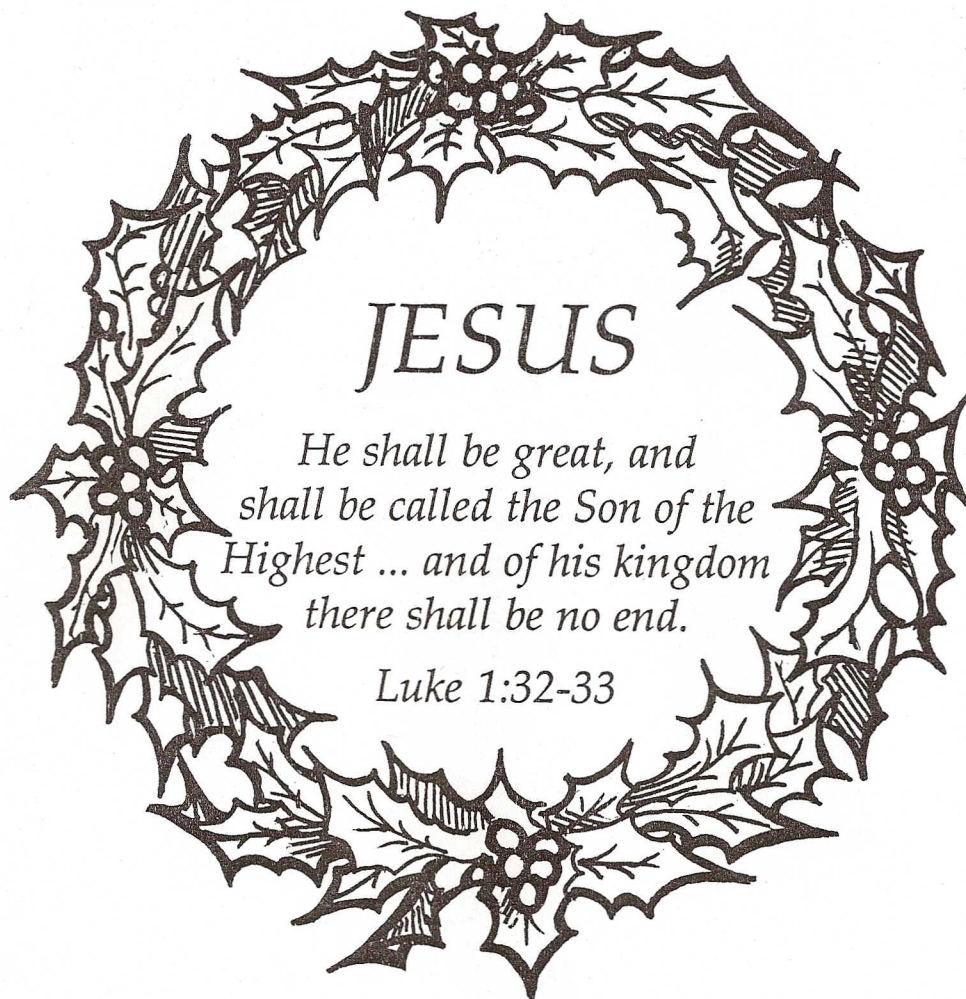


RESURRECTION NEWS



DECEMBER 2011



Pastor's Letter

December, 2011

"Pray For Vision"

"O Lord, open his eyes so he may see." - 2 Kings 2:8-23

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The situation was like this. The Arameans were at war with the Israelites. Every time the king of Aram made plans to ambush Israel, those plans were leaked and Israel foiled the plans. The king of Aram demanded to know who the informer was. It was discovered to be Elisha, the prophet of Israel. **"He tells the king of Israel the very words you speak in your bedroom."**

The plan was to locate Elisha and capture him. The Arameans surrounded the city where Elisha was. When Elisha's servant got up the next morning and saw that they were surrounded by the enemy, he panicked and said, **"Oh, my lord, what shall we do?"**

Elisha responded by saying, **"Do not be afraid! Those who are with us are more than those who are with them."** That must have sounded very odd to the servant because he could see that it was two against thousands and those were very bad odds. What was it that his master saw that he didn't?

Then Elisha prayed this very simple prayer, **"O Lord, open his eyes so he may see."** He prayed that his servant would see things from a different perspective – from God's perspective. **"Then the Lord opened the servant's eyes and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha."**

Oh, that you and I could see things from God's perspective. If you and I could see what Elisha's servant saw, we'd be a whole lot braver to do what is right and 'fear not.' St. Paul sees from God's perspective when he says, **"If God is for us who can be against us?"**

Even if we have perfect eyesight, we may still fail to see things the way they really are because we don't see things from God's perspective. It is only when our eyes are opened to the heavenly realities of God's unfailing love and presence in the person of Jesus Christ that the our situation becomes clear.

In the 18th chapter of St. Luke's gospel we read that Jesus met up with a blind beggar on the road to Jericho. The blind man shouted out to Jesus, **"Son of David, have mercy on me."** Jesus went to the man and asked him a simple question, **"What do you want me to do for you?"** The blind man replied, **"Lord, I want to see."** (Luke 18:40-41.)

The kind of vision we're talking about here of course is to see with the eyes of faith. We're not asking to see visions or dream dreams in order to be assured of God's protective care for our lives. We pray to see the same One whom those Greeks who came to Philip wanted to see, **"Sir, we wish to see Jesus."** (John 12:21) Jesus says to his disciples, **"Whoever has seen me has seen the Father."** God has answered our prayer for vision. Through the eyes of historical eyewitnesses, we see Jesus. We see Him crucified on a cross. And along with 500 others, we see Jesus risen from the dead.

St. Paul prays the same prayer for us as Elisha did for his servant. **"I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe."** (Ephesians 1:18-19).

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Nielsen

LWML Christmas Craft / Bake Fair – Saturday, December 3. 9:00am. – 2:00pm.

It's that time again. Our goal this year is to raise \$2,000 to be distributed to various community and church charities and organizations. We need every family to bring 3 dozen Christmas Cookies for the "Cookie Walk" and any other baked goods you can bring. We need helpers to set up on Thursday, December 1st and on the day of the Fair as well. Please see Anna Bisson or Deb Nielsen for more information.

Men's Network Breakfast - Saturday, December 10th. - 8:00am.

"The Bible On Trial" – Part II. What do the Dead Sea Scrolls have to say about the credibility of the Bible? Come, learn, enjoy the fellowship and a great breakfast by Chris Batson.

Advent Family Night – Saturday, December 16th. 6:00pm. – 7:30pm.

DEFINITELY mark your calendar for this very special night of family fun and fellowship. The evening begins at 6:00pm. with dinner. We'll sing some favorite Christmas Carols, there will be a special Christmas Craft project for the children. There may even be a special appearance by a visitor from the north pole with presents to give away. Don't miss it.

FREE PIZZA PARTY and Annual Voters Meeting – Sunday, December 11th.

Plan on attending the Annual Voters Meeting of the congregation immediately after worship on the 11th. We'll begin with a pizza, followed by the meeting. We'll hear various reports from the Church Council and groups in the congregation, elect Church Council officers and vote on the 2012 budget. In accordance with the new Constitution and By-Laws, every "Communicant Member" of the congregation must sign the Signiture copy of the Constitution and By-Laws to be a "Voting Member." You may do so before the meeting begins if you have not done so already.

Women's Book Study Meeting - Tuesday, December 13th – 7:00pm.

Please see Sasha Fitzpatrick for more information.

LWML Woman's Christmas Party- Sunday, December 18th

Please set aside the time to join in the fellowship, fun and wonderful food at the annual LWML Christmas Party. Secret Pals will be revealed. This is always a wonderful time for all of the women of the congregation. Bring an appetizers or finger foods to share. See Anna Bisson for more information.

2012 Christmas Worship Schedule:

- Saturday - 12/24 – Christmas Eve: Candlelight Lessons and Carols - 7:00pm.
- Sunday - 12/25 – Christmas Morn: Divine Service – 10:00am. *No Sunday School*
- Sunday - 1/1/12 – New Years Day: Divine Service - 10:00am. *No Sunday School*
New Years Day Prayer Service – 8:45am. - More information to follow

Stewardship Pledges for 2012 – Sunday, December 18th.

You will be receiving a 2012 Stewardship packet during the week of December 4th. Please give prayerful consideration to your pledge for the work of the Lord through this congregation in 2012 and beyond. We will gather our pledges and present them to the Lord for His blessing during worship on Sunday, December 19th.

Mortgage Principle Balance: The principle balance on the mortgage loan through Lutheran Church Extension Fund continues to decline rapidly. As of October 30th, the remaining principle balance is \$65,382. At this rate, we are projected to pay off our loan by April, 2014, 7 years early! Keep up the good work.

Sunday School In December - 8:45am.

12/4 The Birth of John Foretold - Luke 1:5-25
12/11 An Angel Visits Mary - Luke 1:26-38
12/18 An Angel Visits Joseph - Matthew 1:18-25
12/25 No Sunday School
1/1 No Sunday School

Irma Mytinger's New Address:

1193 East Mayfield Dr.
San Tan Valley, Az. 85143
#480-588-6964 / imytinger @gmail.com

New e-mail addresses for the Church – lcr@myfairpoint.net

Please make the change in your address book.

Cancellations Due To Weather:

If the weather is bad, we may cancel Sunday School. Please call the church office for notification of cancellation. A special announcement will be posted on the answering machine and an e-mail message sent by 6:30am. The worship service will not be canceled for weather.

Faithful Stewardship – The ‘Submission Of Your Confession of the Gospel of Christ’

In his second letter to the Corinthians, St. Paul addresses the congregation's response to the offering that is being taken among the churches. He writes, *“By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission flowing from your confession of the gospel of Christ and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others.”* (2 Corinthians 9:13).

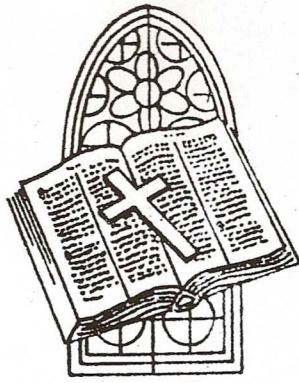
Have you ever thought of your offering as your “submission flowing from your confession of obedience to the gospel of Christ”? How much different is this than the thought of the “offering” as ‘paying dues to the church,’ or ‘an obligation to meet the budget,’ or ‘a good tax deduction’?

Does it make a difference how we ‘think’ about the ‘offering’? Yes is most certainly does! Even in our everyday experience, we know that attitude makes all the difference. An eager willingness born out of love and appreciation makes the gift acceptable and well received. When we offer our offerings to the Lord as our ‘submission’ to His gracious will for our lives as His stewards, it is a beautiful work of faith in His eyes.

The work that is accomplished by our offerings as they are given with the right spirit goes far beyond the practical benefits of paying bills and supporting the mission of the congregation. When given with a right spirit, we are enriched and our gifts produce a response of thanksgiving and praise to God. *“You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God.”* (2 Corinthians 9:12).

Interestingly, paradoxically, rather than wanting to be praised for his giving, the faithful giver gives thanks to God for the privilege and for what he receives through the giving. *“Thanks be to God for this inexpressible gift!”* (2 Corinthians 9:15).

Pastor Nielsen



Monthly Worship

December 4, 2011

Second Sunday in Advent

Psalm: 85

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-11

Epistle: 2 Peter 3:8-14

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

December 11, 2011

Third Sunday in Advent

Psalm: 126

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Holy Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

December 18, 2011

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Psalm: 89:1-5 (19-20)

First Reading: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Epistle: Romans 16:25-27

Holy Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

December 24, 2011

The Nativity of our Lord (Christmas Eve)

Psalm: 110:1-4

First Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Epistle: 1 John 4:7-16

Holy Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

December 25, 2011

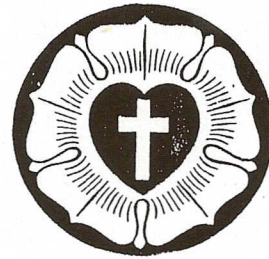
The Nativity of our Lord

Psalm: 2

First Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

Epistle: Hebrews 1:1-6 (7-12)

Gospel: John 1:1-14 (15-18)



LUTHER QUIZ

1. Luther considered this the chief article of Christian doctrine:

A) Baptism B) Justification C) Mercy

2. True or False: Luther believed that all people worship a god.

3. According to Luther, this New Testament book "speaks of nothing else but that Jews as well as Gentiles, the righteous as well as the unrighteous, are justified only by faith in Christ Jesus."

A) Matthew B) Acts C) Hebrews

4. According to Luther, these greatly hinder and disturb the effort to lead an honorable life:

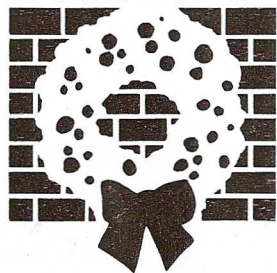
A) Excessive singing and dancing B) excessive eating and drinking C) Excessive labor and worry

5. True or False: Luther believed that Judgement Day would likely follow the observance of Christmas.

6. Luther stated that in comparison with Christian joy, all joy that ever was on earth or is yet to come is to be considered this:

A) Brief B) Miserable C) Child's play

December



STEWARDSHIP

December 4

December 11

December 18

December 24
Christmas
Eve

December 25
Christmas
Day

Acolyte

Sarah Kohl

Emily Larsen

Dan Morren

Emily Larsen

Sarah Kohl

Comm.
Assistant

Jared
Goldsmith

Eric Stout

Mike Hein

Chris Batson

Don Pryor

Ushers

Seth Carlson
&
Glenn
Carlson, Jr.

John Gould
&
Robert Sieber

Moe Cote
&
Jon Morren

Mark Larsen
&
Glenn Carlson

John Ayotte
&
Chris Batson

Greeters

Tom & Katie
Huesers

Robert &
Francis Sieber

Jon & Karen
Morren

Peter & Loois
Doran

Don &
Marlene
Pryor

Altar Guild

LeeAnne
Larsen

Katie Huesers

Avis Grant

Deb Nielsen

Flowers

Avis Grant

Avis Grant

Sharon Klipp

Sharon Klipp

Sharon Klipp

Fellowship

LWML

Yvonne
Batson

OPEN

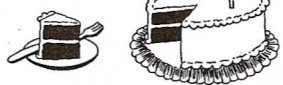
Becky Cote

The Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

December, 2011

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:00pm. Inquirers Class	2	3 9 am—2 pm LWML Christmas Craft Fair
Advent School	5 6:00 pm Elders	6	7	8 9:00 am LWML 6:00pm. Inquirers Class	9	10 8:00am. Men's Net- work Breakfast Mtg. "The Bible On Trial"
Advent School <i>veting and</i>	12	13	14	15 6:00pm. Inquirers Class	16 6:00 pm Advent Family Night	17
Advent School <i>7 Pledges</i> Christmas	19 <i>January Newsletter Deadline</i> 6:00 pm Board For Youth 7:00 pm Church Council	20	21	22 6:00pm. Inquirers Class	23	24 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship - Lessons and Carols
Our Lord s Morning	26	27	28	29	30	31

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
TO...



12/11 Robert Sieber
12/13 Sharon Conover
12/14 Dawn Buck
Evelyn Gaug
12/15 Ethan Carlson
12/18 Cullen Stout
12/23 Dan Callahan
12/27 Natalie Crowley
12/30 Joe Krolak
Karen Morren
12/31 Matthew Esculano

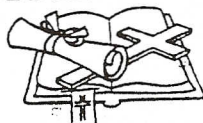


12/16 Fernando & Mari Gouvea
12/20 Peter & Lois Doran
12/27 Dan & Sharon Callahan



12/6 Joshua Morren
12/17 Dawn Buck
12/25 Dottie Evertson

CONFIRMATION



ANNIVERSARIES

Christmas Cookie Rules

1. If you eat a Christmas cookie fresh out of the oven, it has no calories because everyone knows that the first cookie is a test and thus calorie free.
2. If you drink a diet soda after eating your second cookie, it also has no calories because the the diet soda cancels out the cookie calories.
3. If a friend comes over while you're making your Christmas cookies and needs to sample, you must sample with your friend. Because your friend's first cookie is calorie free, (rule #1) yours is also. It would be rude to let your friend sample alone and, being the friend that you are, that makes your cookie calories free.
4. Any cookie calories consumed while walking around will fall to your feet and eventually fall off as you move. This is due to gravity and the density of the caloric mass.
5. Any calories consumed during the frosting of the Christmas cookies will be used up because it takes many calories to lick excess frosting from a knife without cutting your tongue.
6. Cookies colored red or green have very few calories. Red ones have three and green ones have five – one calorie for each letter. Make more red ones!
7. Cookies eaten while watching "Miracle on 34th Street" have no calories because they are part of the entertainment package and not part of one's personal fuel.
8. As always, cookie pieces contain no calories because the process of breaking causes calorie leakage.
9. Any cookies consumed from someone else's plate have no calories since the calories rightfully belong to the other person and will cling to their plate. We all know how calories like to CLING!
10. Any cookies consumed while feeling stressed have no calories because cookies used for medicinal purposes NEVER have calories. It's a rule!

So, go out and enjoy those Christmas Cookies – we only get them this time of year!

Luther Quiz Answers: 1) B 2) True 3) B 4) B 5) False. In Luther's opinion, Judgment Day would likely