

RESURRECTION NEWS



FEBRUARY, 2014



Pastor's Letter February, 2014 "Mercy At Life's End"

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"The day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (Genesis 2:17) You would think with a warning like that, a person would be pretty careful about what they eat. But as we know, Adam and Eve ate what they were forbidden to eat. And they died. Almighty God, in His almighty grace, did not bring physical death onto Adam and Eve instantly, or even in the day that they ate of it. (*'Death' comes in many different forms such as 'relationships, trust, innocence, etc.'*) He gave them time to repent and to receive His forgiveness and to die with the assurance of hope in a Savior who would 'take away the sin of the world' and make everything right again.

Physical death is inevitable for all of us. St. Paul tells us, "Just as sin came into the world through one man (Adam), and death through sin, and so death spread to ALL MEN because ALL SINNED..." (Romans 5:12).

But the promise given to Adam and Eve has been fulfilled for us. Jesus Christ is 'the offspring of the woman,' the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sin of the world and makes all things right again. "For if, because of one man's trespass, (that 'one man' being Adam) death reigned through the one man, MUCH MORE will those who received the abundance of grace and the righteousness, reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ." Therefore, we too may die with the assurance of hope and rest in peace. (Romans 5:17)

The topic of a recent Adult Bible Study on a Sunday morning was, "Mercy At Life's End." We made the following points that apply both to how we may face our own death in light of the gospel, and how we treat others as they come to the end of their life in light of the death of Christ for them.

First, we must always recognize the temptation to treat 'life as god' as opposed to 'life as a gift of God.' We do not worship 'life,' even our own. We will not do 'anything' in order to prolong our life. We are committed to worshiping the One, True God ALONE, and in faith, entrusting our life into His hands.

Second, two extremes are to be avoided when considering treatment and care. We should never choose death nor aim for death. But we should not act as though continued life is the highest good. There are four helpful distinctions that must be made to faithfully navigate our way through these two extremes.

- A) The distinction between '**treatments that may be refused**' and '**care that must never be denied**' must be clearly understood.
- B) The difference between '**irretrievably dying**' and '**terminally ill**' must be clearly understood.
- C) The distinction between '**burden of treatment**' and '**burden of life**' must be clearly understood.
- D) We must be clear and honest regarding the '**intention and aim of an action**' vs. '**the result of an action.**'

As you can imagine, there is an awful lot of conversation that needs to take place around each one of these points. If, at any time, you would like to discuss these important considerations in receiving and giving care at the end of life, I would be pleased to meet with you. Better yet, why not come to Adult Bible Study.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Nielsen

Mortgage Payoff Celebration - Sunday, February 16th

Construction of the addition to the building was begun and completed in 2000. The total cost of the project was approximately \$700,000. Half of that amount was paid for by the members of the congregation through 3 year pledges. The other half was paid for through a 20 year mortgage loan from the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF). Monthly mortgage payments of \$1,100 have been supplemented by 'principal payments' through dedicated offerings to the "Mortgage Fund" and a budgeted 'principal payment' amount over the last several years. The result is that we will payoff the mortgage in just 13 years. The interest savings is substantial. We have been richly blessed by the Lord and a celebration of His goodness and the congregation's faithful stewardship seems good, right and salutary. Please join us for a very special day in the life of this congregation on **Sunday, February 16th**. New England District President, Rev. Timothy Yeadon will be our guest preacher. A pot-luck supper will follow worship.

Confirmation Youth Headed to "Higher Things" Youth Convention - Concordia University – Wisc.

Danny Morren, Sarah Kohl, Nathanael Batson and Emily Larsen will be attending the Higher Things Conference in Wisconsin, July 7-11. The cost of attending the convention is roughly \$750 per person. In an effort to raise support for their trip and serve the congregation at the same time, they will be conducting a **"CHILD CARE NIGHT" on Saturday, February 15th from 4:30pm – 8:00pm.** Here's how it works. Parents may bring their children to the church. The youth, with supervision from parents and pastor, will occupy the children with crafts, games, singing and dinner while parents enjoy a night out. Parents may make a 'free will offering' for the Youth Convention. A sign up sheet will be posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex that parents should be sure to sign up on so that adequate preparations may be made. Please see any of the youth for more information.

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study – "Elijah and Elisha – Prophets of God" Beginning Sunday, February 2nd. Fernando Gouvea will provide an in-depth look at these two leading figures of the Old Testament and the connections that their life and ministry has to our life and faith.

Men's Breakfast Meeting - Saturday, February 8th – 8:00am.

This month's Men's Breakfast Meeting will be dedicated to the sorting, packaging and delivery of clothing collected for the Homeless Shelter's Men's Clothing Drive. After breakfast and time of devotion in the Word, we'll get right at the task at hand. We can use all the help that we can get for this since a LOT OF CLOTHES have been collected.

Board for Missions Meeting Minutes: January 8, 2014

Current Projects:

A. Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter

Regarding the Monthly Meal:

- Amanda has contacted the Shelter to confirm our commitment to provide dinner for residents on the second Saturday of the month in 2014.
- Amanda has made a new 'sign up' schedule for dinners to be posted on the bulletin board.
- Discussion of ways to involve as many members of the congregation in this project as possible included the following: a) Creation of groups based on a common theme; ie. 'veterans group,' 'a left handed group,' etc.; b) Develop a catalog of easy menus to use.
- Discussion of what happens if we cannot keep our commitment for a particular month. The Shelter staff is able to supply dinner from food in stock.
- Dinner sign-ups include: January – Men's Breakfast Group; February – Altar Guild; March – Ladies Book Group; November - Veterans.

Regarding 2nd Floor Elevator Project:

- Brian reported that the balance to be raised by the Shelter for the elevator stands at \$6,900. The Congregation approved a gift of \$4000 from the 2013 Mission Budget at the Annual

Meeting towards this. It was decided to recommend approval of \$2,900 from the 2014 Mission Budget for the Shelter elevator at the next Church Council meeting.

Men's Clothing Drive:

- Brian reported that the Shelter receives clothing donations for residents but is always lacking adequate men's clothing. It was decided to conduct a 'men's clothing drive' through the congregation. Clothing to be collected by the February 8th Men's Breakfast Meeting for delivery by the Men's Group.

B. Mission Sunday – March 16th, 2014

- Pastor Nielsen confirmed that Rev. Joel and Jennifer Cundiff will be present on Saturday and Sunday to present their mission to Africa with Capstone Ministries which the congregation helped sponsor.
- The Cundiffs will be invited to stay with the Niensens or a local motel.
- A special Missions Board Dinner is scheduled for Saturday night. Anyone who would like to attend is welcome.
- Pastor Cundiff will lead Bible Study and preach on Sunday.
- A pot-luck supper will follow worship with a Missions / St. Patrick theme. Representatives of local agencies which the BfM supports will be invited to attend.
- The BfM will reimburse Pastor Cundiff for mileage and an honorarium from the Missions Budget.

C. Seminary Student Visit

- Pastor Nielsen reported that seminarian Greg Bauch is available to visit on February 23rd and May 25th. It was decided that neither of these dates would work very well. Pastor Nielsen will contact Greg to see if the weekend of June 8th would work.

D. New Ideas

- Discussion about possible service projects to involve the congregation.
- Next meeting: February 12th – 6:30pm. Visitors welcome.

Board of Elders Meeting - 1/13/14 -

- **“You Can Do It! Series”** - It was decided to try to utilize these 9 booklets in a 'small group' setting. The Elders will try to establish a small group program for the congregation. These booklets will form the basis for the content. We will need to develop an outline of how the small group meetings should go, small group leaders recruited and some training, small group members recruited, target date for initial meetings.
- **“How To Share Christ Confidently”** booklet - It was decided that a cover letter from the Elders would accompany the distribution of these pamphlets to the entire congregation. We will also incorporate a 4-week series during Adult Bible Study and Mid-Week Bible Study to discuss.
- **“Men's Retreat”** - Building on the success of the Men's Breakfast, we discussed the development of a men's retreat for 'early fall.' Publicity, physical arrangements, program to be discussed at the next meeting.
- **A prayer list of 10 names was developed.** We commit to pray for these 10 daily.

Thank You from Lutheran Heritage Foundation

January 16, 2014.

Dear Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

There are no words in the Christmas story more descriptive, more disheartening, more demeaning, more defeating than the statement, 'there was no room.' Yet, this is how God chose to send His only begotten Son. It would not be the last time he would find Himself in lowly circumstances. He is often depicted in a stable surrounded by cows, sheep and certainly a donkey, the meekest of the beasts of burden. It is on Palm Sunday when the donkey comes back into the picture.

Because you have chosen to support the mission of LHF with a gift of \$1,000, we are able to publish books (685 titles) that by the power of the Holy Spirit cause people to respond 'there is room!' We make these books available so that there is room for readers to find their way home to hear the Good News.

With you at the manger,

Rev. Robert L. Rahn

LHF Interim Executive Director

Thank You from Seminarian Greg Bauch

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

We wish you a belated Merry Christmas and pray that Jesus' birth has instilled in you the hope of eternal life won by Him on the cross! Our holy-day season was dilled with immense blessing, particularly by the birth of our first child, Gideon James. Amanda and I chuckled when realizing we see to have a subconscious fascination with the Book of Judges, for our cat is named Jael... so we live surrounded by remembrances of God's deliverance! The trials of nighttime feedings and diaper changes are overwhelmingly surpassed by the beauty of God's creation and the ever-increasing smiles we receive from our 7-week old. We want to express our heartfelt thanks to you for supporting us this year at seminary, especially as it provides for our new addition!

We survived the recent polar vortex and enjoyed our unavoidable family time. Gideon was baptized on January 5th, the day the storm hit Ft. Wayne. The sanctuary was sparse but filled with God's promised presence through baptismal waters, an emotional day which shall not be forgotten. I have to admit, in hindsight, that the incredible reality of baptism remained somewhat unknown until I saw my own child being marked with the name of God.

We hope that this new year has begun for you with the assurance of Christ's forgiveness and pray that your lives are filled with the knowledge of God's loving-kindness... His promises are true, eternal and without end.

In the name of Jesus,

Greg and Amanda Bauch



If you would like to have a **Secret Pal** for 2014 please see me (Anna Bisson) for a form. Also extra forms can be found on the LWML bulletin board. Completed forms can be placed in my mailbox.

A big THANK-YOU to all of the ladies of LCR for my gift. I was overwhelmed by your generosity and touched by your thoughtfulness.

Proceeds from 2013 Craft Fair	\$1,972.50
Matching funds from Thrivent	<u>700.00</u>
Total	\$2,672.50

Craft Fair Money Disbursements for 2013

LCMS World Relief	\$ 300.00
Bethesda Lutheran Communities	100.00
Maine Children’s Cancer Program	200.00
Lutheran Hour Ministries	100.00
Lutheran Social Services of NE	300.00
First Choice Pregnancy Resource Center	100.00
Boys and Girls Club (for the kitchen)	155.00
ME Children’s Home for Little Wanderers	100.00

Lutheran World Relief (for 2 goats, a piglet, hens and chickens) **285.00**

Lutheran Indian Ministries **100.00**

Trinity First Lutheran School **200.00**

The Garuna Foundation (One child sponsorship for a year) **360.00**

LWML-NED 10% of craft fair proceeds

268.00

\$ 2,568.00

Difference--\$104.50 (left in treasury for operating expenses)

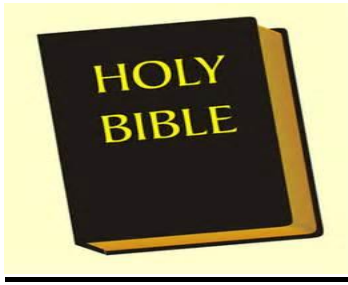
Yours in Christ,

Anna Bisson, Pres.

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Great Truths About Life , That Adults Have Learned

1. Raising teenagers is like nailing Jell-O to a tree.
2. Wrinkles don’t hurt.
3. Families are like fudge. . . mostly sweet, with a few nuts.
4. Today’s mighty oak is just yesterday’s nut that held its ground.
5. Laughing is good exercise. It’s like jogging on the inside.
6. Middle age is when you choose your cereal for the fiber, not the toy.



BIBLE QUIZ

Monthly Worship

February 2, 2014

**The Purification of Mary
and the
Presentation of Our Lord**

Psalm: 84

First Reading: 1 Samuel 1:21-28

Epistle: Hebrews 2:14-18

Holy Gospel: Luke 2:22-32(33-40)

February 9, 2014

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Psalm: 112:1-9

First Reading: Isaiah 58:3-9a

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12(13-16)

Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

February 16, 2014

Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany

Psalm: 119:1-8

First Reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:21-37

February 23, 2014

Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

Psalm: 119:33-40

First Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2,9-18

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 3:10-23

Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48

1. What was the first miracle Jesus performed to show the world his glory?

A) He made a man born blind see again B) He turned water into wine C) He ended a three-year drought with a huge rain storm D) He called down fire from heaven

2. How rich was Jerusalem during King Solomon's reign?

A) silver was so plentiful that it was as common as stones B) gold was so plentiful that it was as common as sand C) silk was so plentiful that it was used as common rags D) healing balms were so plentiful that even the lowest slave had excellent health

3. Why did Jesus upset the money changers' tables as well as free the living sacrificial animals?

A) they were selling rotten fruit and blemished animals B) they were conducting business on the Sabbath C) they were unruly and rebellious D) they were focused more on greedy haggling than on worshipping God

4. What was the point to the parable of the rich fool?

A) do not be so greedy B) store up treasure in heaven rather than amassing great wealth on earth C) how to acquire more gold for God D) what to do when servants complain

5. How many plagues did God inflict upon Egypt before Pharaoh let Moses and the Israelites go?

A) 3 B) 7 C) 10 D) 12

6. Who said this: "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian?"

A) Pontius Pilate B) Governor Felix C) Governor Festus D) King Agrippa

Answers on "Birthday" page



CONFIRMATION ANNIVERSARIES

2/4 Darryll Zahner
 2/10 Elizabeth Larsen
 2/11 Chester Gilbert
 2/13 Ray Gorneau
 2/19 Brad Fitzpatrick
 2/22 Kay Gideon

2/8 Fernando Gouvea
 Mari Gouvea
 2/20 Arthur Conover
 Siena Fitzpatrick
 Elizabeth Larsen
 Taylan Thomas
 Tiana Thomas



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

2/6 Doris & Charles Brossy



2/1 Caden Fitzpatrick
 2/9 Karen Morren
 2/13 Becky Cote
 2/14 Vesta Holt
 2/20 Jon Morren
 2/23 Robert Sieber
 2/25 Lee Anne Larsen
 2/27 Brownlow Parks-Stamm
 2/?? Natalie Crowley

DID YA KNOW?

---Think about this...No one ever says “It’s only a game.” when their team is winning.

---I’ve reached the age where the happy hour is a nap.

---Be careful reading the fine print. There’s no way you’re going to like it.

---The trouble with bucket seats is that not everybody has the same size bucket.

---Do you realize that in about 40 years, we’ll have thousands of old people running around with tattoos? (And RAP music will be the Golden Oldies..

---After a certain age, if you don’t wake up aching in every joint, you are probably dead.

---Money can’t buy happiness – but somehow it’s more comfortable to cry in a Corvette than in a VW Bug.

BIBLE QUIZ ANSWERS: 1. **B** John 2:9, 11 2. **A** 1 Kings 10:27 3. **D** John 2:13-16 4. **B** Luke 12:16-21 5. **C** Exodus 7:15-12:32 6. **D** Acts 26:27-28

Stewardship – February, 2014

	<u>February 2</u>	<u>February 9</u>	<u>February 16</u>	<u>February 23</u>
<u>Acolyte</u>	Emily Larsen	Jacob Huesers	Sarah Kohl	Emily Larsen
<u>Communion Assistant</u>	Chris Batson	Jared Goldsmith	Glenn Carlson	Brian Watson
<u>Ushers</u>	Brad Fitzpatrick & Mark Larsen	Bill Jahnke & Mike Hein	Tom Huesers & Robert Sieber	Jon Morren & Curt Slininger
<u>Greeters</u>	Mark & LeeAnne Larsen	Jared & Amanda Goldsmith	Peter & Lois Doran	Jon & Karen Morren
<u>Altar Care</u>	Esther Gould	LeeAnne Larsen	Katie Huesers	Avis Grant
<u>Flowers</u>	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN	OPEN
<u>Fellowship</u>	Kitty Carlson	The Gorneaus	OPEN	The Callahans

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