

RESURRECTION NEWS

Come let us
Adore
Him



DECEMBER 2015



Pastor's Letter

December, 2015
"The Main Event"

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It was at the beginning of the century that the front man for a circus came to a small Iowa town. On Saturday night, when all the farm families came to do their shopping and run their errands, a young boy saw the posters for the circus which had been placed all over. In bright colors, he saw drawings of exotic animals and of the tight wire and trapeze artists. He knew right then that he had to see the circus.

The day the circus arrived and the boy walked the four miles to town and was there at the crack of dawn. It was better than anything he had imagined. The music, the animals, the vendors, the clowns, the bright colored costumes, the daring men and ladies were all there.

He was back home by noon, having run the whole four miles. He told everyone, with long, fast sentences, that gushed from his mouth about all that he had seen.

Listening carefully, Dad sensed a problem. Gently he asked, "Son, how did you like that big tent with the three rings?" The boy's expression was confused. He said, "What tent?" Painfully, it came out: the boy had only seen the parade. He had never actually seen the real acts. He loved what he had seen - but he hadn't seen the most important part of the circus.

With all of the excitement of the Christmas season, I suspect that there are a lot a folks who celebrate the holiday, and enjoy it, but who never actually see the most important part.

St. Luke writes, "So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." (Luke 2:4-7).

A lot of people missed the most important part on that first Christmas. Many were sleeping. Some were preoccupied. A few may have actually been there and witnessed the event but not realized its significance, 'babies are born every day. What's one more?'

It was the lowly shepherds, of all people, who went into town to see the main event of all main events. *"Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us."* Maybe a shepherd's life is not so busy or filled with things to do and places to go as is ours. They heard the announcement and they went, and they *"returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen..."* (Luke 2:26)

They saw the 'most important thing' which is Jesus Christ, 'the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, true God of true God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.'

I hope that you have a wonderful Christmas. As we all know, the Christmas parade can be pretty thrilling and satisfying in itself. I hope that you will be careful not to miss the 'most important thing.' *"A savior is born, who is Christ the Lord."*

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Nielsen

Seeking to Serve...notes from a Deaconess student

Dear Brothers and Sisters of LCR,

During the month since my last newsletter communication, my course work has focused on ministry to the sick, suffering and dying. My classmates and I have addressed care for the chronically and terminally ill, suffering due to dementia (of cared-for and care-givers), and learned about hospice and palliative care. We have increasingly understood how God is present in our suffering. We have looked closely at our wonderful liturgy for the commendation of the dying and the assurance we find in our funeral service. I've even spent some time at a local funeral home becoming acquainted with the MANY decisions that must be made when (or before) someone dies.

As Pastor Nielsen noted in his sermon on the first Sunday in Advent, it is somewhat strange to be contemplating death—both ours and Christ's—through so much of Advent (my class will end December 20). But indeed that child born in Bethlehem, wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger, became man for us in order to die on the cross—the new tree of life, and to again be wrapped in strips of cloth and laid in a tomb. Since God entered our human life and died our death for us, we can now enter his life and be raised with him to new life.

Hebrews 2:14-15 - “Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.”

Thanks be to God that the promise of deliverance given in the garden of Eden (Genesis 3:15) has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ!

Under his mercy,
Sharon

Annual Meeting of the Congregation: Sunday, December 13th - immediately after worship. The annual meeting of the congregation is an important time for the congregation to review our life together under the Lord's blessings in 2015 and lay out the plans for 2016. An important part of this year's meeting will be a final review of the plans for the remodeling of the sanctuary and downstairs bathrooms and then a vote. Please plan to join us for the meeting. Child care will be available. A free Pizza Party will precede the meeting.

2016 Church Pictorial Directory Update

The production of the 2016 pictorial directory is in process. Don Pryor will be taking pictures of anyone who is not currently in the directory or anyone who would like to have their picture updated. Deadline for pictures and any information changes is 12/27/15.

Christmas Worship Schedule:

- 12/24 - Christmas Eve: Candlelight Lessons and Carols - 7:00pm.
- 12/25 - Christmas Morn: Divine Service - 10:00am.
- 12/27 - 1st Sunday after Christmas: Sunday School - 8:45am. / Worship - 10:00am.
- 1/3 - 2nd Sunday after Christmas: Sunday School - 8:45am. / Worship - 10:00am.

Adult Bible Study Themes for December Every Sunday beginning at 8:45am.

- 12/6 **Psalm of the Month: Psalm 3** How do you pray when your world is coming apart?
- 12/13 **Selected Topic: “Did God Become Jesus Or Did Jesus Become God?”** Which is it? It makes all the difference in your salvation.
- 12/20 **Selected Topic: “What Is ‘Reconciliation?’”** An in-depth look at this very important word.
- 12/27 **Current Events Review: “To Be Determined”**

Epiphany Worship Service:

Mark your calendar now for January 6th - “The Epiphany of Our Lord”. Worship at 7:00pm.

A Note Regarding Fellowship Refreshments After Church.

Fifty nine years ago my Dad walked me to a neighborhood Lutheran church in Burbank California. The church was pink stucco with a red tile roof. There were palm trees planted outside. It was a perfect setting for what I was about to experience. There I was served hot chocolate and spice gumdrop cookies. I was shown a reel to reel movie about a baby born just for me. His name was Jesus. Then I was given a small cardboard manger with green Easter grass and a tiny plastic doll to place inside. My senses that night were aware and receiving. I still am that little girl who was amazed about a God who loved me and had this baby born just for me. When the spice cookies hit my tongue they forever imprinted on me the taste of Christmas. So it is no surprise to me that I have the job of overseeing refreshments here at Resurrection. I would like to ask that when we get drinks for the children that we not get the drinks with artificial coloring in them. Red 40 has been linked to neurological problems. In Great Britain they do not allow their foods to have artificial dyes in them. Here in America some of the companies are starting to change how they will be coloring our food. Campbell's and Kraft are two of these companies. Yes, that includes spice gumdrops. Thank you all for the time and baking you do so that we can fellowship after church.

"Deep" Joy and Peace in Christ,

Becky Cote

Christmas Poinsettias:

Every year, we grace the chancel with poinsettias during the Christmas season. If you would like to purchase a poinsettia, please include \$13 per plant with your offering envelope marked - “flowers.” The deadline to order is December 20th. You may also provide your own plant for the chancel. Please be sure to indicate how you would like the announcement to read:

From: _____

In Honor of: _____

In Memory of: _____

To The Glory of God _____

Board for Missions Report:

Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter: The Board will recommend that all remaining funding for 2015 be given to the Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter towards fulfillment of a \$5,000 pledge toward the development of the 2nd Floor. The recommendation to be presented to the congregation for approval at the Annual Voters meeting.

It was decided to move the Men's Clothing Drive back. It will begin mid-February and conclude the end of March.

Mission Sunday: Pastor Nielsen contacted Rev. Ted NaThalang of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation inviting him to visit in the Spring for the annual Mission Sunday. He responded that he would be delighted to do so and will forward potential dates as soon as he returns from Indonesia.

Maine Children's Home: A check for \$1,000 for the Christmas Program was sent by the congregation in October. Andrea has arranged for a team to package boxes on 11/17, 4:00pm.

Seminary Student Visit: Pastor Nielsen spoke with Rev. Jon Seculna - V.P. for Advancement - Concordia Theological Seminary - Ft. Wayne. Of the two men we are currently sponsoring, one is a first year student, Michael McGinley, who may not be ready to visit. The other is Greg Bausch who was our guest two years ago. Rev. Secluna offered to visit on behalf of the Seminary to talk about the work being done there. The Board will accept his offer and work towards having him visit with us late Spring, 2016.

Waterville Area Food Bank: Pastor Nielsen met with Food Bank director, David Dawson. He reported that the Food Bank has served 125 families so far in November. Families are only permitted to visit every 14 days. The bulk of their food is purchased from Good Shepherd Food Bank - Lewiston and Shop-And-Save - Waterville. Although they welcome donations of food, they prefer cash donations so that they can purchase in bulk, items that are needed and maintain a balanced inventory. The Board voted to send \$800 of mission funds to the WAFB and consider future funding in 2016. David offered that he would be glad to visit the congregation to talk about the work of the Food Bank.

Deb reported on her experience with Thrivent and their \$250 service reward program. Any Thrivent member is eligible to use this program twice a year. Money must be used to purchase something for a particular project. Deb has applied for funding for the LWML Christmas Craft Fair. Brian Watson has already used the program to fund the November Homeless Shelter dinner.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, January 13th, 2016 - 6:30pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Thank letters from seminary students

We have received very nice letters from both of the seminary students that we are supporting - Michael McGinley and Greg Bausch. They are posted on the Missions Bulletin Board for your review.

How do you respond when someone challenges or questions the Christian faith?

Here are seven common objections to the faith and suggestions on how to respond.

1. Christians are hypocrites.

True. They are. In fact, everyone is a hypocrite to one degree or another. Thankfully, you have a Savior who gathers in honest hypocrites like you.

2. Christianity is a crutch.

But let's be honest, all people need assistance. At times, life can be unbearable due to fear, guilt, and / or misfortune. You can be thankful you have a God who keeps his world to sustain you.

3. The bible and science are incompatible.

No. Just the opposite. Science was born in Christian culture and the Bible can provide a context in which scientific method makes sense.

4. A loving God would never send anyone to hell.

In this life, God's love reaches out to deliver every sinner who trusts in Christ. Those who refuse it must deal with the consequences. So here's the word for you: in your baptism God has claimed you and promised you a place in his many mansions.

5. Evil is incompatible with an all-powerful, all-loving God.

Christians concede that the questions of why innocent people suffer and why wicked people prosper in this life are beyond our comprehension. These are matters we must hand over into God's care with the conviction that he will make known his justice and healing in eternity. You are not left to your own device in facing brokenness and evil, but God has you and these matters well in hand.

6. I'm not a sinner; I'm not so bad.

If you think that you need to earn God's approval, you'd better get at it! Let's see how long it takes before you crave God's mercy. If you know you are a sinner, you are exactly at the place where God gives you mercy.

7. There are many paths to God and you need to choose the path that's right for you.

Whether now or later, you will realize that you are not the captain of your fate and that your choices in ultimate matters mean very little. Even worse, it was your rejection of Jesus that put him on the cross. What counts is that God has chosen you in Jesus Christ, so you can enjoy the privilege of living as his child; so repent of your sin, turn to God, and trust in Christ.

(From: "[A Lutheran Case for Apologetics](#)". Mark Mattes. Logia XXIV - #4. 2015)



2015 Christmas Craft Fair

December 5th

9 AM to 2PM

We need your help!

*3- 5 dozen cookies for the
cookie walk

(from everyone, please)

*Baked Goods—Cakes, Breads,
Pies, Candy, Whoopie Pies,
Muffins, Cupcakes, Brownies,
etc.

*Setting up:

Thursday, Dec. 3 (9am to 1pm)

Friday, Dec. 4 (9am until done)

*Fair Day

Help with customers, cookie
walk, in the kitchen, checking
out and taking money

(sign up on bulletin board)



Annual LWML Christmas Party

Take a couple of hours out of
your busy schedules and join
us for fun, fellowship and
food!

WHO: All ladies of LCR

WHEN: Saturday, December 19
(mark your calendars)

TIME: 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

WHERE: Pastor and Deb
Nielsen's home

(4 Martin Ave., Waterville)

WHAT TO BRING:

*Finger foods for buffet table

*Gift to swap (\$10)

See ya all there!!



Monthly Worship

December 6, 2015

Second Sunday in Advent

Psalm: 66:1-12

First Reading: Malachi 3:1-7b

Epistle: Philippians 1:2-11

Holy Gospel: Luke 3:1-14 (15-20)

December 13, 2015

Third Sunday in Advent

Psalm: 85

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Epistle: Philippians 4:4-7

Holy Gospel: Luke 7:18-28 (29-35)

December 20, 2015

Fourth Sunday in Advent

Psalm: 80:1-7

First Reading: Micah 5:2-5a

Epistle: Hebrews 10:5-10

Holy Gospel: Luke 1:39-45 (46-56)

December 25, 2015

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 27, 2015

First Sunday after Christmas

Psalm: 111

First Reading: Exodus: 13:1-3a, 11-15

Epistle: Colossians 3:12-17

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

BIBLE QUIZ

1. Who were the only Jericho residents to survive the defeat of their city?

A) no one, God commanded every single living to die B) all women and girls who had never borne a child C) the king and his top aides D) Rahab and her family under her roof

2. Why was the book of Lamentations written?

A) Jeremiah mourned the fall of Zion and its people becoming slaves B) David mourned the death of his best friend, Jonathan C) Lot mourned for his wife who was turned into a pillar of salt D) the apostles mourned the death of Jesus, the Son of God

3. In the crowd of over 5,000 people, who found the boy with the fish and bread lunch?

A) a prostitute Jesus just forgave of her sins B) Andrew, the apostle to Jesus C) a soldier who had come to test Jesus D) a Pharisee

4. How did Judas betray Jesus?

A) hug B) kiss C) bowl D) smile

5. Who did God appoint as the very first high priest in Jewish history?

A) Moses B) Aaron C) Eli D) Samuel

6. What is so important about the Word of God?

A) the Word was what the prophets used to confront the kings B) the Word was an interesting work of fiction mixed with facts C) the Word was to be used as a supplement to moral teachings D) the Word was God and with God since before the beginning of time



- 12/11 Robert Sieber
- 12/12 Maira Goldsmith
- 12/13 Sharon Conover
Allison Farr
- 12/14 Evelyn Gaug
- 12/15 Ethan Carlson
- 12/23 Dan Callahan
- 12/25 Evelyn Gilbert
- 12/27 Natalie Crowley
- 12/30 Karen Morren
- 12/31 Matthew Esculano



Confirmation

Anniversaries

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

Some answers from 7-year-olds when asked questions about the Old and New Testaments

---Moses died before he ever reached Canada. Then Joshua led the Hebrews in the battle of Geritol..

---David was a Hebrew king skilled at playing the liar. He fought with the Finklesteins, a race of people who lived in Biblical times.

---Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.

---Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.

---The people who followed the Lord were called the 12 decibels.

---The epistles were the wives of the apostles.



BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

- 12/21 Evan Farr
Hayley Farr
- 12/25 Dottie Evertsen



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

Bible Quiz Answers

1. D Joshua 6:21-23
2. A Lamentations 1:1-4
3. B John 6:8-9
4. B Matthew 26:47-49
5. B Exodus 28:3
6. D John 1:1

December Stewardship

	<u>Dec. 6</u>	<u>Dec. 13</u>	<u>Dec. 20</u>	<u>Dec. 24</u>	<u>Dec. 25</u>	<u>Dec. 27</u>
Acolyte	Caden Fitzpatrick	Allison Farr	Mia Fitzpatrick	-----	-----	Emmy Carlson
Comm. Assistant	Brad Fitzpatrick	Brad Grierson	Brian Watson	-----	Chris Batson	Steve Love
Ushers	Mike Hein & Seth Carlson	Jacob Huesers & Tom Huesers	John Gould & Bill Jahnke	Chris Batson & Glenn Carlson	Don Pryor & John Ayotte	Brad Grierson & Chris Batson
Greeters	Dan & Sharon Callahan & Matt Esculano	Mike & Michelle Hein	Julie & Sarah Kohl	Tom & Katie Huesers	Chris & Yvonne Batson	Jim & Darryll Zahner
Altar Care	LeeAnne Larsen	Katie Huesers	Avis Grant	-----	Deb Nielsen	Sharon Conover
Flowers	Robert & Frances Siebert	Sharon Klipp	Sharon Klipp	Sharon Klipp	Sharon Klipp	Sharon Klipp
Fellowship	LWML	Annual Meeting (pizza)	Sharon Klipp	-----	-----	Dorothy McAllister

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