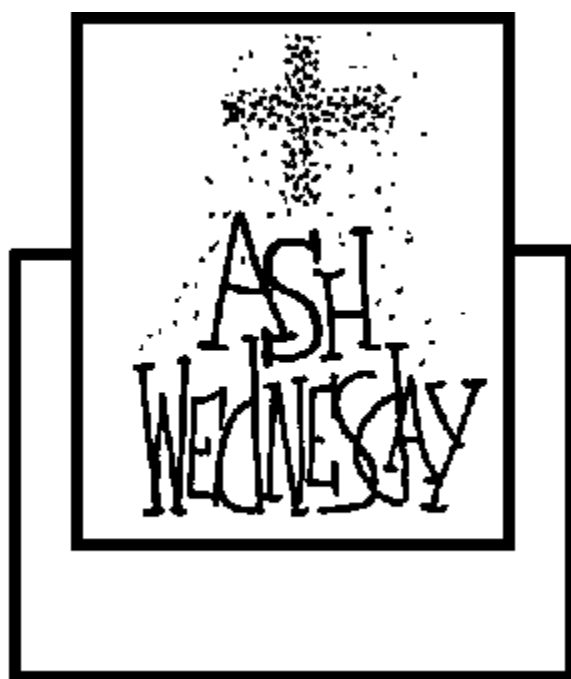


RESURRECTION NEWS



FEBRUARY 2016



Pastor's Letter

February, 2016

"Lead Us Not Into Temptation"

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

A young man from a small rural town went to college in a big city and shortly into his new life he wrote this to his pastor. "For the moment, I have no use for the question of Christ, the forgiveness of sins, and all the rest of it. At present my life is so completely absorbed with a great passion to discover the world that I have completely forgotten what seemed so important to me a while ago when I wrestled with sin and the meaning of my life. Now that I am filled to the brim with my new life - all of that seems like a far away dream, whereas before it had flesh and blood and seemed to be what was most important."

Who hasn't faced the temptation to become so captivated by the things of this world that we lose interest in the things of God? Temptation does not always come in the form of what is 'evil.' We can also be tempted by what is 'good.' Family, career, volunteering for charitable organizations are all 'good' things. Yet even they can work to separate us from God. What is it that Luther mentions in his famous hymn that the tempter comes after us with? The most loved things in our life, "house, goods, honor, child, spouse."

It's the 'ordinary' things of life that can be the most dangerous. In fact, we hardly ever sever our relationship with God by standing up and shaking our fist at heaven, renouncing God in bold defiance. No, as a rule the decisions we make against God are made in far more subtle ways. Sometimes, it is so subtle we don't even realize that it's happened.

How then are we to cope with this dangerous life? How are we to faithfully follow our Lord into the desert and become that "blessed person" of whom the letter of James speaks, who endures trials and receives "the crown of life?"

By our Lord's example, we learn something about how to cope with temptation. In each of the temptations Jesus faced, He always answered, "It is written, it is written, it is written..." Jesus held tightly to the Father's hand through the Word of God. The tempter could not stand against this.

When He directs us to His Word, what Paul calls, "the power of God to salvation," (*Romans.1:16*), Jesus is saying that we cannot stand against the tempter. Paul makes this point clear saying, "we do not fight against flesh and blood." If that were the case it would be easy. "We fight against principalities and powers and the spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places," (*Eph.6:12*), and there, every person cannot but fail.

So, we must entrust our life into His hands. This is why Jesus goes into the desert in the first place. Jesus defeated Satan in the wilderness and on the cross and in the empty tomb. We lose the contest every time. Therefore, we place our small passions and our grand designs into His hands. We give to Jesus our house and goods, fame, child and spouse, and we say, "these, along with myself, I entrust to you. But come what may I will not do even what seems good if I must do it apart from you."

This is how we cope with temptation. "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man; but God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation will also provide you the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it." (1 Cor.10:13).

God has given a way of escape in every temptation that we face in His Son, Jesus Christ. Through His forgiveness, Jesus has given us a share in His victory over temptation. Through His Spirit, He calls out to us and invites us to enter into His victory. Let us all hold tightly onto His hand that we may face every temptation and receive the crown of life.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Nielsen

DEDICATION OF THE NEWLY RENOVATED SANCTUARY will be on Sunday, February 14th. We have invited the workers who have done such a fine job to attend the service. Come and help us give thanks to them and to the Lord for all His blessings.



PLACES OF THE PASSION - THIS YEAR'S MID-WEEK LENTEN WORSHIP THEME.

This year's mid-week Lenten series is drawn from Luke's account of our Lord's Passion. Each week, we will focus on a different section of the Gospel and each week Luke will take us to a different place—the *Places of the Passion*. Throughout the season, we will be invited to gaze in wonder on the spiritual work that our Lord does in those places. When Jesus enters a place, He never leaves it as He found it. He shares His strength in our times of weakness. The most troubling places in our lives become the most amazing places of God's grace when Jesus visits them. As we enter the places of the Passion, we will find our Lord already there, waiting for us, ready to share His love that was set in place before the foundations of the world.

ALL MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES

NOON AND 7:00PM.

February 10 - Ash Wednesday	-	"Passover – A Place at the Table for You"
February 17 - Mid-week #1	-	"The Upper Room – A Place of Service"
February 24 - Mid-week #2	-	"Gethsemane – A Place of Strength"
March 2 - Mid-Week #3	-	"The Betrayal – A Place of Eternal Love"
March 9 - Mid-Week #4	-	"The Courtyard – A Place of Renewal"
March 16 - Mid-Week #5	-	"The Trial - A Place of God's Will"
March 24 - Maundy Thursday	-	"The Upper Room – A Place of Forgiveness"
March 25 - Good Friday	-	"Golgotha – A Place of Simple Love"

The Importance of Attending Mid-Week Special Services:

Throughout the history of the Christian Church, the faithful have gathered at the church for worship, not only on Sundays, but throughout the week as well. Even today, it is not uncommon to find churches that offer daily opportunities to come to church for a service of prayer and preaching.

Our congregation has reserved a few times throughout the course of the year for 'mid-week' worship. During the season of Lent, beginning with Ash Wednesday, we are called to come to the church for worship on Wednesdays. During Holy Week, we are called to come to church on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. Additional 'mid-week' services are limited to Christmas Eve, Christmas Morning, Epiphany and Ascension.

Why is it important to respond to the call to come these 'mid-week' services? For one, they mark the most significant events in the life of our Lord, Jesus Christ. As followers of Christ, we want to be with Him and celebrate His life in His temple. Compare this to the birthday or anniversary of a child or parent or dear friend. We would not miss attending the occasion unless it was absolutely impossible to be present.

Secondly, it is important to allow these important times to interrupt our daily routine. When the church calls it's people to come to church during the mid-week, it is an interruption to our regular routine, and we all like our routines. When the call to set aside the time and rearrange our routine comes, it is a refreshing opportunity to see the presence of Jesus in the middle of our day to day life that we too often miss. It also offers us the opportunity for the strengthening of self-discipline to set aside what can be set aside for the sake of hearing the Word, prayer and the sacrament.

SUNDAY SCHOOL IN FEBRUARY - Every Sunday beginning at 8:45am.

2/7	Matthew 3:1-12	John the Baptist Prepares the Way
2/14	Luke 3:15-22	The Baptism of Jesus
2/21	Luke 4:1-13	The Temptation of Jesus
2/28	John 1:43-51	Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael

ADULT BIBLE STUDY IN FEBRUARY – Every Sunday beginning at 8:45am.

2/7 Psalm of the Month: **Psalm 16** - “You will not abandon my soul”

2/14 Selected Topic: **“The Symbols in the Sanctuary”** – Symbols are a shorthand way of saying a lot.

2/21 Selected Topic: **“How To Plan A Funeral”** – A loved one’s and your own.

2/28 Current Events Review: **“Ethiopia: Another stand of the Judeo/Christian Heritage”** – Presented by David Leigh.

Board for Missions – January, 2016 Minutes

The meeting opened with a presentation by David Dawson, president of the Greater Area Waterville Food Bank (GAWF). He thanked the congregation for their recent contribution of \$800. The GAWF collects food from Wal-Mart, Good Shepherd Food Bank, local farmers, contributions. Contributions of both food and money are welcome. They allow people to receive food once every 14 days. They have had between 3,200 to 3,500 people per year use their food bank which is located at Pleasant Street United Methodist Church, Waterville. Their schedule is Monday – Thursday from 9:00am. – 11:00am. and Monday evening from 5:30am. – 7:00pm. They would welcome our support in the form of volunteers to distribute food or sort boxes of food, financial help to purchase food, food drives. “Basics” included, Peanut Butter, Tuna, Spaghetti, Sauce, Canned Fruit, Canned Vegetables. David will be our guest for Adult Bible Study on May 8th.

The Board then reviewed the activities of 2015 and recommended the following for continued involvement and support:

- Hope Lutheran Church – Bangor
- Seminary Student assistance
- Garuna Foundation – student adoption
- Maine Children’s Home – financial support for the Christmas program to go through Board members who will purchase items for the program.
- Social Ministry as needed
- Waterville Area Food Bank
- New England District - LCMS

Pastor Nielsen announced that the annual ‘Mission Sunday’ will be on April 10, 2016. Rev. Ted Na Thalang of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation will be our guest speaker / preacher for the day. A gift to the LHF will be given to him from the congregation.

A recommendation from the congregation was given to the Board to consider support for Lutherans for Life. Pastor Nielsen will do the research and report to the Board about this organization at the February meeting.

The Men’s Clothing Drive for the Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter will begin on February 12th, 2016. Sorting, boxing and delivery will take place on Saturday, March 19th.

The next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Wednesday, February 3rd at 6:30pm. All members of the congregation are welcome to attend.



Monthly Worship

February 7, 2016

The Transfiguration of Our Lord

Psalm: 99

First Reading: Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Epistle: Hebrews 3:1-6

Holy Gospel: Luke 9:28-36

February 10, 2016

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 14, 2016

First Sunday in Lent

Psalm: 91:1-13

First Reading: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

Epistle: Romans 10:8b-13

Holy Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

February 21, 2016

Second Sunday in Lent

Psalm: 4

First Reading: Jeremiah 26:8-15

Epistle: Philippians 3:17-4:1

Gospel: Luke 13:31-35

February 28, 2016

Third Sunday in Lent

Psalm: 85

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-20

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

BIBLE QUIZ

1. As Jesus was being arrested, one of the disciples chopped off what body part on the high priest's servant?

- A) His left hand B) his right ear C) his big nose D) his small finger

2. What common item did God use to unleash the plagues onto the Egyptians?

- A) A shepherd's rod B) an animal's jawbone C) a ram's horn D) a smooth pebble

3. In the armor-of-God, what does the helmet represent??

- A) righteousness B) faith C) salvation D) truth

4. What foolish thing did Isaiah say King Hezekiah did with the Babylonian envoy's?

- A) poisoned their wine so as to only sicken them B) handed over the temple's treasures instead of trusting God for deliverance C) refused them entry into Israel at their border D) showed them every single item in both his palace and the royal treasures

5. What is the shortest verse in the New Testament?

- A) Jesus died B) Jesus wept C) Jesus came D) Jesus ate

6. Who said this: "Can the blind lead the blind?"

- A) Peter B) Paul C) John D) Jesus



- 2/4 Darryll Zahner
- 2/9 Steven Farr
- Elizabeth Larsen
- 2/11 Chester Gilbert
- 2/19 Brad Fitzpatrick
- 2/22 Kay Gideon



- 2/1 Caden Fitzpatrick
- 2/9 Karen Morren
- 2/13 Becky Cote
- 2/14 Vesta Holt
- 2/20 Jon Morren
- 2/23 Robert Seiber
- 2/24 Andrew Farr
- 2/25 LeeAnne Larsen
- 2/?? Natalie Crowley



Anniversaries

- 2/9 Fernando Gouvea
- Mari Gouvea
- 2/20 Arthur Conover
- Siena Fitzpatrick
- Elizabeth Larsen
- Taylan Thomas
- Tiana Thomas

Andy Rooney's Perspective on Learning

(...written by the late Andy Rooney, a man who the gift of saying so much with so few words.....)

I've learned....That money doesn't buy class.

I've learned....That it's those small daily happenings that make life so spectacular.

I've learned....That under everyone's hard shell is someone who wants to be appreciated and loved.

I've learned....That to ignore the facts does not change the facts.

I've learned....That when you plan to get even with someone, you are only letting that person continue to hurt you.

I've learned....That love, not time, heals wounds.

I've learned....That the easiest way for me to grow as a person is to surround myself with people smarter than I am.

I've learned....That everyone you meet deserves to be greeted with a smile.

I've learnedThat no one is perfect until you fall in love them.

I've learned....That life is tough, but I'm tougher.

I've learned....That opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you missed.

I've learnedThat when you harbor bitterness, happiness will dock elsewhere.

Bible Quiz Answers

1. B (John 18:10)
2. A (Exodus 7:15-19)
3. C (Ephesians 6:17)
4. D (Isaiah 39:2-7)
5. B (John 11:35)
6. D (Luke 6:39)

The Lutheran Church of the Resurrection

Calendar of Events

February, 2016

Week of February 1st

Tuesday - 2/2 Pastor Nielsen away at Circuit Meeting – Manchester, N.H.

Wednesday – 2/3 6:30pm. – Board for Missions

Saturday – 2/6 6:00pm. - Sr. Youth Group – Game Night (*Batsons*)

Week of February 7th

Sunday - 2/7 8:45am. - Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
10:00am. - Worship

Monday - 2/8 6:00pm. - Elders Meeting
7:00pm. - Church Council Meeting

Wednesday - 2/10 Noon - **Ash Wednesday Service**
7:00pm. - **Ash Wednesday Service**

Week of February 14th

Sunday - 2/14 8:45am. - Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
10:00am. - Worship – **Dedication of Sanctuary Renovations**
2:00pm. - Sr. Youth Group – Snow Tubing

Wednesday - 2/17 Noon - **Mid-Week Lent Service**
7:00pm. - **Mid-Week Lent Service**

Week of February 22st

Sunday - 2/21 8:45am. - Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
10:00am. - Worship

Wednesday - 2/24 Noon - **Mid-Week Lent Worship**
6:00pm. - **Mid-Week Lent Worship**

Week of February 28th

Sunday - 2/28 8:45am. - Sunday School / Adult Bible Study
10:00am. - Worship

Wednesday - 3/2 Noon - **Mid-Week Lent Worship**
6:00pm. - **Mid-Week Lent Worship**

February Stewardship

	<u>Feb.7</u>	<u>Feb. 10</u> <i>Noon Service</i>	<u>Feb. 10</u>	<u>Feb. 14</u>	<u>Feb. 21</u>	<u>Feb.28</u>
Acolyte	Caden Fitzpatrick	-----	-----	Emmy Carlson	Mia Fitzpatrick	Allison Farr
Comm. Assistant	Brad Grierson	Glenn Carlson	Chris Batson	Brian Watson	Brad Fitzpatrick	Steve Love
Ushers	Moe Cote & Tom Huesers	John Ayotte & Don Pryor	Mike Hein & John Gould	Glenn Carlson & Glenn Carlson, Jr.	Jacob Huesers & Bill Jahnke	Mark Larsen & Brad Grierson
Greeters	Tom & Katie Huesers	-----	Pat Kablitz	Fernando & Mari Gouvea	Brian & Andrea Watson	David Leigh
Altar Care	Lee Anne Larsen	Avis Grant	Avis Grant	Katie Huesers	Avis Grant	Deb Nielsen
Flowers	OPEN	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----
Fellowship	Kitty Carlson	-----	-----	Fitzpatrick	Becky Cote	Mari Gouvea

*Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
36 Cool St.
Waterville, ME 04918*

