

# RESURRECTION NEWS



**DECEMBER 2014**



## Pastor's Letter

December, 2014

Prepare The Way of the Lord+

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The church has set aside four weeks every year to focus our attention on the importance of preparation for what it calls, WHAT DAY. It's called the season of Advent. Ever since the first Christmas, our preparation is not for Jesus' first coming but for WHAT DAY when He comes again. That is why in two of these four weeks in Advent, our attention is directed to John the Baptist whose message is, Prepare the way of the Lord.+

He is called John the Baptist, but he could have also been called John the Preparer. John was well prepared to be a preparer. 1,200 years before he was born, Isaiah the prophet was preparing the way for John. **"A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord."** (Is.40:3) 600 years later the prophet Malachi prepared the way of the Preparer saying, **"I will send my messenger before me, who will prepare the way before me."** (Mal.3:1). Just a few months before his birth, the angel of the Lord said to John's father Zechariah, **"he will go on before the Lord, in the spirit and power of Elijah – to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."** (Luke 1:17). John was prepared to prepare the people of God for the coming of Christ.

Now with all of that preparation for John the Preparer, you'd think that people would have been a little more prepared for him than they were. A delegation of religious leaders came out to interview John and their question was, Who are you? And John replied, You should have been better prepared for me than that! I'm the one that Isaiah wrote prepared you for 1,200 years ago when he said, A voice of one calling in the desert, make straight the way for the Lord. (John 1:19-23)

Maybe it was John's way of preparing people for the Christ's coming that they were unprepared for. It was the custom of the day, and it's not a lot different today, that when an important dignitary was to visit a city or village, everyone would prepare for his visit by getting everything in tip-top shape so it looked super-duper.

In John's day, when Caesar would visit his kingdom, he demanded that the roads be made nice and smooth because his carriage didn't have the kind of suspension system that we have in our carriages today. Before he came, the valleys had to be filled in and made level. The rough places smoothed out and the high places graded down.

But when John prepared people for Christ's coming, he says that Christ will be the one who will raise every valley, lower every mountain, and smooth the rough ground. (Luke 3:5 / Isaiah 40:3).

To be prepared for Christ's second coming is not about what we must do to get ready. It's about what we must be prepared for Him to do to us. And so, John directs us to be prepared by hauling out all of the valleys, hills, mountains, and rough places in our lives for Christ to make level and smooth. You and I don't need to get our lives together so Christ will come. Christ comes to get our lives together. Therefore, the appropriate preparation for His coming is repentance.

John's call from the desert is as relevant today as it was 2,000 years ago. **"Repent for the forgiveness of sins."** To be prepared through repentance is to be prepared for forgiveness. And to be prepared for forgiveness is to be prepared for exactly what Christ comes to give. The voice of one crying in the wilderness is a thrilling voice. John is proclaiming that the One so long expected, comes with pardon and peace for His people.

Yours in Christ,

*Pastor Nielsen*

# *Seeking to Serve...notes from a Deaconess student*

Advent, 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

Having completed an eight-week course covering Biblical foundations, as well as surveying the history of deaconess work in both the Early Church and in a Lutheran context, I thought you might appreciate a few of my thoughts regarding what I learned.

Pastors and deaconesses have specific roles or identities within the life of the Church. While *leitourgia* and *diakonia* (liturgy and service) are both essential for the Church's life and health, the pastor's focus and primary work is the area of *leitourgia* by giving the sacraments and preaching the Word, while the deaconess serves primarily in the areas of *diakonia* (hence her title) by serving and showing mercy. While both men and women may and should serve in this area of *diakonia* (indeed the first seven chosen to serve tables in Acts 6 were men), the work of *leitourgia* is proper to the Pastor, and to men. Indeed the life of every Christian ought naturally to be involved in *diakonia* as the embodiment of Christ living in and through us. Deaconesses in the early church particularly took care of and assisted other women in need, especially where men were either not welcomed, or it was deemed improper for men to interact directly with women. This is also an aspect of the diakonal work of a deaconess in the modern world. There are situations where a deaconess may extend mercy which would not be appropriate for a man, even the Pastor. The deaconess also acts in many other ways- leading and guiding other members of the church into works of mercy.

The pastor gives the gifts (God's word, baptism, the Lord's Supper), which he has received from the Father, and the deaconess directs those in the church (as well as outside the church) to the Pastor and these available gifts. She helps to bring understanding of the gifts through teaching, helps to bring unity and harmony to those in the church, prays with and for them. She goes into the world to find the poor, sick, suffering, and otherwise needy, to help them and direct them toward the Church where all needs are met, and she leads or guides others of the congregation to this work as well

I am currently nearly halfway through my second academic course in which I am reading and digesting the Lutheran Confessions included in the Book of Concord. In January's letter, I try to give you a glimpse of some of my newest insights. Thank you so much for your support with these studies, and I hope you feel free to contact me with questions, requests for prayer, and suggestions for needs which should be addressed that might be up my alley.

Under his mercy,  
*Sharon*

**Mid-Week Advent Services: Prepare your hearts and minds for a holy and Christ-centered celebration of Christmas.** The theme for each service will focus upon a traditional Advent hymn by Johann Olearius. Wednesday evening services will begin at 7:00pm. Thursday morning services will begin at 10:30am.

- Wednesday 12/3 – 7:00pm. / Thursday 12/4 – 10:30am. - *“Comfort, Comfort My People”*
- Wednesday 12/10 – 7:00pm. / Thursday 12/11 – 10:30am. - *“Come, Thou Precious Ransom Come”*
- Wednesday 12/17 – 7:00pm. / Thursday 12/18 – 10:30am. - *“When All The World Was Cursed”*

**Men’s Network Breakfast - Saturday, December 13 - 8:00 – 9:30am.**

**“Are Lutherans Green?”** We will finish up our series on Creation with a presentation that pastor Nielsen made at the Higher Things+Conference in Wisconsin this past summer. What does the bible have to say about ecology? Come and enjoy the food, fellowship and the encouragement of a lively bible study with men of faith. Breakfast chef: Brian Watson.

**Stewardship Pledges for 2015 to be dedicated to the Lord – Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.**

Please give prayerful consideration to your stewardship pledge for 2015. We will gather our pledges and present them to the Lord for His blessing during worship on Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Annual Meeting of the Congregation:** Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. The annual meeting of the congregation is an important time for the congregation to review its life together in 2014 and plan for 2015. Please plan to join us for the meeting. Child care will be available. A free Pizza Party will precede the meeting.

**Advent Family Night – Saturday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. 5:00pm. – 6:30pm.**

DEFINITELY mark your calendar for this very special night of Advent family fun and fellowship. The evening begins at 5:00pm. with special supper. We will sing some favorite Christmas Carols, there will be a special Christmas Craft project for the children, we will decorate the Christmas Tree in the Narthex. Don't miss it.

**Christmas Worship Schedule:**

- 12/24 . Christmas Eve: Candlelight Lessons and Carols - 7:00pm.
- 12/25 . Christmas Morn: Divine Service . 10:00am.
- 12/28 . 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas: Sunday School . 8:45am. / Worship . 10:00am.
- 1/4 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Christmas: Sunday School . 8:45am. / Worship - 10:00am.

**Epiphany Worship Service:**

Mark your calendar now for January 6<sup>th</sup> - The Epiphany of Our Lord+ Worship begins at 7:00pm.

**New Inquirer’s Class Beginning In January.**

Twice a year, pastor Nielsen teaches a 9 week "Inquirer's Class" for everyone who would like to know more about what we believe, teach and confess. This class is the entryway into the congregation for everyone who would like to become a member or for those who would simply like to find out more. Please see pastor Nielsen to sign up now.

**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 by 6:30am. The worship service will not be canceled for weather.

### **Thank you from The Maine Children's Home For Little Wanderers**

*(Sharon Abrams, Director of the Maine Children's Home was our guest at Adult Bible Study on October 19<sup>th</sup>. We presented her a check from our 'Missions' budget for \$1000 in the Sanctuary before worship. A group of 8 volunteers from the congregation met at the Children's Home on November 12<sup>th</sup> to pack boxes for their Christmas Program.)*

October 22, 2014

Dear Lutheran Church of the Resurrection,

The Maine Children's Home would like to thank you for your gift of \$1000.00. This gift will help to support the many programs we offer to underprivileged children and families throughout Maine, including our Adoption Program, the Harland A. Turner Family Counseling Center, our Teen Parent School Program, The Children's Place, our Summer Camp Scholarship Program and our Christmas Program.

The Maine Children's Home appreciates your support, which make it possible for our agency to fulfill our mission to build and strengthen families and their children, instilling hope for the future and a better quality of life through our many programs. We thank you for your generosity and interest in our work.

Very truly yours,

Sharon Abrams . Director.

### **Men's Clothing Drive for the Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter**

The Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter strives to assist residents in achieving independence. Clothing assistance is an important part of their mission. They receive ample women's clothing but never sufficient men's clothing to distribute.

- **Drop-off beginning: January 4<sup>th</sup>**

Bring men's clothing to the church beginning **January 4, 2015**. Or, speak to a member of the Board for Missions and we will pick the clothing up from you.

- **Cut-off and Delivery: February 14<sup>th</sup>**

Our goal is to collect, fold, sort and deliver **100 banana boxes of men's clothing on February 14, 2015**. Come help us fold, sort, box and deliver. *(We have 110 boxes right now in the shed!)*

Thank you - Board for Missions



### **CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAIR**

**December 6, 2014 9:00am – 2:00pm**

#### **We NEED Your Help!**

1. COOKIES COOKIES COOKIES 3-4 dozen 2” cookies
2. OTHER BAKED GOODS: pies, breads, candy, muffins, brownies, bars, cakes, whoopie pies, fudge, etc.
3. SET UP: 12/3 Wed. 9 am – noon  
12/4 Thurs. 9 am – noon  
12/5 Fri. 9am - ?
4. CRAFT FAIR DAY 8:30 am – 2:30pm  
(Work 1 to 5 hours)  
Cookie Walk  
Kitchen Help  
Cashiers  
General Help
5. WHITE ELEPHANT TABLE  
New or nearly new items – please
6. OTHER NEEDS  
Coffee Cans – 1 pound size - cleaned

### **LWML CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**Sunday, December 21, right after church**

**For: ALL ladies of LCR**

It is a time to relax and enjoy the season, with God’s word, songs, games, prizes, lunch, and a gift exchange. Bring a dish to share (finger food or dessert). **AND** a gift – either for your Secret Pal or a grab bag gift (\$5 to \$8 value).

#### **NON-Perishable Food Dotation**

There is a box in the Narthex (by the door leading to the choir loft). We will have the box available all of December for your donations to the Waterville Food Bank.

#### **Book/Puzzle Sale**

Thank you so much for your participation in the book/puzzle sale. It was a great success! We greatly exceeded our goal of \$100 for Mites contributions.

God Bless,

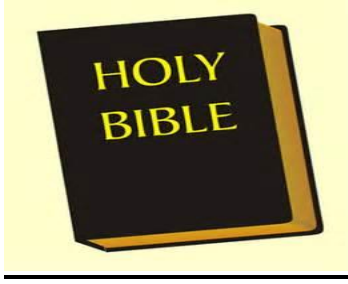
Anna Bisson, Pres. LWML

O-O-O-O

#### **HELP**

Much to our delight, the Texas Klipps are coming for Christmas this year. Weather permitting; they would love to go sledding, tubing, etc. If anyone has some equipment that we might borrow, during the week of Christmas, we sure would appreciate it!!! Please see me.

Sharon Klipp



## **Monthly Worship**

**December 7, 2014**

**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 14, 2014**

**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 21, 2014**

**Fourth Sunday in Advent**

**Psalm:** 89:1-5 (19-29)

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

**Epistle:** Romans 16:25-27

**Holy Gospel:** Luke 1:26-38

**December 25, 2014**

**The Nativity of Our Lord**

**Psalm:** 2

**First Reading:** Isaiah 52:7-10

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

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

**December 28, 2014**

**Christmas 1**

**Psalm:** 111

**First Reading:** Isaiah 61:10-62:3

**Epistle:** Galatians 4:4-7

**Holy Gospel:** Luke 2:22-40

## **BIBLE QUIZ**

**1. What was the answer to Hannah's prayer?**

A) a husband B) a son C) a job D) a meal

**2. Who was the only person who lived before the flood and did not die?**

A) Esau B) Enoch C) Elisha D) Elijah

**3. For all the pent-up hatred the Jewish rulers had toward Jesus, what was the most difficult part of His night trial?**

A) He kept miraculously escaping their clutches, both in speech and in action B) He kept redirecting the questions back to them and their sin C) they could not get two false witnesses to accuse Him of the same crime D) they could not figure out how to get Him to obey them

**4. When did God part the Jordan river en route to Jericho?**

A) after all the feet of the priests carrying the ark of the Lord were in the river B) at dusk, just after the evening sacrifices were made C) Immediately after commanding the Israelites to prepare for battle D) it was the sea that God parted, not the river

**5. In the wheat and tares parable, what does the wheat represent?**

A) the world B) the children of the kingdom C) the children of the wicked one D) the Son of Man

**6. Who said this: "Here am I; send me?"**

A) Isaiah B) Jeremiah C) Jesus D) Paul

Answers on "Birthday" page



12/11 Robert Sieber  
 12/12 Maira Goldsmith  
 12/13 Sharon Conover  
 12/14 Evelyn Gaug  
 12/23 Dan Callahan  
 12/25 Evelyn Gilbert  
 12/27 Natalie Crowley  
 12/30 Karen Morren  
 12/31 Matthew Esculano

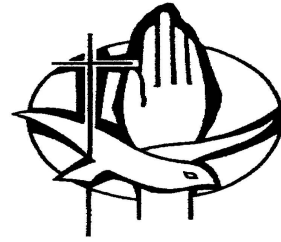


## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

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



12/6 Josh Morren  
 12/25 Dottie Evertsen



## CONFIRMATION ANNIVERSARIES

12/17 Esther Gould  
 John Gould  
 12/19 Rick Dostie

### Bible Quiz Answers:

1. B. 1 Samuel 1:20
2. B Genesis 25:24; Hebrews 11:5
3. C Matthew 26:59-60
4. A. Joshua 3:14-16
5. B Matthew 13:38
6. A Isaiah 6:8

0-0-0-0-0-0

### Some more Paraprosdokians

(Figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected; usually humorous)

---Where there's will, I want to be in it.

---Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

---We never really grow up, we only learn how to act in public.

---Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.

---To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research,\.

---In filling out an application, where it says, "In case of emergency, notify: I put DOCTOR.\.

---You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.

---I used to be indecisive. Now, I'm not so sure.



# December Stewardship

	<u>Dec. 7</u>	<u>Dec. 14</u>	<u>Dec. 21</u>	<u>Dec. 24</u>	<u>Dec. 25</u>	<u>Dec. 28</u>
<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Caden Fitzpatrick</b>	<b>Emily Larsen</b>	<b>Sarah Kohl</b>	<b>Emily Larsen</b>	<b>Caden Fitzpatrick</b>	<b>Jacob Huesers</b>
<b>Comm. Assist.</b>	<b>Steve Love</b>	<b>Brian Watson</b>	<b>Glenn Carlson</b>	<b>-0-0-0-</b>	<b>Chris Batson</b>	<b>Mike Hein</b>
<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Brad Grierson &amp; Mark Larsen</b>	<b>Tom Huesers &amp; John Gould</b>	<b>Seth Carlson &amp; Brad Fitzpatrick</b>	<b>Brian Watson &amp; Glenn Carlson, Jr.</b>	<b>John Ayotte &amp; Steve Love</b>	<b>Chris Batson &amp; Ray Gorneau</b>
<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Jim &amp; Darryll Zahner</b>	<b>Jared &amp; Amanda Goldsmith</b>	<b>Ray &amp; Betsy Gorneau</b>	<b>Glenn &amp; Kitty Carlson</b>	<b>Chris &amp; Yvonne Batson</b>	<b>Mike &amp; Michelle Hein</b>
<b>Altar Care</b>	<b>Amanda Goldsmith</b>	<b>Amy Ouellette</b>	<b>Kitty Carlson</b>	<b>-0-0-0-</b>	<b>Andrea Watson</b>	<b>Esther Gould</b>
<b>Flowers</b>	<b>Jim &amp; Darryll Zahner</b>	<b>Sharon Klipp</b>	<b>Sharon Klipp</b>	<b>Sharon Klipp</b>	<b>Sharon Klipp</b>	<b>Sharon Klipp</b>
<b>Fellowship</b>	<b>LWML</b>	<b>Annual Meeting</b>	<b>Sharon Klipp</b>	<b>-0-0-0-</b>	<b>-0-0-0-</b>	<b>OPEN</b>

*Lutheran Church of the Resurrection  
36 Cool St.  
Waterville, ME 04901*

