of Deb Headley) – Health issue
All our children dealing w/school or personal issues.
All who don't know Jesus or need to come back to Him.

When We Pray Together, We're Working Together







MCC Children's Ministry Presents

MISSION POSSIBLE

The Great Quest and Easter Egg Hunt

Location:
Milan Christian Church
709 Hillcrest Rd.
Milan, IL 61264
309-787-6879

SATURDAY APRIL 19TH
10AM TO 12PM

For Questions, please see
Aaron or Kristy Johnson



JOIN ONE OF OUR Small GROUPS



LET'S GROW TOGETHER

- > LEARNING > WITNESSING
- > HELPING > FELLOWSHIPING
- > PRAYING > ENCOURAGING

Milan Christian Church
709 Hillcrest Rd.
Milan IL, 61264
PHONE: (309)787-6879
www.MilanChristianChurch.com

Small Groups & Group Leaders

Anne Bosold

Tuesdays @ 10am
In the church basement
Anne: 309-749-9776

Jim & Amy Mitchell's Home

Wednesdays @ 5:30pm
Jim: 563-570-7047
Amy: 563-650-8110

Jay & Mary Jo
Oliver's Home

Wednesdays
at 5:30pm
Jay: 309-738-0890
Mary Jo - 309-738-1237

Britton & Gretchen
Rexroat's Home

Wednesdays
Dinner at 5:30pm
Bible Study at 6pm
Britton: 309-912-8767

If you would like help finding a group that
works best for you please call the church
at: 309-787-6879



3 WAYS TO GIVE



PO Box 425
Milan, IL 61264



If you would like to give online,
please see Andy Werner or
Britton Rexroat.



In Person
at Worship Service

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR THE



HELPING HEARTS MINISTRY

**Please see Sherry Powell
for details or questions.**

ROCK RIVER CHRISTIAN CAMP

**PANTRY
2025
DAYS**



ITEM AND GOAL AMOUNT:

100 Bottles of Pancake Syrup



WWW.ROCKRIVERCC.COM

16486 W IL Route 64, Polo, IL 61064
rrccoffice@gmail.com 815-493-6622

DONATIONS NEEDED!

Every year Rock River Christian Camp ask their member churches to help with Pantry Days, which helps them stock the camp with items for the upcoming year.

This year they have asked Milan Christian Church to collect pancake syrup or money for them to purchase them.

If you would like to donate bottle(s) of pancake syrup please put them on the table in the Coffee Corner.

If you would like to donate money please put it in the offering plate when it is passed during worship Service.

**DEADLINE to donate is:
Sunday April 6th**

ROCK RIVER CHRISTIAN CAMP

**ELEVATE
CAMP**



**JUNE
22nd-27th,
2025**

6th-8th Grades

**COST:
\$375**

Check-in on Sunday, June 22nd between 4:00-5:30 pm.
Check-out at 4:00 pm on Friday, June 27th.

815-493-6622



WWW.ROCKRIVERCC.COM



16486 W IL Route 64,
Polo, IL 61064

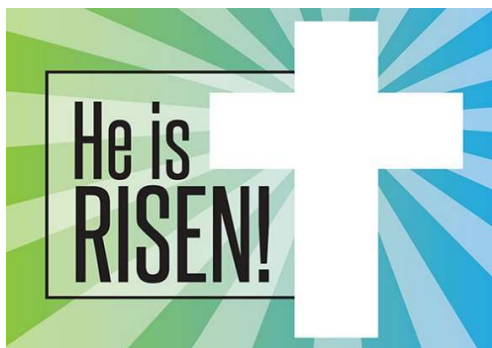
Check-in on Sunday, June 22nd between 4:00-5:30pm
Check-Out at 4:00pm on Friday, June 27th



Campers between 6th and 8th grade are stepping up to Elevate. During this week of camp, we are moving and rising to a higher place, position, and state, intellectually and spiritually. We are getting loud! We have embarked on our mission, and now it is time to step up. Here at Elevate, you will encounter situations that challenge and push you to new levels. You'll find life-changing experiences during a week of Elevate. Just as all main camps, Elevate campers and faculty will find themselves sleeping in cabins overnight that are close to the bathhouse and dining hall. A day at Elevate includes worship with a band, speakers who will ignite a flame in you, small family group times, swimming, zipline, canteen, campfires, and so much more!

MCC has scholarships available, please see:
Britton Rexroat for more information.

MILAN CHRISTIAN CHURCH
709 Hillcrest Rd., Milan, IL 61264
Office: 309-787-6879
www.milanchristianchurch.com
Facebook.com/milanchristianchurch



WEEKLY CALENDAR:

TUESDAY (Not on Elderberries Tues.)—Small Group, MCC basement, 10 AM

WEDNESDAY—Small Group, Oliver home - 5:30 PM.
—Small Group, Rexroat home – Dinner at 5:30 PM, Bible Study at 6 PM
—Small Group, Mitchell home, 5:30 PM
—Worship Rehearsal, MCC, 6 PM

THURSDAY NIGHT WORSHIP SERVICE—Dinner 5:30 PM, Service 6:00 PM (Downstairs)

SUNDAY—In-Building Worship, 9:30 to 10:30 AM (Gluten Free Communion is available in the Coffee/Coat Room or ask a server for assistance. Also, if anyone is in need of prayer & would like to pray w/someone, there will be individuals available at the front of the sanctuary after service.) Church services are available to view on our website at www.MilanChristianChurch.com.
—Kids Church (Preschool-5th Grade) & Nursery: 9:30 AM (Downstairs)
—Student Ministry (6th-12th Grade): 9:30 AM, In the BOB (Building Out Back)

APRIL

- 6 – **ROCK RIVER CHRISTIAN CAMP PANTRY DAYS 2025**
(BOTTLES OF PANCAKE SYRUP DONATIONS DUE)
- 8 – Elderberries Luncheon, MCC basement, 11:30 AM
- 8 – Elder's Meeting (closed), 5:30 PM
- 12 – **LADIES BRUNCH, MCC, 10:00-11:30 AM**
(Rescheduled earlier date for April only)
- 13 – **FILLED PLASTIC EASTER EGGS DUE**
- 15 – **TAX DAY**
- 19 – Men's Breakfast, Adventure Christian Church, Davenport, 7:30-9:30 AM
- 19 – **EASTER EGG HUNT, MCC, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM**
- 20 – **RESURRECTION DAY (EASTER SUNDAY SERVICES), 8 AM & 9:30 AM**