

RESURRECTION NEWS



JANUARY 2011



Pastor's Letter

January, 2011

Memorial Service for Jim Grant

December 18, 2011

"And Job said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." Job 1:21

There was a man who lived a very, very long time ago whose name was Job. He had a loving wife, several wonderful children, good health and plenty of wealth to live quite comfortably. And Job gave thanks to God for all of that he had been given. But then, Job's faith was put to the test to see if he would remain thankful and praise God even if all of these things were taken away from him, or to see if he only worshiped God so long as God gave him all of these good gifts.

First, thieves broke in and stole a good portion of his possessions. Then a natural disaster destroyed all the rest. Then, before the insurance adjuster had time to appraise the damages, a far worse calamity struck Job. The house where his children were all gathered collapsed in a great wind storm and all of them were killed. Then, Job became ill with what sounds a lot like cancer and lost his good health.

As Job thinks about the present condition of his life, he thinks about all that he had and all that had been taken away from him. And in response to all of this, Job speak these incredible words, **"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."** (Job 1:21).

The devil was sure that Job would curse God and die. He thought for sure that Job was more attached to the things and the people whom God had given to him than to God Himself. But instead of cursing God, Job blessed God. **"The Lord gave, the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord."**

Job had to let go of what he could not hold onto. And so do we. Everything we have, our possessions, our friends, our parents, our children, our spouse, all come from God. We call these things and these people "ours," 'my things,' 'my father,' 'my husband,' 'my friend,' but they're only "ours" in a secondary way. They all belong to God first of all. They are 'ours' only as a gift from God. Even our own life belongs to God and is ours as a gift.

Eventually, we will have to let go of all of this. We can't hold onto any of it forever, no matter how much we would like to, no matter how hard we try. Eventually, we will all have to even let of 'my life' because it's not ours to hold onto forever.

Jim Grant was born into this world on February 15th, 1938. God blessed him with all of the same wonderful gifts as Job. And like Job, Jim had to let go of them – parents, a son, a brother. Eventually, he would also have to let go of his health and his independence and some of his dignity and eventually, his life.

The Lord gave Jim his life, and on December 11th, 2010, the Lord took Jim's life back again, and with it, all that he had. He had to let is all go. He could hold onto none of it. **"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return."**

So now, the focus is on us. Jim Grant was a gift from God to us. And now God has seen fit to take His gift back. How will we handle such a loss? Will we give into the devil and curse God for taking

back what He had given to us? Or will we bless God and say, 'he was Yours before You gave him to us; he was Yours the whole time he was with us; and he is still Yours now that You have taken him away from us' – **'Blessed be the name of the Lord.'**

Whenever we loose something that had little or no value, we're hardly bothered by its loss. Likewise, if we loose something that had great value, but it meant little or nothing to us, we're hardly bothered by its loss either. But when we loose something that had great value, and what has greater value than a human life, and that we considered to be precious, even to the point of love, then its only natural that we are grieved by our loss. And so it is right that we grieve the loss of Jim, this precious husband, precious father, grandfather, brother, precious friend.

But we do not grieve as those who have no hope. Ours is a measured grief that has its limits, because as much as we grieve the fact that this life has been taken from us, we also know that Jim is at this moment enjoying 'eternal life.' And we know that as we persevere in this hope, which is the greatest gift that God has given us, that we too will have everything earthly taken from us only to have everything heavenly given to us. And so even in our grief we are bound to say, **'blessed be the name of the Lord.'**

Avis, God gave Jim to you and you to Jim as a gift to each other, to fill each other's lives with love and companionship as husband and wife on November 8th, 1997. And yet, within a month, on December 12th, you gave Jim back to the Lord by bringing him this baptismal font. You knew that the only way he would be truly yours is if he were truly God's.

In his baptism, the Lord took hold of Jim and promised to never let him go. In holy Baptism, God gifted Jim to Himself. **"You are mine, says the Lord."**

So the thing that tempers our grief is this, what we cannot hold onto, God will not let go of. Through our baptism, we were united to Christ. Joining our voice to God's Word, we asked this question, **"what can separate us from God?"** Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? Or, what about sin? Jim was a great guy but he wasn't perfect. Will God let go of Jim because of his sin? Will He let go of you because of yours?

And the answer came back straight and clear, **'by no means!'** In his baptism, all his sins were washed away. Jesus Christ took all of Jim's sins upon Himself and crucified them on the cross in His own body. Jesus let go of all of the holiness that was rightfully His, and grabbed hold of all of the sinfulness that is rightfully ours.

So, from the cross we hear what grief without hope sounds like. **"My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?"** God the Father let go of His only-begotten Son so that He might not let go of Jim.

So, **"what then, shall we say in response to this?" "If God did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also give us all things." "Blessed be the name of the Lord."** As much as you loved your husband, your father, your grandfather, your brother, your friend, God loves him more, because He sent His only-begotten Son to die for him.

One more thing. As it was for Job so it was for Jim and so it will be for you and me. The devil would like to have each of us suffer a terrible and painful death so that we would **'curse God and die.'** And so we should all be thankful that Jim died such a peaceful death. I pray that we would all die as Jim did when our time comes. He cheated the devil in dying so peacefully and easily.

Last Monday, Jim received the Lord's Supper from his chair beside his bed. We prayed the Lord's Prayer and paused for just a moment at the words, **"thy will be done."** I held up the bread and said, **'take and eat. This is the body of Christ, given for you.'** And he ate. I held up the cup and said, **'This is the blood of Christ, shed for you for the forgiveness of your sins.'** And he drank. And I recited the canticle of Simeon – the Nunc Dimittis.

I explained that Simeon was a priest at the temple in Jerusalem. Somehow it had been revealed to Simeon that he would not die until he had seen the **"Lord's Christ."** One day, Simeon went to the Temple just as he had done so many times. But on this day, for some reason, he noticed a very young couple that had come to the Temple to have their baby circumcised. The woman's name was Mary. The man's name was Joseph. Simeon took the baby, whose name was Jesus, and said, **"Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, according to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation."**

As it was for Simeon, so it was for Jim. Jim held the Lord's Christ in his hands on Monday and departed in peace on Saturday. Since our brother Jim was granted such a peaceful release from this world of sorrow and suffering, we can joyfully say with Job and with Simeon and all who know that peace which only Jesus Christ can give – **"blessed be the name of the Lord."**

May the Holy Spirit – the Comforter, comfort and strengthen you with His grace until the day when you will share in that eternal joy that is Jim's now. Amen.

Thursday, January 6th - 7:00pm. Worship - The Epiphany of our Lord.

As we move from the 12 days of Christmas into the season of Epiphany, our attention shifts from the 'human nature' of Jesus Christ to His 'divine nature.' January 6th is a historic, 'holy day' on which the Church originally celebrated Christmas. Today, the DAY OF EPIPHANY celebrates the visitation of the Magi who are the first to recognize the divine fulfillment of the Old Testament in the child born to Mary. The Day of Epiphany deserves all of the attention and devotion of our worship as does the day of Christmas.

Thursday Morning Adult Bible Study - "The Life Of David" - Beginning January 13th, 10:30am.

Join with us as we continue our tour through the life of David. As we explore the life of this complex man of God, we continue to discover more about the grace and love of God who works through His people to accomplish His plans. David is a servant of the Lord who struggles with sin and all of the same temptations that we all do. As we grow in our knowledge of the Scriptures, we go in the assurance of God's love for us that overcomes all of our weaknesses and sins and strengthens us to lead a godly life.

Sunday, January 30th - FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY! Invite a friend to church!

Without a doubt, the most effective way to reach out to unchurched friends and neighbors is to personally invite them to come to worship with you. FRIENDSHIP SUNDAYS are special occasions that give us just the reason you need to do so. FRIENDSHIP SUNDAYS are times for us to be especially intentional about inviting guests to join us for Sunday School and worship, knowing that they will be warmly welcomed and thankful that you invited them. **A special "FRIENDSHIP SUNDAY" – Pot-Luck luncheon will follow worship on this day.** Everyone brings a special dish to share.

Sunday School / Adult Bible Study Themes for January: 8:45am.

- January 2 - Luke 2:41-52 "The Boy Jesus In The Temple"
- January 9 - Matthew 3:13-17 "The Baptism of Jesus"
- January 16 - Matthew 3:1-12 "John Prepares the Way"
- January 23 - Matthew 3:12-25 "Jesus Calls His First Disciples"
- January 30 - Matthew 5:1-12 / Luke 19:1-10 "Sermon on the Mount / Jesus Blesses Zacchaeus"

Mens Network Breakfast Meeting - Saturday, January 15th - 8:00am.

"The Challenge of Islam" - "Defending the Christian Faith"

Last month we looked closely at the Muslim claim that the Christian Bible is corrupt and therefore not to be trusted. We learned how to engage this claim from the Koran itself. The Koran says that the Christian Bible is the Word of God and to be trusted above all. This is the Muslim dilemma. A Muslim must reject the Koran in order to reject the Bible.

This month, we will address this topic once again from a different perspective. See you there!

Pastor's Report to the Congregation - Annual Meeting, 12/12/10

Official Pastoral Acts During 2010

- Baptisms – 2
- Weddings – 3
- Funerals – 1
- Confirmations – 6 Adult / 0 Youth

I commend The Leadership of the Congregation

Church Council

- Fernando Gouvea
- Tom Hueisers
- Glenn Carlson
- Chris Batson
- Brad Fitzpatrick
- Eric Stout
- Mark Larsen
- Sharon Conover
- Julie Kohl
- Mike Hein
- Glenn Carlson Jr.

Twila Kaska Dorothy Evertsen

Bulletins, newsletter, mailings and office work

Don Pryor

Scheduling and looking after the ushers, greeters, worship assistants every Sunday.

Sharon Klipp

Monthly newsletter production.

Altar Guild

Every Sunday, the altar is prepared with the "Holy Things" for the "Holy Ones." Weekly reception of the Lord's Supper is possible only because of these women who commit to prepare the altar and put away the sacred vessels every Sunday. They are:

- Kitty Carlson
- LeeAnne Larsen
- Darryll Zahner
- Esther Gould
- Irma Mytinger
- Sharon Conover
- Avis Grant
- Amy Ouellette
- Amanda Goldsmith

Sunday School

The instruction of the children in Sunday School is one of the primary purposes this congregation exists. The Sunday School Staff prepares a lesson every Sunday for their class which teaches the children about their Lord and Savior. They do a good and faithful job.

- Christine Thomas – Early Childhood (4 children)
- Darryll Zahner – Lower Grades (4 children)
- LeeAnne Larsen / Julie Kohl – Middle Grades (9 children)
- Jared Goldsmith - High School - (10 children)
- Fernando Gouvea

Confirmation Instruction

Instruction leading to youth confirmation is currently being conducted with five catechumens: is working independently. Arthur Conover, Siena Fitzpatrick, Elizabeth Larsen, Tiana Thomas and Taylan Thomas are in their second year of class which meets on Sunday evenings. We anticipate they will be ready for the Rite of Confirmation by early March, 2011.

Inquirers Class

Two Inquirers Classes were held in 2010. This continues to be the doorway into the congregation for all, whether from Lutheran background or no church background. It is the foundation for maintaining the unity of faith and practice that we have as members of the LCMS and the LCR.

Pastor Nielsen

Elders Report to the Congregation - Annual Meeting, 12/12/10

Concerning the Membership of The Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in 2010:

There were 10 new members received into membership

- Ben, Betsy and Polly Parks-Stamm - Adult Confirmation / Baptism
- Dorothy Oester – Transfer
- Chuck, Heather Hillary – Adult Confirmation
- Barb Dufour / Brendan Melton – Reinstatement
- Rick Dostie – Adult Confirmation

There were 33 members released from membership

- Betty Dunton – Self Exclusion (SE)
- Eric Nielsen – Moved from area (MFA)
- Joe French – Peaceful Release (PR)
- Tom and Lesli Swieczkowski – Request
- Brian, Andrea, Travis, Kaitlyn Watson – Transfer
- Rob, Lisa, Jacob, Kendrick Cline – Request
- Jan Hein – SE
- Doug and Tricia Zahner – Transfer
- David and Joanne Beaster – SE
- Haley Madore – MFA
- Collin and Lara Hitchcock – Transfer
- Hugh and Jan Pillsbury – Request
- David and Isabella Bouffard – Request
- Sigfrid, Mary Ellen, Lauren, Rudolph, Julian Pelzer – Request
- Lauren Zahner – Transfer
- Joyce Foley – Moved from area

The membership of the congregation currently stands as follows:

- There are 143 baptized members
- There are 112 confirmed members
- There are 32 children
- There are 65 family units.

Concerning the Worship Attendance of the congregation: Average Sunday worship attendance through November is 78.

Lutheran Church of the Resurrection January 2011

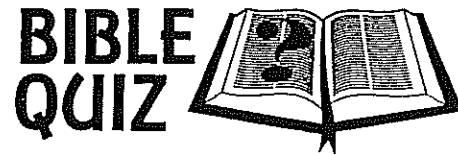
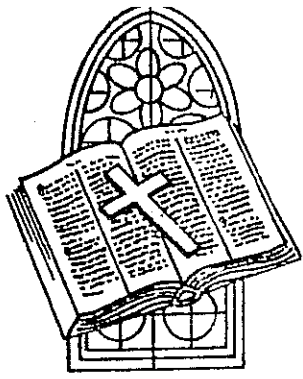
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 2nd Sunday after Christmas 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 6:00 pm Catechumenate	3 6:00 pm Elders	4	5	6 7:00 pm Epiphany Worship	7	8
9 Epiphany 1 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 6:00 pm Catechumenate	10 6:00 pm Bd. For Youth	11	12	13 9:00 am LWML 10:30am. Adult Bible Study	14	15 8:00 am Men's Network Breakfast Meeting
16 Epiphany 2 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship 6:00 pm Catechumenate	17 7:00 pm Church Council	18	19	20 10:30am. Adult Bible Study	21	22
23 Epiphany 3 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship	24 February Newsletter Dead-line	25	26	27 10:30am. Adult Bible Study	28 7:00 pm Enriching Your Marriage	29
30 Epiphany 4 8:45 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Friendship Sunday	31					



STEWARDSHIP

JANUARY

	<u>January 2</u>	<u>January 6</u> <u>Epiphany</u>	<u>January 9</u>	<u>January 16</u>	<u>January 23</u>	<u>January 30</u>
<u>Acolyte</u>	Emily Larson	Sarah Kohl	Taylan Thomas	Dan Morren	Emily Monteleone	Brendan Melton
<u>Comm. Assistant</u>	Mark Larsen	Chris Batson	Jared Goldsmith	George Kohl	Glenn Carlson	Don Pryor
<u>Ushers</u>	John Gould & Bill Jahnke	Eric Stout & Glenn Carlson	Seth Carlson & Glenn Carlson Jr.	John Ayotte & Jon Morren	Bill Jahnke & George LeBeau	John Gould & Eric Stout
<u>Greeters</u>	Brad, Sasha, Siena, Caden & Mia Fitzpatrick	Glenn & Kitty Carlson	Jared, Amanda, Callum & Elizabeth Goldsmith	Art & Gail Carrano	Peter & Lois Doran	George, Karen & Acadia Markham
<u>Altar Guild</u>	Sharon Conover	Darryll Zahner	Amanda Goldsmith	Amy Ouellette	Kitty Carlson	Esther Gould
<u>Flowers</u>	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
<u>Fellowship</u>	OPEN	----	Sharon Klipp	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN



Monthly Worship

January 2, 2011

Second Sunday after Christmas

Psalm: 111:97-104

First Reading: 1Kings 3:4-15

Epistle: Ephesians 1:3-14

Holy Gospel: Luke 2:40-52

January 9, 2011

Baptism of our Lord

Psalm: 29

First Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9

Epistle: Romans 6:1-11

Holy Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

January 16, 2011

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Psalm: 40:1-11

First Reading: Isaiah 49:1-7

Epistle: 1Corinthians 1:1-9

Holy Gospel: John 1:29-42a

January 23, 2011

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Psalm: 27:1-9 (10-14)

First Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4

Epistle: 1Corinthians 1:18-31

Holy Gospel: Matthew 4:12-25

January 30, 2011

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Psalm: 15

First Reading: Micah 6:1-8

Epistle: 1Corinthians: 1:18-31

Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

1. Josiah, who ruled Judah for 31 years, became king at this tender age:

A) 8 B) 12 C) 16

2. Which of these pieces of godly armor does Paul tell the church at Ephesus to put on?

A) The helmet of knowledge B) The breastplate of confession C) The belt of truth

3. True or False:

According to 2 Peter, the source for prophecy (scripture) is the will of man.

4. Moses was this age when God told him to return to Egypt and speak to Pharaoh:

A)40 B) 60 C) 80

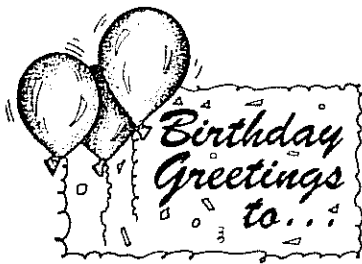
5. Nehemiah held this position prior to returning to Jerusalem to rebuild the city's walls:

A) Cupbearer B) Fisherman C) Tentmaker

6. John the Baptist first identified Jesus as the Lamb of God who does this:

A) Preaches the Gospel B) Takes away the sin of the world C) Heals the sick

"Answers on "Birthday page."

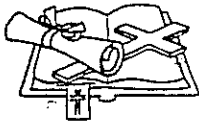


- 1/7 Laura Mueller
- 1/8 Candace Schorr
- 1/16 Caden Fitzpatrick
LeeAnne Larsen
- 1/19 Vesta Holt
- 1/20 Liam Stout
Lin Stout
- 1/26 Deb Nielsen



- 1/13 Bob Mueller
- 1/17 Michael Cote
- 1/18 Candace Schorr
- 1/26 Sherman Hill
- 1/?? Yvonne Batson
Joe Krolak

CONFIRMATION



ANNIVERSARIES

- 1/26 Sherman Hill

"Little Johnny"

----- A new teacher was trying to make use of her psychology courses. She started her class by saying, 'Everyone who thinks they're stupid, stand up!' After a few seconds, Little Johnny stood up. The teacher said, "Do you think you're stupid Johnny?" 'No, ma'am, but I hate to see you standing there all by yourself!'

-----Little Johnny watched, fascinated, as his mother smoothed cold cream on her face. 'Why do you do that, mommy?' he asked. 'To make myself beautiful,' said his mother, who then began removing the cream with a tissue. 'What's the matter?' asked Little Johnny. 'Giving up?'

-----Little Johnny's second grade class was on a field trip to their local police station where they saw pictures tacked to a bulletin board of the 10 most wanted criminals. One of the youngsters pointed to a picture and asked if it really was the photo of a wanted person. 'Yes,' said the policeman. 'The detectives want very badly to capture him. 'Little Johnny asked, 'Why didn't you keep him when you took his picture?'

The Haircut

A young boy had just received his driver's permit and asked his father if they could discuss his use of the car. His father said he would make a deal with his son, "You bring your grades up from a C to a B average, study you Bible a little, get your hair cut and we'll talk about the car."

The boy thought about that for a moment, decided he'd settle for the offer and they agreed on it. After about six weeks his father said, "Son, I've been real proud. You brought you grades up and I've observed that you have been studying your Bible, but I'm real disappointed you didn't get your hair cut."

The young man paused a moment, then said, "You know Dad, I've been thinking about that, and I've noticed in my studies of the Bible that Samson, had long hair, John the Baptist had long hair, Moses had long hair. And there's even a strong argument that Jesus had long hair."

To this his father replied, "Did you also notice that they all walked everywhere they went?"

Bible Quiz Answers: 1) A; 2Kings 22:1-2 2) C; Ephesians 6:10-18 3) False; 2 Peter 1:20-21 4) C; Exodus 7:7 5) A; Nehemiah 1:11 6) B; John 1:29