

RESURRECTION NEWS



FEBRUARY 2015



Pastor's Letter

February, 2015

"Economics of the Gospel"

"Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price." Isaiah 55:1

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"There's no such thing as a free lunch," says the economist. Everything has a price. Everything costs something. But the prophet says, *"Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."* The prophet is obviously not an economist.

Or could it be that it does indeed have a price, but that someone else has already paid the price in full? The prophet also says, *"He was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed."* (Isaiah 53:5)

Or to put it another way, we have run up a huge bill and he has picked up the tab. And the tab cost Him all that he had, because there really is "no such thing as a free lunch."

The people ate the bread and the fish without price. A free lunch! But the hands that multiplied it out to them were deeply scared. We receive freely because He has paid the price.

We talk about "the gospel" as the *"free gift of God,"* which is what it is. As soon as you start attaching any cost to the gospel at all, even a penny on a trillion dollars, it's no longer 'gospel' because it's no long 'free.' It may be 'cheap,' but it's not 'free.' As soon as you add those little words, "all you have to do is...", the gospel immediately turns into law. And none can afford the price.

Jesus Christ has paid your bill for you because you never could. And it had to be paid. Because there is no such thing as a free lunch. But now, because of Him, *"the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord..."* (Romans 6:23).

The only appropriate response to a 'free gift' is to take it and say 'thank you.' It's rude to insist that we could never take such a precious gift as life and salvation for free. 'Please, we absolutely insist that we must pay you something for it.' 'I'll work for food.' 'I want to do my part.' 'I'm not the kind of person who takes hand-outs.'

No, the economic principle of the gospel is that you can only pay a debt once. And once it's paid you can't pay on it anymore. No one pays on a debt that has already been paid off. And your debt to God has been paid in full by the blood of God's Son, shed for you. 'Free' is 'free' because the price has been paid in full.

And if you will not receive it on those terms, then you cannot have it, for it can only be had by faith. 'Faith' simply receives the gift gratefully. Faith simply trusts that the gift of life is paid in full by the love of God for me. Everything that follows is thanks in praise of God.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Nielsen

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study – The Challenge of Islam.

Join us for this video presentation and discussion of the religion of Islam and how it differs from Christianity. Sunday - 8:45am.

Sunday School in February - Every Sunday beginning at 8:45am.

- 2/1 Jesus and the Little Children - Memory verse: "Let the little children come to me..., for to such belongs the kingdom of God." Mark 10:14
- 2/8 Jesus Heals a Man Who Is Paralyzed - Memory verse: "Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me.'" Matthew 28:18
- 2/15 The Transfiguration - Memory verse: "A voice came out of the cloud, 'This is my beloved Son; listen to Him.'"
- 2/22 Jesus Heals Jairus's Daughter - "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Romans 6:23

Ash Wednesday - February 18th - Services at Noon and 7:00pm.

The holy season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday with the Divine Service and the Lord's Supper. Lent is a 40 day journey to the cross of Christ. We are marked with ashes as a symbol of our mortal nature. Yet, by His taking on our mortal nature as He did, we live with the sure and certain hope that our ashes will be replaced with holy perfume and our sorrow will be transformed into joy. Please set aside either noon or 7:00pm. to begin the season of Lent in the Lord's house.

Lenten Mid-Week Services - Wednesdays at Noon and 7:00pm. BLESSED!

THE BEATITUDES are one of the most familiar and beloved sections in the gospels and one of the most difficult to grasp. Together, we will explore the heights and the depths of what it means to be BLESSED. Ash Wednesday is February 18th.

The Importance of Attending Mid-Week Special Services:

Although Sunday has always been the principle day of worship, there are times throughout the course of the year that have historically been reserved for 'mid-week' worship. Mid-week Lenten services are the most established occasions for 'non-Sunday' worship.

We live in a time when 'our time' is very scheduled and the schedule leaves very little 'spare time.' When the church calls its people to come to church during the mid-week, it is usually an interruption in our regular schedule and routine. It is important to allow these important times to interrupt our daily routine.

When the call to set aside the time and rearrange our schedules and routine comes, it is a refreshing opportunity to be reminded of the presence of Jesus in the middle of our day to day life that we too often miss. It also presents the opportunity for the strengthening of the self-discipline that it takes in our busy lives, to set aside what can be set aside for the sake of hearing the Word, engaging in prayer and receiving the sacrament.

Higher Things Youth Group Upcoming Activities:

- **February 7th from 4:00 – 7:30pm. We will host a babysitting night with a free will offering.** Please sign up now on the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex.
- **February 14th at 9:00 we will support the Men’s Clothing Drive for the Homeless Shelter** by helping to pack up and transport clothing donations. **We will also prepare a meal for the Homeless Shelter for that date.**
- **February 15th - Snow Tubing at the snow tubing park in South China. 3:00 session** (2 ½ hour session). Families of primary youth are encouraged to join us. Cost is \$18 per person.
- **March 8 - Higher Things Youth will host a special lunch after worship – a free will offering will be taken to help support the trip to Higher Things Conference in Michigan this summer.**

Board for Missions Meeting Minutes: 1/7/15

Pastor Nielsen commended the Board for its work in 2014. He noted the thoughtful management of Mission Funds distribution as well as the intentional ways that the Board has involved the congregation in the mission work that is happening.

A Summary of the Missions giving of the Congregation for 2014 was as follows:

New England District – LCMS - \$8,517 (5% of offerings)

Missions giving - \$17,027 (10% of offerings)

Social Ministry -----\$ 630.84

Hope Lutheran Church--- \$2,400

Seminary Students-----\$4,500

Mission Speaker Rev. Cundiff visit----\$ 406

Seminarian Greg Bauch visit----\$ 251

Garuna Foundation-----\$1,520

Mid-Maine Homless Shelter---\$4,040

Maine Children's Home--\$1,000

Lutheran Heritage Foundation--- \$1,140

LCMS--Global Missions--\$1,140

An analysis of the distribution of mission funds was discussed:

Social Ministry missions: \$5,670 - 33%

Ministry and Gospel missions: \$11,364 - 67%

Gospel missions local: \$2,400 - 21%

Gospel missions national: \$5,517 - 45%

Gospel missions global: \$3,800 - 33%

It was agreed that the Board was satisfied with this distribution of mission funds. There was no desire to establish goals or limits for various categories as needs may change over time.

Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter:

A new sign-up sheet for 2nd Saturday dinners for the MMHS was prepared and posted by Amanda.

Individuals are encouraged to form groups and commit to an open date to prepare a meal. The Board will reimburse expenses incurred.

The “Men’s Clothing Drive” for the MMHS is in process. Clothing is being collected in the Fellowship Hall and parishioners are encouraged to involve neighbors, friends, co-workers by inviting them to gather clothing. **Sorting, folding, boxing and delivery is scheduled for Saturday, February 14th**. A light breakfast will be served beginning at 8:00am. **The work begins at 9:00am**. It was discussed how to best organize the work. We will need as much help as possible as we expect a very positive response.

Brian will arrange a visit to the congregation by Betty Palmer, director of the MMHS. The preferred date is February 22nd.

Mission Sunday

“Mission Sunday” is set for March 22nd. Rev. Jeff Ehlers of the Garuna Foundation has committed to come. He will lead Adult Bible Study and preach at worship. The Board will have a dinner reception with him on the 21st at 6:00pm. There was discussion regarding congregation and individual involvement in the “Garuna Kids” program. The Board will be prepared to present Rev. Ehlers with a check for \$1,080 at his visit to renew our adoption of three Cambodian students. The Board committed to sponsor Fellowship after worship on the 22nd.

The February meeting of the Board is scheduled for Wednesday, February 4th – 6:30pm. All members of the congregation who may be interesting in serving on this Board are invited to attend.

Thank You from Seminarian – Paul Rockrohr

Dear Friends at Lutheran Church of the Resurrection,

Belated Christmas greetings to you in this new year! Stacy and I had a wonderful Christmas with my family, all of the kids were in the same place. It has been a while since we all have been together, since we are pretty stretched over the U.S. at the moment. But to have far-flung family come together is so minor in comparison to the joy that will be on the last day. To have our brothers and sisters in Christ from all ages and all lands together when our Lord returns, that will be a celebration! Yet now we are separated by distance and time, just as each of us has family members far off or with Christ. Thus, when we are reminded of the great multitude that is “brother” and “sister” it is an easy thing to rejoice that God has given us so much through Jesus.

You, brothers and sisters, have continuously cared for us as if we were close by. It is not a small thing to provide for those near and dear to us, though it often comes naturally. Thus the gratitude that we have to God and you is even greater. Though we are many miles away, you call us brother and sister by your financial assistance. What joy we have in the love of our families is increased by the reality that you also are family. Thank you for your continued love and support.

If I forgot to mention earlier, we are expecting our first child in May. It has been a little bit of a difficult pregnancy for Stacy, but the baby is doing very well. We ask that you would pray with us that mother and child continue in safety and health. Outside of that concern we are doing very well, and pray that God continues to bless you in every way.

Sincerely,
Paul and Stacy Rockrohr

Thank You from Lutheran Heritage Foundation

January 8, 2015

Dear Lutheran Church of the Resurrection,

Thank you so much for your generous gift of \$1,140 in support of the mission of LHF to proclaim the gospel to the nations! God's blessings in 2015.

Rev. Matthew Heise - Executive Director

Thank You from the Garuna Foundation

January 5, 2015

Dear Pastor Nielsen and Mission Friends,

Blessed New Year and greetings to you in the name of Jesus our Savior!

On behalf of the Garuna Foundation, I want to thank you for your very generous donation of \$440. Your gracious contribution will be used to bring grace, mercy and compassion (Garuna) of Jesus Christ to the multitudes of those in Thailand, Cambodia and surrounding countries who have not yet had an opportunity to hear of His precious love and forgiveness.

Thank you so much. I am looking forward to my visit with you on March 22nd.

Rev. Jeffery Ehlers, Chairman – The Garuna Foundation

Thank You from Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod: Global Missions

Dear Co-Witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ:

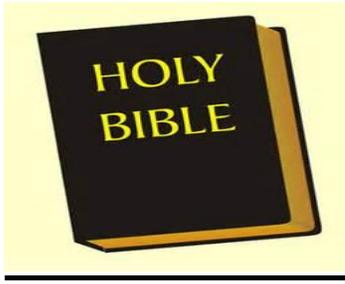
“Who can proclaim the mighty acts of the Lord or fully declare his praise? Blessed are those who act justly, who always do what is right.” (Psalm 106:2-3)

God wants all to be saved and come to the knowledge of the Truth. His Son's death and resurrection, sufficient for all, was necessary even if only for one. Your sacrificial gift of \$1,140, is a clear witness to the truth that our heavenly Father is a loving God! Your Synod continues in the vital work of vigorously making known that love in word and deed, all over the world. We continue to pray for you and give thanks for you as you share your faith with the world through us.

In service to our Lord, Jesus Christ,

Rev. Mark D. Hofman, Executive Director

Mission Advancement



Monthly Worship

February 1, 2015

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Psalm: 111

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

February 8, 2015

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

Psalm: 147:1-11

First Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 9:16-27

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

February 15, 2015

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Psalm: 50:1-6

First Reading: 2 Kings 2:1-12 or Exodus 34:29-35

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 3:12-13(14-18); 4:1-6

Holy Gospel: Mark 9:2-9

February 18, 2015

Ash Wednesday

Psalm: 51:1-13 (14-19)

First Reading: Joel 2:12-19

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

Holy Gospel: Matthew 6:1-6,16-21

February 22, 2015

First Sunday in Lent

Psalm: 25:1-10

First Reading: Genesis 22:1-18

Epistle: James 1:12-18

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:9-15

BIBLE QUIZ

1. What did God change Jacob's name to?

A) Sidon B) Israel C) Nimrod D) Babylon

2. What happened to the huge Philistine god Dagon during the second night after the Philistines captured Israel's ark of the covenant?

A) it howled eerily like a wounded jackal B) it turned sooty black except for its feet C) it fell down breaking off its head and hands D) nothing, it was the Philistines who died mysteriously during the night

3. Which bird did Noah send out that returned with an olive leaf in her beak?

A) pigeon B) dove C) crow D) sparrow

4. What did the Jerusalem mob assume Paul had done that led to his arrest?

A) murdered a fellow human being B) eaten bacon and wine C) polluted the Lord's temple by letting Greek gentiles in D) healed on the Sabbath

5. What occurred in the valley in Ezekiel's vision?

A) a few raindrops turned into flood waters B) many enemy soldiers fell down dead for no reason C) hundreds of four-footed beasts stampeded Babylon D) thousands of scattered skeleton bones rattled to life

6. When the angel helped Peter escape from prison, how did the praying Jews receive him?

A) with disbelief B) with anger C) with both D) with neither

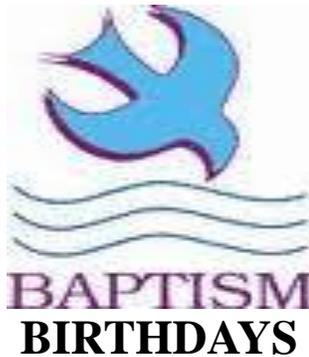
Answers on "Birthday" page



CONFIRMATION ANNIVERSARIES

2/4 Darryll Zahner
 2/10 Steven Farr
 Elizabeth Larsen
 2/11 Chester Gilbert
 2/12 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



Paraprosdokians

(are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence phrase is surprising or unexpected; frequently humorous.)

----The last thing I want to do is hurt you. But it's still on my list.

----If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.

----They begin the evening news with 'Good Evening', then they proceed to tell you why it isn't.

----Buses stop at bus stations. Trains stop at train stations. On my desk is a work station.

----I thought I wanted a career. Turns out I just wanted paychecks.

----Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.

----I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.

----A clear conscience is the sign of a fuzzy memory.

----There's a fine line between cuddling and holding someone down so they can't get away.

----Behind every successful man is his woman. Behind the fall of a successful man is usually another woman.

Bible Quiz Answers:

1. B Genesis 32:8
2. C 1 Samuel 5:4
3. B Genesis 8:11
4. C Acts 21:26-28
5. D Ezekiel 37:1-10
6. A Acts 12:15-16

The Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

Calendar of Events

February, 2015

Week of February 1st

- Sunday - 2/1 8:45am. - Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
 10:00am. - Worship
- Monday - 2/2 6:00pm. - Board of Elders
- Tuesday - 2/3 Pastor Nielsen away at Circuit Meeting – Manchester, N.H.
- Wednesday - 2/4 7:00pm. - Board for Missions
- Thursday - 2/5 10:30am. - Mid-Week Bible Study
 6:00pm. - Inquirers Class
- Saturday - 2/7 4:00pm – 7:00pm. - ***Baby Sitting Night - Higher Things Youth***

Week of February 8th

- Sunday - 2/8 8:45am. - Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
 10:00am. - Worship
- Monday – 2/9 6:00pm. - Board for Youth
 7:00pm. - Church Council Meeting
- Thursday - 2/12 10:30am. - Mid-Week Bible Study
 6:00pm. - Inquirers Class
- Saturday - 2/14 9:00am. - ***MMHS Men's Clothing Drive Work Day***

Week of February 15th

- Sunday - 2/17 8:45am. - Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
 10:00am. - Worship
 3:00pm. - ***Snow Tubing Event - Higher Things Youth***
- Wednesday - 2/18 Noon - ***Ash Wednesday Service***
 7:00pm. - ***Ash Wednesday Service***
- Thursday - 2/19 6:00pm. - Inquirers Class

Week of February 22nd

- Sunday - 2/22 8:45am. - Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
 10:00am. - Worship
- Wednesday - 2/25 Noon - ***Mid-Week Lent Worship***
 7:00pm. - ***Mid-Week Lent Worship***
- Thursday - 2/26 6:00pm. - Inquirers Class

Stewardship

February 2015

	<u>Feb 1</u>	<u>Feb 8</u>	<u>Feb 15</u>	<u>Feb 18</u> (AshWed. Noon)	<u>Feb 18</u> (AshWed. Evening)	<u>Feb 22</u>
Acolyte	Caden Fitzpatrick	Sarah Kohl	Jacob Huesers	-----	Emily Larsen	Allison Farr
Comm. Assistant	Chris Batson	Mark Larsen	Glenn Carlson	Glenn Carlson	Chris Batson	Brad Fitzpatrick
Ushers	Bill Jahnke & Brad Fitzpatrick	John Ayotte & Glenn Carlson, Jr.	Tom Huesers & Seth Carlson	John Ayotte & Don Pryor	Mark Larsen & John Gould	Jon Morren & Ray Gorneau
Greeters	Chester & Evelyn Gilbert	Julie & Sarah Kohl	Gail Carrano & Deb Nielsen	-----	Anna Bisson & Avis Grant	Sharon Klipp & Pat Kablitz
Altar Care	Sharon Conover	Amanda Goldsmith	Amy Ouellette	Kitty Carlson	Kitty Carlson	Andrea Watson
Flowers	Fred & Amy Ouellette	Fred & Amy Ouellette	Sharon Klipp	Lent-No Flowers	Lent-No Flowers	Lent-No Flowers
Fellowship	Kitty Carlson	Becky Cote	Kitty Carlson	-----	-----	Becky Cote

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