

RESURRECTION NEWS



APRIL 2015



Pastor's Letter

April, 2015

"And when they had carried out all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree and laid him in a tomb. BUT GOD raised him from the dead..."

(St. Paul to the Jews at Antioch – Acts 13:29-30)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

There is a legend that the devil once came to Martin Luther, opening a scroll on which were listed all of Luther's sins. In anguish, Luther had to admit to them all, and the devil was glad to see Luther so miserable. Then God whispered in Luther's ear that he should order the devil to unroll the scroll all the way. At first the devil refused, but Luther commanded him by the authority of God. When the scroll was fully opened, at its bottom it read, "These sins of Martin Luther were paid for in full by the blood of Jesus Christ." Then Satan fled and Luther was glad.

There really is a scroll written about each one of us on which is recorded the record of our life. Paul writes to the Colossians about the *"record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands."* It shows every time we have lied. Every time we've cheated. Every time we've used God's name in vain. Every time we've put God second or third or even last in our lives. And like Martin Luther, we must admit that it's all perfectly accurate. Whether it's Luther or you or me, all the evidence of our life leads to only one conclusion - we are worthy - worthy of condemnation and eternal death.

"BUT GOD" has written HIS FINAL WORD over the record of our life. He has atoned for all of your sins and mine by the cross of Jesus. *"This he set aside, nailing it to the cross."* (Colossians 2:14) "BUT GOD" has written FORGIVEN over the record of our sins with the blood of His Son – Jesus Christ.

"BUT GOD." Those two little words are the summary of the Christian faith and the gospel. God has overruled the consequence our sin and the evil in the world with His mercy and grace and love.

The celebration of our faith is that despite every effort of man to erase the name of God from this world and our lives, on Easter Sunday, God had the final say. He has written the name of His Son, Jesus Christ in large, bold letters that will not be erased or covered over.

By faith, we are free even though our sins condemn us. We see light even in the midst of darkness. We have hope even in the midst of deep despair. Even in the face of death, we live. In all of this and whatever trial or trouble we may be facing, we say "BUT GOD RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD," for me.

What a marvelously merciful God we have!

Yours in Christ

Pastor Nielsen

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

Maundy Thursday - April 2nd - Services at Noon and 7:00pm.

Good Friday - April 3rd - Services at Noon and 7:00pm.

Seeking to Serve...notes from a Deaconess student

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

This Lenten season I have been participating in a history class about the church, beginning in Luther's time and moving towards our present day situation. Along with the historical overview, we have been reading essays or treatises by Martin Luther which address particular issues for which he saw needed reform in the church. Last week we read one called "On The Babylonian Captivity of the Church" in which he discussed sacraments, their use and abuse, and why only two of the Roman Catholic church's seven sacraments should really be considered as sacraments. In a response to the treatise, I wrote the following paragraph:

Martin Luther defined *sacrament* as God's word of promise combined with a divinely instituted sign—something physical, tangible (water, bread, wine). The word of promise, or testament, is the essential and more important part "for a man can have and use the word or testament apart from the sign or sacrament" (Three Treatises, p. 162). A person receives the benefits of the sacrament (the promised forgiveness, new life, strengthening) through faith given by God (his work not ours) conveyed through his Word, which believes and accepts the offered grace.

In my other class, the Field Education course, we have been discussing suffering, and also the reasons for closed communion. As a church family we have a common understanding of the source and means of our salvation, what is being given to us in the sacraments, and we also share with each other our joys, sorrows, suffering and pain as a body does. In our church here in Waterville we have been acutely aware of how we suffer together for and with each other this season, and I pray that we will continue to bear one another's burdens and also share our hopes and joys as we enter the Easter season.

Under his mercy,
Sharon M. Conover

SUNDAY SCHOOL IN APRIL - 8:45AM.

- April 5 No Sunday School - Easter Egg Hunt - 9:30am.
- April 12 "Jesus Dies and Lives Again" - Mark 15 and 16
- Memory Verse: "God gave us eternal life...in his Son." 1 John 5:11
- April 19 "The Conversion of Paul" Acts 9:1-31
- Memory Verse: "If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation." 2 Corinthians 5:17
- April 26 "Paul's 1st Missionary Journey" Acts 13 and 14
- Memory Verse: "Turn to the living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them." Acts 14:15

*During April and May, the children will be practicing Hymn #507 - "Holy, Holy, Holy." Sing this together with the children at home would make a wonderful devotion and connection to Sunday School.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY - 8:45AM.

Fernando Gouvea will lead us in a study of the 'Epistle to the Colossians' through April. A hunger to grow in the knowledge of the Word is a good thing!

CHURCH SEXTON POSITION IS OPEN

Ken Zahner has asked to step down from the Sexton position. If you are interested, please speak with Brian Watson or Mark Larsen – trustees.

KATAHDIN OR BUST!

Emily Larsen is quite the hiker. She and I hiked to two peaks along the coast last Fall and decided to set our sites on Mt. Katahdin this summer. If you're a hiker or would like to be, we'd love to have you join us. We have scheduled three 'training hikes' to prepare for the big one. The tentative schedule is as follows:

Saturday – June 27th - Little Jackson Mountain

Saturday – July 11th - Cranberry Mountain

Saturday - August 8th - Mt. Abram

Those who would like to try Katahdin with us MUST do two out of three of the training hikes with us! The dates for the Katahdin hike are August 30-September 1. The plan is to arrive at Baxter State Park on Sunday afternoon, August 30. Climb Katahdin on August 31st (Monday) and return home on September 1st (Tuesday). If you're interested, speak to Emily or me (pastor).

THE TIME TO ACT - (from "Lutheran Engage the World" March, April 2015. Vol.3. Issue 4)

Years ago, after the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) solemnly declared SUVs to be irresponsible, if not sinful, I quipped to the ELCA's presiding bishop, "The ELCA says something about everything. The LCMS says nothing about anything." That's not entirely true, but we have been rather quietistic in the LCMS.

The LCMS once had an office in the District of Columbia. Our plans for a new office have been much more intentional. We've done a great deal of work in preparation. The entity will be largely independent but constituted to serve LCMS interests (and those of other conservative Lutheran friends). It will not tell people how to vote. It will provide an LCMS voice at the table with other Christians and citizens of good will. We will focus laser-like on just three issues: (1) life, (2) marriage and especially (3) religious freedom.

Above all, this office will provide an aggressive defense against the current cultural and legal pressure to push traditionally minded Christians out of the public square, as well as a defense against discriminatory practices against the church by the government. And these are mounting.

The Apology of the Augsburg Confession praises legal action, when necessary: "Public remedy, made through the office of the public official, is not condemned, but is commanded and is God's work, according to Paul (Romans 13). Now the different kinds of public remedy are legal decisions, capital punishment, wars, and military service" (Ap XVI 59). Where the government impedes our freedom to believe and act according to our biblical confession, we will fight for our freedoms guaranteed in the Bill of Rights. And we also will fight shoulder-to-shoulder with citizens of good will – be they Lutheran, Christian or not – for the religious freedoms of all. For the conscience is bound only to God, not to men. Consider how St. Paul made use of his rights as a Roman citizen. "I appeal to Caesar," he said in Acts 25:11.

We have a gem to share – that is, the Lutheran/New Testament teaching on the two kingdoms. Government is established by God (Romans 13). The Church is established by God (Matthew 16; 28). Government is ruled by reason (Rom. 2:12ff). The Church is ruled by revelation (i.e., the Bible, as John 8:31 says). "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" (Mark 12:17). Unlike many Protestants, we Lutherans have no interest in "Christianizing the

government.” The government should operate according to sound reason. Good laws are reasonable and do not contradict the Ten Commandments. Bad laws are unreasonable. It is unreasonable to legalize the killing of the unborn. It is unreasonable to penalize a private school because it believes in traditional marriage. One does not have to be a Christian to see that. Of course, the Bible clearly rejects abortion too. Yet, Christians oppose it on the grounds of both the Bible and reason. As part of our office in D.C., we envision internship opportunities for youth, educational connections with our Concordia University System, and state-by-state coalitions of LCMS lawyers and others to monitor religious freedom issues across the country. Our D.C. office will produce significant briefs on vital topics, such as the two kingdoms teaching. It will provide contact with LCMS elected officials, as well as encouragement and training for LCMS members (and other Lutherans) interested in running for office or serving in government. It will be a locus for the many young LCMS staffers who serve in D.C. and who are marvelous and active Christians.

There is much work to do. We are nearing our trigger point of \$2 million. The entity will do its own funding work once launched and will not be a burden to the Synod’s budget. There is a great deal of interest and excitement about this. It’s time to act. Many others have been carrying our water for years. It’s time to show up and support them. “We must obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29).

In His name,

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison

President, The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

GOD’S JEWELS

“And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him.” Malachi 3:17 (KJV)

A man once told me what he did for work.

“With jewels,” he said, “I earn my daily bread.”

“I see drab stones in which vast beauties lurk.”

“I strive to change the ‘drab’ to pure instead.

“When ‘pure’ emerges from my skillful hands,

Their splendor fills my soul and then I pray.”

“I ask my God and search through many lands,

For more drab stones that he may send my way.”

I count myself as like these worthless stones.

My Jewel’r found me stuck below the mire.

He washed me, loved me, when he heard my groans.

He is my Lord; no more can I desire.

Soon He comes again; no man can tell just when.

His glory I shall share; till then I yen.

- By John Hilton. March, 2015



In response to last month's listing of the disbursements of the proceeds from the craft fair, we have received an anonymous gift of \$2000.00, to be disbursed as follows:

LCMS World Relief	\$500.00
Lutheran World Relief (goats)	\$200.00
Trinity Lutheran School	\$300.00
The Garuna Foundation	\$700.00
DDS for Kids	\$300.00

We thank God for this wonderful gift which will be put to such good use!

Yours in Christ,

Anna Bisson, Pres.

A Dear God Letter

There was a man who worked for the Post Office whose job it was to process all the mail that had illegible addresses. One day, a letter came addresses in a shaky handwriting to God, with no actual address. He thought he should open it to see what it was all about.

The letter read:

Dear God,

I am an 83 year old widow, living on a very small pension. Yesterday someone stole my purse. It had \$100 in it, which was all the money I had until my next pension payment.

Next Sunday is Easter, and I had invited two of my friends over for dinner. Without that money, I have nothing to buy food with, have no family to turn to, and you are my only hope....

Can you help me out?

Sincerely, Edna

The postal worker was touched. He showed the letter to all the other workers. Each one dug into his or her wallet and came up with a few dollars. By the time he made the rounds, he had collected \$96, which they put into an envelope and sent to the woman using her return address written in the letter.

The rest of the day, all of the workers felt a warm glow thinking of Edna and the dinner she would be able to share with her friends.

Easter came and went.

A few days later, another letter came the same old lady to God. All the workers gathered around while the letter was opened.

It read:

Dear God,

How can I ever thank you enough for what you did for me? Because of your gift of love, I was able to fix a glorious dinner for my friends. We had a very nice day and I told my friends of your wonderful gift.

By the way, there was \$4 missing.

I think it might have been those so and sos at the post office.

Sincerely, Edna

God's Plan

Me: God, can I ask you a question?

God: Sure.

Me: Promise you won't get mad?

God: I promise.

Me: Why did you let so much stuff happen to me today?

God: What do you mean?

Me: Well. I woke up late.

God: Yes.

Me: My car took forever to start.

God: Okay.

Me: At lunch they made my sandwich wrong and I had to wait.

God: Hmmm.

Me: On the way home my phone went dead just as I picked up a call.

God: Okay.

Me: And on top of all that, when I got home I just wanted to soak my feet in my new foot massager and relax, but it wouldn't work!!! Nothing went right today! Why did you do that?

God: Well, let me see. The Death Angel was at your bed this morning and I had to send one of the other angels to battle him for your life. I let you sleep through that.

Me: (humbled) Oh...

God: I didn't let your car start because there was a drunk driver on your route that would have hit you if you were on the road.

Me: (ashamed) Oh...

God: The person who made your first sandwich today was sick and I didn't want you to catch what he has. I knew you couldn't afford to miss work.

Me: (embarrassed) Ok...

God: Your phone went dead because the person who was calling was going to give false witness about what you said during that call. I didn't even let you talk to them so that you would be covered.

Me: (softly) I see, God.

God: Ohm and that foot massager had a short that was going to throw out all of the power in your house tonight. I didn't think you wanted to be in the dark.

Me: I'm sorry, God.

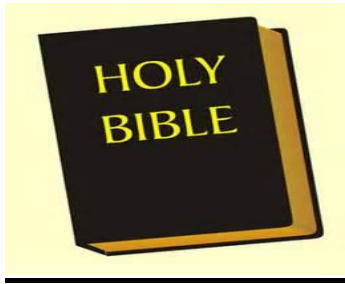
God: Don't be sorry, just learn to trust me in all things, the good and the bad.

Me: I will trust you.

God: And don't doubt that MY plan for your day is always better than your plan.

Me: I won't, God. And let me just tell you God, thank you for everything today.

God: You're welcome, child. It was just another day of being your God, and I love looking after my children.



Monthly Worship

June 2, 2013

Second Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm: 96:1-9

First Reading: 1Kings 8:22-24, 27-29, 41-43

Epistle: Galatians 1:1-12

Holy Gospel: Luke 7:1-10

June 9, 2013

Third Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm: 30

First Reading: 1Kings 17:17-24

Epistle: Galatians 1:11-24

Holy Gospel: Luke 7:11-17

June 16, 2013

Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm: 85:(1-6)7-13

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5

Epistle: Acts 13:13-26

Holy Gospel: Luke 1:57-80

June 23, 2013

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm: 3

First Reading: Isaiah 65:1-9

Epistle: Galatians 3:23-4:7

Holy Gospel: Luke 8:26-39

June 30, 2013

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm: 16

First Reading: 1Kings 19:9b-21

Epistle: Galatians: 5:1, 13-15

Holy Gospel: Luke 9:51-62

BIBLE QUIZ

1. Of the ten virgins waiting for the bridegroom, why were five accused of being foolish?

A) they did not come prepared with extra oil B) they did come with a gift for the bridegroom C) they did not come with a second cloak D) they did not come wearing the required perfumes for a wedding

2. What was King Solomon's answer to God's question: "What do you wish from me?"

A) health B) wealth C) his enemies' death D) wisdom

3. How did God prove to the murmuring Israelites that He chose Aaron to be the high priest?

A) the sky opened up in hail and thunder B) his branch rod budded and blossomed C) it snowed for almost half a day in the wilderness D) an earthquake split the Israelite camp in half

4. What were the twelve names inscribed into New Jerusalem's twelve foundations?

A) the twelve apostles of Jesus B) the twelve tribes of Israel C) the twelve sons of David D) the twelve cities of the early church

5. What was the total number of wives and concubines the King Solomon acquired?

A) 10 B) 100 C) 1,000 D) 10,000

6. Who said this: "As ye would that men should do to you do ye also to them likewise"?

A) Peter B) Paul C) James D) Jesus

Answers on "Birthday" page



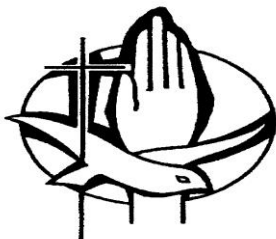
4/3 Seth Carlson
 4/7 Gail Carrano
 4/28 Glenn Carlson, Jr.
 4/29 Emily Larsen



4/11 Chester & Evelyn Gilbert



4/17 Darryll Zahner
 4/19 Elizabeth Anne Larsen
 4/27 Taylan Thomas.
 Tiana Thomas
 4/29 Twila Kaska



**CONFIRMATION
ANNIVERSARIES**

4/2 Evelyn Gaug
 Peter Gaug
 4/6 Bonnie Mathieu
 4/7 Darryll Zahner
 4/12 Chris Batson
 4/14 Sharon Klipp
 4/30 Karen Morren
 4/?? Yvonne Batson
 Dottie Evertson
 Vesta Holt

Bible Humor

Q: Which servant of God was the most flagrant lawbreaker in the Bible?

A: Moses. He broke all 10 commandments at once.

Q: Which area of Palestine was especially wealthy?

A: The area around Jordan. The banks were always overflowing.

Q: Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?

A: Because Noah was standing on the deck.

Q: Did you know it's a sin for a woman to make coffee?

A: Yup, it's in the Bible. It says...."He-brews".

Bible Quiz Answers

1. D Ezra 4:4-24
2. B 1 Samuel 18:8-9
3. C 2 Kings 4:3-7
4. B Exodus 32:20
5. B Acts 4:36
6. B Luke 22:42

April Stewardship

	<u>April 2</u> (Maundy Thursday)	<u>April 5</u> (Easter Sunday)	<u>April 12</u>	<u>April 19</u>	<u>April 26</u>
Acolyte	Jacob Huesers	Sarah Kohl	Caden Fitzpatrick	Allison Farr	Emily Larsen
Comm. Assistant	Chris Batson	Steve Love	Brad Fitzpatrick	Mike Hein	Mark Larsen
Ushers	Mark Larsen & Glenn Carlson	Mike Hein & Brian Watson	Glenn Carlson, Jr. & John Gould	Tom Huesers & Bill Jahnke	Seth Carlson & John Ayotte
Greeters	Chris & Yvonne Batson	Jared & Amanda Goldsmith	Moe & Becky Cote	Fernando & Mari Gouvea	Mark and Lee Anne Larsen
Altar Care	Sharon Conover	Amanda Goldsmith	Amy Ouellette	Kitty Carlson	Andrea Watson
Flowers	-----	Sharon Klipp	Sharon Klipp	Julie & Sarah Kohl	Julie & Sarah Kohl
Fellowship	-----	Easter Breakfast	Sasha Fitzpatrick	Sharon Callahan	Dorothy McAllister

The Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

Calendar of Events

April, 2015

Week of April 1

Thursday Noon - Maundy Thursday Service
7:00pm. - Maundy Thursday Service

Friday Noon - Good Friday Service
7:00pm. - Good Friday Service

Week of April 5

Sunday - 4/5

Easter Sunday

8:30am. - Easter Breakfast
9:30am. - Easter Egg Hunt
10:00am. - Worship

Monday - 4/6 6:00pm. - Board of Elders

Wednesday - 4/8 6:30pm. - Board for Missions

Thursday - 4/11 6:00pm. - Inquirers Class - "What is the Lord's Supper?"

Week of April 12th

Sunday - 4/12 8:45am. - Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
10:00am. - Worship

Monday - 4/13 6:00pm. - Board for Youth
7:00pm. - Church Council Meeting

Thursday - 4/16 6:00pm. - Inquirers Class - "Why Do We Worship As We Do?"

Week of April 19th

Sunday - 4/19 8:45am. - Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
10:00am. - Worship
11:30am. - Sr. Youth Meeting

Week of April 26th

Sunday - 4/26 8:45am. - Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
10:00am. - Worship

*Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
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Waterville, ME 04918*

